

ISSUE 10 - FREE

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Ali, Rob, Keith, Tara  
Monica, Linda, Aydan, Martine &  
Alex



# What have WE lined up for YOU...

We have a new contributor in the shape of **Martine** who has been coming to the island for a few years now. Determined to visit every nook and cranny that it has to offer, this visit sees Martine take to two wheels instead of her usual four.

We sat down with **Kenny Delaine** (we had to, his feet were killing in those heels!) as he takes centre stage as our **Faces of Fuerteventura** and gives us a glimpse into not just his, but **Sadie B's** life in Caleta.

As always, we have the **Stronger Together** roundup, and if you're not already a member, perhaps now is the time to have a chat and see how they can help. Even if you're fine for now, you might need a helping hand somewhere down the line.

Stronger Together are receiving a LOT of contact regarding the changes in VV licences, so we've tasked **Monica** with bringing you the latest updates to ensure you're fully compliant.

**Aydan** takes us to the mysterious **Villa Winter** which continues to spark speculation decades after it was built. Have a read, and if you're feeling brave enough, why not take a trip to see it with your own eyes?

We have articles on health and beauty, a round up of what's happening in La Oliva, **Karen from finance** keeping you right with your money and interests in Fuerte, and a great new little feature **Postcards to Dad** by another new contributor, **Linda**.

Finally, our cover image and photos in **Through my Lens** are brought to you by **Matias Mata**, whose work is featured not only here on the island but in most of the Canaries.

Thank you to everyone for all the suggestions relating to who and what we should feature. Please keep them coming on the channels below!

Thank you as always for picking us up, clicking online, sharing our articles, the 'likes', shares, retweets, thumbs up and for visiting our sponsors who make all of this possible! -

Enjoy...

*Keith & Ali*



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# ST NEWS



## LIVING IN FUERTEVENTURA

We are feeling lots of love this issue! Hence the hearts!!

At Stronger Together, everything we do is guided by one simple belief: no one should feel alone. Over recent weeks and months, our community has once again demonstrated what can be achieved when people come together with kindness, generosity and a shared sense of purpose.

One of the highlights has been the excellent pádel tournaments organised by **Denise Murray**. They brought people together through sport, a sense of enjoyment, and mutual support. These events **raised an incredible €3,067 for Stronger Together**, with every euro going directly towards supporting members when they need it most.



We are deeply grateful to Denise and to everyone who participated, donated or contributed to the success of these events. We're in awe of you all. And the fundraising doesn't stop there. One of the prizes in the pádel auction was a very special dinner, lovingly cooked by members in their beautiful home. The evening was a huge success, filled with warmth, laughter and connection.

Around that dinner table, even more ideas were born, including plans for a more pádel tournaments, a summer party, an Advent calendar and a black-tie gala night at Christmas.

We warmly encourage readers to support these upcoming events in any way they can, by taking part, spreading the word, or simply showing up. Every contribution helps keep Stronger Together doing what it does best: supporting our community when it matters most.

Beyond fundraising, our core work continues quietly and consistently in homes across Fuerteventura.

Stronger Together provides practical care and support to members living with cancer, serious illness or life-limiting conditions. This support includes assistance with shopping, cleaning and transport to medical appointments. But we also offer companionship and more personal, hands-on care. There's nothing too small nor too big. For many members, this help is essential. It offers dignity, reassurance and comfort during extremely challenging times.

We also place strong emphasis on helping our members integrate into life in Spain. Feeling at home involves far more than living in a given place. A fundamental part of this integration is learning Spanish.

Being able to communicate with doctors, neighbours, officials and local services builds confidence, independence and a genuine sense of belonging.

Our Spanish classes with Oscar are designed to be practical, welcoming and accessible. The aim is to enable members to manage daily life and fully engage with the people of the island they now call home.



Oscar



Spanish classes take place Tuesdays and Thursdays, with different one-hour sessions aimed at each level. Friendly, practical and supportive, they focus on everyday Spanish to help members feel more confident in daily life. **Join now** and learn in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

In addition, ST offers ongoing support to help ease the stress of paperwork and official procedures. As part of this service, we run a regular Council Help Desk at the Tenencia de Alcaldía in Corralejo, where members can receive guidance regarding appointments, filling in forms, and local administrative matters. This provides an important link between our international community and local services.

All of this is made possible by the strength of our community. ST receives no public funding. None! Our work is supported entirely through membership fees, fundraising events and the generosity of volunteers who give their time, skills and compassion so freely.

Without our members, we are literally nothing. So, our sincere thanks go to everyone who supports ST. Our gratitude is immense and heartfelt.

Together, we continue to show that community, understanding and integration truly make a difference.

As **ST** continues to grow, so too does the need for support. We would love to reach more people across Fuerteventura. And that's not only those who may need help now, but also those who wish to be part of a caring and connected community.

Becoming a member of **ST** helps ensure that vital services such as care support, admin assistance, Spanish classes and community activities can continue and grow.

With a modest annual membership fee, members not only support others but also join a network built on kindness, integration and mutual care.

If you live in Fuerteventura and believe in community, care and connection, Stronger Together is for you.

**Membership is just €30 per year, yet this small contribution makes a huge difference.**

**Our goal is to welcome more members and extend this network of care even further across Fuerteventura.**

**We will also be hosting a series of coffee mornings across villages around the island, inviting our members to bring along friends, neighbours or anyone new who would like to meet us and expand our network.**

**Our aim is simple... to ensure no one feels lonely, unsupported, or left facing difficult moments alone.**

Stronger Together is also a space for ideas. If you have a project, sporting activity or community initiative you would like to develop (from tournaments and competitions to social or wellbeing activities) we'd love to hear from you.

This year, we are pleased to support the introduction of Walking Football as our of our activities, backing an existing group and recognising the excellent work of Gary Hagger.



His dedication has brought people together through what is a really enjoyable, popular sport. More importantly, it serves as a strong example of how collaboration can help meaningful initiatives grow.

If you would like to join this group, drop **Franc** a WhatsApp on **+34 670 461993**, and he will let you know what you need to do.

They play in the sports hall in Corralejo on Tuesdays from 9.30am till 11am. Everyone is welcome, including those on holiday!

Whether you'd like to join an activity, attend an event, volunteer, or simply find out more about how we can support you, we're always happy to hear from you.



**strongertogetherfuerteventura@gmail.com**



# Ask Monica

## Holiday Lets in Fuerteventura - What the New Rules Really Mean (in plain English)

If you own a holiday let (VV) in Fuerteventura, you've probably heard that the rules have changed and that it all sounds confusing. This article is not about scaring you. It's about clarity. The key thing to understand is that nothing is being cancelled overnight, but the way holiday lets are treated has changed fundamentally.

From 13 December 2025, holiday letting in the Canary Islands is governed by a new law 6/2025.

### The 5-Year Freeze on New Licences

The most important thing to know is that there will be no new VV licences issued in Fuerteventura for the next five years.

The new law requires that 90% of residential space must be kept for residents, leaving only 10% for tourism. Local councils are currently updating their 'General Plans' to figure out where these spots are. Do not go to the council to ask about your licence yet, as they do not have the legal plans in place to give you the information.

This means:

- This article applies only to existing VV licence holders.
- Buying a property with the idea of getting a VV later is now high risk.
- Buying a property with a VV licence doesn't allow a transfer to the new owner.
- The focus is on controlling and reviewing what already exists.



### Current VV Licence holders - What You Need to Do Now – Urgent February Deadlines

February is a critical month for all current holiday let (VV) owners in Fuerteventura. Firstly, it is mandatory to register your 2025 booking figures in the Property Registry before 2 March. Failure to do so may result in the loss of your NRUA registration number, putting your licence at serious risk. If you are unsure how to complete this process, you should seek legal advice immediately.



**At the same time, if you have not yet submitted your "Actividad Clasificada" to your local Ayuntamiento, this must be done without delay.**

The application requires specific documentation, including proof of ownership, community authorisation, tax registration (IGIC), civil liability insurance, and a technical report (memoria) prepared by a **qualified professional** confirming that the property meets all safety, urban planning and fire regulations. Without this submission, your VV may be considered non-compliant under current law.



**"THE LOCAL COUNCILS (AYUNTAMIENTOS) ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THEIR NEW URBANISTIC PLANS TO DETERMINE HOW THESE PERCENTAGES WILL BE APPLIED. DO NOT GO TO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL TO ENQUIRE ABOUT LICENCES YET, AS THEY DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A 'PLAN GENERAL' (GENERAL PLAN) IN PLACE TO ENABLE THESE NEW TOURIST USES."**

### **So, what must current VV holders do in the medium term...**

If you already hold a licence, you are in a transition period and generally have three routes to choose from, according to the new law

#### **• 1. Apply for Consolidated Tourist Use of Your Home**

This option is only available to owners who hold the holiday licence (VV) in their own name **and** who have been operating legally for at least one year before the law came into force (13 December 2025).

If you qualify, you have five years to apply for consolidation through your town hall. Once approved, your licence does not expire, provided you continue to meet the requirements.

However, the property must be used exclusively for holiday letting... you cannot live in it, stay in it, or use it privately at any time.



**What do I need to apply for 'Consolidated Tourist Use' of my property?**

Consolidated tourist use means that a specific property is formally recognised by the Ayuntamiento as having tourist use instead of residential use.

- Responsible Declaration of Tourist Consolidation submitted to your Town Hall
- Copy of the Prior Communication of Classified Activity (if not submitted, this must be remedied first)
- Proof you were already operating as a VV before the law came into force (original Responsible Declaration submitted before 13 December 2025)
- Proof of uninterrupted activity (IGIC registrations and filings covering at least one full year)
- Confirmation that you are both the property owner and the original licence holder

**Important:** Once consolidated, the property may be used only for holiday letting. Personal use is not permitted at any time.

