

= Pikes Hotel =

Pikes Hotel ( pronounced Peek @-@ ayes ) , now known as Ibiza Rocks House , is a luxury hotel in Ibiza , in the Balearic Islands of Spain . It is located in the countryside , 1 @.@ 6 miles ( 2 @.@ 6 km ) to the northeast of the town of Sant Antoni de Portmany , and 10 @.@ 2 miles ( 16 @.@ 4 km ) to the northwest of Ibiza Town . A 15th @-@ century stone mansion which was a finca ( farm estate ) , it was converted into a hotel in 1978 by British @-@ born Australian Anthony Pike .

The hotel , cited as one of the most famous or infamous hotels on the island , developed a notorious reputation for hedonism in the 1980s , and is associated with being a playground for the rich and famous . It is best known for being the location of filming for Wham ! ' s 1983 hit " Club Tropicana " and for Freddie Mercury 's 41st birthday bash in 1987 , cited as one of the most lavish parties ever to be held on Ibiza .

By the 1990s the hotel had fallen into difficulties and after Pike 's son was murdered in 1998 attempting to sell the hotel , it was later sold to the Ibiza Rocks organization , which also owns clubs on the island and the Ibiza Rocks Hotel in the nearby town . Today it has 26 rooms with king @-@ sized beds , and the restaurant , named Room 39 , has gained critic acclaim on the island .

= = History = =

Tony Pike arrived in Hull in 1978 . Yachtsman and former hat maker Pike led a very colourful life , which had already seen him shipwrecked in the Caribbean , injured in a bobsleigh accident , serving in the military , indulge in heavy drinking , and married and divorced three times . Pike had rented a finca for three months during which time he met his next partner Lyn . Together they bought a derelict finca called Ca ? n Pep Toniet in the countryside east of Sant Antoni and they decided to renovate it into a hotel . Tony , along with Lyn and his two sons , did most of the work themselves . Bo Palk , the managing director of MGM Studios , checked into the hotel just as Pike was finishing the last bathroom of the hotel . An acquaintance of Palk ? s , Simon Napier @-@ Bell , visited him at the hotel whilst scouting for a video shoot location . As a result Wham ! ' s " Club Tropicana " was shot at the hotel in 1983 . The video was directed by Duncan Gibbins with scenes shot of George Michael , the lead singer of the band and his fellow band member Andrew Ridgeley and their backing singers Dee C. Lee and Shirlie Holliman . The scenario saw George Michael " floating about on a lilo in his Speedoes and shades " , relaxing with the boys by Pike ? s pool sipping cocktails . The scene of the trumpet @-@ playing took place in the pool itself . Tony Pike got on well with the band and he was persuaded to take a small part in the video as the barman in one of the scenes . The success of the video and Wham ! ' s status at the time firmly placed Pike ? s Hotel in the circles of the music industry and within a short time the hotel was attracting other stars and people connected to the industry .

In the 1980s , the authorities on Ibiza grew very concerned about the wild orgies and drug use which were taking place at the hotel . They showed particular concern over the extensive cocaine use at the hotel . Julio Iglesias , a close friend of Pike , confronted the chief of police , inviting him and his wife to dinner at the hotel , and ever since the trouble with the law has been dropped . In 1987 , Freddie Mercury celebrated his 41st birthday at Pikes , several months after discovering that he had contracted AIDS . Mercury sought much comfort at the retreat , and was a close friend of Pike . The party , held on 5 September 1987 , has been described as " the most incredible example of excess the Mediterranean island had ever seen " , and " the most lavish party even Pike had ever thrown . " It has been cited as a legendary party , with a celebrity guest list of some 500 people and up to 700 people in total which included Julio Iglesias , Grace Jones , Jean @-@ Claude Van Damme , Kylie Minogue , Nigel Benn , Anthony Quinn , Bon Jovi , Boy George , Five Star , Tony Curtis , Robert Plant , Naomi Campbell , and Spandau Ballet . A notable feature of the party was its thousands of gold and black helium balloons which reportedly took three days to inflate , and a grand firework display at the end which was reported to have been seen on Majorca . 350 bottles of Moet & Chandon champagne , and a cake in the shape of Gaudi 's Sagrada Familia Cathedral were provided for the party , although the original cake collapsed and was replaced with a 2 metre @-@

long sponge with the notes from Mercury 's song " Barcelona " . The bill , which included 232 broken glasses , was presented to Queen 's manager , Jim Beach .

