

Free edition

FiveStarGuide ★★★★★



# Gran Canaria

Maspalomas & Meloneras

*Your guide to the best hotels and restaurants*

[www.samandthedunes.com](http://www.samandthedunes.com)



www.samandthedunes.com is the travel site behind this free eGuide to Maspalomas and Meloneras in the south of Gran Canaria. Our team has lived here for well over two years and has stayed in all 5-star hotels and visited the majority of restaurants, bars and cafes in the area. Our ambition is not to offer a comprehensive guide of Maspalomas and Meloneras as a tourist destination. Contrary to many other travel guides, we chose to exclusively hand-pick places we personally care for and individually can recommend. In other words, we present to you top-notch hotels, hidden gems and restaurants that will make your stay in Gran Canaria a memorable one.

For your convenience, we have also ranked all 5-star hotels (and one 4-star) in Maspalomas/Meloneras according to the following criteria - food, room, service and pool. On page 12, you can see how all hotels compare to each other and which one ended up getting most points.

You are always welcome to provide feedback or leave a comment on our blog [www.samandthedunes.com](http://www.samandthedunes.com) or send us an e-mail to [samandthedunes@gmail.com](mailto:samandthedunes@gmail.com). You can also follow us on Twitter @samandthedunes and “like” us on Facebook! Last but not least, we wish you a pleasant and sunny stay in Gran Canaria!

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# Maspalomas

# Meloneras

You have decided to visit Maspalomas and Meloneras. Congratulations! Meloneras, which is the newly built part of Maspalomas, is an amazing vacation paradise in the south of Gran Canaria, 60 km from the capital Las Palmas and 35 km from the airport. Many new five star hotels are located here and the area is more exclusive than other alternatives on the island. It is marketed as a spa and wellness resort and you certainly find tranquility and relaxation. Although thousands of tourists are staying here all year round it is a very quiet and relaxing place. In addition, thanks to the wonderful boardwalk that stretches from the old lighthouse Faro de Maspalomas all the way to Meloneras beach, this resort is an excellent choice if you are into exercising like jogging or power walking.

Spending your holiday in Maspalomas/Meloneras is comfortable and easy, no matter which hotel you choose to stay in. You can always find taxi stands, cash machines, restaurants and good shopping within a very short

walking distance. You can easily take a bus and explore other parts of the island as well. Go for example to nearby Playa del Inglés or San Agustin (10 min) or visit the picturesque fishing village of Puerto de Mogán (40 min).



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# Hotels

## H10 Playa Meloneras Palace\*\*\*\*\*



Located next to Meloneras beach, this holiday-package-deal delight offers their guests the whole shebang: big buffet restaurant, two outdoor pools, a spa, three bars and entertainment in the evening.

You know what you are getting - nothing more, nothing less. The hotel in our view only qualifies for a four, not a five star rating.

Relaxing pool area with amazing ocean view. Rooms are nice and spacious. The hotel has a small gym (3€ for hotel guests), spa center + hairdresser.

Gastronomy: Snack bar at the pool, buffet restaurant and a la carte restaurant Gaudi.

Bars: Pool bar, lobby bar and nightclub/piano bar.

Internet: free Wi-Fi and business center with four computers.

**Address:**

C/Mar Caspio, 5  
E-35100, Playa Meloneras  
Gran Canaria, Spain

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 12 82 82

H10.playa.meloneras.palace@h10.es

Website: <http://www.hotelh10playameloneraspalace.com/en/index.html>

# Lopesan Baobab Resort\*\*\*\*\*



The Lopesan hotel chain has three hotels in Meloneras (two 5-stars and one 4-star). Lopesan Baobab is the newest contribution and was built in 2009. It is in our view the most innovative and impressive when it comes to design. The architecture is overall inspired by the African continent and you will get amazed by the beautiful wooden ceilings, artistic furniture and colorful paintings. A huge pool area and plenty of entertainment for the kids make this hotel the perfect choice for the family.

