

From the outside, El Paraiso del Mar looks much like any other beach café or restaurant on the Costa del Sol but once inside, there's something much more homely and inviting about this hidden gem. Tucked away in the sand behind Estepona's Crowne Plaza Hotel, El Paraiso provides the perfect setting for any occasion - a romantic dinner for two, a meal with friends and family, a laid-back business meeting or simply unwinding with a glass of wine.

While most of the coast's chiringuitos will close their doors for the winter come October, El Paraiso will remain open during the chilliest of days and nippiest of nights. With the sea so close, there'll be nothing nicer than snuggling on the sofas, sipping on cocoa and Bailey's in the candlelight and watching the waves crash against the rocks. If you're a 'people' person, then El Paraiso is the place for you. The atmosphere is warm, welcoming and snug. Even those who choose to enjoy their time at El Paraiso alone will feel comfortable and relaxed. Sporting events are often shown on the big screens and you can even challenge your friends (and the very friendly staff) to games such as Jenga and Scrabble. The menu offers high quality cuisine at extremely reasonable prices. Lighter bites include a choice of salads as well as seafood linguini, fresh grilled sardines, steamed mussels and fish soup to warm your cockles. Those who fancy something heartier can tuck into swordfish or sole from the varied pescados menu or, for meat-eaters, baby lamb chops or a mouth watering grilled

entrecote with Béarnaise sauce are sure to impress. The wine list offers well known brands and house wines plus there's a wide selection of beers, liquors and spirits behind the bar. So, when you feel in need of a warm, cosy atmosphere, great value-for-money food and beverages and service with a smile, look no further than El Paraiso del Mar.

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## Paraiso del Mar

Who says you can't relax by the sea in winter? *Ellie Bligh* looks forward to snuggling up in the chiringuito with a difference.

