

Holiday Award

Opinion

Hotel red alert

Hoteliers should be on their guard as the number of Spanish hotels in HolidayCheck Award's top 99 dropped from 31 in 2008 to 15 last year and six in 2010.

The travel opinion site sieved through over 300,000 online opinions to reach their final verdicts which show a drastic reduction of the Spanish element. No hotels on the Spanish peninsula are included in the six, the honours are divided between three in Gran Canaria (Lopesan Costa Meloneras

Resort Spa & Casino, Seaside Hotel Sandy Beach and Hotel Cordial Mogán Playa), one in Lanzarote (Hotel Las Costas) and two in Mallorca (Hipotels Hipocampo Playa and Blau Mediterraneo Hotel).

Hotel guests filed their opinions on over 81,000 hotels all over the world for the HolidayCheck Award ranking and the outstanding winner this year has been Turkey with 33 hotels winning prizes. Germany clocked up 14 mentions and Austria 13, with Egypt in fourth place with 10 hotels.

AENA

Direct intervention

Catalán airport

Whilst our regional politicians continue to argue about whether or not we should start a Canarian international airline and how much, if at all, we should be investing in and involving ourselves in the AENA airports, the folk in Catalonia have beaten everyone to the gun yet again.

The Generalitat of Catalonia have built and opened their own airport in Lleida-Alguaire to boost their local tourism and the

economic activities of the immediate area. The airport is expected to go to a private concessionary in the second half of this year and will create 60 direct and 900 indirect jobs in the area. It is estimated that it will mean an added 47 million euros a year of income to the local community.

The first flights began at the beginning of February by Vueling to Paris and Palma de Mallorca and Ryanair will start services to Milan and Frankfurt from April.

Business in Brief

Segregated travel

Women only

A new travel business offering holidays only to women has been banned in Australia.

According to the courts the business is in breach of equal rights legislation. Erin Maitland, a former tour guide, decided to start the company after conversing with many women. Women are increasingly travelling more on their own and have become a major part of the tourist industry as their spending power increases. Women only services, taxis, hotels etc. are on the increase and many women according to Maitland refuse to go on mixed group holidays. Some have religious reasons, some have had experiences of domestic violence and others object to approaches by men or offensive remarks. The company is still hoping an exemption may be granted.

Child safety

High chair danger

Ikea have withdrawn a popular high chair from their stores owing to safety concerns.

After a number of client complaints about the stability of the high chair model Leopard, where the seat and the structure of the chair are linked by broken or loose meshing, Ikea decided to withdraw the item from all of their stores worldwide. Anyone who has bought this model which was on sale in Spain from October last year, can get a full refund if they return it to their nearest Ikea. Apart from the risk of the chair falling from the supporting structure, consumer's association Facua also warn there is a possibility that a child could choke on the loose pieces of linkage.

Binter

Transport time

Inter island air transport company Binter had good results in a recently published flight statistics report.

FlightStats investigated 45 European companies for punctuality and found that Binter was fourth with an on time (less than 15 minutes delay) register of 79.01 per cent. Scandinavian company SAS was the most punctual with Barcelona based Vueling in second place.



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