## • 2. Standard Transitional Period (most owners)

Most VV owners fall into this category. If you do not qualify for consolidation (or choose not to apply), or you only obtained your VV licence after 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, you may continue operating under your current licence for up to five years from the entry into force of the new law. After that period, the authorisation automatically expires, unless an extension is formally approved.

This category also includes properties where the owner is not the licence holder, for example when the operation has been transferred to a management company. In these cases, the licence is tied to the contract between the owner and the operator. If that contract expires and is not properly extended (prórroga), the licence is lost.



In certain situations, a further five-year extension may be granted (up to a maximum of 10 years in total), particularly where significant investment has been made that cannot reasonably be recovered within the initial period. However, this extension is not automatic and must be properly requested.

Important: As with consolidation, owners and operators must be fully up to date with their Prior Communication of Classified Activity at the town hall.

Once the transitional period ends (five years, or 10 with approved extension), the licence is extinguished and the activity must cease, or a completely new application must be made under the new law.

## • 3. Long-Term Rental Incentive (Limited Cases)

This option applies only in very specific circumstances and is designed to encourage long-term residential rentals. Owners who choose this route may be allowed to continue holiday letting their VV property for a much longer period (in some cases up to 20 years), but only if they place another property they own into the long-term residential rental market.

The residential property must meet strict conditions regarding use, quality, and location, and the arrangement is closely monitored.

This option is managed at Cabildo level, not the Town Hall, and requires the submission of detailed legal and technical documentation. It is one of the most complex routes and should only be considered with professional advice.



### Difference Between a VV Number and an NRUA Number?

#### VV Number (Vivienda Vacacional)

This is your regional holiday rental registration number, issued by the Gobierno de Canarias. It confirms that your property is officially registered as a holiday home. Example format: VV-35-1-0012345

#### NRUA Number

This is a national registration number linked to the Spanish Property Registry system. It connects your holiday rental activity to the national database and is part of broader regulatory control. Without maintaining your NRUA correctly (for example, by submitting required booking data), your registration can be suspended or cancelled, even if you still have a VV number.

**You must display these numbers on all advertising (Booking, Airbnb, websites, etc.).**

The transition to Law 6/2025 represents the biggest change to Canary Island tourism in decades. While the new requirements may seem daunting, they are now the legal standard for remaining in operation. Remember that for existing holders, the February registration in the Property Registry and the registration for Classified Activity are critical 'right now' tasks to protect your NRUA number.



## “Stay Informed and Stay Legal”

# To do

### VV Owners: Other Questions Answered

#### Do I need to be self-employed (autónomo)?

Not automatically. If you rent out your own property without offering hotel-style services, you usually do not need to be autónomo. This depends on how the activity is carried out and should be assessed case by case.

#### Do I need to declare the income?

Yes. All income from a holiday let must be declared for tax purposes, whether you are a resident or non-resident.

#### Is there anything I need to do right now?

Yes. Owners must ensure that 2025 booking information is correctly presented to the relevant authorities, including the Registro, before 2 March. If you are unsure, seek advice promptly.

#### Do I still need to register guests with the police?

Yes. Guest registration through the official police system (SES.HOSPEDAJES) remains mandatory and has not changed.

#### Do I need to update my advertising?

Yes. Your official VV registration number & NRUA must appear on all listings and adverts. Advertising without it is a sanctionable offence.

Because local planning is still being updated by the Ayuntamientos, it is vital to avoid filing applications prematurely and instead focus on bringing your existing property into full technical compliance.

**When in doubt, always seek professional legal or architectural advice to ensure your property meets the specific safety and habitability standards required for its next renewal.**

#### Useful Links for Readers:

**Boletín Oficial de Canarias (BOC):** To read the full text of Law 6/2025, search for the edition published on 12 December 2025.

**SES.HOSPEDAJES:** The Ministry of the Interior's portal for the mandatory registration of guest ID details.

**Cabildo de Fuerteventura - Tourism:** Visit the official Cabildo website to check the status of the General Tourist Registry and your NRUA number.

**Registadores.org:** The site for the College of Property Registrars to assist with the mandatory booking registrations mentioned for February.

## A Changing Market: Buying for Lifestyle in Fuerteventura By Audra Laverty, Alba Property

The way people buy property in Fuerteventura is changing. Increasingly, the decision is no longer driven purely by numbers, but by lifestyle.

Many buyers tell me they first looked at mainland Spain, but felt something different here. There's more space, a slower pace of life, and the simple luxury of being able to swim in the ocean before breakfast. One recent buyer from Germany spent almost a year researching the island before choosing Caleta de Fuste. They followed listings closely, understood prices, community fees and rental potential, and waited patiently for the right property. When it appeared, they were ready to act.

This more considered approach is now common. Buyers are informed, selective and focused on long-term value rather than quick gains. It has created a calmer, more balanced market.

From a local perspective, the most important issue isn't pricing, but housing availability.

Protected rental projects for Canarian residents and workers are essential. Without affordable homes for local people, the island's economy, including tourism, cannot function properly. While it's positive to finally see movement in this area, it's something we need much more of across Fuerteventura.

For investors, the current market represents stability rather than slowdown. Rapid price growth has eased, but that predictability allows for sensible long-term planning. Demand remains strong, particularly for well-located properties, and expectations are now more realistic on all sides.

Fuerteventura is entering a more mature phase, one driven by people who want to live here, invest responsibly, and be part of the island's future.

If you're thinking about buying on the island, come and see us...because informed decisions start with honest advice.

*Audra*



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## Faces of Fuerteventura

# KENNIE DELAINE

Kennie first stumbled across the Canaries when a college exchange gave him a chance to stay with Spanish hosts in Tenerife. They quickly became friends. And then family. This often offered Kennie the chance to escape to Tenerife.

As well as gigging there and in the other Canaries, his Spanish 'sister' Carolina invited him to try Fuerteventura. Landing for the first time, he found it quiet yet buzzing at the same time. Somewhere that made him stop and think, 'Yeah, this could be home'.

When Carolina eventually moved here to teach, thanks partly to the generosity of his parents Ken & Val (known affectionately to everyone as Kitty), it offered Kennie the opportunity to escape from the UK after a troubled time, and the chance to start again.



What started off as finding his feet and his place on the island, Kennie worked in a bar, letting it slip (no euphemism intended of course) that he used to do drag... and it snowballed from there. Sadie B, who had been packed away in storage trunks marked '**NEVER to be opened**', was convinced to come out of retirement.

His parents, with their own retirement knocking on their door, decided that Fuerteventura was also for them. So they upped sticks and moved lock, stock and barrel. Shortly after, their own club was born. 'Sadie B's' opened like a tornado.

Sadie being the only drag queen in town at the time helped it become a whirlwind success. "There wasn't anyone else," he shrugs. "So we opened our own place." It really worked... until it didn't. All inclusive tourism changed the landscape, and around this time Kennie's father passed away. It didn't seem right to carry on with a dream that was about the three of them, so with a heavy heart it was the end of the club. Whilst Sadie gracefully decided that it was time for retirement yet again, Kennie pivoted, taking his own stage show on the road as himself. This brought in a lot of work from Caleta and the south, and this is when Kennie met his partner, Mark, who was working in one of the venues. Love blossomed. So moving permanently to Caleta de Fuste, Kennie, his Mum and Mark all moved in together.



With the move came the demand for a drag queen in Caleta, and Sadie was resurrected and prized from retirement once more, this time with a small holdall of bulldog clips and duct tape to help with the process.

As time went on, their careers intertwined and they started performing together, this time as 'Sadie B & Blanche', with Sadie's name in **much** bigger letters (obviously), and her daughter Blanche's in chalk (just to remind her that she could be wiped off at any time).

She wouldn't do that to her own daughter, would she?

Celebrating 23 years on the island, I caught up with Kennie to bring a lil' bit more of him and Sadie to Breeze...

FEATURING Miss SADIE B

**You work incredibly hard. The pace is something most people half your age would refuse.**

The shows can be relentless: eight one week, ten the next... But the venues we work now proudly bill themselves as the home of Sadie. So, yeah, whilst hard work, I love it and wouldn't do it if I didn't.

That said, days off are rare enough to be celebrated like public holidays. When they do happen, they involve food, silence, maybe a visit to somewhere new, a hotel elsewhere to switch off, recover and recharge. And then it starts all over again!



**So no one should be fooled into thinking it's easy bringing Sadie to the stage nightly?**

The audience just sees the two hours on stage, but what they don't see is the five o'clock starts. That's a five o'clock start for curtains up at nine!

There's the undergarments (lots are needed to keep Sadie together, and we're not talking one cheap pair of tights). Then there are the gowns, many of them, with some of the shows having up to five or six costume changes. Then comes the jewellery... a different costume normally means different jewellery, and some of the stars I take off LOVED their big jewellery!

Next up are the wigs! A small 'Liza' number might be easier to pull on, but when it's 'Dolly' or 'Shirley' or even 'Sadie' they need to be endlessly combed, teased and styled.

Make-up isn't cheap. Costumes aren't light. One gown, a favourite, weighs 22 kilos, and that's enough to bankrupt you at airport check-in!

Thankfully though, there is a small army of hands backstage making sure nothing falls apart. Or rather that I don't fall apart.

