

# SUR

## in English

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SOUTHERN SPAIN

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November 29th to December 5th  
2019

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SPORT

## Golfers tee off for Open de España

Local star Azahara Muñoz takes on the world's best in the Marbella competition **P52**



## VOICES FOR SILENCED VICTIMS

Thousands took to the streets on Monday to call for an end to violence against women **P2**



Around 4,000 people joined the protest on Monday in Malaga. :: NITO SALAS

## Shock in Sabinillas after local man is stabbed to death

A Brazilian is in custody after a 21-year-old died outside an Estepona nightclub last weekend

Residents held a silent protest in Manilva this week after a popular young barbershop employee was stabbed to death outside an Estepona nightclub in the early hours of Sunday morning. The suspect, of Brazilian origin, was apparently unknown to the victim. **P4**

**Homemade submarine packed with cocaine** worth 100 million euros found by police off the coast of Galicia **P16**

**Colourful Senegal.** Andrew Forbes discovers the vibrancy of this sub-Saharan nation in this month's Travel Special **P26**

# Direct flights to New York are axed to the surprise of politicians and tourism bosses

Delta Air Lines pulls the daily high season service, although the Costa had been expecting them to go year-round instead

There was shock and disappointment among those promoting the Costa del Sol this week when the only daily flight in high season to New York was cancelled for next year. Delta

Air Lines has been operating the service for eleven years.

The Mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, said he had proof that the service would be viable not just

in high season but year round, and was one of many taken aback by the firm's decision. He urged airport operator, Aena, to do more to support Malaga as a destination. **P3**

## Film with Colin Firth needs local extras

Operation Mincemeat, the story of an ingenious wartime scheme to fool Nazi Germany with a dead body, partly set in Spain, is to be shot in the Malaga area in early March. Lead actor is heartthrob Colin Firth and a casting firm is looking for residents to take part. **P22**



Firth is an Oscar winner. :: EFE

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# More than 4,000 protesters "give voices to murdered women" in Malaga march

The demonstration to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women called for an end to the abuse that has killed 1,028 women in Spain since 2003

:: ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN / IVÁN GELIBTER

**MÁLAGA.** The first woman to be officially counted as a fatal victim of domestic or gender violence, after the statistic was introduced in 2003, was Yaneth Vargas. Her partner killed her in Fuengirola on 7 January 2003. Since then more than a thousand women have increased the cold statistic behind which are more than a thousand stories. The most recent is a 26 year old who was murdered on Monday in Santa Cruz de Tenerife. We don't know her name yet, but she is already number 1,028.

"Just the night before this day - we really have something to celebrate," said one angry protester, a purple scarf around her neck, at the head of Monday's march in Malaga to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, organised by the Violencia Cero platform. Along with her companions she was clinging on to a long list with the names of each and every one of the women killed by their partners or ex-partners, some of them with their children.

According to the National Police, around 4,000 people, joined the protest in the city centre. "We are the voices of the murdered women!" shouted the protesters at the head of the march before they set off from the Plaza de la Merced.

Once again the colour purple was

predominant, as it was during the 8 March women's day rally. Led by numerous protesters carrying megaphones, the slogans chanted during the march included, "If they touch one of us, they touch all of us," "Don't just look, join in," "They're not killed, they're murdered," and "It's not an isolated case; it's called patriarchy."

## Political presence

As well as the many anonymous protesters, the march was joined by members of unions, social organisations and associations for the defence of women's rights. Political parties were also represented, among them the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, and several city councillors from the conservative Partido Popular; members of the socialist PSOE opposition; centrist Ciudadanos; and left-wing Adelante Málaga.

Far right group Vox were not there, nor were they expected, due to the party's refusal to acknowledge the Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Representatives of Vox had earlier gathered in the city to condemn "all types of violence".

The manifesto read out on Monday evening during the protest stated: "In the face of extremist discourse we say that we're not prepared to take even one step backwards in terms of our rights."

## Roses

Earlier on Monday representatives of the regional, provincial and municipal authorities gathered at the monument to victims of violence against women in the city's central park.

Four rose bushes were planted in memory of the women killed by their partners or former partners in the province of Malaga this year.



The head of the demonstration in Malaga city centre on Monday evening. :: NIÑO SALAS

## Marbella unveils a plaque to a victim with the message "You're not alone"

A roundabout in the town is now named after Ana Orantes, a woman killed by her ex-husband in 1997

:: ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

**MARBELLA.** "You're not alone, don't let anyone else decide for you. Against abuse, zero tolerance." These were the last words of the institutional manifesto published by Marbella town hall to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The message was read out during the naming of a roundabout in Las Albarizas after Ana Orantes, who was murdered by her ex-husband in 1997 after denouncing domestic abuse on a television programme.

The unveiling of the plaque was presided over by deputy mayor, Félix



The unveiling ceremony in Marbella on Monday. :: JOSELE

lix Romero, along with councillors from all the political groups in the town hall, who kept a minute's silence.

"She was a brave woman, who

became a symbol for many silenced victims and marked a turning point in social and judicial perception of this social problem," said the deputy mayor.



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# Festive season gets under way this weekend with big switch-on events

Malaga's lights will have a celebrity touch this year as actor Antonio Banderas has the job of switching on

by J. SOTO / A. JIMÉNEZ

**MALAGA.** Malaga city's much-anticipated Christmas light display will have a celebrity start this evening (Friday) when actor Antonio Banderas gets the job of flicking the switch.

This year the city's central light displays have been completely renewed, although the central Calle Larios will still be the scene for a light and music show every evening between now and 6 January. Events kick off this evening at 6.30pm.

Among the new features this year is the projection of a Christmas story in Calle Alcazabilla, with the Alcazaba castle as the backdrop. From Saturday these shows will adopt a regular timetable coinciding with the displays in Calle Larios, at 6.30pm, 8pm and 9.30pm.