Rooms are very nicely designed and have spacious balconies.

The hotel has a small gym, beauty center, massage and hairdresser.

Gastronomy: Buffet restaurant and two a la carte restaurants, Pili Pili and Akara, a beautiful restaurant with a creative menu (try the spicy banana soup!).

Bars: Two pool bars and lobby bar.

Internet: Wi-Fi.

## **Address:**

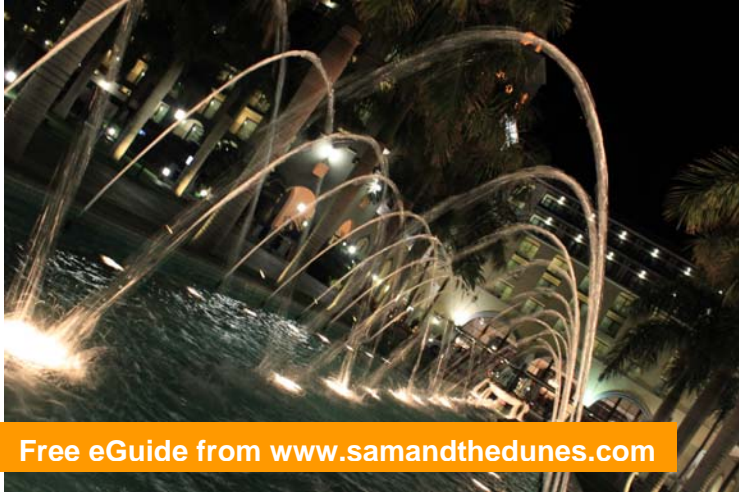
C/Mar Adriático, 1  
E-35100, Meloneras  
Gran Canaria, Spain

## **Contact:**

Tel: (34) 902 45 00 10

Website: [http://www.lopesan.com/en/hotel-lopesan-baobab-resort\\_113.html](http://www.lopesan.com/en/hotel-lopesan-baobab-resort_113.html)

# Lopesan Costa Meloneras\*\*\*\* Resort, Spa & Casino



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The hotel was built in 2000 and was the first Lopesan hotel in Meloneras. Despite being a four star hotel, Lopesan Costa Meloneras can definitely measure up to the big boys when it comes to service, exterior and evening entertainment. The hotel even has its own Casino.

The pool area is truly amazing with its small sandy beach and an enormous palm tree garden. (Perhaps too many palm trees – sometimes it's hard to find a sun bed that is not in the shadow). The quality of the rooms is 4-star level - clean, nice and spacious with good closet space and both a shower and a bathtub provided.

The hotel has a huge spa (3,500 square meters), including: Himalaya Salt Grotto, Hamam, Lava Flotation Pool, etc. You can get all types of beauty treatments and massages. In addition, the hotel has tennis courts, mini golf and gym.

Gastronomy: Two buffet restaurants and three a la carte restaurants – Ambassador, Vista Mar (Mediterranean menu), and Via Veneto with Italian cuisine and show-cooking.

Bars: Four pool bars, terrace bar, lobby bar and nightclub.

Internet: Wi-Fi.

## **Address:**

C/Mar Mediterraneo, 1  
E-35100, Meloneras  
Gran Canaria, Spain

## **Contact:**

Tel: (34) 902 45 00 10

Website: [http://www.lopesan.com/en/hotel-lopesan-costa-meloneras-resort\\_115.html](http://www.lopesan.com/en/hotel-lopesan-costa-meloneras-resort_115.html)

# Lopesan Villa Del Conde Resort and Thalasso\*\*\*\*\*

A magnificent hotel built in 2004 and tastefully designed. The main lobby resembles a palace with enormous spaces and a high ceiling. The luxurious flair this hotel generates leaves nothing to be desired.

The hotel has a very nice spa, including a salt water pool, massage treatments, sauna, Turkish bath, etc. Here you also have a gym and a hairdresser.

