

## THE RUNNING OF TRASIERRA

Trasierra is not a hotel but a private house so please treat it as such and make yourself at home. Some things, such as books, hats, tennis racquets and bath oils are in abundance whilst others, such as room service, mini bars and telephones, are not. However, if you find anything lacking do please ask and, within reason, it will be found for you.

Gioconda, Jackson, George, and Amber are my children. They are perfectly friendly, and are, more importantly, bilingual. Please feel free to use them as messengers or guides if they are in residence. Their offspring my granddaughters, Rafaela, Nancy, Juno, Ortensia, Gabriella and Thelma may also be in residence and are moderately helpful.

George and Leah (Thelma's mother) are also in and out. George runs the estate and keeps his horses here. He runs the rides and tents and is the man to go to for olive oil, jamon and other Spanish delicacies. Gioconda runs the weddings and oversees the food. When here, Amber is our wonderful resident yoga teacher & is an ancient massage therapist as well. She runs three retreats a year and comes here with her children in the holidays as often as possible.

The Spanish domestic staff do not speak English but are very communicative. Fiona is our wonderful resident chef and Juan is her friend and chief coordinator and major domo. Both are from Argentina and speak English and Spanish.

You will find signs across part of the courtyard which divide our side of the house from yours, this is to keep everyone's privacy and to provide a necessary division between my family's sometimes boisterous activities and your own peace and quiet.

Trasierra is for us, above all else, a family home. The house, empty for so long, seems to have repaid its revival by giving those who pass through it a sense of tranquility and enchantment, the effect on people, temporarily weary of the demands of modern life, can be quite remarkable. I hope you will agree.

Charlotte Scott

## BREAKFAST

This is served in and around the Breakfast Room, between 8am and 11.30, after which thermoses and juice will remain on a tray until lunchtime. If you are anti-social in the mornings please feel free to take a tray to a quiet place. If you find anything missing from the breakfast menu please let us know and, provided we can find it in the village, it will appear.

## LUNCH

This takes place at around 2.00pm. Crudités & fresh lemonade appear before. A buffet is laid up by the swimming pool. Although lunch is an informal affair it is useful to know in advance whether you will be in or out, or if you would like us to make you a picnic. This also applies to dinner; just let us know your plans so that we can calculate numbers.

## TEA

If you would like a cup of tea in the afternoon, head to the long table in the bar area by the pool where you will find a selection of tea, coffee and the relevant accessories - please do help yourself. Fiona will have made a cake, so please forage if you are hungry as dinner is late.

## DINNER

This takes place in the Salon Amarillo or the Church between 8.30 & 9.30 pm or, in the summer, a bit later and on one of the terraces.

## DRINKING

You can of course do this all day but, as a rule, a drinks tray is laid up in the Salon Amarillo before dinner in winter or in unseasonal weather. In summer, drinks are found at the bar by the pool. If you would like anything unusual or a cocktail at any particular time, please ask and it may or may not appear. Otherwise, the golden hour is from about 7.00 pm and there will always be bottles of hard liquor, fino, wine and beer along with ice and the usual soft drinks – although we are trying to phase these out. There is a notepad beside all bars and we would be grateful if you could write down your approximate consumption in order for us to add it to your bill. A jug of fresh, home-made lemonade should be on the bar.

## DRESS CODE

Quite simply – there isn't one. Dressing gowns are welcome at breakfast but perhaps something suitable could be worn over bathing suits when lunching by the pool.

Feel free to look fabulous at night, there is no such thing as being overdressed or underdressed at Trasierra; just well-dressed or badly-dressed.

## LAUNDRY

Please leave any laundry in the baskets or bags provided together with a completed list. It will be returned the following day unless there is a large number of people staying or, since nature is in charge of the drying, it is raining.

## POWER POINTS AND HEATING

Due to the uncertainties of the local electricity grid there is a real danger of overloading. This can easily be avoided if the following rules are applied:

There are double sockets in each room; the deep one is for power and the other is for lighting. Please do not confuse the two and, for example, plug your radiator into your lighting (or shallow) socket as darkness will surely follow.

Please leave the temperature gauge on electrical radiators running at their mid-level, especially when the lights are on at night. Equally, please avoid running large appliances simultaneously.