The newly pedestrianised and landscaped Alameda Principal will also be one of the city's focal points. Private funding from El Corte Ingés, the Metro construction group and Fundación Unicaja has contributed to a new show focusing on an



Malaga's Calle Larios on Thursday, all ready for tonight's show. :: s. s.

ancient ficus tree close to Calle Larios. The enchanted tree will come to life every evening, with regular times from Saturday at 7.15pm, 9pm and 10.15pm.

Christmas spirit also arrives this weekend in towns around the region as lights go on. Fuengirola's big switch-on is scheduled for 7.30pm this evening (Friday) in the Plaza de España. The evening will also see the opening of the Christmas market and a dance display.

Saturday (30 November) is the big night for Marbella, where the focal point will be the "big Christ-

mas tree" in Avenida del Mar which will offer its own light and music show at 6.30pm, 7.30pm and 8.30pm. Festivities this evening kick off in the Paseo de la Alameda with a street parade and children's party from 5pm. Neighbouring San Pedro also starts the season this Saturday with a children's street parade from the Plaza de la Iglesia. The big switch-on will be at 7pm, which will be followed by a free concert from Merche. The music and light show in Marqués de Duero will take place three times every evening, at 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30pm

# Concern in tourist industry as Costa's only direct flight to the US is cancelled for 2020

by PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** The Costa del Sol has lost its only direct daily flight to the United States after eleven years.

Delta Air Lines, that has operated a flight once a day in high season to New York, says it won't be flying from Malaga Airport next year.

There was consternation among politicians and tourist chiefs when Delta made its announcement this week. The news was particularly disappointing as it had been widely expected that the airline would decide to run its daily flights year-round and the Costa had only just come away in buoyant mood for 2020 from this month's World Travel Market.

The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, heavily criticised state airport operator, Aena, and asked for "more support and commitment to Malaga". He added that Delta Air Lines had received a report from the council in 2018 which showed that there was a good level of interest for the daily flights being extended to run year-round.

The direct link to New York is seen as a sign to the market of the attractiveness of the Costa del Sol



New York check-in desk. :: sur.

destination to higher-spending American visitors

Director of the Marbella Club hotel, Juan Carlos Luna, explained he was surprised by the move as the market from the US was growing 20 per cent a year

However the regional minister for Tourism, Juan Marín, was more relaxed, "Perhaps it isn't profitable or they have other destinations or strategies," he said.

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# Sabinillas man stabbed to death in attack outside a club in Estepona port

The alleged killer has been refused bail and is said not to know the victim, who worked in a barbershop and was popular in the community

**CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

**MANILVA.** A man of Brazilian origin has been remanded in custody and refused bail over the presumed murder of a 21-year-old man outside a nightclub in Estepona's port early last Sunday morning. There was tension among onlookers on Tuesday when the accused appeared in court.

According to eyewitnesses, the man in his early 20s approached the victim, named as Abdessamad El Ammali, outside the venue at around 3.30am, stabbing him in the neck. A security guard managed to detain the alleged attacker, however the victim died at the scene.

The dead man worked at a barbershop in the centre of Sabinillas, Manilva, where he was a popular member of the community.

Friends and other eyewitnesses claimed that the incident started inside the bar, when the presumed attacker spilled a drink on the vic-



The barbershop where the victim worked was closed on Monday. :: C.M.

tim and there was pushing between them. An argument started but friends were able to break them up.

One friend, Elena, claimed, "It was nothing, we never thought that it could have ended how it did."

After the supposed aggressor bumped into somebody else in the club, he was asked to leave by security. However, coming across Abdessamad with a friend outside the entrance, a scuffle started again. The detained man allegedly brought out

a knife, stabbing his victim in the neck.

Friends of the dead man say he didn't know the supposed attacker. Abdessamad "was a simple guy, hardworking, and nobody had a bad word to say about him" one said. In contrast the accused was said to be "conflictive" and "stole and squatted in houses".

The death has shocked residents in both Estepona and Manilva, where a silent protest was held.

112 REPORTS



The condition of the dog a month after being resuced. :: SUR

## Hunter sentenced for shutting sick dog in a van

**CASABERMEJA**

**FERNANDO TORRES.** A Malaga court has sentenced the owner of a hunting hound that died after being shut in his van for several days in Casabermeja. The ruling said it

was proven that the owner, who is a hunter, knew that the animal had leishmania and needed treatment. The judge handed down a 12-month prison sentence and a ban on working with animals. In addition he was required to pay 600 euros to the Ladrán animal shelter charity that had rescued the dog before it later died.

## Man held over seniors' home raid and gunshots

**ESTEPONA**

**C.M.** A 37-year-old Italian rough sleeper has been arrested after allegedly creeping into the Isdabe seniors' home in Atalaya, Estepona. Not the first time he had entered, he is said to have caused alarm among residents. Police have linked him to an incident with blank shots fired at a shopping centre the same day.

## Briton shot dead had drug crime record

**MIJAS COSTA**

**F.T./A.F.** The British man shot dead in Mijas Costa last week on his way home from the gym had a record of drug crime, sources said. He had been arrested last March for sending marijuana to the UK with a fruit transport company he ran. The victim was hit by seven bullets, one of which entered his heart.

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The kitchen and its students are firing on all cylinders as of this week. :: ÑITO SALAS

## La Cónsula cooks up its new stars

**The restaurant of the prestigious Malaga catering college has opened for the season**

Regional government and council agree to work together so the school once again can become an incubator of top chefs

**FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ**

**MALAGA.** A prestigious catering college outside Malaga looks set to once again be an incubator for top Michelin-starred chefs. The Junta de Andalucía regional government and Malaga city council have promised to work together to restore the outstanding reputation that La Cónsula school had four or five years ago, prior to legal problems leading to the failure of public authorities to pay suppliers and staff. Now fully integrated into the regional government's employment opportunity department, its future is guaranteed. The

Mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, and representatives of the Junta's Employment ministry were both at La Cónsula in Churriana on Tuesday for the opening of the restaurant season.

