



PRESENTATION

Grandvalira Resorts invests more than 17 million in the new season

The stations expect to open next weekend, although Arcalís could do it earlier

Moreno points out that this year's goal is to reach 2.5 million ski days sold



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►► The director of Andorra Turisme, Betim Budzaku, and the general director of Grandvalira Resorts, Juan Ramón Moreno.

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Last Monday, Grandvalira Resorts presented the novelties of the 2022-23 winter season, which has had a total investment of 17.5 million euros. «It's a very special season because we have all the seasons under the same umbrella,» explained Grandvalira's general manager, Juan Ramón Moreno, since it's the first of the single pass. In this regard, Moreno emphasized that «we are probably the only country in the world where you can ski with a single ski pass in all slopes, a very important fact». In total, Andorra will have 303 kilometers of ski slopes, which makes it possible to compare it «with the Alps or America, and this opens us up to new markets», and turns the country into the

largest and most modern ski area in the Pyrenees.

Regarding the total investment that has been made, Pal Arinsal has received 2.5 million euros, the same figure as Ordino Arcalís, while 12.5 million have been invested in Grandvalira. With this money, tracks, infrastructure, facilities have been improved, and the restaurant offer has been diversified. The proposals for leisure or musical activities have also increased, but especially sports. In addition, Grau Roig will host from March 30th to April 2nd the Snowrow, a «very important music festival» organized jointly with Elrow. The first edition of this ceremony will welcome twenty «top level» DJs, and will also have activities linked to the world of sport for families.

On the other hand, this season



JUAN RAMON MORENO
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF GRANDVALIRA

«We are probably the only country in the world where you can ski with a single ski pass in all ski slopes»

«Today sales are going at a very good pace, better than last year. It seems that people really want to ski»

will be marked by energy saving. In this sense, from Grandvalira they have committed with the Government to achieve a saving of 15%, an affair that «we know it will not be easy, but we will try». Some of the measures that will help make this possible are the new generations of snowplow machines, the use of artificial intelligence «to be more efficient in the production of snow», or the purchase of electric vehicles. A bet has also been made on self-production of energy. In this sense, Ordino Arcalís is already 100% self-sufficient thanks to the mini power plant and, in fact, «we have a surplus of production that we inject into the network», pointed out the director of Grandvalira. On the other hand, Pal Arinsal is able to produce 37% of the energy it spends, and Grandvalira 6%. Therefore, Grandvalira Re-

The winter season will have 2,500 workers, of which 80% are temporary workers who already have accommodation

sorts produces an average of 25% of what it consumes.

The objective of the season is to reach 2.5 million ski days sold. According to Moreno, «today sales are going at a very good pace, better than last year», which is why it seems that «people really want to ski». And it is that, «if the snow allows it, next weekend we might have some opening», especially on the part of Ordino Arcalís, where they are working to open this weekend.

This year, the tracks will have around 2,500 workers, of which «more or less 2,000 will be temporary». Related to the problem of housing for seasonal workers, the director of Grandvalira explained that thanks to a very important effort «we have reached the figure of 1,100 accommodations provided by us», divided between hotels and apartments, while the rest of personnel has already solved this problem, according to Moreno. ≡

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RENTAL MARKET

Espot does not rule out a break on the maximum price «as the last ratio»

He calls for help from the private sector to deal with abuses and announces new measures to increase supply

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In an appearance during the final part of the meeting of the National Housing Commission in the administrative building, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, accompanied by the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy, did not rule out that the Executive must resort to placing an obstacle on the maximum price in the rental market, but in any case «it would be the last ratio and we would not want to have to make a decision of these characteristics», he said. «If we go ahead - he argued - what we would do is put a second strip on the wound», but «we would not find a definitive cure for the disease», but «we would make it worse and make it chronic», because «when

He assures that the entire quota of temporary workers will be covered and opens the door to a 30%

we intervene more, we make the rental market less profitable and we give less incentive to owners to build, so supply falls and demand grows, and prices will tighten even more», he said.

In this sense, he denounced abusive practices by some owners, which he described as «minority», and appealed to the private sector to deal with these abuses, with the aim of strengthening collaboration between the public and private sector to try to solve the housing problem. «We must not turn the anecdote into a general rule, no matter how worrying the anecdote is, for a minority who commit absolute abuses and who demand outrageous and abusive rents for very small apartments», he stressed.

In this context, Espot announced new measures that the Executive that presides over is studying and that will probably be made public this Wednesday after the Council of Ministers with the purpose of encouraging the rental market. The Head of Government recalled that these new measures will be ad-



► Espot greets some of the members of the National Housing Commission, in the Government's administrative building.

ded to those that have already been taken, such as the extension of the rental contract or the new program to acquire or lease unused homes to private owners with the purpose of allocating them in the rental market, with an allocation of 19 million euros. This is a new line of action with the aim of creating a public real estate park at affordable prices. However, he warned, «there are no miraculous solutions for a problem that is structural and that other countries also have».

Structural, but also conjunctural, with reference to the difficulty of temporary workers in finding housing at a price they can afford, which has meant that some of them have had to leave the country, even though they had a guarante-

XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«If we do that, we will put a second strip on the wound, but we will not find a definitive cure for the disease, we will make it chronic»

«The arrival of temporary workers is positive for the country, because it shows that there is economic growth»

ed job. On this, Espot revealed that it will surely cover the whole of the planned quota, so it opened the door to expand it by 30%, as provided by law.

Precisely on the difficulties of finding accommodation for temporary workers and the complaint by the Social Democratic Party (PS) in which it was assured that there were people who were occupying properties or who were sleeping on the street, the Police assured last Monday that they have not found no risk situation for people who have just arrived in Andorra to look for work and who may find themselves in a vulnerable situation, although he announced that he will intensify controls throughout the territory. Equally, Espot denied that

The average amount of flats increases by 15%

► The average price per square meter of flats has increased by 15% during the third quarter of the year in relation to the same previous period. As published last Monday by the Department of Statistics, during this third quarter the average price per square meter was 3,079.4 euros, while during the corresponding period of 2021 the figure was 2,676.9 euros. However, during this third quarter there has been a decrease of 18.5% in the number of real estate transactions compared to the same previous period, although there has been an increase of 11% in relation to the accumulated last twelve months. Regarding the number of real estate transferred, they have decreased by 9.9% compared to the third quarter of the 2020 year.

this situation was occurring, as did the Encamp municipality. «All realities have positive and negative aspects, but the arrival of temporary workers, in an orderly manner and with conditions of dignity, is positive for the country, because it confirms a moment of economic growth, although it is true that there are negative aspects that we have to address», said Espot.

The National Housing Commission is attached to the National Housing Institute (INH) as a consultative and participatory body. In terms of composition, it is made up of high-ranking Government officials, representatives of the municipalities, the Citizen's Reasoner and members of private entities such as Andorran Banking, the Association of Consumers and Users (ACU), the Business Association of Tourist Accommodation, the Association of Construction Contractors (Acoda), the Association of Real Estate Owners (APBI), Càritas Andorrana, the College of Real Estate Agents and Managers (AGIA), the Official College of Architects and the National Youth Forum. ≡

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