MAJORCA - THE WATER TASTED LOVELY

BY STEVE

THA wharta en majawka don't taste like it ourta!

Some TV pundits out there may remember the famous TV commercial where a Hooray Henrietta receives an elocution lesson whilst supping from a can of lager in order to fit in better on her holiday. Cringe-worthy, it conjures up a picture of the typical Magaluf lager lout. However, the opposite is so much more apparent when holidaying on this Balearic jewel and staying in the gay district, Avenida Joan Miro – delightfully no less than a ten minute transfer from the airport to the hotel. We quickly dumped our luggage in our hotel, the Aries, and hit the avenue like a couple of Burlington Berties.

All tastes are catered for here, whether you are after dance floor or dark room. The following morning, after taking delivery of the hire car, we were on our way to Entrenc, the gay beach about an hour's drive from Palma. Once there it was worth spending the ten Euros to secure two sunbeds and a palm-covered parasol.

By 9pm that evening, the two of us were suitably showered and after-sunned and on a mission to explore Valderossa. Situated high in the hills, and after the daunting drive with my companion cringing from the sight of the sheer drop from his side of the car, we partook in the obligatory ritual of a dinner, consisting of Sangria and paella - both eagerly consumed.

Rested, shopping and sightseeing were on the agenda for the next day, the credit cards got a beating at the department store Corte de Inglis (Spain's Selfridge's). Helpful hint: Lancaster products are always a good buy abroad. Sightseeing-wise, the impressive Moorish cathedral dominates the skyline. Next, the Cave of Hams (Spanish for 'fish-hook') is a wonderment of stalactites and stalagmites, worthy of a visit just to see the campest son et lumiere I've ever seen.

Dinner was spent al fresco at Porto Cristo, a ritzy little bay, awash with big yachts... like two boys at the candy store, we were beaming with joy at the sight. We spotted the pedallos on the beach and hired one immediately: "Faster, faster", I ordered. This hombre wanted to go water skiing.

Our home for the week the Aries hotel, run by the very friendly Peter and his equally nice staff. The rooms are clean and very comfortable and so convenient and the rooftop jacuzzi was, on occasion, exclusively ours, which predictably led to much fun in the bubbles. The hotel also has its own sauna (very popular with the locals) and the bar stays open until a decent 6am. When in Palma do take advantage of the fact that the scene is compact and varied, and pulsating to that Balearic beat still fashionable on the London scene.

QX travelled with Spain Gay Holidays, tel: 0870 747 4190 or go to www.spaingay.co.uk. Remember to quote 'QX' for current discounted promotions.

QX recommends staying at Aries Hotel, tel: (0034) 971 737 899 or email info@ariesmallorca.com

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