From this week onwards, lunchtime reservations can be made for



Mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, on a visit this week :: ÑITO SALAS

the on-site restaurant, used to train students in the art of cooking for and serving the public, although it is already fully booked into the second half of January. A similar restaurant in the La Fonda catering school, in Benalmádena, will open to the public once again from January.

"We've been preparing for a year, cooking for our fellow students and this summer we worked in high class restaurants," explained 30-year-old Elías Nieves, who already works in a kitchen but signed up to La Cónsula "to get a qualification". He is still working as well as studying, a real effort as he has to cram in 40 hours' work into the four days he is not in class.

The lunchtime service is three days a week from Tuesday to Thursday. It costs 20 euros for a set menu including hot and cold starters, a fish dish and a meat dish, as well as dessert and tea or coffee. Local wine is also served and there is a child menu for 14 euros. Fifty people study cookery and fifty study hospitality at La Cónsula over two academic years.

## British man found floating dead in Puerto Marina after friends reported him missing

**A. FRÍAS / J. CANO**

**BENALMÁDEN A.** A 54-year-old British holidaymaker has died after drowning in Benalmádena's Puerto Marina.

The man, from Bolton, had arrived with friends last Friday to spend a few days on the Costa del Sol and the same night went out for drinks in the Puerto Marina area. He apparently became separated from the group; worried about his welfare and with their return to the UK approaching his friends contacted National Police.

A few hours later, a boat owner reported finding a body floating

in the water at the popular leisure port.

The dead man had no shirt on and had wounds on his chest and arms, which police say are consistent with attempts to climb out of the water in a part of the marina where the quay walls are especially high.

The autopsy confirmed that the man had died of drowning after apparently not being able to climb out, although police continued their investigations this week.

Recently, another man was found dead in similar circumstances in Marbella's Puerto Banús.

## Authorities to join forces against parakeet pest

**IGNACIO LILLO**

**MALAGA.** Agreement has been reached that there needs to be a common policy across all council areas to deal with the number of parakeets on the Costa and in inland Malaga province.

The surge in breeding threatens native species and causes noise and damage, so a meeting is due to be held today, 29 November, to discuss the problem.

Councils, with the help of the Diputación provincial authority and University of Malaga, want to know what they are allowed to do to control the birds.

Up to now the only measure used has been the removal of nests, but, say the experts, this has made the problem worse as it makes the birds spread out to more areas. There are an estimated 5,000 parakeets in the province.



Parakeets in a tree in Malaga. :: SALVADOR SALAS

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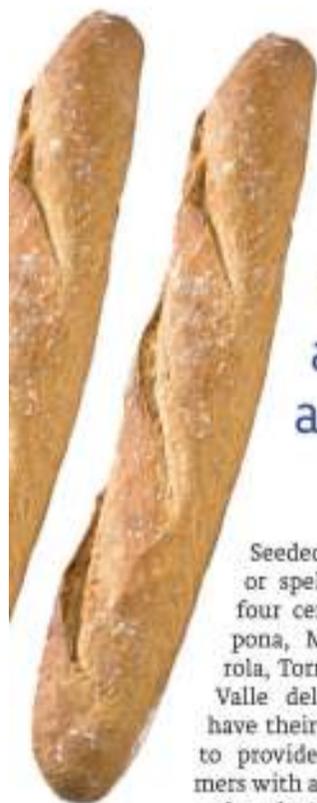


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offer typical local products such as rustic bread and a variety of sweetmeats.

In addition, breadsticks, grissinis and regañás; freshly baked, packaged cakes and sliced bread are also available. All with their ingredients listed in accordance with the regulations. Moreover, machines have been installed that enable customers to slice their favourite breads on the spot and take them home perfectly prepared and ready to eat.



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# Foreign residents help to plant trees for Andalucía



**JENNIE RHODES**

✉ rhodes\_jennie@hotmail.com

## EARTH MATTERS

Sunday's event led to more seeds being sown than originally hoped and further events are planned for next year

**PERIANA.** Around 75 people, including Britons, Germans and Belgians, participated in the second session of a tree planting project run by

the Colectivo CreceT organisation near Periana last Sunday.

Organiser and founder of the collective, Enrique Díaz, who works as a secondary teacher in Periana, explained to SUR in English that between the participants they had "exceeded the original plan to plant 1,500 new trees" and in fact 1,924 seedlings were sown during the event.

Among the tree planters were Steffen Peelmans, his wife, Lies Adriaenssen and their two children, Miel, 11, and Sam, nine. The family, who have lived in La Viñuela for 18 months and are originally from Antwerp in Belgium, explained that they were "keen to take part in local environmental projects" as they had always participated in similar initiatives back home. Steffen and Lies agree that it is "important to teach children about the



Steffen, Lies, Honey the dog, Sam and Miel with Enrique Díaz and the tree seedlings. :: J. RHODES

environment".

Díaz, who was there with a number of students from Periana's secondary school, explained that he first started the initiative with students while teaching in Cadiz four years ago and brought it with him to the Axarquía when he started working

in Periana two years ago.

He said that the objective is to plant enough trees to stretch across Andalucía "like a wall from Huelva to Almería". While Díaz pointed out it is "impossible" to literally build a wall of trees, they hope to "fill Andalucía with forest". The collective is keen

to get companies, town halls and other schools on board with the project and more events are planned for next year.

**Find out more :**  
www.colectivocrecet.com  
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## DO YOU HAVE ANY EXISTING POLICY WITH LÍNEA DIRECTA?



:: PETER LAARAKKER

## A PASSION FOR OLIVES IN RIOGORDO

A group of actors and organisers of 'El Paso de Riogordo' planted six verdial olive trees in the El Paso outdoor theatre in the village last Sunday, to mark international olive tree day and show their commitment to the environment. The ground, where the village has performed the Passion Play every Easter since 1951, has recently been renovated and it will be officially open to visitors from December.

