

# From fields of gold to plots of gold

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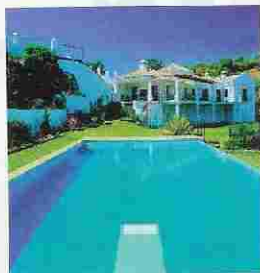
BUILDING your own second home was once the preserve of the super rich or the super handy with a cement mixer — namely a builder. But this trend is becoming more commonplace as people recognise the advantages of a self-build scenario. Why buy a suit-of-the-peg only to spend a pot of money getting the waist taken in, the sleeves shortened and the legs tapered, when you can get a tailor-made one that fits you perfectly, for the same or less money. Similarly with a villa, why settle for someone else's opinion of the perfect view and the perfect room layout when you can choose your own?

There is an added advantage to exploring the self-build option. Profit. Instead of the developer lining their pockets, by adding on a tidy margin to the cost of your villa, you can realise that return yourself, instantly, as soon as you turn the key in your carefully chosen front door.

As the cost of new developments continues to rise unabated on the Costa del Sol, land still remains relatively cheap. The shrewd investor is cashing in on this situation whilst they still can.

Upon finding the perfect plot, the purchaser has three options. First, to 'landbank' — sit on the land, watch the price soar over a few years and pass it on at a profit.

The second is to get on with designing and building a project



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luxury villa as opposed to a 'lock up and leave' apartment. However, prices for a four bedroom, four bathroom 300sq m villa in a prestigious location, start at around 1.5 million euros, therefore it becomes an attractive investment proposition to self build. It is also quite a thrill to be involved in your home from conception to completion and need not cause you a headache if you surround yourself with qualified people."

So what does this all cost?