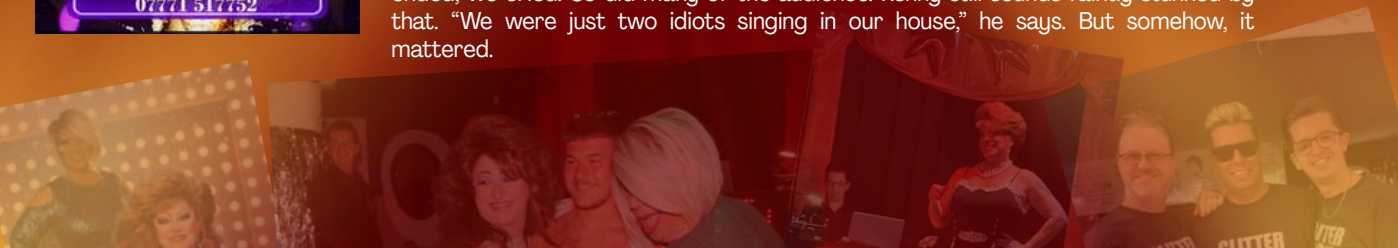
**Lock down must have been an incredibly tough time for you?**

The first two weeks were bliss: the heels were packed away, my feet were ~~ours~~ and then suddenly reality kicked in. Entertaining became something else entirely for us, and armed with nothing more than a phone on a music stand, we both began streaming live shows from home.

What started as a sanity saving experiment just for us turned into 262 performances. They were watched by hundreds, sometimes thousands, all across the world.

It was like Eurovision. People watched in Argentina, in Canada, in Australia... Some of our viewers dressed up in their living rooms. Some turned sheds into bars. Sundays became sacred. People would schedule their Sundays around the show, sending us a photo of drinks and nibbles telling us they were ready for the show.

People have since told us those shows got them through grief, illness and loss. When it ended, we cried. So did many of the audience. Kenny still sounds faintly stunned by that. "We were just two idiots singing in our house," he says. But somehow, it mattered.



## Why do you think Kennie (and I guess Sadie) have endured so long in the tough old showbiz game?

Beyond the gowns, the wigs and the comedy, is a stubborn devotion to old school drag. I have little patience for fashion parades masquerading as performance. If you can't tell a joke for two hours, make people laugh, keep them engaged - what are you doing? Kenny has been performing for over four decades, a fact he delivers casually, like someone mentioning they've had the same sofa for years.

## With it being probably at its peak, do you watch much drag on TV?

No, I can't say I do, unless one of my friends is on it, and then I'll tune in and show my support.

For me, drag is not a fashion parade. It's not about splits, twerking, or immaculate make-up alone. Don't get me wrong, the make-up is fabulous and usually always on point, but that's not enough. That's not earning your name as a drag performer. You have to be bringing more to the stage.

If you're just swanning around looking good, that's not drag. Drag should have comedy. Timing. A throwaway line that destroys a room. Sadly you don't see much of that in the modern day take on Drag.



## What can someone who hasn't seen you before expect to see in one of your shows?

Comedy, laughs (lots of laughter), tributes to some of the greats... You'll see Liza and Shirley. There's singing. Some of it is mime, and some is live. Oh, and there's lots of interaction. I think 'old school drag' sums it all up nicely. Come and escape from life for a night!

## How about your performing heroes. Who floats your boat?

Mine are definitely cut from that cloth: Lily Savage, Dame Edna... performers who could dismantle a room with a look, a pause, or a throwaway line. Myra Dubois is another who makes me laugh.

Drag should be funny. Properly funny. Not polite laughs, but actual belly laughs. You know, the kind that sneak up on you and have you giggling later that night when you remember the joke all over again.



## **I know your biggest heroes were your parents.**

Yeah, very much so. Like I say, it was both of my parents who helped make the whole Fuerte move happen, and for that I will always be grateful. We lost Dad 20 years ago this year, and from then it was me and Mum against the world! And then along came Mark and they adored each other. Sadly Mum was diagnosed with terminal cancer and after the initial upset, she dried her tears and said 'there's nothing I can do about it, so let's just get on with it.' And that's what she did!

From the original prognosis of six months, she lasted a year, which we were so grateful for. It eventually took her in November 2024.

My mum had a wicked sense of humour. Every night before I would head out to work as Sadie, I would go and see her and show her my make up and costume, and Mum would always give her opinion. That's a little tradition I will always carry on.

She's still around me a lot. I feel her at every show, and she's still talked about in company by friends. That means the world to me.

Mum would be furious if she thought I was moping around, so even though she's gone, she is still very much an inspiration to me for getting on with it!

## **What's in the pipeline? What can you share with us?**

I am heading back to play in the UK with some good friends on four shows that sold out within hours. One of the venues is, in fact, the very first venue I performed in Derbyshire 42 years ago. So that will be great to head back to and reminisce a little as some old school friends are going to be in the audience which will be nice. Especially as some of them only know me as Kennie!

There is a flying visit to Benidorm as a friend's bar, 'The Westend Showbar', is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. Sadie is packing up her trunk and heading to the mainland along with some other great 'Dinosaurs of Drag' for an old school week of drag royalty, which will be so much fun with old friends.

Personally, Mark and I have big birthdays coming up. So that will mean a few parties. We are treating ourselves to a nice holiday as it's not everyday you turn F... fabulous.

## **Any plans to slow down? By your own admission, Sadie is 'getting on', although you made me sign a non-disclosure agreement so I couldn't possibly print her age...**

Despite the pace, we have no plans to slow down just yet. We are still enjoying ourselves too much, and I have always said as long as I enjoy it, I'll carry on. As for Sadie, there's plenty of life in her yet, and as long as she can manage the stairs in those heels, I don't think we'll be saying goodbye anytime soon!

**You can catch Kennie & Sadie in Legends Bar & Millennium Bar in Caleta de Fuste plus other venues throughout the year. Make sure you track him down, he is well worth it.**



# The story of... Villa Winter



by Aydan  
Woodward

**In the very south of Fuerteventura, near the picturesque beach of Cofete, and ranked the second best in all of Europe by the Travellers' Choice Awards, sits a rather spooky-looking house, with a dominating watchtower. This building is popularly known as... Villa Winter, and it has a mysterious and shady story behind it.**

Let's flash back to the early 1940s. World War II is in full swing. In case any of you didn't know, Spain didn't fight in the war. Before any of you shout out "Because they were neutral!" I need to point out that, no, that's not quite the case. The word for Spain's stance wasn't 'neutral', it was more like 'non-belligerent' (it's a bit of a mouthful, I know, but bear with me). The reason I say this is because, in order to be neutral, that would mean not siding with anyone at all. Not even the slightest bit.

The Spanish Franco government, however, was very much supportive of the Germans and Italians, having given Nazi Germany valuable materials and resources, and also having sent a group of volunteers to fight alongside the Germans in Stalingrad (the famous Blue Division). The key point is that the Spanish Army itself didn't fight in any of the battles, hence the word 'non-belligerent'.





Part of this friendliness with Germany also involved letting them dock and refuel their U-Boats in Spanish waters. Guess which islands sit comfortably within those waters? That's right. The Canary Islands, and more specifically for our story, Fuerteventura. According to stories shared among the locals of the village of Cofete, German submarines were often seen near Fuerte's coastline, heading to and from Las Palmas.

So where does this house come into the story? Well, it's called the Villa Winter because it was built by a German engineer named Gustav Winter, who came to Fuerteventura in 1927 and set up shop down south, making a name for himself rather quickly.

He did so well, in fact, that he ended up owning the Jandía Peninsula for a time (the whole southern 'leg' of Fuerteventura, so to say). His connections were always suspicious, however, and it's known that he was able to work on the island with resources provided to him by none other than... Hermann Göring, one of the most powerful men in the Nazi Party.

When and why did Herr Winter build this villa? As to when, no one's really sure. Atlas Obscura says it was built in 1937 (as does the Casa Winter website). Wikipedia says it was in 1946, and Herr Winter himself claimed he had it built in 1958. Why is there so much inconsistency?



Then there's why he built it. The truth is... we don't really know. What we do know is that the villa has some very strange features. Why does it have a tall, military-style watchtower overlooking the sea? Why is the underground hallway shaped like a bunker, with thick, reinforced walls and an arched roof? Even without knowing anything about its history, you'd be forgiven for thinking this place was a fortress. Not a peaceful coastal residence.





Here comes the creepiest part: the kitchen. You'd think I'm joking upon reading this bit, but it's no regular kitchen. With a drain in the floor, a huge oven and a large slab that looks like an autopsy table, it's more like an operating room. It's almost as if it had been used for performing surgery. This is where the conspiracy theory side of things kicks in.

There's a belief that this room may have been used as a clinic by Nazi high command to alter their appearances and, after some intense plastic surgery, use a nearby U-Boat to escape to Argentina.

Now, as a historian, my job is to teach the facts and to tell things as they happened. And I'm afraid there's none of this that I can verify. I can't tell you that it's merely a myth, either.



You can't deny... it's an entertaining story. So much so that it's attracted the attention of thousands of visitors. Tourists and residents alike. I first went there almost six years ago. It was the summer of 2020, and I remember being fascinated by the villa and its bizarre features. Where did they get a Krupp wagon from? And the Nazi uniforms that greet visitors upon entering the house? Are they genuine or Amazon purchases?

The villa's current resident, Pedro Fumero (who has been investigating the building's secrets for several years now), certainly insists that what you see is as true as the clouds in the sky. On the other side, you have Gustav Winter's own children, who defend their father's legacy and insist that the darker stories - along with Pedro Fumero's version of the house - are fabrications.



    
@historyaydan



I highly recommend that you head down to Cofete and see for yourself. It's open every day (except Mondays) from 10am til 2pm and from 3pm until 5pm. I can guarantee you'll leave with more questions than you had when you arrived.

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# FUERTEVENTURA THROUGH MY LENS

with Sabotaje al Montaje

Behind Sabotaje al Montaje is Matías Mata, an urban artist with more than three decades of experience working in public spaces. Born in Lanzarote and shaped by life across the Canary Islands and beyond, his work uses ephemeral art as a tool to question society, reflect social and environmental issues, and create dialogue within the places he inhabits. His murals don't aim to decorate, but to disrupt, connect and belong to the communities where they appear.