## School kids help launch seed bombs in Casares to restore fire damage

The technique comes from Japan and was first introduced to Andalucía in 2017

:: SUR

**CASARES.** More than 25,000 seed bombs, prepared by 950 pupils at 17 schools in Malaga province, were launched on Sunday by hand or catapults near the village of Casares, where a forest fire this summer caused considerable damage.

In all 227 hectares of forest vegetation were swept away and 60 people were evacuated in the fire, which reached the edge of the west Costa del Sol waste recycling plant.

Around 150 people were involved in last weekend's replanting initiative organised by the Diputación provincial authority and Unicaja foundation.

Seed bombing is a Japanese practice introduced into Andalucía in



Cristóbal Ortega with some of the special seed packages. :: SUR

2017.

The day started with a series of talks for the younger participants at the waste plant, and the provincial councillor responsible for Environment, Cristóbal Ortega, explained

that the day's activity would cover 20 hectares.

In nearby Gaucín some 500 trees and bushes were also being planted at the same time as part of a wider Diputación initiative.

# "Our best hope is to focus on alternatives to single use plastics"

Ann Jenkins eXXpedition crew member, first leg

## EARTH MATTERS

This environmental campaigner hopes to use her experience to raise awareness of the problem of single use plastics

### :: JENNIE RHODES

**MALAGA.** Ann Jenkins, the founder of Playa Patrol, recently completed her two week leg of a round-the-world all female crew boat trip with the UK based organisation, eXXpedition, which is carrying out research into plastics in our seas and oceans.

**-How long were you away for?**

-I was on leg one which sailed from Plymouth in the UK to Soa Miguel Azores from October 7 to October 21.

**-Did everything go to plan?**

-Not really. The weather was a huge impact. We ended up sailing an extra 500 nautical miles due to severe wind and rain. We ripped our main sail the first night and we kept getting battered with other assorted challenges like the skipper being concerned about running out of fuel due to the extra miles, but thankfully we didn't.

**-What was the hardest part?**

-The weather was brutal. We left Plymouth on the heel of Hurricane Lorenzo. Relentless wind and rain meant we were never dry even with all the layers and the waterproof gear and you never really sleep when you are rolling back and forth.

**-What do you hope to bring back to the Costas from the experience?**

-The workshop looking at solutions was most impactful as our brainstorming exercise helped me realize that

our best hope for the future is to focus on alternatives to single-use plastic. We need governments and manufacturers to incentivise entrepreneurs, designers and scientists to develop alternate packaging solutions so that we can reach a tipping point. Until then, every one of us can do our part to stop using single-use plastic.

**-What did you learn?**

-I had no idea that a regular person like me could look at the DNA of plastic, nor that we could test the bacteria found on micro plastics to help us determine the source of the plastic and where it may have entered the ocean.

**-Did you see any gyres? (giant plastic islands in the ocean)**

-No. Probably due to the winds.

**-Where was the boat off to next?**

-Leg two was to Antigua. It was delayed two weeks due to bad weather.



Ann Jenkins on the eXXpedition boat in October. :: A. JENKINS

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## Experienced mountaineers and hunters asked to join search for Dana

No further traces of the missing Romanian woman have been found since a femur bone belonging to her was discovered in September

### :: EUGENIO CABEZAS

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** The Guardia Civil along with the Andalusian mountaineering federation (FAM) are calling for experienced mountaineers and hunters to help in a search for any traces of the missing Romanian woman, Dana Leonte.

The search will take place tomorrow, Saturday 30 November, and those able to participate are asked to meet at the fair ground near El Ingenio shopping centre in Vélez-Málaga at 8am. The search will last from 9am until 5pm and police are asking for people with 4X4 cars to drive groups as some tracks are unpaved.

A FAM spokesperson said, "Unfor-



Guardia Civil near Bentomíz castle where the femur was found. :: SUR

tunately we are not looking for Dana, but for any traces - total or partial - of her body or clothes that might belong to her."

Two months ago police searching the area around the Bentomíz castle, near Arenas, where she lied with her partner, Sergio Ruiz, found a femur

which DNA tests have proved belonged to the woman. However, no other traces have been found since then. FAM stressed that anyone who wishes to take part in the search must be physically fit and provide their own walking poles, sunglasses, appropriate clothing, food and water.

## HERE AND THERE

### Local hero rescues stranded Minke whale

#### TORRE DE BENAGALBÓN

**:: E. C.** A video of 35-year-old Zeus Leiva from Rincón de la Victoria, rescuing a Minke whale on Torre de Benagalbón beach went viral last Friday after his work colleague alerted him to the stranded animal.

Leiva is seen in the video gently pushing the whale from the shore

back into the sea. "It was very moving. It was making a noise as if it was calling its mother," he told SUR, adding that after about 40 seconds the animal started to swim out to sea but he waited for some time to make sure it "didn't come back to the shore".

Leiva received praise for his actions from mayor of Rincón de la Victoria and president of the Diputación, the provincial government, Francisco Salado.

### Suspect found guilty of La Viñuela murder

#### MALAGA

**:: A. F / J. C.** José O. T., the man accused of murdering La Viñuela resident, María Adela Fortes Molina, at her home in Los Romanes, La Viñuela in February 2018, has been found guilty of her murder. The verdict was given last Friday. The woman, who was stabbed to death, was found with 105 wounds on her body. The judge has asked for 25 years. However, the sentence has not yet been given.

### Rainfall does little to change reservoir levels

#### LA VIÑUELA

**:: A. P.** Despite last week's heavy rainfall, which provided some relief for farmers and growers in the Axarquía, La Viñuela reservoir's water levels are largely unchanged and remain at less than 30 per cent of its full capacity. Checks at Malaga province's largest reservoir reported a minor increase from 49.06 cubic hectometres on Thursday 21 November to 49.24 on Tuesday 26 November.

