

First 'La Cala and You' summer challenge

THE first 'La Cala and You' summer challenge took place in late July for the members of the resort's 'affinity' programme.

The event consisted of three days of golf and accommodation. After an opening practice round, the better-ball, stableford competition was held over two days, with the eventual winners being Pierre Siret and Daniele Mieciet, who had travelled from Belgium to take part.

A wide range of nationalities was represented, with players from Spain, the UK, Ireland and Norway competing.

The general reaction of the competitors was extremely positive, not only to the competition format and organisation, but also to the concept of the club members having the opportunity to meet and develop friendships that can be renewed on an annual basis at subsequent events.

There are now over 650 members of the La Cala and You scheme, which was launched in May, 2007 and in which 22 countries are represented. The scheme offers a range of



Andrés Báez, Daniele Mieciet, Pierre Siret and Ana Nyblom.

discounts on facilities, including green fee offers, vouchers for complimentary buggies and special competitions, such as the summer challenge.

There is no joining fee for the La Cala & You scheme. For more information e-mail: you@lacala.com or visit www.lacala.com

Advertising Feature

Trackdays Spain – one year old and motoring on!

'TRACKDAYS SPAIN' celebrated their first birthday at the Guadix circuit near Granada, with over 30 motoring enthusiasts in attendance. The fun, sociable day saw drivers pushing themselves to the limit around the demanding track. Some of the beautiful cars taking part included a Porsche GT3, Radical SR3, Audi TT and three Lotus Elises.

As a special birthday treat, all participants shared lunch and cake with the 'Trackdays Spain' team and enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

Regular trackday-goer Peter Bowerman thought it was the best yet. "I've been coming along to the Trackdays Spain events for about six months now. I liked it so much the first time that I bought myself a Westfield - now I'm totally hooked.

"There's always a good atmosphere at the days, but I really enjoyed their birthday event, it was great fun, well organised, with plenty of new faces and beautiful cars. I would definitely recommend the days to anyone who loves cars and likes the thrill of driving fast. As you can see from Top Gear's star in a reasonably priced car, anyone can get a real thrill out of pushing your car to its/your limits.

"Take it from me and my friends, once you've been once you'll be addicted - the next event can't come around quick enough."

'Trackdays Spain' pride themselves on organising safe, fun, affordable days which are open to all and want to introduce as many people as possible to the adrenalin rush of trackdays.

Newcomer, Nick Greening, brought his Lotus Elise along and was delighted he did. "I went along to Trackday Spain's birthday bash and I was really impressed with how everything was organised, how professional, and friendly the team are. This will not be



King of the road: Join the adrenalin rush.

the last time that I go to Guadix to do a Trackday, it was well worth the three hour drive from Seville."

Safety is a priority at Trackdays Spain's events, something organiser and instructor, Andy Turnbull, is keen to get across. "You can bring your pride and joy along to our days and know that it will be safe. There has never been any car-to-car contact on the 200 plus days I have organised and we are very strict when it comes to enforcing the rules. If we see any aggressive or dangerous driving we will give one warning - if it happens again, then they are going home, no exceptions!

"Creating a safe, fun, no-pressure environment is our primary concern and all our regulars appreciate the no-ego, friendly atmosphere this creates. We hope this will also give first time trackday attendees the confidence to come along."

The next event is taking place on Friday, 12th September and everyone is welcome. It's free for spectators, 249 euros to drive your own car and 999 euros to hire one of Trackdays Spain's cars for the day. For more information, or to book, visit www.trackdaysspain.com

60 SECOND INTERVIEW

TAOUFIQ HSAINE, was born in Rabat, Morocco and now lives near Marbella with his wife. As lead tenor saxophonist with the Royal Orchestra of Rabat in the early 90s, Taoufiq Hsaine played for royal guests such as Diana, Princess of Wales, Margaret Thatcher and Bill Clinton.

A few years later, after a 16,000km tour of Europe (from Morocco to Poland and back again) he put down his saxophone and picked up a paintbrush, inspired by a chance meeting in Poland and the special light of the Costa del Sol.

As a musician, what sparked your interest in art?

In Poland I met a fascinating 80-year old man in Gdansk who happened to be a close friend of Pope John Paul II. He was so passionate about art, it was contagious, and we spoke for hours and hours about music, art and life. I wasn't playing music at the time and he suggested I try painting - more as an experiment than anything else, and it gave me another way to express myself. I painted three abstracts, he bought one, and now painting is my life.

Why did you make the Costa del Sol home?

I think artists are attracted by the quality of light here, as well as the scenery and the climate, but I've always felt more of a 'citizen of the world' really. I could be happy almost anywhere - even somewhere like Poland.

I like the pace of life and international mix of people who live here although musically it's a desert, except during the summer concert season. For a musician it's hard to make a living here, which is why most musicians have a much better chance of playing music full time in London, Paris or New York. But, for a painter, Southern Spain is vibrant and full of passion. There are still many places I'd like to visit if I can - Cornwall looks peaceful, wild and beautiful and for me just seeing photos of the Cornish landscape is inspirational.

What is the colour of Spain?

Blue. Seeing the blue sea and blue sky of Southern Spain from the window of the plane as you fly into Malaga airport.

Has anyone famous bought one of your paintings?

Not that I know of, although I've sold to people from all over the world, from Ireland to India. It's fascinating talking to people from other places. I've met heart surgeons, jazz musicians, a chief of police and a retired opera singer - people from all walks of life who either live here or are on holiday in Marbella.

And what about your saxophone, will we be seeing you live on the coast this summer?

I'm planning some live music performances after the summer, but it's a good question. It's like having two children - you love them 100 per cent equally. I still paint every night, but there's a little voice that has been nagging me to start playing again and it's getting louder by the day.

I love performing live, feeling the energy from the audience, being on stage and making people happy. Music feeds the soul.

For more information about my art, contact 606 668 018.