Artwork featured is shown for editorial and cultural purposes. Image and artwork courtesy of the artist.

**Could you introduce yourself and tell us briefly who you are and what you do?**

My name is Matías Mata, and I work under the name Sabotaje al Montaje. I was born in Lanzarote in 1973, later lived in Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria. I'm currently based in Tenerife. I've been working for around 35 years in urban art and interventions in public space, mainly creating ephemeral art - works that are temporary by nature, designed to exist in a specific moment and place before disappearing or changing over time. For me, that impermanence is part of the message, reflecting both the environment and the society we live in.

**How did Sabotaje al Montaje begin, and what led you to this kind of creative work?**

Sabotaje al Montaje was born out of participatory projects in neighbourhoods, first in places like Añaza in Barcelona, and later in Las Palmas. These were projects where the people of the neighbourhood decided what would be painted and how - not the artist.

In that process, the artist stops being the focal point and becomes a creative tool for the community, letting go of ego and sharing authorship with society. From there came this idea, this manifesto:

We live in a society that is increasingly artificial and constructed (a 'montage'), and it needs to be sabotaged. In my case, I do that through art, but it's something that applies to many disciplines and reflects the world we live in.

**The name Sabotaje al Montaje is very powerful. What does it mean to you?**

As I mentioned before, it comes from participatory work, but it's also a symbol of resistance. The word sabotage comes from the industrial revolution, when workers would throw wooden shoes (sabots) into machinery to protest for better working conditions.

So it has strong social and working-class roots, and it belongs to the street. That's why my work often reflects social and environmental issues, always connected to public space.

**How would you describe your artistic style to someone who doesn't know your work yet?**

My work is rooted in ephemeral art, and above all I consider myself an urban artist. I'm interested in many disciplines and visual languages, but figurative work often leans towards social and environmental themes.



Alongside this, I also have a more personal line of work centred on colour and form, which comes directly from my roots in graffiti.

**What does your creative process look like from the initial idea to the final piece?**

Ideas come to me along the way...from people I meet, places I visit, and experiences I live. I work with my own photographs and build dialogues through photomontage, collage and sketches to express whatever is troubling or interesting me at that moment.

I'm not an artist who repeats the same image endlessly to convince society of something. People may like my work or not, but I've always followed my own path. Once the idea is ready, whether on a computer, paper or collage, I take it straight to the wall. From there, I improvise, embrace mistakes, and let those errors help me grow.

**Where do you draw your inspiration from? The environment? Everyday life? Social issues or personal experiences?**

A bit of everything! Inspiration comes from what I think about, what I read, or what I see. It comes from daily life, even from what I eat. It's all a reflection of the society I live in, and I try to represent that reality in the best way I can.

**How does Fuerteventura, or the places you work in, influence your creativity?**

Wherever I go, I try to create a dialogue with the place. Sometimes I work with historical archive images. Other times, it's with my own experiences.

Whether it's Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, Valencia or Hamburg, I always try to connect with the local society. Once a mural is finished, I may never see it again. It becomes something that belongs to the neighbourhood, the town or the city. I never repeat the same work anywhere. I immerse myself in each place before acting, and that shapes the final piece.

**Has there been any project or collaboration that marked a turning point in your career?**

My early participatory social projects were crucial. They forced me to abandon my ego and work alongside neighbourhood residents, creating ideas freely with them. These were not institutional projects with imposed narratives - they reflected real life.

Those experiences nourished me deeply and shaped who I am today. Throughout my career, I've never abandoned that spirit. It reminds me where I come from and where I'm going.



## Why do you think non-conventional or alternative art is important today?

Art goes through different stages, and urban art is important because it's for everyone. It's not private, and it's not exclusive. Public space belongs to everyone, and anyone can appropriate it, reflect on it, or be challenged by it.

It may surprise you, move you, or make you think. But it's there on the street. That's the key difference between private and public art: it can't be owned. It belongs to everyone.

## What challenges do you face working independently and outside traditional art circuits?

I've always worked outside traditional circuits. When I started, very few artists were painting in public spaces or donating art to neighbourhoods and towns. Now there are more, but I've always gone against the current.

I knew the traditional art world, but it never appealed to me. Public space enriched me far more, and I'm still following that same path today.



## What would you like someone to feel or think when they encounter a Sabotaje al Montaje piece for the first time?

I hope it brightens their day. Whether it's colourful or more narrative, whether it's immediately understood or not, a mural can lift a space and make someone pause or reflect.

That small disruption in public space, that anomaly, makes places feel more alive and more human. And that's true not only of my work, but of any artist who brings art into the street.

## Finally, what reflections would you like to share on the cover image - the woman in the sea wrapped in plastic?

The cover image is titled "**Déjame Respirar**" (Let Me Breathe). Created in El Hierro for the @lavacircular festival (a cultural event focused on sustainability and environmental awareness) it forms part of a project exploring the relationship between the human body and the natural world.

Inspired by a collaboration with apnea photographer **Cristina Camacho**, whose work strongly shaped its visual language, the image represents a powerful call to awareness.

For Matías, it symbolises our fragile connection with the sea and the urgent need to protect it, so we can all continue to breathe freely.

**Thank you Matías - its been a pleasure.**



Community

# Council Help Desk: What do they do?



**Navigating paperwork, public services and local administration can be challenging, especially in another language. That's where the Council Help Desk, based at the Tenencia de Alcaldía de Corralejo, comes in.**

Run in collaboration between the Ayuntamiento of La Oliva and Stronger Together, the service offers free, friendly support to foreign residents who need help understanding and accessing Spanish bureaucracy. From empadronamiento and document registration to municipal queries and guidance on island-level services, the Help Desk acts as a first point of contact, helping residents find the right department and understand the steps involved.

At the centre of the service is Josan, a long-term Fuerteventura resident whose language skills and calm, approachable manner make a real difference. Fluent in Spanish, English, German & Italian, he helps bridge communication gaps and reduce the stress that often comes with administrative processes.

The Tenencia de Alcaldía itself is a one-stop hub, housing Social Services, the municipal tax office, document registration, Cabildo services, and even the local water company on certain days. The Help Desk helps residents make sense of what's available and where to go.

More than paperwork, the Council Help Desk is about inclusion - it's about making people feel supported and understood.



**Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 2:00pm**

**Need help?** Visit the Tenencia de Alcaldía in Corralejo and ask at reception for the Council Help Desk.

✉ [councilhelpdesklaoliva@gmail.com](mailto:councilhelpdesklaoliva@gmail.com)

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Living the dream

# Made in Fuerte

*Christian*



*Jose*



## Too Young to Be Estate Agents? Christian and Jose Didn't Get the Memo

In a world where most people are still deciding what they want to be 'when they grow up', Christian and Jose have already opened an estate agency in Corralejo. They're both 26, both entrepreneurs, and both the kind of people who make you feel slightly guilty for ever calling it a productive day because you answered three emails.

Their business is called Social Home, and, no, it's not a housing charity. It's a clever mix of what they know best: property and marketing with a big focus on social media and real human connection. The kind that doesn't involve blurry photos and 'cosy' flats that turn out to be a cupboard with a bed.

"We've known each other all our lives"

Christian is from Corralejo. Born in Gran Canaria, he moved to Fuerteventura when he was four. He started in digital marketing, social media and branding, and then got a close-up view of real estate when his father opened an agency.

"At some point I decided to create my own project," he explains, "a fusion of digital marketing and real estate."

Jose, also 26, laughs because he's basically been training for this job in the toughest way possible.

"I started in 2022 training as a salesman. Street sales, cold calling, phone calls," he says, casually describing most people's worst nightmare as if it's a gym workout.

He later moved to Granada, worked online, and then Christian called him with a simple proposal: come back, we're starting something.

Jose's response was beautifully direct. "My long-term goal was to become a real estate agent, so why not do it now?" ... Fair point.

## The name "Social Home", and a little Tara cameo

The name actually has a sweet backstory. Christian originally had a marketing project connected to 'social network marketing', and years ago, he asked Breeze's very own Tara, who was in the same class at school, for help translating it because his English wasn't strong.

That old project stayed with him, and when Social Home began, the name followed. 'Social' came from social networks. 'Home' came from, well, homes. It's a simple name, but it fits them perfectly. Modern, personal, and built around connection.



## Starting a business without a big budget

When you're 26, you don't always have investors lining up with suitcases of cash. Christian and Jose, along with Lorena, started slowly and carefully, building what they could with what they earned.

"It hasn't been easy," Christian admits. "We haven't made big investments. It's been from scratch, little by little."

They also do something unusual in the industry. They don't rely on the big property portals.

Instead, they rely on what they already understand: attention, trust and visibility through social media. Their team is also a modern setup,

with collaborators who are self-employed. Some are local, some from mainland Spain. There are even some abroad. It's flexible, but not simple.

"And managing that," Christian smiles, "is not always easy."

## How do they find houses and buyers?

Lorena explains their process like someone who has had to organise chaos into a checklist. First, they filter buyers properly - budget, areas, preferences... Then they search through collaboration with other agencies, private sellers, and their own network. But, she says, the biggest issue is not finding the house. It's the paperwork. "The biggest hurdle is documentation," she explains. "When we ask for it, people think we're asking too much."

What kind of documentation? Things like the property registry, legal status, updated planning classification, and proof that everything matches what is being sold. If something was last updated in 2010, and planning rules have changed since then, they push for it to be updated.

They don't do this to be difficult. They do it to protect both buyer and seller. And, yes, they help request it. "We have the contacts," Lorena says. "We plan everything so it all ends well." Honestly, if real estate had more people focused on that, we'd all sleep better.