## HERE AND THERE

**Waste contract changes hands after court ruling****FUENGIROLA**

IVÁN GELIBTER. All change in the contract to collect rubbish throughout Fuengirola and clean some of its streets. The council has voted to swap Urbaser as the provider of a big part of its waste management services and replace it with FCC.

The change will take place on 1 January and comes after a court found

in favour of a complaint and subsequent appeal by FCC that the awarding of a contract in a tender process to Urbaser in 2015 had been unfair.

At a meeting of the council this week, the town's mayor, Ana Mula, said Fuengirola would comply with the ruling while maintaining that engineers had correctly carried out the original contract award. Refuse and cleaning staff currently working for Urbaser will transfer over to FCC. Workers have had ongoing labour disputes with Urbaser.



A worker cleaning the street in Fuengirola. :: SUR

**Homophobic graffiti worries Torremolinos****TORREMOLINOS**

I.G. Torremolinos council has issued a zero tolerance statement after graffiti with homophobic messages appeared in central parts of the resort for the second time in a few months. The offensive messages in the Plaza de Tarifa were in English but it is not known the nationality of the perpetrators. A local LGBTI business owner thanked the council for their swift removal.

**European trend inspires first clinic on the Costa exclusively for cats**

TONY BRYANT

tonysureng@gmail.com

The vets surgery specialises in feline medicine and offers a neutering service for stray cats

TORREMOLINOS. A new trend in specialised pet care has inspired the opening of the first veterinary clinic on the Costa just for cats. It is also one of only two that exist in Andalucía, the other being in Seville.

Clínica Felina Malagat, which opened last month in Torremolinos, was the idea of local veterinary surgeon Elyzabeth Martín. Elyzabeth, who has been passionate about cats since her childhood, obtained her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in Madrid in 2010. A member of various national and international veterinary medicine societies such as the ISFM (Inter-



Elyzabeth with one of the cats at her Torremolinos clinic. :: T. BRYANT

national Society of Feline Medicine), Elyzabeth got the idea from a specialisation trend that is taking off in other parts of Europe. She believes that there is a need for the service on the Costa del Sol, because, as she points out, cats require "more tranquil surroundings in order to relax".

"I have been a cat lover all my life and this is why I decided to open a clinic dedicated exclusively

to cats. It is the first of its kind in Malaga and our facilities are fully adapted for cats and offer an experience without barking dogs and the noise and smells of other animals usually found in the waiting room. Cats are unique and are far more difficult to treat than dogs and so it is imperative that they feel relaxed when they are brought here," Elyzabeth explained to SUR in English.

Elyzabeth specialises in feline medicine and she also works closely with Torremolinos town hall in a bid to neuter the ever-increasing stray cat population. The clinic is currently caring for two rescue cats, as the dedicated surgeon is also working with CES AMAN, a Malaga association that strives to defend animal rights.

**Multilingual services**

Offering a service in several languages, including English, Elyzabeth is keen to let the local community know that she will help injured and mistreated cats.

"We have plenty of room and I want people to know that they can bring strays or injured cats here for treatment. None will be turned away," she pointed out.

She will also use the clinic to offer talks and courses, covering everything from nutrition and dietary information to health and behavioural advice. She also intends to work with other animal charities in the fight against abandoned cats, and with initiatives to feed and neuter the local stray population.

"There are thousands of stray cats in this area and one of the biggest problems is neutering them. The town hall runs a basic programme, but there is a lot more that can be done. I will be working alongside several organisations in order to help with demand," Elyzabeth concluded.

The clinic will hold its official inauguration and open day at 1pm on Sunday, 1 December.

**Bigger events planned at resort's Marenostrom festival in summer 2020****FRANCISCO GRIÑAN**

MADRID. Fuengirola's summer music festival is to get a significant upgrade next year. On Monday, organisers of Marenostrom were in Madrid's prestigious Teatro Real to launch their plans for 2020, which include 30 concerts, seven festivals and an increase in capacity at the Sohail Castle venue to 18,000. Started under five years ago with modest ambitions, the Marenostrom event has been growing each year and this summer featured headline performances by Bob Dylan and Jennier López as part of the 21-concert schedule.

So far the biggest name confirmed for next year is Lenny Kravitz and the main innovation will be the celebration of seven themed music festivals, including rock, indie, electronic, dance and reggaeton/trap. To achieve this some existing festivals from other locations will join the Marenostrom calendar, such as Cosquin Rock, currently celebrated only in Latin America.

Mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula was in Madrid for the launch.

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# Plans drawn up for site by Parador del Golf and Los Álamos beach

Subdivision for the land in Malaga on the border with Torremolinos



This initial subdivision has been presented but it will be years before any construction can start

|| JESÚS HINOJOSA

**MALAGA.** Plans have been drawn up for building on one of the few pieces of land still undeveloped near to the coast within Malaga.

The 235,000-square-metre site is on the border with Torremolinos, next to the Parador de Golf hotel and close to the MA-20 / AP-7 motorway and Los Álamos beach. Two pieces of

the site are being set aside for hotels and others for a shopping area, offices and public facilities.

The scheme is undergoing an environmental impact assessment with the regional government ahead of any approval for the subdivision of the land by the city's Town Planning department.

Backing the scheme is a group of Spanish and international investors who have been trying for almost ten years to comply with the restrictions for the land laid out by different coastal, highway, environmental and aviation authorities.

Noise from planes landing at the nearby airport means that houses can't be built in the area, although one part is set aside for a small area of existing residential property. The hotels will only be able to be two storeys high, while the offices and shops can be up to four storeys.

## A new avenue

The master layout for the large plot, known as the La Cizaña estate, has been drawn up by HCP architects.

It includes building a new avenue from the MA-20 motorway exit by Plaza Mayor to the beaches and almost 600 new parking spaces.

