

## SHOPPING

The nearest supermarket is Mercadona at the entrance to Ciudad Jardin (the part of Malaga nearest the finca). Drive to the first mini-roundabout (coming from the house) i.e. about 200 metres from the motorway and turn right uphill. The road curves down towards La Concepcion botanical garden but before reaching this, turn left under the motorway, just after the Venta El Moral. On the other side of the motorway turn right. Mercadona is about one kilometre along this road on your left. If you continue past Mercadona you will find the many and varied shops of Ciudad Jardin.

Probably the most convenient place for general shopping is the gigantic shopping mall, “***La Rosaleda***”, which will have everything you need and a lot more: supermarket, boutiques, snack bars and cinemas. Go down to the motorway and follow the signs for Malaga Centro, (i.e. passing over the E-15/A7 Malaga bypass). After several sets of traffic lights you will have the football stadium on your right. Turn right at the filter light at the far side of the stadium and then continue straight ahead. The shopping centre is about 400 metres past the stadium through another set of lights.

## EATING OUT LOCALLY

You will notice that the village has several “ventas”, the roadside bars-cum-restaurants where during the week the locals meet in the evenings to have drinks, watch big football matches on TV, discuss village issues (i.e. the water shortage) and have meals. At lunchtime,

workers and the occasional office party from Malaga eat in the ventas. The ventas are generally open from about 10.30 a.m. for coffee.

At weekends, except in high summer when everyone goes to the beach, the ventas are packed at lunchtimes with people from the city; large family groups, wedding, birthday and christening parties, so it is advisable to book or arrive early, i.e. before 2 p.m.

Mealtimes in Spain are normally much later than in northern Europe. Lunch is served from about 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and dinner from about 9 p.m., though on the coast outside Malaga, restaurants are more flexible to accommodate the tourist trade.

Items on a typical local menu include the following:

*aceitunas*, (local olives you may be given as a free “tapa”)

*berenjenas*, (fried aubergine slices, sometimes served with honey)

*morcilla*, (the English “black pudding”, a blood sausage)

*chorizo*, (pork sausage with paprika and spices)

*lomo*, (loin of pork, occasionally served cold as a tapa)

*migas*, (fried breadcrumbs)

*jamon serrano*, (air-dried ham - “jamon iberico” is the deluxe version)

*queso manchego*, (the classic Spanish cheese, “queso curado” if you like it sharp)

*sopa de picadillo*, (a thin soup containing small pieces of ham, hard-boiled egg, fried bread and mint)

*arroz*, (“rice”, the standard weekend lunch item. Similar to paella but much less dry.)

“*Plato de los Montes*” is the local speciality which, depending on the venta, will include all or most of the following: Fried egg, migas, chorizo, fried peppers, morcilla, lomo and French fries. Just what the doctor ordered!

### **THE VILLAGE VENTAS (from the tunnel coming up):**

***La Venta del Tunel.*** (<http://www.ventaeltunel.com>) The oldest, largest, and at weekends, the busiest. This is a Malaga landmark known to everyone in the city - that’s why they all seem come here for Sunday lunch. (Ask for it if you ever get lost.) Two huge, bustling dining

rooms with fast service - the waiters have electronic notepads - but not open in the evenings except during August. Since their menu contains all the typical venta dishes, at representative prices, there is a copy kept at Las Adelfas for your reference. Closed on Tuesdays.

***La Ventilla.*** The new management has revived the tradition of giving proper tapas with drinks and is now attracting plenty of local business.

***Las Pitás.*** The second largest of the local ventas, and the most popular with the locals.

***La Española.*** Open from about 10.30 a.m. often with a mixed grill speciality at midday, but in the evenings usually only snacks. (This just means that you should let them know in advance if you'd like an evening meal.) Closed on Mondays.

***Venta Montevideo.*** Although only with a small terrace this is the popular place to go for their barbecue on Friday and Saturday nights. Closed on Thursdays.

***Venta Sanchez .*** The least popular of the local ventas despite a recent refurbishment.

***Venta Casa Alvaro.*** As part of the revival of the local "Verdiales" music, enthusiasts took over this formerly sleepy bar and now have occasional music evenings and sometimes lunchtime performances at weekends. But be warned: the rhythms are frantic and may not help your digestion...