

# Weekend

NORTH SHORE NEWS COMMUNITY LIFE



NEWS photo Paul McGrath

**NORTH Vancouver residents Hilary (left) and Mike Powell host art, cooking and Spanish conversation vacations in the Andalusia region of Spain. It is, says Mike, "a gorgeous place."**

## Flavour of Spain is tempting

### N. Van couple host trips

Julie Crawford

Contributing Writer

**ACCORDING to Mike and Hilary Powell of North Vancouver there's a hammock by a lake, in the shade of a pomegranate tree, waiting just for you.**

This sunny patch of heaven is located in Andalusia, Spain, on three acres of property known as El Molino del Conde.

An old mill has been there for 100 years, and was only converted a decade ago into intimate lodging for guests.

The Powells have had a long-standing love affair with the area — they ran successful restaurants in Portugal and on the Costa del Sol for more than 16 years — and in their latest venture they are taking groups back to Andalusia to soak up the sights, smells and tastes of the region.

"It's just a gorgeous place," says Mike Powell. He and his wife made five trips back to the region in the last two years in order to find the ideal location, and El Molino is "head and shoulders" above the rest, according to Powell.

First up is an 18-day Painting Vacation with award-winning local artist Kiff Holland. Holland brings along his 30 years of experience in watercolours, oils, and other media, and his teaching expertise as an instructor at Capilano College.

You are welcome whether you're a master painter or you've never held a brush, says Powell.

"This is the lovely thing about Kiff: he teaches at any level, and anyone can come along and paint — or not — as they wish."

There's no pressure, says Powell. If you prefer to laze

See Spanish page 49