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Cortijo del Marqués Albolote, Andalusia, Spain



Rooms from **£100** per night

View on a map

8/10

Telegraph expert rating

"An impeccably restored Andalusian country estate, Cortijo del Marques is a truly special place. With character in spades, fine food and wine, friendly owners and a stunning, peaceful setting not far from Granada, it's one of the most inviting rural hotels to be found anywhere in southern Spain."

Telegraph Review



By **Ben Cooper**, TRAVEL WRITER

7/10

Location

At the end of a long, dusty track you're surrounded by olive groves, hissing fields of wheat, hazy mountains and not a great deal else. Granada Airport and city are both around a 25-minute drive away for arrivals or departures or for a quick whip around the Alhambra if the allure of dozing by the pool begins to wear thin.



8/10

Style & character

The cortijo (a traditional southern Spanish country estate) is known to date back to the fall of Moorish Granada when it was given as the spoils of war to a victorious Christian captain. A pair of Roman pillars hint at even older roots.

Its singular achievement is that it hasn't had any of its history or character smoothed out during the renovation work. The rough-rendered whitewashed walls, timbered frames, timeworn brick arches, stone lintelled doorways and an austere, cobbled central courtyard with a gurgling fountain at its heart look almost exactly as they have done for centuries.

8/10

Service & facilities

The hotel is run with a mix of charm and warmth and a palpable sense of energy and efficiency by owners Silvia and her husband Eilko. Facilities-wise, it's a stripped back affair – while there's no spa or tennis court, the beautiful old buildings, lounge-lined pool and spectacular setting more than compensate.

- Bar
- Pool
- Wi-Fi
- Parking
- Restaurant

9/10

Rooms

While each of the 15 rooms is very different, all retain a sense of their original purpose. Some are in the residential part of the estate and are grander with high ceilings, lovely decorative azulejos, vaulted ceilings, 19th-century balconies and rolltop baths; others are agricultural, reached by narrow staircases, with thick wood-beamed ceilings and cracked, uneven terracotta floors. El Silo was the former granary; Palomar, the one-time dove house, is divided up by rows of nest holes; in La Cuadra (the stables) you sleep with your head next to ancient horses' feeding troughs.



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8/10

Food & drink

In the evenings a simple but delicious three-course dinner is served up by cheerful waiting staff. On the menu for our stay was a tuna and tomato carpaccio with buckwheat, followed by mouth-watering slow-cooked lamb from the nearby Segura national park, and (curiously, but effectively) avocado and goat's cheese cheesecake. Owner Eilko recommends a wine pairing from his hand-picked list of local, Spanish and international wines.

Lunch is a choice of classic Andalusian tapas like fried green peppers, fried squid, tortilla, and bread dipped in olive oil sourced from just up the road in Deifontes.

8/10

Value for money

Double rooms start from €110 (£100) year round, rising only a little in August and over Easter. Breakfast is included, along with free Wi-Fi. The hotel closes each year between early November and mid-March.

Access for guests with disabilities?

One room (La Cuadra) has been adapted for disabled or elderly guests.

Family-friendly?

Yes. Children are welcome, and in addition to a family suite many of the rooms have an extra bed available.

Camino del Marqués s/n, 18220 Albolote, Granada, Andalusia, Spain.
00 34 958 34 00 77
cortijodelmarques.com

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