

Nerja has over 400 bars and restaurants, and, although we only have direct experience of a small proportion of these, we are very happy to share this experience with you. The following is a list of restaurants that we are happy to recommend, in the sense that they are places where we regularly eat ourselves, and which we feel offer good quality and good value for money, together with a few which we don't recommend. The map references relate to the map that showed the route to your property.

### NERJA TOWN CENTRE:

We are presuming that you have come to Spain partly to enjoy genuine Spanish food (rather than fish & chips), and are pleased to recommend the following excellent – and totally Spanish – places to dine.

One of the very best, with an especially interesting selection of menu items, is **Pepe Rico**, on C/ Almirante Ferrandiz, Map Ref: G5. Then **Meson de Antonio** on C/ Diputacion. Map Ref: G4, is a very busy restaurant where many Spaniards themselves eat, and which is also very good for tapas. Equally centrally located, just at the top of the ramp leading down to the Balcon Car Park is **La Capilla del Mar**, on C/ de la Cruz 16, Map ref: F5.

**Restaurante Sevillano**, just into the old town past the Balcon, on the corner of C/ Almirante Ferrandiz with C/ Gloria (Map Ref: G5), also provides excellent food at very reasonable prices, with a very friendly Spanish welcome. Or you can try the **Rincón de Sevillano** which is located virtually opposite. There is also a third, smaller but more intimate, version of Sevillano on the corner of C/ Antonio Millon and C/ Chaparil, (Map Ref: F3/G3).

Past visitors, who had enjoyed dining at Sloan's Restaurant, on C/ Los Huertos 74, (Map Ref: F6/G6), will be disappointed to learn that it has had to close due to ill-health, but its successor – **L'Essence** – although very different in character serves excellent food in a very friendly atmosphere. Finally **Carabeo 34** (on C/ Carabeo, No 34!) has always been renowned as an excellent, if slightly expensive, place to dine, and remains one of our firm favourites, Map Ref: G5.

Outside the purely Spanish experience we can thoroughly recommend **Au Petit Paris**, on C/ Malaga, (Map Ref: G3), which offers a warm, and very French, welcome coupled with delicious food and an extensive selection of wines.

Finally, one restaurant that we actually have no experience of ourselves, but which is currently #1 rated on TripAdvisor, is **Oliva** on C/ Pintada 7 (Map Ref: G5) – pricey but very well reviewed.

Out of town, requiring a car journey, but well worth the effort is: **Restaurante Almazara** – on the Frigiliana Road, immediately on the right after the roundabout junction with the motorway. Marvellous views and a really innovative menu.

### BURRIANA BEACH AREA:

There is a wide range of restaurants here, both situated on the beach itself, and also within the parade of shops fronting on to the beach. Those on the beach serve delicious sea-food.

Our favourite is **Restaurant Moreno**, on the extreme right hand side, underneath where the Parador is situated, which does excellent paella (although Ayo's - at the other end of the beach – is the one that is famous for its giant paella, we do not think it is quite as good – although second helpings are free!). Of those in the parade, we like the **Restaurante Nerja de Nerja** also called **Bruxelles**, which several of our guests have also recommended, and which is very popular in the evening, so booking is advisable.

### TORRECILLA BEACH AREA

The path down to Torrecilla Beach from the junction of C/ Malaga and Avda. Mediterraneo contains a number of cafes and restaurants, but for something special, at an excellent price, try the last but one – **Maria Bonita** – Map Ref: G2/H2.

### EL CAPISTRANO VILLAGE / OASIS DE CAPISTRANO:

Whilst we would not recommend the restaurant within El Capistrano Village (see below), if you are looking for somewhere close by to eat, we would very strongly recommend the restaurant in **Hotel Los Arcos (La Brasería Ibérica)**, Map Ref: D10. This can be found on the main road through Nerja, just opposite the entrance to El Capistrano Village.

## WHERE TO AVOID:

In the main, eating (and drinking) out in Spain is a very rewarding experience. However, in addition to mentioning those places that we do recommend, we, somewhat reluctantly, feel that we should also warn you about three or four that we don't.

First of all, there is the restaurant within the El Capistrano Village complex itself, just by the pool. However it is really quite pricey, and to be frank we've never had a really good meal there yet – and have actually had one or two quite poor ones. In fact we've recently had numerous letters from guests who were tempted by its convenience, but who then said that they wished they'd taken our advice not to eat there.

People sometimes recommend El Portico on C/ Cristo, but I guess that when you've had a really poor meal somewhere (to the restaurant's evident unconcern) then it's difficult to be enthusiastic about it. Then Pata Negra, on Plaza La Marina, serves good food but combines this with a particularly poor attitude to foreigners and solo diners.

## TAPAS:

Finding tapas bars is something of an art – the really authentic ones aren't advertised as such, and you need to do what the Spaniards do, which is to make your way up to the bar, order a drink and point to the particular delicacy on the counter that takes your fancy. In Spain, tapas are often included in the price of the drink when sitting at the bar (or in some places there is a small extra charge), and generally you choose what you want, although in some bars there is no choice and you are just given one with your drink. When people go out for tapas in Spain, they go to 3 or more different bars, having a quick beer or glass of wine with a tapa, before moving onto the next one. This would normally be an 'aperitif' before going home for a proper meal, rather than a meal in itself, although some people find that a few tapas are sufficient for dinner.

If you are looking for something a bit more substantial, you would need to ask for 'raciones'. These are larger portions of the same sort of food you would find as tapas, but you pay for these in addition to your drink. A good way to have a light meal is to order a selection of raciones to share, and it means you can try out lots of different delicacies at once.

Here are some places we would recommend visiting:

**The Round Bar / Bar Redondo**, C/ Gloria, 10, Map Ref: G5, is a good authentic tapas bar which has tapas under the counter round the bar, which you can just point to, as well as raciones that you can order from a menu.

Just round the corner on Almirante Ferrándiz is **El Pulgilla**, (Map Ref: G5). Tapas are free if you sit at the bar or in the bar area, and fish and seafood is the speciality. You can also order raciones and there are plenty of tables to sit at, as well as a large terrace with wooden decking.

Less traditional, but modern and with great food, is **La Biznaga**, (Map Ref: G4), next to the Balcón de Europa, by the church. Here you pay around a euro for tapas, or you can order half or full raciones and portions are a good size with a lot of variety.

Just a bit further along behind the church in the Plaza Cavana is **Casa Luque**, (Map Ref: G4). This is really a 'gourmet tapas bar', which has a large selection of less traditional tapas such as 'Foie with Goat's cheese and caramelised Pineapple'.

Then, heading up C/ Pintada, and left onto C/ Nueva, (Map Ref: F5), is the **Mesón La Posada Ibérico**, which specialises in Iberian meats such as chorizo, morcilla, salchichón, and Manchego cheese.

Moving further east away from the Balcón, there are several more tapas bars. We would highlight **Vinoletto**, C/ Antonio Millón (Map Ref: G3) which is a wine and tapas bar, one of the few places in Nerja to specialise in both. Their large selection of wine has quite a few that are available by the glass, and each drink is accompanied by a small tapa. You can also buy tapas for a euro or two.

As stated above, Nerja actually boasts very many more restaurants and tapas bars besides those mentioned here, and we strongly encourage our guests to let us know of any particularly good ones that they come across themselves, so that we can pay them a visit and add them onto our list. We ourselves spend a good deal of time in Nerja, and intend to spend quite some time trying out a selection of restaurants other than our favourites as listed above – it's tough work, but somebody has to do it!