



Culture and Cuisine in Spain

A world apart from the whitewashed golf resorts typically found on the Costa del Sol, **PGA de Catalunya** in Caldes de Malavella, near Girona, is the latest project by Denis O'Brien, owner of Quinta do Lago in the Algarve. It's a place that will attract lovers of the Costa Brava's blend of golf, culture and cuisine (El Bulli, the world's best restaurant, is nearby).

Set around the championship course where this year's Spanish Open was held, this is one of the lowest-density golf resorts in Spain. The first phase will see 22 highly modern and minimalist one- or two-storey houses that cost from €2.3m through Knight Frank and are hidden among the pine trees. A later phase will include 150 apartments, likely to cost from around €420,000.

Plots are also available, starting at 8,600sq ft—on which you can build a house measuring 2,150-2,700sq ft—costing around €900,000 for the land, villa and building costs. "This is a very distinct part of Spain, and purchasers rate its proximity to Barcelona, the Pyrenees and the Costa Brava," says James Price from Knight Frank.

"The properties will be Catalan in style—dry stone walls, verandas and clay tile roofs. People who buy here want total privacy, luxury and a very high level of facilities."

PGA, tel: +34 972 47 25 72; www.pgaalabays.com
Knight Frank, tel: +44 20 7629 8271

Exclusive Hideaways in Portugal

The economic downturn has barely dented **Vale Do Lobo**, one of the Algarve's best-known



Top left: the contemporary glamour of Vale do Lobo on Portugal's Algarve. **Above:** PGA de Catalunya, near Girona in Spain. **Below:** Monte Rei near Faro in Portugal

golf resorts. "Prices haven't fallen," says the resort's CEO, Diogo Gaspar Ferreira. Buyers are willing to pay a premium here for the sense of security that this long-established resort offers.

Around the two golf courses, the Royal and the Ocean, is the new Vale do Santo Antonio development, with two-bedroom apartments from €854,158 and two-bedroom townhouses from €1.03m, ready next summer.

At The Ocean Club, you can buy one of the last ocean-view plots from €1.3m and have a bespoke villa built by Vale do Lobo from €1m. And between the greens of the Royal Golf Course, work has started on 202 new villas and apartments, with turnkey villas costing from €2.1m, including the cost of the plot and construction.

Shifting the spotlight to the Eastern Algarve, **Monte Rei** is the only resort in Portugal to have a Jack Nicklaus signature course—and when the second course is complete, it will be the only place in Europe to have two Nicklaus courses.

The area in which the resort is positioned has always lagged behind the rest of the coast in terms of development (and it is now benefitting from this). "We are a 45-minute drive east of Faro in a region that is much calmer than the rest of the Algarve, so we have a very low density resort, with just 8 per cent of the 1,000 acres built upon," says Mario Condeco from Monte Rei, which sits off the beaten track in the Serra do Caldeirão mountains.

The properties—60 built so far—sit on a hilltop overlooking the courses and start at €1.15m for a three-bedroom linked villa with a shared pool. Four-bedroom detached villas with private pools start at €2.1m.

tel: +351 289 353 102; www.valedolobo.com
tel: +351 281 952 521; www.monte-rei.com



Off the Beaten Track

A Former Sugar Estate in Mauritius

Playing golf in paradise has proven a popular combination as 95 per cent of the first phase of properties at **Villas Valriche**, set on a former sugar estate on the south west coast of Mauritius, have sold out. Phase two has just launched, with two-bedroom villas from US\$1m overlooking the 18-hole championship golf course (another is being built next door) towards the ocean.

Buyers and their dependents get automatic residency, plus no capital gains tax or inheritance tax. You also get membership to the golf, tennis and beach clubs and spa.

Clifford Bruns, tel: +44 20 7594 3000
www.villavalriche.com

Beside the Ocean in Gran Canaria

The most upmarket golf resort on Gran Canaria, with a 500-berth marina, and the only one next to the sea, **Anfi Tauro** is set among acres of lush vegetation, lakes and waterfalls and enclosed by volcano-shaped mountains. There is a wide range of properties, from fractional ownership through the RCI Network to luxurious villas starting at €1m for a three-bedroom property with private pool overlooking the golf course and ocean.

tel: +34 928 152 990; www.anfi.com

