

Taxi Globe is pleased to welcome Martin Cox as a columnist. Martin was a green badge driver who was on Radio Taxis in the days before it de-mutualised. He was a Board Member before leaving in 2003. Today he is working in the Spanish property market.

THE SPANISH PROPERTY MARKET – STILL IN ITS INFANCY!

We Brits have been investing in Spain for over 4 decades. Hundreds of thousands of us now live here, whilst even more own holiday homes along the Costas. When times were good, we came to Spain in bus loads, we'd all watched "A Place in the Sun" and attended the Property Exhibitions. Then we took up the free viewing weekends, with the well known Estate Agents!!

The Spanish saw us as easy money, "those people who go red in the sun, buy our properties and then shout at us loudly, thinking that will make them understood". No need for Customer Service, no need for transparency, integrity or even honesty, we're selling our properties and the Estate Agents are making up to £40,000 in commission alone... Ok so it goes on the price of the house... property is still increasing in price and those red people still think they are getting a bargain!!

Sound familiar? Well it does to me as I'm one of those red people. Ok, I fully accept that many people have done well out of the property market, both Spanish and British and I also accept that making a profit from someone is not a bad thing, but surely there are levels, because of the huge sums of money that have been taken by Agents through Commissions the valuation of all property in Spain is and has been a complete falsehood and this has only become a problem now we are in a property slump!

To sell property in Spain we need to accept that we are still dealing with a market that is in its infancy, remember Spain is a very young democracy and processes are still being put into place and many areas, such as Costa Calida, Almeria and parts of Valencia, are going through huge learning curves, with regards to planning and infrastructure. Town Halls will make up laws and introduce new rules as they go along. This may seem like Brit Bashing, but I can assure you it's not, it is just a young immature system finding its feet.

Amid all this, myself and business partner decided to change the rules ourselves by introducing a service to both sellers and buyers of property that would not involve any commission payments or side deals that were detrimental to either the seller or buyer. We wanted a service that connected both parties, without having to represent either side or be in the middle creating a layer of charges that we don't believe is necessary!

www.sellpropertyinspain.com is a web based marketing company; our properties are viewed across the internet using all the major property portals and giving both buyers and sellers advice along the way.

Over the next few weeks, through a new column in Taxi Globe, I will be taking you through the Property Market in Spain, How it stands today; what opportunities, as well as dangers lay ahead in the next few years, and more importantly how you can safeguard yourself whether you are selling or buying. We don't claim to have all the answers, but our experience in the Spanish Property Market and how to get it to work for you is second to none. If during our time with Taxi Globe you have any questions please feel free to contact us via phone or e-mail.

I look forward to a journey with you and please feel free to contribute to our articles, all views are welcomed.

Hasta luego

Martin Cox

Proprietor

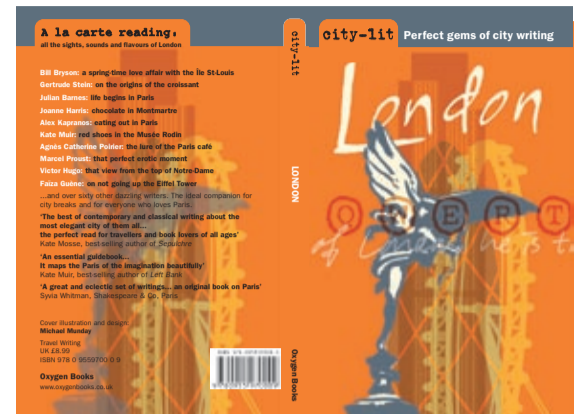
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PERFECT GEMS OF CITY WRITING

A new book in a series of guide books, city-lit London is introduced by Time Out London's Peter Watts. This is the latest of an exciting city break series of books, with each having over sixty writers, giving the books a wide variety of content. Taxi drivers know how diverse London is; it is the world's most happening, most exciting city. In this book there is plenty to satisfy every kind of tourist, as well as those who already know and love London. Bestselling and literary writers, journalists and non-fiction writers all make their contribution to city-lit London. The guide gives a real insight into the flavour of the city and joins other city-lit guides already published for cities such as Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam and Dublin.

Cit-lit London has over seventy dazzling writers, including London blogger Diamond Geezer and eleven year-old Gemma Leech. Leaf through its pages and join writers such as Will Self, as he gets inside the head of a London cabby, Jan Morris flying into Heathrow, Monica Ali smelling the curry on Brick Lane, whilst Alan Bennett gives us a ride on the Queen's



carriage and Xiaolu Guo enjoys a greasy spoon café in Hackney. Beryl Bainbridge attends Dr Johnson's funeral in Westminster Abbey; Sam Selvon recalls the boat train arriving from Trinidad, Virginia Woolf shops down Oxford Street, Dostoyevsky strolls down the Haymarket and Barbara Cartland takes us to a West End ball to name but a few.

city-lit London is published by Oxygen Books on 16 June 2009, £8.99 paperback. ISBN978 0 95597005-4.

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April 2009

Dear All

As they say we have good and bad news.

First of all I am sorry it has taken me so long to inform our friends that all through we did get Hyde Park for the TDY event, but what with this year's situation we were unable to secure a sponsor for the show and we are unable to go ahead.

The good news is on 5th December 2009 @ The Holiday Inn Kensington Forum we still intent to hold our annual dinner dance, so we can give donation to the charities that have supported us. The only reason we have move to this hotel is we do not want to turn people away like the sell out we had last year.

We have been able to hold the price @ £60 per head and we will still have the 4 course meal.

So don't be the one that misses a great night. For any information on the dinner please phone any of the above phone numbers.

Yours truly, Russell Poluck MBE

Hon chairman

NEW ENTRANCE AND EXIT ROUTES TO THE LANDMARK LONDON

From 1 June – 7 June The Landmark London will be handing out tea or coffee and egg or bacon bagels to all taxi drivers from 7am – 9am at the South entrance of the hotel.

The five-star Landmark London in Marylebone has developed new easier access entrance and exit routes into the hotel. Drivers will now be able to drive straight off the A40 flyover and turn left into Harewood Avenue without having to drive the whole way around the hotel to reach The Landmark London's main entrance. When leaving The Landmark London they will now be able to turn right on to Marylebone Road instead of going up Great Central Street and around the hotel.

The Landmark London, 222 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JQ

Reservations on 020 7631 8000 or visit www.landmarklondon.co.uk