

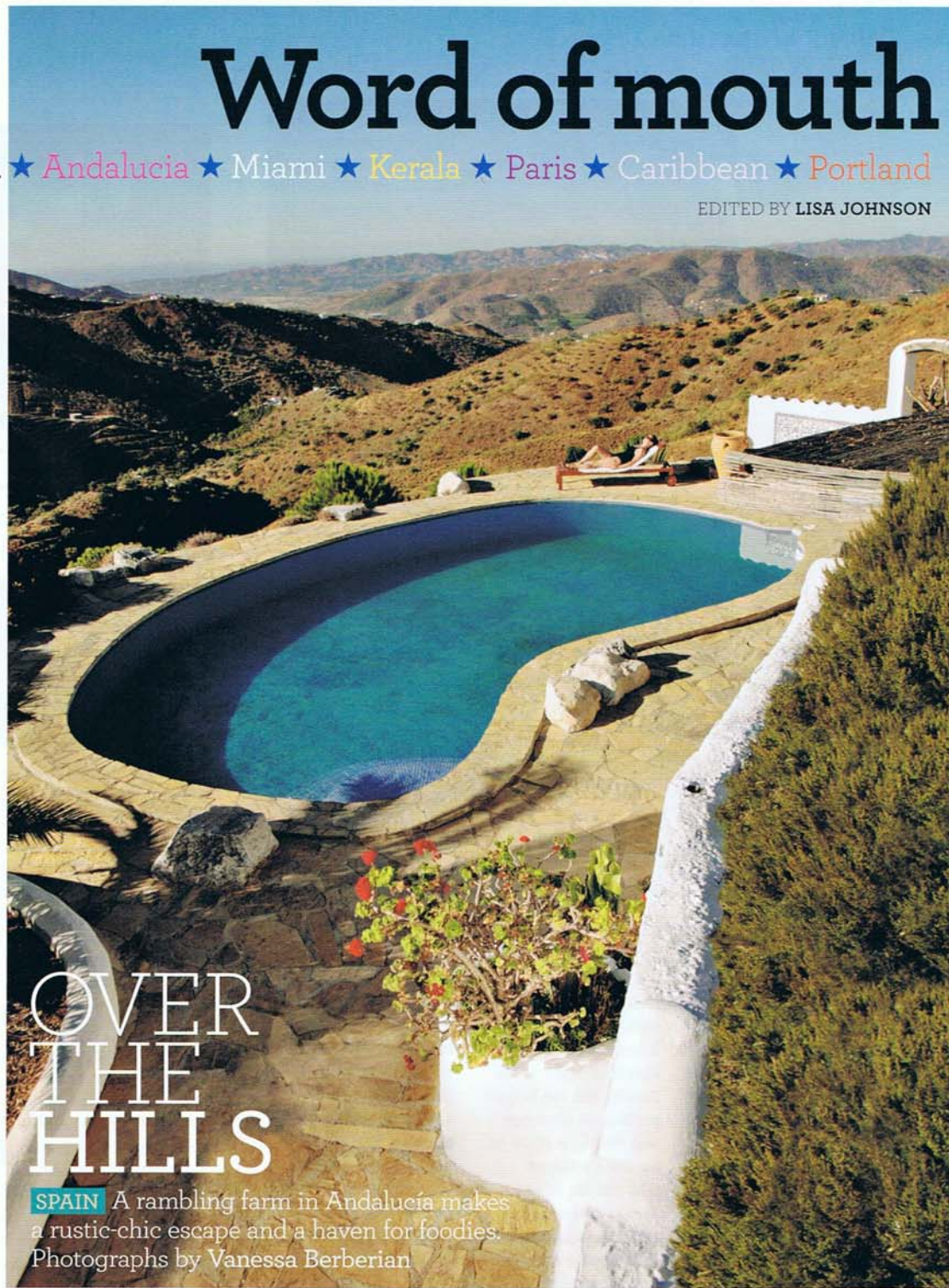
Word of mouth

What's hot in ★ **Andalucia** ★ Miami ★ Kerala ★ Paris ★ Caribbean ★ Portland

EDITED BY LISA JOHNSON

It's only 45 minutes away, but **El Carligto** couldn't be further in spirit from the busy resorts of the Costa del Sol. Named after a 150-year-old eucalyptus tree in the grounds, the authentic, secluded *cortijo* (gentleman's farm) is set on a hill in 10 acres of mature gardens, vineyards and almond groves, with 360-degree views of the Sierra-Tejeda Natural Park, the mountains and the Mediterranean. The villa is beautifully laid-out, with eight terraces, two modest pools and plenty of indoor and outdoor lounging and dining areas, and carefully furnished in rustic-chic style, with *suzanis* – embroidered textiles from Central Asia – on the walls in the four double rooms. 'We wanted to do something on a smaller scale this time,' says Dutch owner Marc Wils, who developed the hideaway with his American partner, Alan Hazel, after selling Le Domaine de Foncaudière, their renovated château and hamlet in the Dordogne. But Wils stresses that El Carligto is unlike other rented villas, in that it offers 'a really special experience', complete with 'highly personalised services'. Foodies in particular will be in their element, able to order meats, cheeses and wines from award-winning local organic producers, select vegetables and herbs from the kitchen garden, and create meals on the Lacanche stove in the state-of-the-art kitchen or in the outdoor kitchen/barbecue area. Alternatively, guests can get a chef to do it all, while they explore the historic centre of Málaga (45 minutes' drive away), ski in the Sierra Nevada or walk on the beaches around Nerja (temperatures can hit 20°C in December). The owners plan to open a second, three-room villa, El Rincon, on the site in the spring. *El Carligto, Axarquía, Andalucía, Spain* (00 34 951 167 180; www.carligto.es). *Whole house (sleeps eight) from €3,750 a week*

One to hire



SPAIN A rambling farm in Andalucía makes a rustic-chic escape and a haven for foodies. Photographs by Vanessa Berberian

Top, one of the pools at El Carligto. Right: open-sided kitchen by the barbecue area and pool; view of the house; main living room

