



# THE GOLDEN EGG

Writing Residency

Jan 16 - 25, 2026



Montserrat, Spain



**10 DAYS OF PEACE & QUIET**

**TO FOCUS ON YOUR WRITING PROJECT**

**ON THE NORTH FACE OF THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN**

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transport to and from from station or airport
- All costs (except food) inc. internet & bills\*
- Cosy cabin with small desk & spectacular views
- Project check-ins
- For one person only

\*THE SMALL PRINT: We ask that you promote and mention The Golden Egg Residency in any social media posts or publications that come about as a result of the work you produce during the residency.

## TO APPLY

**Send us one PDF which includes:**

An artist statement/bio (300 words max)

A sample of work (10 pages of poetry, prose or hybrid including a 250 word intro)

A project proposal outlining what you intend to work on during the residency which does not have to match your work sample (1000 words max)

via this form: <https://shorturl.at/siYzw>



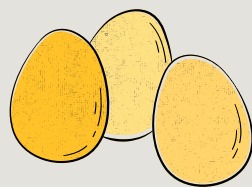
**DEADLINE: OCT 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2025**



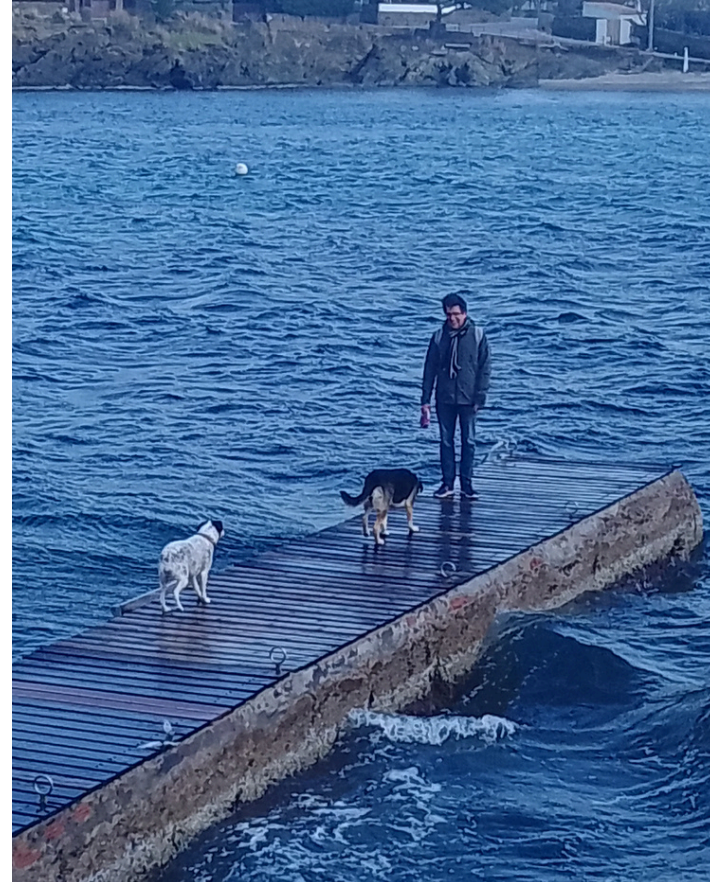




# ABOUT US



Montserrat, Spain



## HARRIET SANDILANDS

I am a writer and art therapist, living in Montserrat since 2017. We have always wanted our home to be a place for people to create and connect: with nature, with themselves, with each other and with their art. I am writer of poetry and prose and have had work featured in Litro, The Kitchen Table Quarterly, The Writing Disorder and Porridge. I recently published my first book "Pepita". I want to support creative production and inspiration in others.

As well as writing, I love wild swimming, hiking in the mountain, walking my two dogs and all sorts of visual arts, especially collage.

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## JULIEN VILLEGAS

I am an IT guy who also loves tinkering, DIY and fixing stuff around our home. The Coop - which is where our residents will stay - is our most recent passion project - a little cabin on our property, converted from a former chicken coop. I love making stuff with my hands, programming video games, hiking in the mountain and am also an amateur bee keeper. Although not a writer myself, living with one keeps me connected to the world of literature. Harriet and I like to collaborate on projects which draw on both of our strengths and The Golden Egg residency is one of those.

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## OUR VISION

Can Celestino - our house - was named after the man who built it with a lot of creativity and love. When we first moved in we would find all sorts of funny inventions and creative touches throughout the house and garden. The house has always felt magical to us, not least because of its situation in "the magic mountain" of Montserrat.

The Golden Egg aims to share a little piece of that magic with creative writers from anywhere writing in English. We are looking for imaginative writing that surprises us through original use of language, strange associations, weird characters or unusual forms. We want to connect with your unique voice.

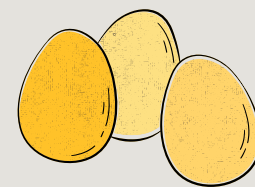
Any questions, email:  
[harrietsandilandswrites@gmail.com](mailto:harrietsandilandswrites@gmail.com)





# THE GOLDEN EGG WRITING RESIDENCY

MONTSERRAT, SPAIN



In the fable of The Golden Egg, we are told that the moral is about greed. The problem - we are told - is for the farmer who becomes greedy and cuts open his hen to get “all of her eggs out in one go” and then has to adjust to life without a golden egg laying hen. But the problem is actually that fables often tell us what we are to make of them, what the take-away is supposed to be. The Golden Egg fable - like most good writing - has an *understory* and the hen is the protagonist of that story. Unlike the farmer who wants to fast-track to riches and boundless wealth, the hen simply wants to lay her egg. She does it every day without fail and, in this, she is a model of creativity, persistence and patience. So it is for writers; if they sit down and make space for it, the golden egg will sooner or later come. It might be small or a great big double-yolker! It doesn't matter. What matters is the act of making it and if you can be far away from a farmer with a chopper all the better.

Daily life is full of choppers: things that, though they might not intend to, axe our creative impulses. A retreat offers a nesting box in which we might simply be allowed to lay our golden eggs in peace. In Hindu mythology, The Golden Egg represents the origin of the universe and the source of all creation.

Why all the egg metaphors? The Golden Egg Residency offers you 10 days of uninterrupted writing time in our former chicken coop which has been lovingly restored into a cosy and original cabin fully equipped with bed, shower room & toilet, functional kitchenette and small table. You will wake up to spectacular views of the iconic mountain of Montserrat every day. In your free time, you might take a hike, visit the monastery or read quietly in the garden. The only expectation is that you lay your golden egg every day, whatever your golden egg might be. Although you must provide your own food (we can drive you to the nearest supermarket) depending on the season, we offer complimentary eggs from our laying hens.

In addition to time and space, we offer the possibility of 3 short check-ins throughout your stay. These 40 minutes slots are arranged at the beginning of your residency and can be used to talk about your writing and work or to actually do some writing and sharing together, whatever is going to be most useful to you. During the second weekend of your stay, you will have the opportunity to read your work aloud and to host a small writing workshop if you would like to (this is not an obligatory part of the residency).

Please follow submission guidelines carefully and **apply before October 21<sup>st</sup>** using the form provided: <https://shorturl.at/siYzw>

Any questions? [harrietsandilandswrites@gmail.com](mailto:harrietsandilandswrites@gmail.com).