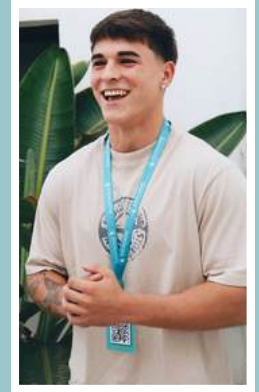
## “We show properties as they are”

“We show properties as they are.” This is where their marketing side really comes in. Instead of a handful of rushed photos, they film clear videos. They walk through the space, explain opportunities, and show the property honestly.

“People trust our profiles,” Jose says. “They see us. They know us. They see us on the street too.” Their content includes videos about their values, videos presenting homes, and videos aimed at helping normal people understand the process without feeling stupid.



Lorena



Asier



## And yes, they sell a bit of everything.

Land, villas, apartments, buildings, even investment opportunities. Projects that can be remodelled, divided, or developed. They also work with commercial spaces and business opportunities.

Which brings us to the word that confuses most foreigners.

## What is a “traspaso”?

If you’ve lived in Spain long enough, you’ve seen the sign. ‘Se traspasa’. And you’ve probably nodded as if you understand, while quietly thinking, are we buying a building, a business, or someone’s secret recipe?

Christian explains it simply. A traspaso is not buying the premises itself. It’s buying the business that operates inside, usually including things like equipment, furniture, licences, and the existing setup. Think of it like this. The location still belongs to the landlord, and the new owner usually continues paying rent. But what you’re buying is the ready-to-run business. The investment’s already made. The client base. The materials. The ‘it’s already working’ part.

A restaurant traspaso, for example, might include tables, coffee machines, appliances, and everything needed to open the doors without starting from zero.

And how long is the contract? “In commercial rentals it’s usually agreed between both sides,” Christian says. “Often two years minimum, normally five years, but it depends.”



## How do you price a traspaso?

This part gets very real, very fast. To price it, Christian says you need to look at profitability, income versus expenses, the condition of everything included, and the real market value, not just what people claim online.

A business with very little inside can still be valuable if it generates strong profit. That’s what buyers care about. “It’s about showing the real value,” Christian says, “and presenting it properly so the right people are interested.”

## They won't do long-term rentals, and here's why...

One of the most surprising things, they say, is what they don't do. They don't focus on residential rentals. They feel the housing situation is too delicate, and they don't want to be part of a system where tenants end up paying fees in an already difficult market.

They do, however, work with commercial rentals. It's a refreshingly thoughtful stance, especially in an industry not always known for that. Their philosophy: quality over quantity.

Lorena is clear about one thing. They don't want volume. They want that quality.

They only take properties exclusively, and only when they can do the job properly: full study, full attention, full management. They believe exclusivity avoids misinformation, confusion and overexposure.

She puts it in a way anyone can understand. "If you have a Nike shirt, you don't put it on a roof," she says. "You put it in the Nike shop, where it belongs." Fair! And slightly hilarious.

## What do they think will happen with prices?

Christian believes prices will continue to rise. His reasoning is simple. It's down to population changes, fewer people living in one household, more demand, inflation, and not enough housing to stabilise things.

## And their clients?

Interestingly, many are local residents. People from Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, Gran Canaria and Tenerife. Normal people, not just investors.

At the same time, they also work comfortably in English and French, supporting international clients who may be navigating the process from abroad or in a second language.

"Our information is for normal people who want to feel advised," Jose says. "We want them to feel supported."

## Two young founders and one brave decision.


**At 26, Christian and Jose are building a business in a market that is competitive, complex, and so full of paperwork it could make anyone cry.**

**But what comes across most is their energy, their honesty, and their modern approach. They're not selling dreams. They're selling clarity, transparency, and the kind of marketing that makes you feel like you actually know who you're working with.**

**And in a world that can feel increasingly uncertain, maybe that's exactly what people are looking for.**

**Need help? Give them a call or drop them a WhatsApp**

 Jose +34 614 81 50 60

 Lorena +34 638 10 69 41

 Christian +34 648 46 51 95

 @socialhome real estate





Things to do

# Postcards to Dad x



It began with a simple idea: 'If Dad can't come to us... we'll bring the island to him.' Thus, Postcards to Dad was born, not as a travel series or some grand cinematic project, but as a heartfelt promise to keep someone we love close despite the distance between us.

We are Linda and Paul, and we have lived on the island for over five years. What followed our move was a series of shaky videos made while we tramped around some of our favourite places.

These we uploaded to YouTube, where Dad could keep up with our random perambulations from the comfort of his armchair at his home in Scotland.

Family and friends also watched, and soon we had a small but loyal audience eagerly awaiting each episode.

The pressure was on to find new places to document, so furnishing ourselves with a shiny new GoPro, we went in search of fresh trails...



## The Plan!

During our early walks we'd seen signs for the 'GR131 Camino Natural', as well as various posts, rocks, walls and lampposts sporting red and white stripes like some ancient tribal guide.

It had been while poring over maps and arguing about our next destination that Paul uttered the immortal words, "Maybe we should do the GR131?" And there it was... like a dusty gateway opening to reveal a golden trail stretching into the distance.

It begged the question: why on earth would two overweight, middle-aged and under-fit individuals even consider such a ludicrous proposition?

But we had, inadvertently, already walked the section between Corralejo and Lajares with little effort.

How difficult could it be?



From the first spectacular volcanic ridges in the north, through the vast central plains and on to the sunlit isthmus and tide-washed sandy beaches of the south, the route promised an epic adventure filled with magnificent views.

The island was tempting us with the promise of her treasures. "Just do it," she whispered through the wind, chuckling quietly to herself.

If we'd realised what lay in wait, we might have abandoned the notion there and then, for it soon transpired that the dangled golden carrot of 'treasures' came at a price.

We had no idea what we were getting ourselves into and, naively, forged ahead. Despite the warning protests of common sense, we reasoned that the stages could easily be broken up into shorter, manageable sections.

We would do it 'our way', on our day off each week.

What could be simpler?

### **Camino Natural**

In the following months, our free days were spent tracing paths once walked by the ancient Maho people, following ridge-lines that dropped steeply into valleys where time spills gently from one century to the next, cradling echoes of warriors, farmers, travellers and dreamers.

We negotiated winds so strong they threatened to sweep us off gossamer-fine goat trails delicately perched above 200 metres of empty air.

We crossed lunar landscapes and discovered evidence of a past carved into stone and kept alive by legends still hanging in the air.

As the dusty thread wove its way down through the island, time unfolded through old molinos and modern wind farms alike. On each section, we found our legs trembling, our resolve waning, and every summit seemingly hiding elusively beyond another life-threatening precipice.

Muscles ached and sweat poured, for in our infinite wisdom, we chose the hottest part of the year to attempt this mammoth feat.



We had two options: cry and give up, or press on with the kind of hysterical laughter that left passing ravens judging our questionable life choices while greedily eyeballing our limp, tinfoil-wrapped sandwiches.

Why were we doing this to ourselves? Simple. For the moments of triumph.

Every climb, turn and descent rewarded us with scenes of blinding beauty, the resonance of a surprising and sometimes brutal history, or the fragile yet tenacious grip of nature in the most inhospitable places.

Where the path narrowed and the winds rose, strength and doubt impeded our way and we had to dig deep to find our courage. Yet every difficult stretch brought new and wonderful discoveries, and every step brought us closer to the kind of clarity that comes with accomplishment.

We discovered that walking Fuerteventura isn't simply a matter of covering ground. It's letting the island unfurl inside you, bonding you to her dust and barren beauty.



### The Longest Mile

Reaching the final marker in Punta de Jandía became the emotional punctuation mark at the end of a journey that challenged, charmed and changed us.

Walking the GR131 didn't just teach us about Fuerteventura; it taught us about ourselves.

We persevered, overcame and laughed in the face of adversity (not to mention numerous highly judgemental goats).

As we strode on through the winds and silence, the island offered us quiet companionship, and we became richer for her company.

Any hiker will tell you the longest mile is the one that offers the greatest challenge.

Often, it's the last mile of the trek, when feet ache and bones are weary, but it's always the one that features most prominently as you retell your story.

As we reflect on our experience, we realise we've come through it changed, having learned a number of valuable lessons.

Wind is either your best friend or your nemesis, and often both simultaneously.

Ridge paths should come with parachutes.

Dancing shadows from drifting clouds beat any screensaver.

Water disappears faster than hope on a steep midday ascent.

Ancient footsteps still echo under yours.

And the toughest trails lead to the memories you treasure most.

In the end, Fuerteventura didn't just give us a trail. She gave two older, slightly lumpy dreamers an adventure stitched together with struggle, joy, beauty, absurdity, history, dust, sunshine and wind.

The little video postcards we made for Dad (and Mum, and friends) have become more than a simple document of a walk in the sunshine. They are a record of our transformation, from relative newcomers on a subtropical rocky outcrop, to two people who now understand that the island has her own unique character and that her steady pulse as part of our own being.

Would we do it again? Absolutely... after a very, very long siesta.

Find our videos on Youtube.

We would love you to come along for the journey,

@PostcardstoDad

**You** **Tube**

Linda & Paul x



# Beauty That Begins Within

**Tamara Lux is a holistic beautician based in Fuerteventura with over three decades of experience in classical skincare, massage and energy work. Trained in Vienna and shaped by years of international practice, her approach goes beyond the surface, focusing on presence, balance and deep relaxation.**

I'm a deeply intuitive person, guided by gut feeling and the heart. I tend to sense when something feels right, and once I do, I move forward with clarity, focus and structure. Emotionally, I can experience many things at once - lightness, joy, reflection or melancholy - and I've learned to accept this as part of who I am. I'm highly sensitive and empathic, and I naturally perceive moods, energy and subtle shifts, which I now see as a strength.

Others often describe me as brave for leaving everything behind twice to start again on an island. To me, it feels less like courage and more like following my inner compass.

Becoming a mother later in life has grounded me deeply and quietly flows into everything I do.