Gastronomy: Nice buffet restaurant and Club Restaurant Ovo with contemporary Mediterranean cuisine.

Bars: Outdoor terrace, bar/nightclub and piano bar in the lobby.

Internet: Wi-Fi.

## **Address:**

C/Mar Mediterraneo, 7  
E-35100, Meloneras  
Gran Canaria, Spain

## **Contact:**

Tel: (34) 902 45 00 10

Website: [http://www.lopesan.com/en/hotel-lopesan-villa-del-conde-resort\\_114.html](http://www.lopesan.com/en/hotel-lopesan-villa-del-conde-resort_114.html)

*“All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.”*

*– Martin Buber*





## Seaside Grand Hotel Residencia\*\*\*\*\*



With a nice location next to Maspalomas beach, this is the only hotel on Gran Canaria that is member of "The Leading Hotels of the World".

It is a small paradise that overwhelms with the amount of luxury that is showered on you upon arrival.

Parisian photographer and interior designer Alberto Pinto made this hotel look like a miniature Spanish village. Palm trees, the pool area with the small garden provide the kind of serenity you always wished for when on vacation.

The hotel has a small gym and beautiful spa facilities.

Gastronomy: Breakfast buffet and a la carte restaurant on the terrace (inside and outside seating), pool snack bar.

Bars: Piano bar (inside and outside seating).

Internet: Wi-Fi and business center.

**Address:**

Avenida del Oasis, 32  
E-35100, Maspalomas  
Gran Canaria, Spain

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 72 31 00

Website: <http://www.grand-hotel-residencia.de/en>

## Seaside Hotel Palm Beach\*\*\*\*\*



The hotel is located close to the Maspalomas dunes. It is a quiet area but still very close to the center. Alberto Pinto (yes, the same person who also designed Seaside Grand Hotel Residencia) is the interior designer of this hotel - the only one on Gran Canaria that is a member of "Design Hotels".

Rooms are nice but quite small. The pool area is very relaxing and next to it you have an outdoor gym and a wellness center with Thalassotherapy pool, saunas and relaxation area.

Gastronomy: Buffet restaurant and two a la carte restaurants - La Trattoria (Italian cuisine) and the more upscale Orangerie (Mediterranean).

Bars: Bar Salon and pool bar Africano.

Internet: Free Wi-Fi and business center.

### **Address:**

Avenida del Oasis s/n  
E-35100, Maspalomas  
Gran Canaria, Spain

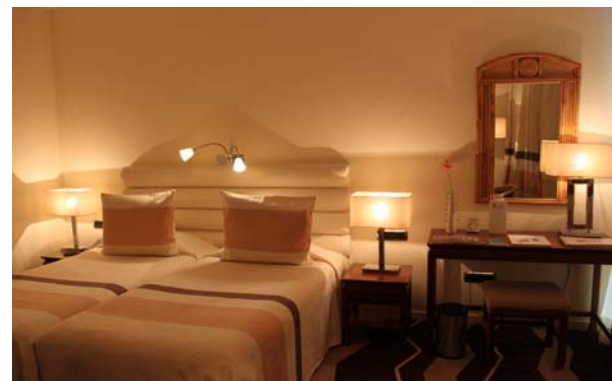
### **Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 72 10 32

Website: <http://www.hotel-palm-beach.com/en/hotel.html>

*"We wander for distraction, but we  
travel for fulfillment."*

*– Hilaire Belloc*



# Sheraton Salobre Golf Resort and Spa\*\*\*\*\*

A golf resort situated in the mountains (which means it's not walking distance to the beach). The hotel offers a regular free bus shuttle to Maspalomas.

Rooms are stylish and modernly designed. The hotel has several small pool areas. The best one is situated on the roof top with romantic sun beds and a flabbergasting view over the mountains as well as the Atlantic.

The hotel spa offers a variety of treatments and there is also a gym with different sports activities like Yoga and Aquaerobics.

Gastronomy: Buffet restaurant, tapas restaurant, pool snack bar and a la carte restaurant Camaleón (contemporary Mediterranean cuisine).

