



## ESCAPE TO

# Southern Spain

**From a modest one-bedroom apartment to a plush pad in the hills, there's a place for everyone in the sunny south**

**S**pain is the most popular place for the British to buy a second home abroad. For golfers, the Costa del Sol is top of the list due to the sheer volume of courses and the warm weather throughout the winter months – precisely when most of us are fed up with waterlogged fairways.

It is, however, congested and there is speculation that prices have peaked. The latest hotspot can be found to the west on the Costa de la Luz. This stretch of coast on the Atlantic is windy, the beaches long and exposed but Faro and some excellent Portuguese courses are within easy striking distance.

Close to the border, in the town of Huelva, villas are 40%-50% cheaper than on the Algarve. Luz Golf is a small development consisting of 47 villas with views across the River Guadiana, the natural border between the two countries. In fact Luz Golf is just one phase of a huge golf property development that includes two courses and a hotel. All the houses have great views of the course and are set on generous plots. Owners have the use of two communal pools. Prices start at €495,000 for a four-bedroom villa.

Those with deep pockets and their hearts firmly set on the Costa del Sol, are likely to fall in love with La Zagaleta, a gated country

estate with a private course set high in the hills behind Marbella. It seems a million miles away from the crowds on the beach, and the views of the Rock of Gibraltar and the sea are priceless. A recently converted five-bedroom property with open sea views will set you back €8.5 million. Individual plots start from €750,000.

Meanwhile, new homes are springing up at Desert Springs near Murcia in south-east Spain. The latest phase of development, Las Sierras del Desierto, is being built on the highest point in the 750-acre resort. The two and three-bedroom townhouses and one, two and three-bedroom apartments echo traditional architecture with wooden and iron verandas.

The townhouses have private patios or gardens with access to communal pools, and the apartments enjoy panoramic views of the course, sea and mountains. Prices start from €205,000 for a one-bedroom apartment rising to €435,000 for a three-bedroom home.

Not only are the prices more reasonable than on the Sunshine Coast but Desert Springs also lies in the Almanzora region, which enjoys a superbly warm desert microclimate. Add together the annual average of more than nine hours of sunshine daily, maximum daily temperatures of between 16°-30° throughout the year and annual rainfall of less than 200mm – and you have a very good reason to leave Britain for good.

### Buyer's guide

#### BUY IN

##### LA ZAGALETA

Carrington Estates

**W:** Carrington-estates.com

##### LUZ GOLF

Titan Properties

**T:** 00 34 959 399 968

**W:** titan-properties.com

##### DESERT SPRINGS

The Almanzora Group

**T:** 01242 680 116

**W:** almanzora.com

#### GETTING THERE

For La Zagaleta fly to Malaga.

For Desert Springs fly to

Almeria, Murcia or Alicante.

For Luz Golf, Faro is the

nearest airport. All airports are served by British Airways.

**Media**  
**Golf Monthly**

**Date:** June 2007  
**Type:** General Consumer  
**Frequency:** 12/Per year  
**Circulation:** 76735 (ABC)  
**MediaDisk Ref:** U75D-110  
**Page:** 192

**Order**  
521130002  
**Titan Prop/CI/26**

**LLO2 13 5030**  
Page 2(2)  
**242 15-2**