Beyond the title of beautician, I'm someone who feels deeply, loves to laugh, questions things at times, and meets people without judgement, exactly as they are.

**You work with skincare, massage and Reiki. How did these different therapies come together in your practice?**

I've worked as a beautician for over 30 years, beginning my classical training at a young age in Vienna. My teacher gave me not only a strong professional foundation but also important life lessons, something I remain deeply grateful for. Through her, I was also first introduced to energy work, long before it was commonly accepted, and I learned early on that these two worlds can naturally belong together.

Over the years, I worked as a classical beautician in different countries, including working in five-star hotels and spas, while continuing my training in energy work and later completing my Reiki qualification.

Bringing these elements together eventually felt natural. Purely surface-focused treatments always felt incomplete to me. While I intuitively incorporated energetic aspects into my work, it wasn't until I followed my own path and returned to the island that I could fully integrate them.



I began developing my own method, combining skincare, massage and energy work. For me, true beauty goes beyond external care. It begins with feeling at ease within yourself and allowing something to glow from within. Classical skincare and massage form the foundation, while energy work adds a subtle depth that completes the experience. It's the finishing touch that makes the treatment truly holistic.

**Many people see beauty as something purely external. Do you agree, or do you think true beauty starts elsewhere?**

I'm convinced that true beauty starts elsewhere. You can see it in everyday moments like when someone is told they're glowing while standing at the supermarket checkout with no styling or makeup involved. That kind of radiance has nothing to do with appearance.

At the same time, you sometimes see people who look flawless on the outside, perfectly dressed and styled, yet you feel something is missing. When the inner and outer don't align, it becomes clear that beauty can't begin with the surface alone.

For me, true beauty is the light in someone's eyes when they feel comfortable within themselves. It is the energy that comes from feeling at ease in your body and in your own skin. That's why beauty isn't only about external care. It also needs inner wellbeing. When mind, emotions and body are in balance, beauty naturally shines outward.



**What does 'skin health' really mean to you. I mean beyond products and treatments?**

For me, skin health goes far beyond products or individual treatments. It's closely connected to overall physical health, including nutrition, movement and lifestyle.

There are many simple ways to support the skin, such as gentle movement, facial exercises or small massages. I don't follow strict routines, but naturally integrate small rituals into everyday life whenever there's time.

What truly makes the difference is consistency. Skin health isn't about one expensive product or an occasional treatment. It's about small, regular habits, even if it's just five minutes a day. Simple actions like cleansing properly, removing makeup every evening and caring for your skin consistently all add up over time.

**You look amazing at 48, and many people are curious about how you maintain such healthy, radiant skin. Have you ever chosen surgical or invasive treatments, or has your approach always been more natural?**

**What do you feel has made the biggest difference for you?**

First of all, thank you for the lovely compliment. I honestly think mindset plays a big role. I tend to forget that I'm 48 and still feel much younger on the inside (at least most days).

Consistency has always been key for me. Skincare became my calling very early on, so integrating care and small rituals into everyday life feels completely natural.

I haven't chosen surgical or invasive treatments and have never used Botox. I don't reject these methods entirely, but I prefer to avoid them for as long as possible, as there are many other ways to achieve similar results through the right skincare routine, targeted treatments, and practices like face yoga.

What makes the biggest difference is consistency. My routines are simple and realistic. As a single mother, daily spa days aren't an option. Skincare has to work in real life.

Over the years, I've learned that both highly chemical and purely natural products have their limits. Today, I focus on a small selection of well-chosen products with clean formulations and effective plant-based ingredients. It doesn't need to be complicated. Often two or three products used consistently are enough.

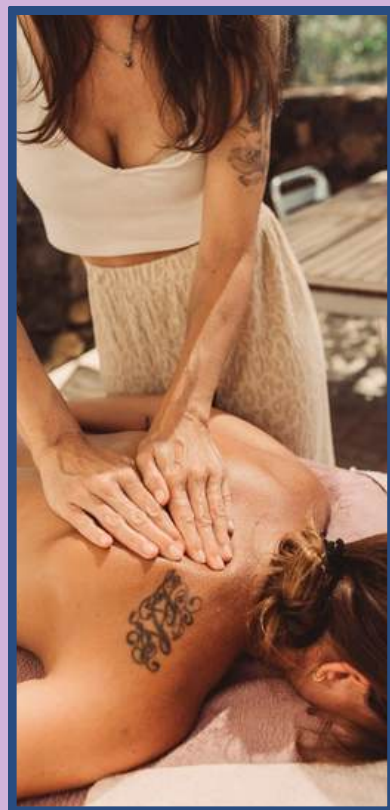
The real turning point comes from understanding your skin type. Many people use expensive products that simply don't suit them. Personalised care, the right products and long-term consistency are what truly make the difference.

### **Massage and touch can be very powerful. How do you see it supporting both physical and emotional wellbeing?**

Massage is, of course, about touch. But for me, it's never just mechanical. When I work with the body, energy naturally flows as well. I don't separate the two.

Classical massage releases physical tension in a direct way. At the same time, energetic elements flow intuitively into the treatment. I work with techniques such as Jin Shin Jyutsu, which is a gentle form of energetic acupressure that helps release blockages and restore balance.

When Reiki is applied alongside massage, people often enter a much deeper state of relaxation, both mentally and emotionally, which allows the body to let go more easily. Together, these levels support and reinforce each other, creating a more complete sense of wellbeing.



### **Reiki is still misunderstood by some. What would you say to someone who is curious but sceptical?**

Reiki is often misunderstood. I always say that you don't have to believe in it for it to work.

I once had a very sceptical man come to me because his partner insisted he try a deeply relaxing treatment. He arrived questioning everything. At some point, I simply said, "Let's stop talking. Just lie down. We'll talk afterwards".

He entered such a deep state of relaxation that I almost couldn't wake him for nearly an hour. What made the experience especially interesting was that he was wearing an Aura Ring connected to an app that tracks stress and recovery.

The data showed that he had reached a deep parasympathetic, meditative state. That was a level of relaxation he hadn't experienced in months, not even through meditation or other techniques he had tried. For me, that's what Reiki is about. Not belief, not explanation. Just a direct physical and emotional experience of deep relaxation and release. You don't need to be into it. The body responds on its own.

### **Have you witnessed moments where emotional or energetic work clearly affected someone's skin, body or overall wellbeing?**

Yes, I see it every single time. After a treatment, there is a visible shift. The expression in the eyes changes, facial features soften, and the skin begins to glow from within. This comes from deep relaxation and from the body letting go. It's unmistakable, not only visible to me, but clearly felt by the person receiving the treatment as well.

It's like a recharge for body and soul.

## **In a world obsessed with quick fixes and filters, how do you encourage clients to slow down and truly reconnect with themselves?**

I think this is a tricky one. I'll be honest. When Instagram first appeared, I used filters all the time. Back then, it felt almost obligatory, and I never really questioned it. Today, I consciously choose not to use them. All my content is unfiltered.

For me, filters don't give anything back. They create an image that isn't truly real, and over time that distance doesn't help you connect more deeply with yourself.

When it comes to quick fixes and filters, I don't believe words alone are the answer. I encourage people through experience rather than explanation. It's through my energy, my treatments and how people feel afterwards.

When someone experiences real relaxation, presence and an inner glow, compared to an artificial filter, the questions usually answer themselves. Slowing down then starts to feel natural again.

## **When someone leaves a session with you, what do you hope they carry with them long after the treatment ends?**

I hope they carry an experience with them. Something that stays. Something touching and different from what they may have known before. A feeling that reconnects them with something we often lose in everyday life. A sense of being closer to themselves again.

Just like I once experienced myself, many years ago. A moment so touching that it truly moves something inside. Or even changes something forever.

**Thank you, Tamara, for sharing your story, philosophy and experience so openly. Your work is a reminder that beauty and wellbeing extend far beyond the surface, and that slowing down can be a quietly transformative act.**

**For those curious to experience this approach firsthand, Tamara invites readers to get in touch, ask questions and book a session. Sometimes, one treatment is enough to reconnect with something essential..**



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# 2 wheels, 1 day



**Do pour yourself a nice glass of something and settle down because I have a tale to tell. One of those tales that starts with “I’m probably a bit old for this” and ends with “Why on earth didn’t I do this sooner?” This is the story of how I found myself on an e-mountain bike in Fuerteventura, hair whipped into a state my mother would not have approved of, grinning like a child let loose after school, and wondering if this might just be one of the best days I’ve had in years.**

Now, let’s get one thing straight from the start. I am a woman in my 60s. I have laugh lines, opinions, and a very healthy respect for my knees. I enjoy good food, good conversation, and a decent chair with arms. But I also have a zest for life that refuses to be quietly parked next to the slippers. And somewhere along the way, I decided that if adventure has an age limit, nobody ever showed me the memo. So when the opportunity came up to do an e-mountain bike ride from Corralejo to El Cotillo with Easy Riders, my first thought was: That sounds fabulous.

My second thought was..... Am I completely mad? Spoiler alert: I’m not mad.

Corralejo, if you’ve never been, is one of those places that instantly puts you in a good mood. There’s a salty tang in the air, the Atlantic sparkles like it’s been polished overnight, and everyone seems just a little more relaxed than they are back home. Even the pavements feel sunnier.

We arrived at Easy Riders Bike Rental in the morning, full of anticipation and only mild nerves. And this is where we met Fernando. If you could bottle enthusiasm, warmth, and island knowledge, you’d get Fernando. He greeted us with a smile that said, “You’re going to love this,” and a manner that immediately put us at ease.

The bikes themselves? Oh, my word. Sleek, sturdy, and far more impressive than anything I rode in my youth.

These were not the clunky contraptions of yesteryear. These were proper e-mountain bikes, the sort that make you feel quietly powerful just sitting on them.



