

## News Interview

## Avril Sharif Psychic



INFORMATION. AVRIL SAYS IT'S LIKE TUNING INTO A RADIO STATION. A.F.

## «I started having premonitions when I was very young»

Many people, including professionals, turn to Avril Sharif for advice, focussing particularly now on their finances

ANDREW FORBES

Psychic Avril Sharif has become an increasingly familiar face here on the Costa del Sol. Her 'Avril's Fortunes' psychic readings are impressing locals with accurate insights.

**When did you first become aware of your talent?**

I started having these strange feelings when I was really very young. I suppose you could call them premonitions; information used to come to me in a way that I have gradually come to recognise and understand more fully. Now I am able to vocalise clearly what I see.

**How did your family react to this?**

They thought I was crazy! In the end I had to prove myself by passing on the information that I was receiving; it was accurate enough for my family and my friends to start taking me seriously.

**How do people respond when you tell them something about their lives that they imagine only they can know?**

Sometimes they become quite defensive. I've known people to deny a fact that I've picked up on and only admit that it's true once I've been speaking to them for a while and they have decided that they

trust me. Other people become very emotional. I have often had clients that first come to me because of a traumatic event in their lives; the death of someone close to them or they've been diagnosed with a serious illness. The process of looking at their lives can be painful. I have to add, though, that most of these people become regulars.

**It's a bit spooky though, isn't it?**

Not at all! I just become aware when I focus on people and then information starts flooding through. It's a bit like tuning a radio to a particular station. I just listen in to what I hear and pass the message on.

**So you've been doing this professionally all your life?**

No. Until recently I've been too busy being a wife and mother. When you have seven children there's not much time for anything else! Yet, I have always had a regular stream of friends who relied on me to give them advice and pass on what I knew. Then people I didn't know started knocking on my door and one day someone said, "Why don't you do this properly?" That's when the idea behind 'Avril's Fortunes' was born; over 11 years ago.

**Have you found that the recession has changed the type of people**



AVRIL. NOT A MYSTIC MEG. A.F.

**Sometimes people will deny a fact I pick up on, but admit it's true when they trust me**

**At first, examining trauma can be painful, but most of my clients become regulars**

**that consult you and the questions that you are asked?**

Definitely. The perceived wisdom was that psychics might only be of use to housewives, but not men and business people. This is completely false, and the current economic crisis has meant that even more professionals are asking me for advice. I've also noticed that my longstanding Costa del Sol regulars tend to focus quite heavily on their finances, whereas in the past it tended to be their love lives, careers and long-term health.

**What type of clients do you have on the Costa del Sol?**

A real mixture, including retired millionaires; ordinary working people; and some of the top business people on the Coast. The lifestyle here is fantastic, but that's not to say that people don't have the same worries about their relationships and careers. One of the main themes at the moment is employment concerns; people are very worried that they will lose their jobs.

**What would you say to a person who would like to see you for a reading, but feels a bit apprehensive?**

There's honestly nothing to be concerned about. Don't forget that I've spent years looking after my family, so I probably don't fit most people's idea of a psychic. I'm often told that I speak quite fast, so please don't expect me to sound like Mystic Meg!

■ MORE INFORMATION | [www.avrilfortunes.co.uk](http://www.avrilfortunes.co.uk)

## History

### Searching for a glimpse of destiny is as old as time

A. F.

With a rich history that has combined pagan, Arabic and Christian cultures, Spain's modern society is based on a complex tapestry of traditions and superstitions. In addition, the 'gitano' or Romani 'gypsy' culture, that came from India, through Egypt, then Western Europe, to Andalucía in the 15th century, brought with it a long history of fortune telling.

Against this background, the custom of visiting psychics has grown and it is now mainstream, with many television shows dedicated to the subject. Despite the enduring popularity of the Catholic Church, visiting a medium is not seen as being in conflict with religious beliefs; often Spanish clairvoyants will display a Virgin Mary icon, and believe their ability is a divine gift to be used for good, often for healing too.

## Experience

### Clients find medium's ability both comforting and of practical help

A. F.

Often a visit to a psychic is a very private affair, and few people share this information with friends. Yet foreign residents in Spain are visiting mediums in greater numbers and even enjoy attending group events and dinners.

"Avril was very good at picking up on things which were relevant in my life", commented Carol Pardini.

As a recent attendee of a group dinner with Avril at popular Nueva Andalucía restaurant, Ogilvy & Mailer, Carol was astonished at how accurate the psychic was about her life.

Carol continued, "Avril had a connection with a loved one of mine who had passed on. The medium gave me advice and also passed on messages to me about what to do to sort out things that needed attention. What's more, she actually named friends and family for me too, which I found amazing."

Avril Sharif does private readings and also group events.