



SALUTE TO THE SEASON

From Nikki Beach's White Party through three scintillating months of Full Moon nights at Puro Beach and Champagne Parties at Ocean Club, the Marbella Season is legendary. As the tempo soars with the temperature, the resort moves to a different rhythm. Clocks are not watched too fastidiously and the collar and tie becomes obsolete as business gets done in shirt sleeves over a leisurely *al fresco* lunch. People-watching becomes the seasonal sport and one of the best arenas to do so is Orange Square in the Old Town, the city's beating heart.

Marbella in summer has it all – a place where you can swim, dine and shop in the same location (check out this month's article on Laguna Village); play golf at more than 40 courses followed by a sensual spa treatment and a healthy lunch (the sumptuous Villa Padierna, highlighted this month, ticks all those boxes and more); or sip a sundowner in front of a parade of super-yachts at Puerto Banús (of which, read more in this month's Yacht Living feature).

Starlit dining becomes *de rigueur*, as restaurant tables emigrate to outdoor terraces and, with Marbella's eclectic choice, the culinary world really is your oyster. Talking of which, this season Marbella has a new celebrity host in its midst – Major James Hewitt, whose stylish Polo House restaurant and nightclub on the Golden Mile is just one of the many places to indulge in stargazing this summer.

After dark, Marbella's sophisticated club scene will get you grooving into the wee small hours: Dreamers, Olivia Valère, Bubbles, (one of our featured restaurants) in Banús, a three-in-one venue with chill-out cocktail lounge and Tibu nightclub; or Suite del Mar at the Puente Romano which, as you'll read this month, celebrates 30 years of Marbella 'seasons' this summer. And, beyond Marbella's landmark La Concha mountain, there's another world to be discovered – lush valleys, dramatic rock formations, freshwater lakes and whitewashed villages where time stands still. Through blue sky days and moonlit nights, life is as sweet as the oranges you can pluck straight from the trees.

This year, Marbella Season's fame is set to spread across the world airwaves via its own anthem – *Marbella, Marbella*, a celebration of the resort city's manifold attractions that is destined to become THE Sound of Summer 2009. Musician Darío Poli was inspired to compose the catchy tune after seeing a negative portrayal of his adored Marbella in a CNN TV documentary last year. The song was his way of redressing the balance, in the belief that, "If you do not fight for what you have, you do not deserve to have it". English lyrics were added with singer Alan De Ward, the CD was recorded at David Mairs' Fuengirola studio and a Spanish version has been released by Cuban singer Yanela Brooks. Listen out for it on radio – it's set to be this summer's hottest dance tune. This month, we celebrate the magic of Marbella in the words of its own anthem. ■

REPORT BELINDA BECKETT



Extract from MARBELLA, MARBELLA (English version)

Marbella town,
I love to be there with you,
Fancy cars, expensive limousines
Ladies, in designer dresses,
Suntanned guys, Armani jeans,

Champagne flows, Señoritas singing
Songs of love, in perfect harmony,
It was the night I fell in love,
Marbella's where I long to be

Marbella, Marbella, this beautiful
town that I adore,
Marbella, Marbella, fiestas,
guitarras de amor,
Marbella, Marbella, the mountains,
the Mediterranean sea
The sun is always shining,
can't live without you,
This love affair will last forever.
Marbella, *te quiero* ever more.

