



LAST 2022 HOLIDAYS

Hotels expect 75% occupancy during the Christmas holidays

Paris says that the trend for these dates is that there is more traffic for New Year's Eve

The president of the UHA assures that some accommodations will hang the complete sign

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The hotel sector expects to close the last month of the year with around 80% occupancy, as announced by the president of the Hotel Union of Andorra (UHA), Jordi Paris. This year, these are very good dates for the group, as both Christmas and New Year's fall on weekend and, in addition, they are without restrictions of any kind for the first time since 2019.

Thus, according to the statements of the president of the UHA on the 23rd «the forecast for occupancy for the Christmas holiday was between 70 and 75%, depending on the parishes and the category of hotels». These figures, however, will have to be confirmed once

This year's reservations do not increase compared to last year, but they do equal those of 2019

the Three Kings day has passed. In this sense, «more people are expected on New Year's Eve than at Christmas», a «normal» trend at this time. «From today [Sant Esteve] is when most of the accommodations are almost at their absolute peak.» For this reason, the forecast for the entry of 2023 «is to reach this 80% of employment», he added.

In this way, the president of the UHA celebrated that «we are working with pre-pandemic figures», although «there has not been an increase» compared to last year because «the circumstances have not been the same» and therefore cannot be bought. First of all, because in 2021 there was «a euphoria to go out, bearing in mind that there were still



▶▶ Archive image of tourists along Meritxell Avenue.

geographical restrictions» and international trips could not be made either. Afterwards, many people arrived in the country to celebrate New Year's Eve with great enthusiasm because «it was a season and a half that I couldn't ski». In conclusion, this year's reserves have not suffered an increase compared to the previous year, but they have equalled the forecast for 2019, which also touched 80%. However, «some hotels, not all, will hang the complete poster». In fact, «some already have it for certain days».

What has indeed increased is the price. «You can clearly see that there has been an increase,» acknowledged Paris, «but it was out of necessity. The situation demands it and there are more expenses, the situation is what it is».

As for the nationalities of the customers, «we are in a normal situation and we receive customers from all markets, except the Russian one, which is closed». In relation to this, he emphasized that Andorra's hotel sector «is recovering all the operations of French, English, Belgian tourists, etc.» and even Israelis. He also emphasized the fact that, on the contrary, «the markets most limited by the war situation are still not reached because they are recovering». Also, Paris stressed that a distinction must be made between the accommodation closest to the ski slopes, where there are more international customers, and the center of Andorra, where «domestic» tourism takes on more weight. Lastly, in relation to the current tendency to leave reservations until the last minute, the president of the UHA pointed

out that this is not the case at Christmas, New Year's and the Three Kings day because «these are times when people 'anticipate' and that require a lot of foresight. On the other hand, there are also no cancellations like those that occurred last year: «Last year, with the sixth wave, there were mainly cancellations due to contagion. Now we have to take into account that the health crisis is over», he celebrated. ≡



Jordi Paris

PRES. OF THE HOTEL UNION OF ANDORRA



«We are in a normal situation and we receive customers from all markets, except those limited by the war, which are recovering»

«It is clear that prices have increased, but it was out of necessity. The situation demands it and there are more expenses»

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Interview



«I try to learn everything I can, from the places I go and the people I meet»

ALBERT RAMOS Tennis player (number 39 in the ATP ranking)

ALEXANDER SCHEUBER



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Albert Ramos Viñolas (Barcelona, 1988) is one of the most recognized Spanish tennis players in the world and the most influential in this sport. Almost four years ago, Ramos settled in the Principality, and since then it is not unusual to see him training in one of the country's facilities. At the end of the 2022 season, the Catalan secured the 39th place in the ATP ranking, and continues to fight face to face with the best on the planet. Ramos reached 17th in the world in May 2017 and now, at 34 years old, he continues with the same ambition and a new mindset.

–How was the final stretch of the 2022 season and the pre-season that has started?

–It's always a bit the same. The tennis player competes 10 months a year in a row. In 30 weeks you have about 34 tournaments, plus some rest. It's non-stop. As for the pre-season we set two weeks of rest and six of training, which is very hard because you have to try to accumulate a lot of work load to maintain what you have gained during the year, but also not to tire yourself excessively.

–Does the way you train change du-

ring the pre-season?

–It's a little different. A lot of gym, a lot of training and some technical changes. There are always things to improve, even if with age it seems not, but things are tried to raise the level (laughs). And we focus on this, with a lot of training volume and many hours.

–How can you maintain a balance between rest and training?

–That's what I wonder too (laughs). It's a problem we'll never solve. I've been competing and traveling for many years now, and I finish the season, take a week off by myself and start training again. I don't know how we do it, it's non-stop, but it also has its positive side and it's that, at the end of the day, we do what we like the most and we feel very accomplished.

–They open the new season with the United Cup for national teams. How do you see this new creation?

–It's different. Similar to the Davis Cup, but with men's and women's categories, in addition to the mixed category. We don't have much information, but we'll see how it all turns out.

–What would stand out from 2022?

–The seasons are very long. There are



«During the seasons there will be good and bad moments, and you have to know how to deal with them in order to move forward»

all kinds of moments, good and bad, and you have to know how to deal with both. 2022 has had quite good moments, and others not so much, and the important thing is to always try to follow. When things are going well it is much easier, but when things are not going so well you have to try to find mental solutions and try to compete better. See what is being done wrong to improve it. After all, this is sport.

–You started competing at 16 years old. Has Albert Ramos changed from that moment to today?

–I have the same illusion as at that moment. Looking back, you always see things that could have been done better, and others that were done well. If I went back, some things would change, obviously. Some way of working, something I could have done better, but I've always had a clear conscience. Everything I've done, I've done to the best of my ability, trying to be as professional as possible and what I thought was best for my career.

–What is the key to staying in the elite for as many years as you?

–Train a lot and always try to improve. Every year I try to do new things, techniques, tactics, try to always have the illusion to keep learning. I have done very well with this mentality.

–At 34 years old, how do you see the young men and women who start to stand out early?

–As with everything, there are people who are more advanced at a younger age, they have a gift, more physicality, more technical quality, ball speed, and

they reach the elite early. But there are also others who don't. In the end everyone is what they are, and I think everyone has their own process. There are people who are lucky enough to stand out very early, but that does not determine the potential they can have.

–You were 17th in the world and you also started to stand out early. How do you find this?

–It is a matter of oneself. In my case, I have a very good environment that has always protected me from everything, the good and the bad. Both my coach and my team in general have been good people who knew how to treat me. My family too, and I think that's important. An environment where people do not create false expectations, do not put too much pressure, do not generate a lot of noise around. In addition, in my case, I have a fairly calm profile (laughs).

–Would any moment from your entire sports career stand out?

–There are many moments. I couldn't say one, because it's been so many years... But I always try to learn from everything I can, from all the people I meet and from all the places I go, and I think that, in general, everything has served me to move forward.

–When you stop being a player, would you like to contribute your bit to Andorran tennis?

–My family is delighted with the country and the people. I am very grateful to Andorra, for welcoming me in such a nice way, and the day I retire we will see what happens. I hope it will be a long time from now (laughs). ≡



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