## MOBILE TELEPHONES

While using technology please be discreet and restrict the use of your mobile phones, iPads and iPods to your rooms or designated areas so as not to distract others. We value our guests' need for tranquility.

## WI FI

There is free WiFi coverage in the Salon Amarillo.  
Password: trasierra

## FIRE DRILL

In the event of a fire please assemble rapidly in the courtyard. There are fire extinguishers in all the obvious places.

## THE SWIMMING POOL

The pool is unheated, (unnecessary given the Spanish summer temperatures), and is usually in operation between May and October and there are clean towels in the changing room, as well as some hats and sun creams. The shower is behind the largest olive pot, please use it before swimming, especially if you are heavy on the oils and SPFs, as the pool is saltwater.

## THE TENNIS COURT

The court is a five minute walk back down the drive and straight on through the metal gate for a hundred yards. Please keep this gate closed or we will have sheep, horses and goats wanting to join in. Racquets and balls, are kept near the office, please feel free to ask for them. We would be grateful if they could be returned after use.

## WALKS

You are in the centre of a private estate surrounded by 300 acres of olive groves and wooded hills. Several walks have been especially laid out with different coloured ribbons in the trees to guide you. Longer hikes and trails lasting several hours can also be organised, as can guides.

## BICYCLES

These can be hired locally for those of you with strong legs. We are in the heart of a natural park, there are some great bicycle rides around & some, a little less challenging at San Nicolas (a 15 minute drive from here) and we can supply directions for you to get there. Please enquire in the front office.

## RIDING

My son George has a team of strong, quiet horses and the rides through spectacularly beautiful country on these comfortable steeds are a must. Overnight treks, tented camps & carriage rides with a picnic can be arranged with prior notice and at the right time of year.

## MASSAGES & YOGA

There are masseuses available. Please ask for details. We often have a Yoga instructor in house who gives a daily yoga class. Please enquire. Otherwise yoga lessons can be booked in advance

## THE SUN

Sun worshippers should note that we are 650 meters above sea level. Whilst this often provides us with light, cooling breeze it in no way diminishes the power of the sun which is very, strong indeed (especially between 11am to 4.30pm). Particular care should be taken to avoid sunburn, which can be dramatic in this part of Spain and is said to lead to five generations of madness.

## SUGGESTED LOCAL EXCURSIONS

**Cazalla de La Sierra** is the local village, with a 14th century church, declared one of the most impressive artistic and historic monument in the region (5 min drive)

**The River** is a lovely place to plunge and swim, even in mid-summer (10 mins)

**La Ermita del Monte** is a charming chapel in the hills where the figure of the local patron saint is kept (10 min drive)

**La Cartuja** is a Carthusian Monastery dating back to the 1400's which was quirkily restored in the 80's (20 min drive)

**Cerro del Hierro** are old abandoned iron mines with beautiful rockscapes & places of geological interest. There is a lovely route that you can walk around it (30 min drive)

**San Nicolas del Puerto, Guadalcanal, Alanis** and other small local white villages are all within half an hour of Trasierra

**Guadalcanal** is a 30 min drive away

**Llerena, Reina and Regina** are a cluster of pretty villages about a 50 min drive away

Please ask Charlotte or Gioconda for more extensive information, and Gioconda about interesting gastronomic trips.

### FURTHER AFIELD

<b>Seville</b>	60 mins or by train
<b>Cordoba</b>	90 mins or by train
<b>Llerena</b>	45 mins
<b>Italica</b>	60 mins

**Madrid** is a 2hr 30 min train ride on the High Speed AVE which leaves every hour from Santa Justa Station (one hour away).

There are also several comfortable buses and trains from Cazalla and El Pedroso.

### TAXIS AND DRIVERS

There are a couple of friendly local taxi drivers and several more from Seville. We can book these for you in advance if you wish to be taken to the airport or for a day in Seville or Cordoba.

If you would like to go farther afield, please let us know and we will obtain a quotation and a guide if necessary. Guides for hiking are also available

### GRATUITIES

Although these are voluntary, the staff are extremely appreciative of any tips. These should be paid in cash and handed to either the front office, Charlotte or Gioconda. There are envelopes provided. If you would like to single out anyone special please write their names on a note inside the envelope. A rough guide is approximately 10 euro per room per night.