There will also be six areas of green space, including a strip of land between the motorway and the Ceranías railway line, to the north-west of the main plot.

It will be several years, however, before any development starts as there are more planning hurdles to overcome ahead of detailed construction plans being prepared.

## Almost 5 million euros to repair Guadalhorce water courses after September rains

|| FERNANDO TORRES

**GUADALHORCE VALLEY.** The Junta de Andalucía regional government has set aside 4.8 million euros for essential repairs to waterways and water supply infrastructure in the Guadalhorce valley. The move follows very heavy rains in mid-September that led to flooding in many parts of the area.

In the rains, caused by a DANA (pocket of cold air) weather phenomenon, the four biggest municipalities in the Guadalhorce valley were particularly affected, especially Alhaurín el Grande. Further north, Villanueva del Trabuco and Archidona were also hit.

The money will be spent on shoring up riverbanks and watercourses where there were mud slides, clearing and repairing irrigation channels, as well as repairing channels that bring drinking water into the Malaga and Costa areas. Earth movements in the area have caused leaks in some waterways.

Ten million euros of aid for affected communities was approved as well in September.

## SUR photographer wins top award for flood image at night

Salvador Salas has won the Andalucía Journalism Prize with an image taken during the floods in the province last year

|| FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

**MALAGA.** SUR photographer Salvador Salas has been awarded a Premio Andalucía de Periodismo (Andalucía Journalism Prize).

The award was given for a photograph taken during the 2018 floods, entitled 'The Night Became Day'. It shows a moment during the night when divers were making sure there was nobody trapped in a submerged vehicle on a flooded road. It was dark and so it was difficult to capture the moment, however when lightning lit the scene for just two seconds Sa-

las seized his opportunity.

According to the panel of judges, Salas managed to capture "in one image the difficult moments suffered by thousands of people, who saw how the water destroyed their homes and their belongings. It also shows the solidarity, the dedication and the implication of the rescue teams, who worked day and night to rescue and help the victims, to such an extent that one firefighter lost his life."



The nighttime shot lit by lightning that won the prize.

|| S. SALAS

## Britons in the south appear on ITV News ahead of crucial UK General Election

|| JENNIE RHODES

**MALAGA.** A number of British residents on the Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical appeared on the UK's ITV News on Thursday evening, giving their views on Brexit and the forthcoming UK General Election.

The question posed by ITV News Europe editor, James Mates, was, "Is there a strong enough Remain contingency abroad to swing the General Election?" Among those interviewed were Christine Rowlands, the Conservatives Abroad representative on the Costa del Sol, who said that many members in Malaga are "disillusioned" with the party back home.

A number of Breman in Spain members were also asked about their voting plans for the 12 December election. Most of those interviewed who are still able to vote under the UK's 15-year law admitted that they would be voting tactically in an attempt out the Conservatives and aim for a second referendum, or indeed stop Brexit altogether. The clip can be seen on the ITV News website: [itv.com/news](http://itv.com/news)

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HERE AND THERE

**Mercedes launch is a success for Marbella**

**MARBELLA**

∴ **N. CASTRO.** Although it won't be in the car showrooms until the start of next year, millions of potential buyers have seen details of the new Mercedes-Benz GLB model thanks to opinions and reviews published by 400 journalists and influencers from all over the world.

All took part in Mercedes' launch event in Marbella that finished last Sunday, 24 November. The resort estimates that the prestigious launch meeting over 11 days generated 3,000 overnight stays.

Although different sites around Marbella were used, most of the activity by far took place at the Palacio de Congresos. This is the second time that the centre has hosted a similar event. At the start of 2019 Audi also visited the resort.



One of the vehicles. ∴ SUR

**Torremolinos hosts terrorism conference**

**TORREMOLINOS**

∴ **T. BRYANT.** Torremolinos hosted the second edition of The Impact of Terrorism on the Family last weekend. The conference, organised by the Association of State Security Forces Victims of Terrorism (ACFSEVT), focused on the continuing threat the tourist industry faces and the ways in which these threats can be overcome.

**Mijas votes to give hospital land to Junta**

**MIJAS**

∴ **I. GELIBTER.** Mijas council has voted to cede land in the Las Lagunas area to the Junta's regional health service for a future hospital serving both the Mijas and Fuengirola municipalities. Councillors say the site, that has taken a long time to identify, is ideal for the facility. However the Junta has still to allocate any budget to start construction work.

**Gran Recogida foodbank campaign breaks own record**

∴ **CLAUDIA SAN MARTÍN**

**MALAGA.** The province's annual supermarket food collection for those in need broke its own record last weekend.

Over Friday and Saturday an army of 4,000 volunteers stood outside 330 supermarkets across Malaga and the Costa helping in the 'Gran Recogida'. Saturday was the busiest day.

In total 643,700 kilos of produce were handed in by shoppers and

placed in the large white boxes at checkout. This was a new record for organisers, the Bancosol foodbank, which supplies 194 charities and organisations working with those needing help in the area from a central warehouse.

This week, more volunteers have been sorting and classifying the produce. Around a third are dairy products which started being distributed immediately.



Volunteers sorting the goods at Bancosol's warehouse. ∴ EVA S. MELENDO

**French and Italians win right to run high-speed trains**

Renfe will keep the lion's share of slots on the tracks which will open up to competition next year.

∴ **IGNACIO LILLO**

**MALAGA.** Two consortia have been told that they have reached pre-adjudication stage for the right to run services over Spain's high-speed lines from late next year.

The decision needs to be cleared by regulators, and if it finally goes ahead there will be three operators on the high-speed network. Renfe, the current state operator, will run 70 per cent of services. A further 20

per cent will be operated by a consortium of Trenitalia, Italy's national operator and Spanish airline Air Nostrum. The last franchise, covering 10 per cent of slots, will go to SNCF, the French rail company.

For Malaga the increase in competition, dictated by EU law, should mean up to nine extra departures a day, up to 22, from 13 now.