Bars: The hotel has two bars: the 230 bar and Sunset bar.

Internet: Wi-Fi and business center.

## Address:

Calle Swing s/n, Urb Salobre Golf  
E-35100, Salobre Maspalomas  
Gran Canaria, Spain

## Contact:

Tel: (34) 928 94 30 00

Website: <http://www.sheratonsalobre.com/en>

*"It is not down in any map;  
true places never are."*

*– Herman Melville*



# Hotel score card

And the winner is...

| <b>Hotel ranking</b>             | <b>Room</b> | <b>Food</b> | <b>Service</b> | <b>Pool</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Seaside Grand Hotel*****      | 5           | 5           | 5              | 5           | <b>20p</b>   |
| 2. Lopesan Villa Del Conde*****  | 4           | 4           | 5              | 5           | <b>18p</b>   |
| 3. Lopesan Baobab*****           | 4           | 4           | 5              | 4           | <b>17p</b>   |
| 4. Sheraton Salobre Golf*****    | 4           | 4           | 4              | 4           | <b>16p</b>   |
| 5. Seaside Hotel Palm Beach***** | 3           | 4           | 4              | 3           | <b>14p</b>   |
| 6. Lopesan Costa Meloneras****   | 3           | 4           | 3              | 4           | <b>14p</b>   |
| 7. Hotel H10*****                | 3           | 3           | 3              | 3           | <b>12p</b>   |

*The hotel ranking was done during February 2012*

# Restaurants

## Bali

The restaurant offers inexpensive Indonesian cuisine in a nice setting. It is located on the second floor in the shopping arcade in Meloneras (opposite the Casino).

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 14 33 71

Website: <http://www.restaurantebali.com>

## Ciao Ciao

Italian restaurant located next to Playa Meloneras beach. Here you find everything from pasta, pizza, salads, fish, meat and last but not least, the best lobster pasta this island has to offer. Enjoy your meal while looking at people strolling by on the nearby boardwalk with the Atlantic sunset as a backdrop.

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 14 69 69

Website:

<http://www.ciaociao-meloneras.com>

## Grand Italia

Located on Boulevard El Faro, the main beach promenade in Meloneras, you find another high-quality restaurant - Grand Italia. This is one of the more popular restaurants and you will notice that at times it gets really busy. The service is efficient and the food, mainly Italian, is of high quality. Try the pizza!

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 14 18 10

## Mundo

Restaurant Mundo is not located in Maspalomas/Meloneras but we decided to include this restaurant since it is one of the better places in Gran Canaria. It is located smack in the middle of Playa del Inglés and it takes only 5 minutes to get there by taxi. Try their fantastic starters like grilled shrimps with mint dip or fish cakes. Our two absolute favorite main courses are the spaghetti with meatballs (in a spicy and really yummy tomato sauce) and the seared tuna with Thai noodles and sweet chili sauce.

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 93 78 50

## Samsara

Located on top of an insignificant looking building between Seaside Grand Hotel Residencia and Hotel Riu Palace (not far from the Maspalomas beach) it is unfortunately very easy to bypass this little gem. And that would be a huge mistake since it's one of the best restaurants in the area. (Tip: look for an enormous Shiva statue on top of the roof). Here you get high quality food, superb service, delivered in a wonderful setting. The food can best be described as Indian fusion: with creative mouth watering presentations (you will see what we mean when you come to the dessert). Prices are very reasonable.

But don't forget to reserve - no drop-in guests are accepted.

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 14 27 36

Website:

<http://samsara-gc.com/indexe.html>

## SushiMex

Top quality restaurant specializing in a fusion of Sushi and Mexican cuisine. It is quite pricy but you will get excellent service and top-notch food. The restaurant is located on Boulevard El Faro, Maspalomas.

