



## *THE TASTE OF PARADISE*

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### Seaside Hotels, Canary Islands

“THE ISLAND OF Gran Canaria is known as ‘a continent in miniature’,” says Astrid Van Wijk, Commercial Director at Seaside Hotels. “We have a stable climate with an average year-round temperature of 23°C, and we don’t have the humidity or hurricanes of some tropical destinations. You can just step out of the hotel and enjoy all the things the island has to offer.”

Gran Canaria has long been a popular destination for its consistent, agreeable climate and year-round sunshine – with direct flights from the UK at just over four hours. Discerning visitors return time and again to its two leading hotels – Grand Hotel Residencia and Palm Beach – which combine understated luxury with fine food and the charm of boutique hotels.

The 94-room Grand Hotel Residencia, in low-rise Spanish colonial style, sits amid a palm grove, and has long been a favourite among society and entertainment figures. “Many return regularly for the privacy and discretion that the hotel offers,” says Astrid. It is the only establishment on the island to be a member of the prestigious Leading Hotels of the World consortium.

The Palm Beach – the larger of the two, with 328 rooms – was built in the 1970s and has been remodelled in luxurious retro style by architect and designer Alberto Pinto, its bright, vivid colours complementing the local sun, sand, ocean and sky. Close to both hotels is Maspalomas beach, with its clear blue water and stunning expanse of natural sand dunes. There is a generous choice of fine courses for those who love golf, and plenty to enjoy without leaving the grounds of the hotels, from tennis courts to palm-shaded pools.

“Of course, the thing for which both of our establishments are world-renowned is their gastronomic excellence,” says Astrid. “For a number of years, our Michelin-starred chef Wolfgang Grobauer has been attracting guests to the Grand Hotel Residencia – and these include chefs and food experts at the very top level. Over at the Palm Beach, Steffen Schenk also has an enthusiastic following for his imaginative local and seasonal dishes. That culinary pedigree makes us very proud.”

[www.seaside-hotels.com](http://www.seaside-hotels.com)