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THE MOST ROMANTIC HACIENDAS IN ANDALUCIA

A mishmash of Moorish majesty and Spanish rustic charm, the country houses of [Andalucía](#) are pure romance. Here are the 9 best haciendas to rent

platform and a spa with a 21-metre pool and a Russian sauna. There are also stables for 70 rare-breed Lusitanos, the stars of a horsemanship programme aimed at repairing the world weary. Rarely has getting back to nature felt so good. Rise early to stroll around the medicinal herb garden plucking leaves for a virtuous tea while listening to Bach (plants love classical music, apparently, but wilt at the sound of heavy metal). Later on, gather around a crackling fire in the kitchen-dining room to muck in with cooking supper.

Address: *Camino de las minas, 29430, Montecorto, Málaga, Andalucía, Spain*

Telephone: +34 951 390 059

Website: ladonaira.com

Price: *Doubles from about £425 full board*



Credit: Aleksandra Olejnik
A kitchen at La Donaira eco-lodge north of Ronda

CORTIJO DEL MARQUES

Granada

Austrian-Dutch couple Eilko and Silvia Bruggers first spied this *cortijo*, hidden deep in a forest of olive trees, when they were looking for a weekend retreat from their home in Madrid. But it soon became apparent that it was going to turn into something altogether more ambitious. Resurfaced records traced the building back 500 years, to a time when it was home to the Marquis of Mondéjar, a close friend of Charles V, and Roman columns were uncovered in what is now the Aljibes suite. The adjacent chapel was built in 1878 and blessed by Pope Leon XIII (it still has the original wax-sealed documents to prove it). Although the Bruggers had no hotel experience, they did speak five languages between them and had a passion for good food and wine (Eilko keeps around 1,000 bottles in his cellar and encourages wine-loving visitors to sip and swirl the very best). There are 15 bedrooms and guests harbouring fantasies of being an aristocratic Spanish landowner will love La Terraza, with its four-poster bed and vast balcony from which to survey their kingdom. For those with less refined inclinations there is La Cuadra - an inspired reimagining of the original ground-floor stables, with wooden feeding troughs worn shiny and smooth with age.

Address: *Cortijo dei Marques, Bruggers-Roth S.L., Camino del Marqués s/n., 18220 Albolote, Granada, Andalucía, Spain*

Telephone: +34 958 340 077

Website: cortijodelmarques.com

Price: *Doubles from about £95*



Cortijo de Marques