

The Hotel Wizard

Ibiza's little sister island is just idyllic, says **Fiona Duncan**



Formentera's beaches are unrivalled in the Balearics

FORMER YEARS IN FORMENTERA

If Ibiza is the extrovert disco queen, Formentera is her naturally beautiful little sister who prefers midnight to stroll barefoot on a moonlit beach. It's 40 years since I last visited and yet remarkably little has changed. Just a half-hour ferry ride from Ibiza, it's in a slow-paced world of its own. April, May, September and October are its best months; avoid August when Italians descend; every one of them hires a moped. Stay at Gecko Beach, eat at Es Calò in Es Calò, Macondo in Sant Ferran or Ca Na Pepa in Sant Francesc, shop at Vintage next to Ca Na Pepa and seek out the beaches at Cala Saona and Playa de Ses Illetes among many gems, unrivalled in the Balearics.



Sunset strolls



TEN REASONS
WHY I LOVE

Gecko Beach Club,
Formentera



1 The beachside setting, with green lawns running down to a heavenly slice of sand and sea.

2 The chic yet low-key vibe courtesy of new owner Pablo Carrington (Cap Rocat, Urso) and designer Antonio Obrador.

3 The sound of lapping waves that lull you to sleep.

4 Spotting a gecko - they bring luck if you see one inside.

5 Yannis, best yoga teacher outside Manhattan, where he studied for ten years with yogi Dharma Mittra.

6 Unspoiled Formentera, Ibiza's shy and laidback little sister.

7 The peaceful walking and cycling trails that criss-cross the island.

8 Kiosko 62, next to the hotel: the original hippy beach shack.

9 Lounging on the lawn on a double sunbed, facing the ocean...

10 ... And marvelling at its astonishing colours, famed in Formentera.

Doubles from £200 (+34 971 328024; geckobeachclub.com).