Fernando gave us a thorough briefing, adjusted everything just so, and explained how the electric assist worked. I nodded wisely, as if I hadn't already decided I would be using that assist button like a beloved friend.

And then we were off. Pedalling out of Corralejo, the town slowly giving way to open space, the Atlantic breeze nudging us along as if to say, "Go on then. Off you pop."

What struck me immediately was how comfortable it all felt. There was no huffing and puffing, no internal monologue about whether I should have done more Pilates. The e-bike assist smoothed everything out beautifully, allowing me to enjoy the ride rather than wrestle with it.

As we headed west along the coast, the scenery began to unfold like a film set. One of those dramatic, sweeping shots where you expect stirring music to swell in the background.

The coastline between Corralejo and El Cotillo is not polite. It doesn't do gentle or manicured. It's wild, rugged, and gloriously unapologetic. Black volcanic rocks meet the Atlantic head-on, and the ocean responds with great crashing waves, flinging spray into the air as if showing off.

The colours alone were enough to stop you in your tracks. Deep blues, turquoise, stark black rock, and the pale dust of the trails beneath our wheels. Every now and then I'd slow down, not because I was tired, but because I needed another look.

Another deep breath. Another moment to say, "Well, isn't this just something." The trails here were an absolute joy. Flowing, open, and wonderfully scenic. The sort of riding that makes you feel like you know what you're doing, even if you're secretly thanking modern technology for the help.

I found myself laughing out loud at one point. It was partly from the sheer pleasure of it, and partly from the realisation that I was having far too much fun for someone who owns sensible walking shoes.

Eventually, as all good things do, the landscape began to change again, and El Cotillo came into view.

This little fishing village is the antidote to hustle. It doesn't rush. It doesn't shout. It simply exists, quietly charming, with its white buildings, sleepy streets, and those beautiful lagoon beaches that look like they've been painted on.





The terrain here became sandier and a little more unpredictable under the wheels. Normally, this is the sort of thing that would make me mutter under my breath. But the bikes handled it beautifully, gliding through sand and gravel with a reassuring steadiness that inspired confidence rather than caution.

We parked up and did what any sensible adventurer would do: found a café.

**Sitting there, helmet hair and all, gazing out over the lagoons, I felt that delicious combination of being pleasantly tired and deeply content.**

We chatted, laughed, and soaked it all in, safe in the knowledge that we'd earned this moment fair and square.

And just when I thought the day couldn't possibly offer anything more, Fernando said, "Right, shall we head back?"

"Oh yes," I said breezily. "And we'll go inland," he added.

Inland? Ah. This is where things took a turn, in the very best way.

Leaving the coast behind, the atmosphere shifted almost immediately. The bright sparkle of the sea gave way to muted, earthy tones.

The landscape opened up into vast lava plains, scattered with rocks that looked as though they'd been flung there by giants in a bad mood.

Volcanic cones rose in the distance, silent and imposing. The air felt different. Still. Almost reverent.

It was like entering another world – one that hadn't quite decided whether it belonged to Earth or somewhere much further away.

I found myself riding more quietly here. Not from effort, but from awe. The silence was extraordinary. Broken only by the crunch of tyres on volcanic gravel and the occasional whisper of wind, it felt intimate and vast all at once.

Now, let's be honest. This part of the ride was more challenging. The terrain undulated, the paths grew rougher, and there were moments when my legs sent polite but firm reminders of my age.

But this is where the beauty of the e-mountain bike really shone.



A gentle push of the assist, and suddenly those inclines felt manageable. Not effortless, mind. You still feel like you've done something, but it's entirely achievable. It was empowering, actually. The sense that the landscape wasn't telling me "you can't," but rather, "come on then, let's see what you've got."

This was where Fernando truly came into his own as a guide. He spoke about the island's geology, its volcanic past, and how these dramatic formations came to be. Suddenly, those jagged rocks weren't just obstacles; they were chapters in a very old story.

He talked about the culture of the island, the resilience of the people, the way life here has always been shaped by land and sea. It added depth to the experience, turning a brilliant bike ride into something richer and more meaningful.



As we made our way back towards Corralejo, the late afternoon light casting long shadows across the volcanic plains, I felt that lovely glow that comes from a day well spent. Not just exercised, but enriched.

Not just entertained, but inspired.

This ride wasn't about speed or bravado. It was about experiencing Fuerteventura in a way that felt immediate and alive. About feeling the wind, the sun, the silence, and the sheer joy of movement through extraordinary landscapes.



Final thoughts from a lady who's not done yet...

So, here's what I'll say to you, dear reader, especially if, like me, you're of an age where adventure is sometimes prefaced with "Should I?" **Yes. You should.**

It's not just a day out. It's a reminder. A reminder that wonder doesn't retire, that excitement doesn't fade unless we let it, and that sometimes the best way to reconnect with yourself is to hop on a bike and follow the trail.

With expert guidance, excellent bikes, and some of the most stunning scenery I've ever had the pleasure of moving through, this experience lodged itself firmly in my memory, and my heart.

**If you find yourself in Corralejo, yearning for something a little different, a little thrilling, and a lot magical, do yourself a favour. Get on that bike. Let the island show you what it's got.**

# A DAY OUT AT THE ZOO



**Hello, hello, my darling Breeze readers!**

I hope you're all doing well and managing to stay out of trouble... unlike me, who currently seems to attract it! My latest 'adventure' wasn't a spontaneous outing or a slightly questionable life choice, but rather reconstructive hand surgery, which has left me navigating life with what can only be described as an impressive army-style cast.

As you can imagine, this has put a bit of a pause on my usual activities and adventures, especially when it comes to keeping up with energetic children.

Thanks to a spontaneous family visit, a day out was suddenly on the agenda, and Oasis Park Wildlife in the south of Fuerteventura proved to be the perfect choice. And what a day it turned out to be.

Oasis Park is truly one of the island's gems. I've visited before, but this time was extra special as I went with my niece and nephew, along with my two great-nephews, Wolfie and Eric. At four and six years old, they were at what I would call the perfect age for this kind of adventure. They're old enough to be fascinated by everything, but young enough to be completely enchanted.

We drove down to the park, but for those of you who prefer to leave the driving to someone else, there are excellent bus services running from all over the island directly to Oasis Park, making it an easy and stress-free day out.

The magic begins before you've even stepped properly inside. As you enter, you cross a small bridge over a stream filled with enormous carp. Visitors can buy food to feed them, and I think we could have happily stayed there for an hour alone.





Wolfe and Eric were completely mesmerised, leaning over the bridge, watching the fish swarm and splash about, already buzzing with excitement before the park had even really begun.

The park itself is absolutely enormous, and I would strongly recommend setting aside a full day to enjoy it properly. There is so much to see. There are giant tortoises, monkeys, snakes, armadillos, ostriches, and a huge family of flamingos, just to name a few. The walkways wind through beautifully maintained, lush greenery, giving you the feeling of being transported somewhere far more tropical than you might expect.

One of the most heartwarming things about Oasis Park is the care that goes into the animals. The enclosures are large, clean, and thoughtfully designed, and the animals all look extremely well cared for. Many of them are rescues, having come from former zoos or bad private ownership situations. The park does incredible work rehabilitating these animals and giving them a safe, healthy environment for the rest of their lives.



We stopped for lunch at one of the lovely undercover picnic areas, which are perfect for families. While we ate, the boys discovered the huge, purpose-built splash area nearby. In true family-day fashion, we hadn't brought any swimming things, but that didn't stop them in the slightest. Shoes off, trousers soaked, laughter everywhere. It was chaotic, noisy, and absolutely wonderful.

After lunch, we headed to the sea lion show, which is included in your visit. It struck a lovely balance. It was entertaining and funny, without feeling overwhelming for the animals. The boys were in fits of laughter, especially when the sea lions started blowing raspberries at them and splashing water with their tails, which left several rows of spectators completely soaked.





One of the absolute highlights of the entire day was feeding the giraffes. The enclosure is designed so that visitors are at head height with these gentle giants, allowing you to feed them up close. It's an experience that is truly unforgettable. We were also lucky enough to see six giraffes being trained by the veterinary team, which was fascinating to watch and gave a real insight into the care and expertise behind the scenes.

Later in the afternoon, Wolfie and Eric took part in the camel experience, which they absolutely loved. There was quite a bit of squealing involved (most of it coming from their mum) while I sensibly stayed on solid ground. With my general level of coordination coupled with my rather substantial cast, attempting to mount a camel felt like a very bad idea indeed.

All in all, it was an incredible day out. It was great fun, educational, and full of memories. Oasis Park is well worth a visit for families, visitors, and residents alike, and it's a place you can return to again and again and still find something new to enjoy.

Now, if you'll excuse me, all that fresh air and excitement has left me in desperate need of a good rest... and possibly a biscuit.

Until next time.

Planning a visit? Tickets for Oasis Park Wildlife are available online, at the park, or via local tour operators across Fuerteventura.

 @Oasis Wildlife Fuerteventura

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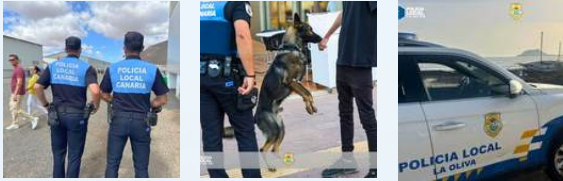
 [oasiswildlifefuerteventura.com](http://oasiswildlifefuerteventura.com)

*Alex*



# La Oliva Roundup

If 2025 had a headline in La Oliva, it would probably read: **steady growth, real upgrades, and fewer excuses.** Over the past year, the municipality has pushed ahead with projects that mix big-picture planning with everyday improvements locals actually notice. Under Mayor Isaí Blanco Marrero, the focus has been clear: **keep La Oliva safe, well-run, and ready for the future without losing sight of the people who live and visit here every day.**



## Safer streets, bigger force

One of the standout shifts this year has been in local security. 12 new Policia Local officers joined the ranks in 2025, bringing the total to 48 which a big jump from just 31 two years ago. And let's not forget the introduction of two new police dogs helping to assist the frontline team.



