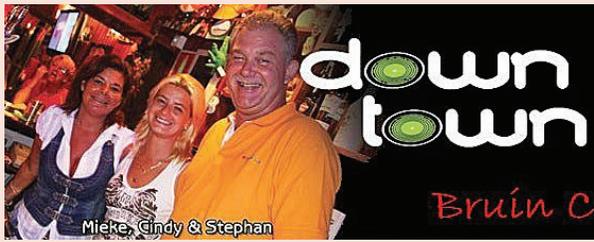


NOISE CURBS

Scaring tourists off



Noise restrictions imposed in several major resorts in south Gran Canaria have been slammed as excessive by bar owners who say they will scare tourists off.

The tough new bylaw passed by San Bartolomé de Tirajana, which came into effect in the middle of August, is designed to reduce the impact of loud music and singing on terraces late at night, with premises obliged to install expensive noise measuring equipment at their own expense. Among the furious owners is Stephan Venmans, who aired his grievances recently in the *Canarias 7* newspaper. According to Venmans, who owns the popular Dutch bar Down Town in Playa del Inglés, "A few customers chatting over a drink on the terrace," are enough to reach the 85 decibel ceiling imposed. "80 per cent of tourists come for the weather and the atmosphere here, including being able to go out at night, and this will put them off," complained the Dutchman, who is angry also that the bars have to foot the cost of the devices. "If the police breathalyse you, they use their own breathalysers, you don't have to provide one. It should therefore be the same for checking if noise levels have been exceeded," said Venmans. The island's hostelry federation has joined in the growing opposition to the curbs and has called on the council to rethink the bylaw, under which fines of up to €15,000 can be levied for breaches.

LAS PALMAS

Sunday cruise arrivals

The news that the winter cruise season will see many big liners call in on Las Palmas on Sundays has prompted a number of city stores and shopping centres to revise their opening times and staffing arrangements.

An estimated 700,000 cruise passengers will call in to the Gran Canaria capital between September and April, with the majority arriving on Sundays or public holidays. As the Sunday Opening debate continues to rage in the city, pitting the larger shops against their smaller counterparts opposed to the more flexible times, several top stores have already decided to act to cash in on the influx of tourists on what is usually something of a dead day. The Arenas Shop-



↑ Cruise ship shoppers have brought new life to Sundays in Santa Cruz

ping Centre is rumoured to be increasing staff numbers by 15 per cent to cater for the arrivals, while another well-known centre, El Muelle, is

following suit and the head of a big supermarket chain admits that it has speeded up its plans to open a 3,000 square metre branch there in

anticipation of a rise in business. Javier Puga, managing director of the Dinisol chain, says that Las Palmas cannot turn its back on cruise tourism just because of its traditional shopping hours patterns. "On the days cruise liners stop in Arrecife in Lanzarote takings in local shops increase by 40 per cent. Passengers and crew are big spenders," insisted Puga. For its part, the Canarian Department of Trade points to the new life injected into the Tenerife capital, Santa Cruz, by the decision to open on Sundays to meet the needs of cruise ships. "Cruise companies are increasing their stop-overs on Sundays because of the shopping possibilities," said a spokesperson.

WE'LL MAKE
YOUR BIKE PROBLEMS
SEEM SMALLER

NEW BIKE
INSURANCE

*
€80



linea directa

902 123 151

CALL US NOW

bankinter.

*Motorbike insurance from €80 a year. Introductory offer for new customers only. Offer valid until 31/09/14. Not valid for renewals. Subject to the underwriting regulations of the company.

WE DON'T JUST SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE.