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Luxury boutique hotel opens in Spanish paradise
Holly Kirkwood Holly Kirkwood March 31, 2010

In an undiscovered area of Spain lies a newly launched hotel catering for couples or groups looking for an inspiring place for a holiday or short break.

Mas de La Serra is an impressive eight bedroom farmhouse in the stunning, but little-known Spanish region of Matarranya, an area which marks the spot where the three great kingdoms of Aragon, Catalunya and Valencia converge in a mountainous paradise. The area is genuinely stunning, dotted with almond trees in full bloom at this time of year while the nearby lakes are breathtaking. Those who come to stay can unwind through walking, horse riding and exploring the local towns – most of which appear unchanged since medieval times.

This old farmhouse has been slowly and lovingly renovated by its Scottish owner Alasdair Grant, a TV producer and cameraman, and now operates as a charming hotel. The building is located on a slope offering outstanding views across this unspoiled landscape and has eight bedrooms sleeping 16-20 guests. All of the rooms have en-suite bathrooms and are split into five doubles and three twins. There are two superior suites: one has a sitting room, open fire and private terrace and another split level suite has a fantastic Victorian stand-alone bath in the upstairs bedroom. Small groups and couples are welcome; larger groups who want to take the entire place over are able to book the entire property and have the whole hotel to themselves.

Although the renovation has been carried out keeping as closely as possible to the property's charming rustic heritage, mod cons are, of course, provided: Mas de La Serra has a large swimming pool, steam room, home cinema, satellite TV, DVD player, a fully equipped kitchen, three sitting rooms, one covered terrace, two uncovered terraces, two patios, disabled facilities, an original bread oven, two dining rooms, and TV room – outside are 60 acres of wilderness and almond groves. The staff can provide a laundry service, personal chef, and the property also has an extensive cellar stocked with regional wines and an honesty bar as well as broadband internet in the house and grounds. Hiking maps, guidebooks and mountain bikes can also be provided by arrangement.

Guests can have supper in the evenings in one of the gorgeous sitting rooms – there are good restaurants nearby for a change of scene. The live in staff Luis and Jenny are friendly and helpful and more than happy to offer advice about the local area, where to visit and where to eat. There are truffles to be harvested in March, and wild boar hunts take place on the land on a regular basis.

Mas de La Serra is a Spanish escape in which people feel they've gone back in time. The renovated farmhouse provides a chic, peaceful escape and for those who love exploring nature, and who love Spain, this completely new hotel offers an exciting alternative to tried and tested destinations.