Renfe will divide its services between the existing AVE trains and a new low cost alternative, EVA, in order to better compete with the newcomers and their business models.

It seems likely that once fully awarded the contracts competitor supplies may not start until 2022.



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# Gibraltar sends tax transparency message at OECD meeting in Paris

The Gibraltar government has been working with the OECD for over a decade and is a signatory to the Multilateral Convention

**DEBBIE BARTLETT**

**GIBRALTAR.** The chief minister Fabian Picardo, financial secretary Albert Mena, commissioner for income tax, John Lester and finance centre director Jimmy Tipping attended the 10th anniversary meeting of the Global Forum of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) this week, and the chief minister used the opportunity to send a strong message to those who sometimes make the “nonsensical” suggestion that Gibraltar is “somehow not at the forefront of international cooperation”.

Gibraltar sees its presence at the OECD anniversary meeting as a demonstration to the world of its commitment to tax transparency and compliance with international rules in respect of the exchange of tax information on a level playing field basis. Gibraltar, which is on the OECD White List, has been working with the organisation for more than a dec-



The Gibraltar delegation at OECD headquarters. :: SUR

ade and is a signatory to the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance. This, Picardo said, had put them in a good place to show the world that Gibraltar is a compliant jurisdiction which maintains the highest standards of regulation and exchange of information. “The only business model that will

work in future is one based on compliance and transparency. As the world changes and becomes more and more digital and globalised, and data is more easily searched and mined, there will be no real or legitimate business to be done in pretending to assist people to hide money from other tax authorities,” he stressed.

## IN BRIEF



Christmas celebrations have begun in Gibraltar. :: xxx

### Winter Party in Town and Festival of Lights

**GIBRALTAR**

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** The Christmas lights in the town centre were due to be switched on last Friday but due to the bad weather it was decided to incorporate the Festival of Lights into the

Winter Party in Town on Saturday afternoon and evening, instead of what a truly spectacular show it was. Music, dance, Santa Claus, illuminated Christmas hats, the light show and a fantastic atmosphere got the festivities off to a great start. Casemates Square was packed for the event, the first of many between now and 6 January.

### British Forces Gibraltar take part in GIBEX

**GIBRALTAR**

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** Members of the British Forces Gibraltar have been taking part in GIBEX this week, an annual exercise to demonstrate that BFG is ready, capable and resilient of reacting positively and effectively to the most likely scenarios and challenges facing the Rock today. Most of the activity took place on MOD sites.

### Exterior lift for Parliament building

**GIBRALTAR**

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** A lift is to be fitted on the western side of Parliament for people with mobility issues and it will be linked to the historic building, which dates back to 1817, by a bridge. There is no room for wheelchair access in the interior, so this is seen as the only solution. It will form part of a refurbishment project.

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# Over three tonnes of cocaine found in a smugglers' submarine off coast

The 20-metre vessel, which set out from South America for Galicia, is homemade and the cargo seized on board is said to be worth 100 million euros

## :: SUR

**GALICIA.** Police in Galicia, north-western Spain, seized a submarine last weekend about 20 metres long, loaded with tonnes of cocaine which had arrived from South America. Two Ecuadorian men were arrested as part of the operation in the seaside town of Cangas, near the border with Portugal, and one other man is still being sought.

Sources said that the weight of cocaine could be between three and four tonnes split into 152 separate bails. The street value of the drug could have reached 100 million euros.

This is the first time that a submarine carrying drugs from South America has been seized in Europe, although traffickers have been using them to travel to the United States.

Police explained that the submarine had been trying to pass the co-



Officials next to the fibreglass submarine in Galicia on Wednesday. :: AFP

came to a surface vessel but a storm had forced it to come closer to shore, where it ran aground and was abandoned. Officers believe other vessels were also on standby to take some of the shipment.

## International operation

The operation began after a warning from MAOC, the EU maritime drug trafficking centre, that a submarine carrying cocaine was crossing the Atlantic to Spain, and police

from Brazil, Portugal and the US took part. It is still not known exactly where the underwater vessel came from or who in Spain was leading the traffickers.

The vessel was homemade out of fibreglass and had a 2,000 horsepower engine to carry it the long distance across the Atlantic. Sources said it would have been hard to detect because of its shape, colour and size, easily being confused with a large wave or whale.

# Europe awaits Greta as Madrid climate summit gets started

## :: SUR

**MADRID.** The UN climate change conference kicks off in Madrid on Monday, 2 December, and runs until 13 December. It was due to be held in Chile but changed venues after recent violence there.

There was excitement in some parts this week over the imminent arrival, from America by catamaran, of teenage environmental campaigner Greta Thunberg.

Thunberg, whose criticism of lack of action on climate change has made her a household name, was offered passage by Australians, although bad weather means her arrival date in Europe is unknown.



Thunberg at an earlier event. :: AFP

Portugal is planning a special parliamentary session with her and the Spanish region of Extremadura has offered an electric car to take her from Lisbon to Madrid.

# Socialists sit down with reluctant Catalan republicans to try to reach investiture deal

## :: SUR

**MADRID.** The PSOE Socialist party was due to sit down with the separatist Catalan republican party, ERC, on Thursday evening, to try to negotiate the abstention of the

ERC's 13 MPs in the newly elected national parliament.

The PSOE, under acting Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, has signed a preagreement with left-wing Unidas Podemos (UP) to share power after winning the general election earlier this month but needs more support and abstentions to gain a majority of MPs' votes.

ERC supporters said this week that they didn't want their party to do any deal with the PSOE. Meanwhile UP continues to negotiate what positions it will hold in any future Sánchez government.

