

Urbanism Awards 2023 nomination: Estepona, Spain

European City of the Year category

The supporting statement for Estepona's nomination is quoted in full below.

"I am pleased to submit Estepona, Spain in consideration for a Great City award. Estepona 'the garden of the costa del sol'- lives up to its name as a charming and sustainable Andalucian city. Annually the City plants hundreds of thousands of plants, grown in City greenhouse operations throughout the streets of the City.

"2023 makes a seminal year for Estepona, years of investment by the City continue to payoff. Over the past 10+ years the City has aggressively pedestrianized the historic center, replaced busy streets with greenways, expanded dozens of kilometers of new trails including major sections of the Senda Litoral which connects many communities along Spain's Mediterranean Coast. 2023 also coincides with the City's year of biking, having hosted a leg of the famed Vuelta pan-Spain bike race in 2022- City leadership continues to focus on health and wellness.

"The City has constructed new parks and new affordable 1Euro public parking garages for residents. 2023 sees the inauguration of the City's new modern City Hall and a cultural library tower which will host permanent and rotating art exhibitions: <https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/estepona-manilva/thyssen-museum-malaga-20220811164234-nt.html>

"The City is known for embracing the arts including a poetry walk and dozens of public murals spread throughout the City. <https://visitestepona.eu/murals-estepona/?lang=en> The City has accomplished all of these major improvements and enhancements to quality of life while reducing the overall debt of the City. The City's courage in leading a bold reinvention of the City- playing to it moniker, 'the garden of the costa del sol'- Estepona deserves recognition of its leadership as a sustainable city."