**Contact:**

Tel: (34) 928 14 10 19

Website: <http://www.sushimex.com>

*"A journey is like marriage.  
The certain way to be wrong is  
to think you control it."  
– John Steinbeck*



# Bars, etc.



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Maspalomas does not exactly have a fun, vibrant nightlife as Playa del Inglés but you find some places to enjoy a drink in the evening.

## **Bandera Tapas y Copas**

Bandera Tapas y Copas is located opposite the Casino in Meloneras. Nice and friendly atmosphere. Perfect place for a glass of wine or a relaxed dinner in the evening.

## **El Senador**

Only a stone's throw from the seashore, on the left hand side of the light house, you find this nicely located bar/restaurant with live music. From the menu we can especially recommend the grilled salmon, Caesars' salad and Paella.

## **19<sup>th</sup> hole bar**

Irish pub where you can enjoy a draft beer while listening to live music (rock) in the evening. Located on Boulevard El Faro, Maspalomas.

# Activities

Maspalomas and Meloneras is the perfect place for relaxation. You have for example numerous cafes where you can sit and enjoy a drink or coffee under the sun.

Here you also have good shopping, especially when it comes to perfume and various beauty products.

If you are up for buying some clothes, you find everything from inexpensive Esprit and Mango to more fancy brands like Burberry, Michael Kors, Hugo Boss, Ralph Laurent and Calvin Klein. Other activities you can try are for example:

**Aqualand** – Water park open daily from 10 am. Try funny slides such as Tornado, Rapidos, Crazy Race and Boomerang. More information on: [www.aqualand.es](http://www.aqualand.es)

**Helicopter** – See Gran Canaria from above. Tours from 10 min to 60 min. More information on: [www.islas-helicopters.com](http://www.islas-helicopters.com)

**Hiking** – There are various hiking tours on the island where you can enjoy breathtaking scenery from 2000 meters. More information on: [www.free-motion.net](http://www.free-motion.net)

**Horse riding** – Try horse riding (beginners are welcome). More information on: [www.elsalobrehr.es](http://www.elsalobrehr.es)

**Sioux City** – Be a cowboy for a day! Enjoy horse riding, cowboy shows and see a live bank robbery. More information on: [www.siouxcity.es](http://www.siouxcity.es)

**Palmitos Park** – Discover animals from all continents. More information on: [www.palmitospark.es](http://www.palmitospark.es)

**Sailing** – Catamaran boats with dolphin watching, fishing, snorkeling, speedboat trips, etc. More information on: [www.dolphin-catamaran.com](http://www.dolphin-catamaran.com)

**Segway** – An original way to explore the island. Off road tours available. More information on: [www.blueactivecanarias.com](http://www.blueactivecanarias.com)

**Surfing** – Take a surf course or go on a surf safari. Private courses available. More information on: [www.prsurfing.com](http://www.prsurfing.com)



# 2 Daytrips

Samandthedunes recommends:

## Puerto de Mogán

The “Venice of the Canaries”, Puerto de Mogán, is a must to visit. It’s an old fishing village with cobblestone alleys and small canals. Try any of the many restaurants next to the marina where you can have nice food while enjoying the ocean and boats cruising by.



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## Fataga

Visit the small mountain village of Fataga. Enjoy an amazing view while eating traditional Canary food like croquetas de jamón, queso frito and papas arrugadas with mojo sause in one of the restaurants. Here is also an arts shop and a small church.

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# Photo gallery



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*Text and photos by Hanna Snarberg - co-founder of the luxury and humorous travel blog [www.samandthedunes.com](http://www.samandthedunes.com). Hanna has lived in Gran Canaria for several years and knows Maspalomas and Meloneras like the back of her hand. No novice to public relations, Hanna has worked as a press officer for the United Nations and has an MBA. She is currently doing research for a more in-depth travel guide on Gran Canaria.*

For any questions regarding this eGuide, please use the contact form on [www.samandthedunes.com](http://www.samandthedunes.com) or send an e-mail to [samandthedunes@gmail.com](mailto:samandthedunes@gmail.com)