By the 1990s the hotel was beginning to lose it reputation and a slow decline in popularity began which would culminate in tragedy for Tony Pike . In 1998 , Pike had put the hotel up for sale . A deal was set up for the sale which turned out to be a scam and Pike was swindled out of £ 50 @, @ 000 . His son , Anthony Dale Pike , flew to Miami to resolve the situation for his father . However , he was killed the same day of his arrival on 15 February 1998 , shot twice in the head and dumped in a secluded forest at Virginia Key beach . Miami Dade Police detectives believed it was clear that he was killed by the people plotting to seize control of the hotel . The police arrested and questioned German tennis professional Thomas Heinz Knott over the murder , but the investigation led them to charge Italian TV producer Enrico Forti with fraud over the transfer of £ 50 @, @ 000 from Anthony ? s father . In June 2000 , Forti was also convicted of murdering Anthony Dale Pike in Miami . Forti is now serving a lifetime prison sentence at the Everglades Correctional Institution in Florida .

Pike estimated that the hotel was worth \$ 5 million ( £ 3 @. @ 2 million ) in 2002 . He later sold it to Ibiza Rocks in 2008 . At the time of sale , The Mail on Sunday said of Pike , " Stooped and shrunken , his face looks like a weathered Easter Island statue and when he walks he shuffles unsteadily , bowed by a life of excess . Pike 's powers are fading . " A 2008 Sky Living TV documentary also showed him and the hotel in an unfavourable light , and it appeared to be living on its past reputation .

In the summer of 2011 , Pikes Hotel was re @-@ launched as Ibiza Rocks House at Pikes Hotel . The hotel has been restored under the ownership Andy McKay and Dawn Hindle , the partnership behind the Ibiza Rocks , Ibiza Rocks Hotel and Mallorca Rocks brands , with new décor , whilst trying to maintain its rock 'n'roll image of its most glamorous years . The new owners have made Tony Pike the first full @-@ time resident of the hotel and he lives permanently in Room 25 . Ibiza Rocks publicizes the hotel and its chain as " After sex and drugs , comes rock and roll " . Scottish band Biffy Clyro and Kylie Minogue stayed at the hotel during the Ibiza Rocks Festival in 2011 . The hotel has long been the favourite of Minogue in Ibiza since the 1980s and she is a friend of Pike who considers her " lovely and a real star " .

= = Features = =

Pikes Hotel is a luxury hotel , set in a 15th @-@ century stone mansion , a finca , which was a farm for centuries . It is accessed off a long lane leading from the main road from Sant Antoni de Portmany . Stuart Husband of The Independent describes Pikes Hotel as " a notorious Ibiza hotel where anything goes . " It is considered to be one of the most famous or infamous hotels on the island and has been cited as one of the " world 's true spiritual homes of rock 'n'roll hedonism . " Iain Stewart of the The Rough Guide to Ibiza considers Pikes Hotel to be an " almost legendary , relaxed and idiosyncratic rural hotel , popular with visiting celebrities . " The Mail on Sunday has referred to the hotel as an " atmosphere of complete sexual licence . " Anthony Pike himself said " it 's been claimed we break every law , but I wouldn 't be in business if that was the case . " Boy George referred to Pike as the " Hugh Hefner of Ibiza " .

At the time of sale in 2008 , Pikes Hotel had 29 bedrooms , with a pool , sauna , health centre , and tennis court . Today it has 26 rooms with king @-@ sized beds , one restaurant named Room 39 which has received much critical acclaim , and 2 bars . As of 2009 it costs £ 157 to stay at the hotel . The rooms retain the sense of the original farmhouse , and are furnished in the Moroccan style with some heavy dark wood furnishings . The rooms each have different themes , including " Honeysuckle " and " Sunset " , the latter of which is set behind the middle of three dark wood doors on the second floor of a small outhouse . According to author Stephen Armstrong , this room had a " modest sitting room with a huge antique mirror , plush sofas and a CD player which didn 't work . The bedroom was enormous , and the bathroom was decorated in a vaguely Moroccan style with a curtained bath nestling behind a low arch .

A wide range of entertainment is put on at the hotel , from flamenco shows to costume balls . The hotel also offers a VIP card to visitors to many of the notable clubs , bars , and casinos in the town .

The garden has a memorial to Anthony Dale Pike ( 1955 @-@ 1998 ) , which says , " In loving memory of eldest son Dale . Here a portion of his ashes are laid to rest while the remainder flow within the currents of his beloved Pacific Ocean . May his spirit strive no more but rest within this tree in peace and tranquility . I loved you , my son . "