

Initiatives
to zero waste
in the Balearic
Islands



Circular ideas,
round results

Rezero



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Synergies
are key
to planning
the future
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Garden Hotels

Mallorca
Tourism
Local production
Organic production
Composting

The Garden brand is making its way. Its commitment to sustainability, to generating profit within its environment and especially, its support for the primary sector, means that Garden has positioned itself in a differential way within the hotel sector. Led by the Ramis family, a Mallorcan and peasant family, the Garden Hotels chain currently manages 13 establishments in Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Huelva.

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Garden Hotels

Jaume Ordinas
Comptroller General

1. What values do you start from?

Our initiative starts from the top, it is important that those above are convinced in order to get there. I joined Garden 6 years ago. Given our values of sustainability and helping to generate local economy, I saw a need to make changes in our purchasing policy and focus as much as possible on local produce. And from there, go one step further and focus on quality, that is, local and organic products. Buying organic was quite difficult, as the farmers' infrastructure is limited, and more so 4 years ago. Today we have partly solved it. At the Platja de Muro hotel we have created an organic buffet, the Bio Corner, where all products are eco-friendly, in particular, 90% come from the Sa Teulera estate.

2. What actions have you taken to achieve these values?

The main problem of organic producers to increase production was that they did not have organic compost and this is not produced in Mallorca. So in 2016 we decided to start a pilot test to produce organic compost in Mallorca, with the collaboration of APAEMA, Amics de la Terra, Estel de Llevant and Ramon Plana, a master composter. We collected leftovers from the hotels' kitchens. One of our hotels generates about 700 kg of leftovers daily. You can imagine what the whole hotel sector generates. In the pilot test we made about 20,000 kg of compost in a month. And all the analytics were correct. This confirmed that, instead of having a waste, we have a resource.

3. What does it mean to apply these actions, what is the return?

The Balearic Government invited us to take part in the drafting of the new Waste Law. We advocated carrying out the Austrian model, that is, small composting plants in each municipality so that they can take advantage of it and thus avoid transport. The law has incorporated this and it now allows to set small plants of up to 300 tons / year. This means that we can now incorporate this practice on a regular basis into our hotels. In fact, we have already started, with the help of the Sustainable Tourism Tax we compost directly on the Sa Teulera estate. We've set up an exchange system, they make compost with the people of S'Estel de Llevant and we buy their organic products.

The hotel sector is also taking part. In the northern part of Mallorca we have an agreement to recover the pruning remains, which we then mix with the kitchen ones.

4. How do you imagine the future?

It's now time to pioneer. In our northern area hotels this will be a permanent practice. We also want to offer a comprehensive service to other hotels, town halls or people who want to incorporate it.

Nature does not need people, instead people need nature. We are privileged in Mallorca and hoteliers are aware of this. If we don't start taking such actions, the hotel sector will worsen. But collaboration is needed, actions cannot be driven individually or by a company. Synergies are key to planning the future.



Rezero is a non-profit foundation that yearns for a society that values the resources provided by natural systems and integrates all materials into cyclical processes, without toxic materials, or products that are left unused. This campaign aims to make visible the Balearic initiatives and companies that carry out inspiring actions and references in the prevention of waste and responsible consumption, be it from ecodesign, local and ecological production, repair, reuse, recycling, management prevention of waste or any other activity that allows progress towards a circular economic model based on zero waste.

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