The long-term goal? To have around 60 officers. The logic is simple: safer streets mean a better quality of life, and a destination people value and respect.

## Unlocking Europe's funding

Another major win came thanks to the 'Office of European Funds'. La Oliva has successfully tapped into Next Generation and other EU programmes. The result has been faster progress on modernisation, sustainability, mobility, energy efficiency and public spaces. And this is all without putting extra strain on the municipal budget.

This momentum fed directly into the Infrastructure Plan 2025, which was a clear, prioritised roadmap of projects designed to match the municipality's real growth.

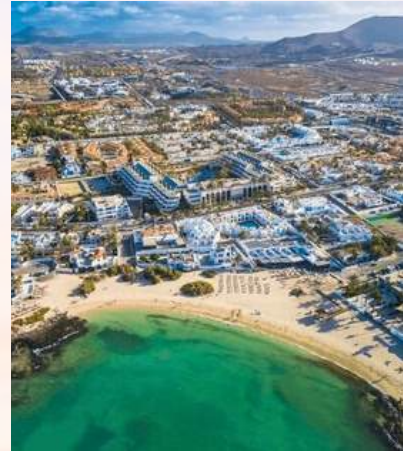
Accessibility upgrades, urban renewal, better roads and improved public spaces are planned with the aim of bringing La Oliva's infrastructure up to speed with how people actually live and move around today.



## Housing: easing the pressure

Housing stayed front and centre, especially in Corralejo, where population growth and tourism have pushed demand sky-high. Two public housing projects are now in motion, delivering 125 affordable rental homes: 77 homes in La Bocaina (already awarded by the Canary Islands Housing Institute) and 48 more in Panorama Tres Islas, currently under development

The message from the Mayor has been consistent: young people and workers in La Oliva need real options if the municipality wants a balanced future.



## Parking relief on the way

Anyone who's circled Corralejo looking for a space will welcome this. Two major parking projects are set to add over 500 new parking spots.

A two-storey car park with 364 spaces is already out to tender. Another on Calle El Palangre will bring 164 more.

## Water update...

In 2025, the Water Supply Consortium of Fuerteventura (CAAF) invested more than €10 million in water infrastructure across La Oliva. Highlights include over 4.5 kilometres of renewed pipelines in Villaverde, El Cotillo, Corralejo and Vallebrón, a full overhaul of Corralejo's distribution network, and a €3 million expansion of the Corralejo desalination plant.

Bottom line? Fewer cuts, better pressure, and a system ready for what's coming next.

## Cleaner streets, safer beaches

This year also brought tough but necessary decisions around beach services.

The Council moved to resolve the previous lifeguard contract and launch a new one, aiming to improve surveillance and emergency response across local beaches.

At the same time, new and more ambitious cleaning contracts are being prepared for beaches and roads, especially in high-traffic areas, with the goal of maintaining the highest standards and keeping the municipality looking its best.



## Nature front and centre

Environmental care was central to everything in 2025. From beach and trail maintenance to the protection of natural spaces, the council strengthened its commitment to seeing La Oliva's landscape not just as scenery, but rather as the backbone of the local economy and identity.

In gardens and green spaces, the year mixed education with enforcement. School projects like "The urban garden of my school" brought environmental awareness to younger generations, while repeated acts of vandalism in public gardens prompted stronger calls for respect and shared responsibility.



## Backing local producers

The Primary Sector got a boost too, with initiatives designed to connect local farming, fishing and livestock with tourism. The goal is a circular economy where the success of the destination feeds directly back into local producers , strengthening identity, visibility and opportunity.



## Planning for growing families

Education kept pace with population growth through the transfer of land in Geafond (Corralejo) for the municipality's third school. A long-standing demand, this move looks ahead rather than playing catch-up, ensuring educational infrastructure grows alongside the community.

## Supporting local business

Commerce and Local Development focused on keeping village life alive. Campaigns like "Christmas with La Oliva" and "Move around La Oliva" encouraged residents and visitors to shop locally. The goal here is to support small- and medium-sized businesses during key moments of the year.



## Looking ahead...

Less talked about, but no less important is that cemetery planning continued steadily. Technical work carried on to ensure burial spaces reflect La Oliva's diverse and evolving population.



## Tourism with a quality stamp

On the tourism front, La Oliva doubled down on quality over quantity. The municipality maintained a strong presence at major travel fairs like FITUR and WTM and reinforced its status as an Intelligent Tourist Destination (DTI), recognising progress in innovation, accessibility and sustainability.



## Culture, sport and life - all year round

Rounding things off was a packed calendar of cultural events, traditional fiestas and outdoor sports that kept the municipality buzzing throughout the year and helped draw visitors beyond the high season.



## The takeaway

We're delighted to say that 2025 wrapped up as a year of consistent, practical progress. There was smarter administration, well-used external funding, stronger services, cleaner spaces, a healthier local economy and a clear effort to link tourism with local identity.

Under Isaí Blanco's leadership, La Oliva hasn't chased headlines - it's focused on building a municipality that's safer, greener, better prepared and confident about its place in the world.

Spotlight On

# Helping Expats Make Sense of Their Money

## Introducing Karen Blair

**Karen is an experienced expat financial adviser helping clients navigate pensions, tax and long-term planning across borders. Breeze sat down with her to learn how she can help...**

**Many people living in Fuerteventura feel overwhelmed by pensions, tax and inheritance. What do you actually help people with?**

Most people come to me because they're unsure whether what they have is still right for them now they live abroad. I help expats look at the full picture. That means their pensions, savings, properties, investments, and how everything fits together. Very often, people don't realise how much tax they or their family could end up paying if things aren't structured properly.

**Pensions are a big worry for many expats. What's the biggest misunderstanding you see?**

A lot of people think they must move their UK pension out of the UK. In reality, for most people, especially those with smaller pensions, that isn't cost effective. Transferring a UK pension abroad can trigger a 25 percent tax charge. In many cases, it's better to leave the pension in the UK and pay tax only when money is taken from it.

**So when does it make sense to move a pension?**

It depends entirely on the individual. For people with very large pensions, sometimes accepting that tax charge can make sense because pensions are added to your estate when you die. If your estate is large, inheritance tax can be extremely high. This is why advice always has to be personal. There is no one-size-fits-all answer.



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**You often talk about looking at 'total assets'. Why is that so important?**

Because many people don't realise what they actually own. Assets include property in any country, pensions, savings, investments, ISAs, even valuable items like art or jewellery.

Once you see the total value, you can understand whether inheritance tax might be an issue and what needs protecting.

**Many expats still have ISAs in the UK. Is that a problem?**

Yes, this is something many people don't know. ISAs are no longer tax free once you live outside the UK. That doesn't mean they're bad, but it does mean people should review them.

Often, there are more tax-efficient options depending on where you live and what other assets you have.

**You mention one tax efficient tool is a QNUPS. What is it in simple terms?**

A QNUPS is a Qualified Non-UK Pension Scheme. It's a type of long-term financial structure designed for people who live outside the UK. It allows cash, investments and sometimes other valuable assets to be held in a tax-efficient way. When set up correctly, assets inside a QNUPS can be protected from inheritance tax in Spain and, after a certain period, may also fall outside UK inheritance tax rules.

QNUPS are not suitable for everyone. They are mainly useful for people with higher overall assets, or more complex family or inheritance situations. Used correctly, they can be an effective way to protect wealth and ensure it passes to the people you choose.



**Do you also help with inheritance planning and wills?**

Absolutely. This is just as important as pensions. Many British people in Spain don't realise that Spanish inheritance law is very different.

Without the correct wording in a will, assets can pass directly to children, not the spouse. This can cause serious problems. Making sure wills are up to date and written correctly is essential.

**Second marriages and blended families can make things complicated, can't they?**

Yes, very much so. These situations often create unexpected tax bills and legal problems if not planned properly. Children from previous relationships, stepchildren and unmarried partners are all treated differently under Spanish and UK law. This is where good planning really matters.



### **Karen, you mentioned that the rules have changed for expats paying into the UK State Pension. What's different now, and is it still worth doing?**

Yes, the rules have changed, and many people are confused by this. Expats can no longer pay the cheaper Class 2 National Insurance contributions. Instead, they now have to pay Class 3, which is more expensive.

Even so, for many people it's still worth continuing. Although you pay more, you receive the UK State Pension for life, and over time it usually pays back far more than the cost of the contributions.

Everyone's situation is different, but in most cases, if you're already paying in, it makes sense to review it rather than stop without advice.

### **How can expats pay into their UK State Pension while living abroad?**

You apply to HMRC to pay voluntary National Insurance contributions, they confirm your eligibility and payment class, and you then pay regularly by bank transfer or direct debit.

### **Some people think they don't have "enough" money to need advice. What would you say to them?**

You don't need to be wealthy to benefit from advice. Even people with one property and a pension should understand where they stand. Property values have risen a lot, while tax thresholds haven't. That alone has caught many people out. A simple review can give peace of mind.


### **What's the best first step for someone who feels unsure?**

Just have a conversation. A video call with an adviser who understands both UK and Spanish rules and look at your situation as a whole. The rules change all the time, so what worked a few years ago may not work now. Awareness is the first step to protection.

**Karen Blair works with expats across Fuerteventura and Spain, helping them understand their finances clearly and make informed decisions for themselves and their families. If you've ever wondered whether your pensions, savings or assets are still right for you, a simple conversation could make all the difference.**

**If you would like to have a chat with Karen, drop her an email or a whatsapp. Plan your future NOW!**

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