

Ten Minutes with...

David Toms Photographer



«I'm at my happiest when I've got a camera in my hand»

ANDREW FORBES

David Toms is one of Marbella's leading professionals in magazine, fashion, architectural and wedding photography. Before moving to Spain he trained and worked in London under a series of top photographers. He describes himself as a free spirit, amongst the energy and glamour of Costa del Sol.

1'How did you discover your passion for photography? I went to see a friend in London and by chance I met Roy Snell, a world-class black and white hand printer. I had always been inter-

ested in art and photography but Roy saw my potential and made me realise it. We went on to work together for many years.

2'What drew you to southern Spain? I was here to photograph a friend's party but missed my flight back. When I did get a seat the following night I met a woman who was to become my girlfriend. We've split up since, but it is thanks to her that I moved here.

3'What's the most glamorous event you've shot here on the coast? Well, there have been quite a few! Marbella is like another world; fashion shows, amazing parties, glamorous launches and incredible villas. One home, following a 15 million euro refurbishment, was valued at 34 million euro! Over 250,000 euro was spent on just one table as part of the interior design. These are extraordinary homes to shoot.

4'What's the difference between a lucky photographer and a talented one? I don't believe in luck. Ultimately it is about more than technique and equipment alone; you need to have an eye. You need to see the world through a lens and know how it will look in print. Above all, though, you need to have a passion for photography.

5'What has been your most embarrassing photographic faux pas? I was shooting an aristocratic wedding reception in London. I captured a beautifully romantic picture of two guests

kissing on the river bank. Sadly later when the bride and groom reviewed the prints, they recognised the two guests and they were not a couple, but instead having an illicit affair. The photo uncovered the affair, and led to both people getting divorced!

6'What's the secret to making real estate photography interesting? Above all, one needs to bring the property to life. You must highlight its strong features and capture the lifestyle the home evokes. People choose to live here for the lifestyle, so they need to be inspired by the real estate photographs.

7'When and where were you happiest? I remember starting out as a young photographer in London. That was a very exciting new time, as I was learning and experiencing so many new things.

8'Who do you most admire? I find that changes as I move through life; though if I had to mention one person it would be a spiritual master who taught me so much.

9'What is your idea of true happiness? Living in the moment without letting yesterday's triumphs or disappointments hold me back or affect tomorrow's expectations. This is an essential recipe for a good life.

10'What is your favourite place here? The Ronda road, for taking my bike out for a spin; and the Tarifa coast for its chilled atmosphere.