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A millionaire's playground

IT was once the private estate of Saudi multimillionaire Adnan Khashoggi but La Zagaleta in the Benahavis Hills above the Costa del Sol is now an exclusive and expensive, private residential resort.

There are 420 private villa plots here and to give you an idea prices start at €750,000 – just for the land.

They have just spent €20m building a second golf course across 65 acres, a feat that involved removing tonnes of earth and rock to make a tunnel to take players to the club house.

The resort is unique in Europe not only for its stunning location but also for the quality of facilities which are for the exclusive use of residents and their invited guests. 36 holes of golf aside, La Zagaleta also offers a restaurant, tennis, fishing and a private Riding Club boasting pure Arab and Spanish horses, four arenas, livery for the Club's horses as well as stabling for privately owned horses. It is estimated that since inception 16 years ago, more than €1,200m have been invested into the project.

Local rules dictate a mini-

mum separation of 10m green zone between plots to allow freedom of movement for the native fauna of the 'finca' namely stag, deer and mouflon. If you don't fancy building your own there are a couple of re-sales on the market – A four bed villa with galleried entrance and sweeping double staircase for 4.6m or a flamboyant five bedder where the main living room has a vaulted wooden ceiling and full height glass windows, for 8m euros.

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