**C**aretaking Socialist prime minister Pedro Sánchez is right back where he didn't want to be - namely, relying on the support of Catalan separatists. It has emerged that the Catalan Republican Left (ERC) - whose leader Oriol Junqueras was sentenced to thirteen years in prison last month for his role in the 2017 independence referendum - is willing to abstain in the upcoming investiture votes (which, by the way, no-one seems to be in a hurry to schedule). In return, ERC, which sits on thirteen of the 350 seats in congress, wants the PSOE leader to establish an open "negotiating table" to discuss the Catalonia problem. So much for the last election, which Sánchez hoped would increase his share of

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power enough to render the support of such groups unnecessary.

ERC's spokeswoman said this week that no topics should be off this as-yet-hypothetical negotiating table, that a clear timeline of events be established and that both the central government and the Catalan parliament honour any agreements made. Yet it's hard to see how such talks could

result in a "solution" deemed acceptable by both sides of the Catalonia debate. No matter how inclusive or wide-ranging these hoped-for discussions are, the base positions of Sánchez's Socialists and Junqueras' ERC are incompatible: the former will never allow a legitimate referendum on Catalan independence, which is precisely what the latter wants

(or at least has done up until now).

ERC's ultimatum also poses a more nuanced problem for the acting prime minister, in that he could justifiably be criticised for flip-flopping whatever he decides to do. If Sánchez agrees to open up negotiations, he would backtrack on the tougher stance he took on Catalan separatists before the November 10th election, during which time he praised the legal process that resulted in their leaders' lengthy prison terms. But if he refuses to talk, as he has since the controversial sentences were handed down, he would thereby condemn the line he took on secessionists when he came to power last summer - i.e. that the only way to find a solution to the Catalonia problem is with dia-

logue and compromise (which, ironically, is exactly what the ERC is now saying). He's damned if he does and more damned if he doesn't.

Yet Sánchez has to talk, even if the negotiations would be fraught and potentially fruitless. To make any headway with the Catalan problem, the PSOE leader needs to secure another term as prime minister, and to achieve that he requires the ERC's votes or abstention in the upcoming investiture sessions.

It's a situation that highlights the complexity and fragmentation of Spanish politics, and a very unpleasant one for the acting prime minister. But compromise and dialogue, as Sánchez was so fond of saying last year, really are the only ways forward.



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# Spain is the biggest fan of Black Friday

Consumers here take advantage of offers, but preplan and spend less than others

**Lucía Palacios**

**MADRID.** It's rapidly grown into the most important date on many consumers' calendars: 'Black Friday', which this year falls today, Friday 29 November. This is no longer an American phenomenon. It has become deep-rooted in just a few years in Spain, after Amazon began offering major 'Black Friday' discounts in 2013. In fact, in many cases it doesn't last for one day anymore, but can go on for the weekend or a whole week.

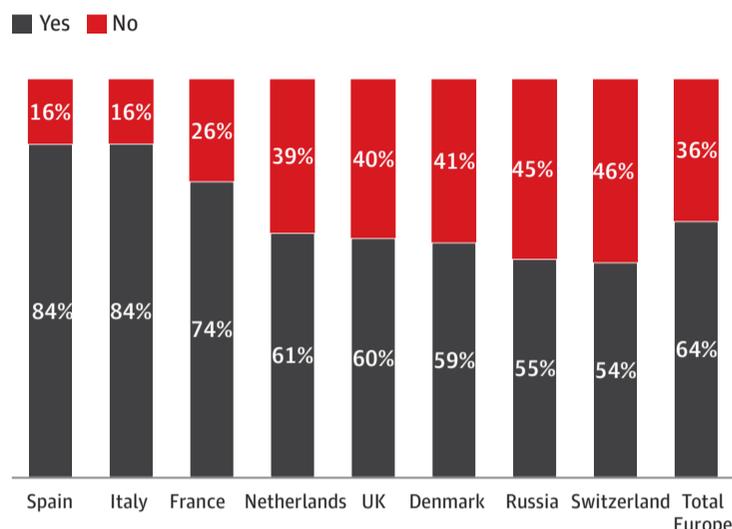
At first, the offers were mainly on technological items but now there are discounts in practically ever sector: fashion, books, music, personal care, and sometimes even cars, weddings, bank loans and cosmetic surgery can be acquired at a fraction of the normal price!

Black Friday is more popular in Spain than almost anywhere else in Europe, with 84 per cent of consumers saying they intend to buy something. A survey of more than 13,000 people in eight European countries has been carried out by the Oliver Wyman consultancy, and it shows that the Spanish and Italians buy the most during this discount period, and are 20 percentage points above the European average, which is 64 per cent.

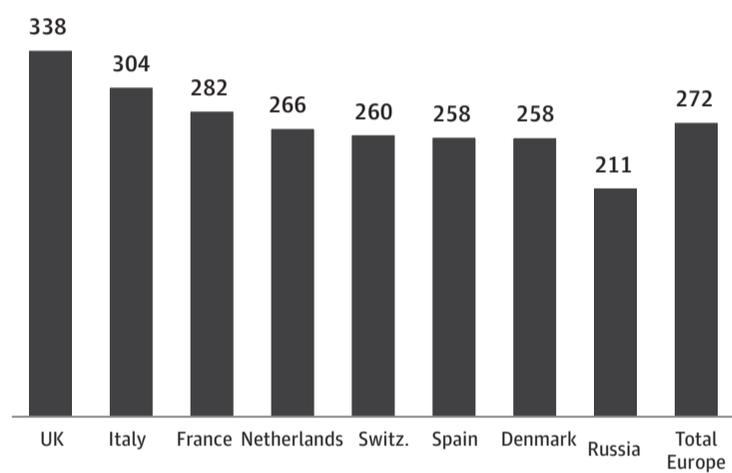
They are followed, although at quite a distance, by consumers in France (74%), the Netherlands (61%), the UK (60%) and Germany (59%). "People in Spain seem more keen on discounts and promotions," says Luis Baena, the Oliver Wyman representative for Spain.

## Black Friday in Spain and the rest of Europe

Do you intend to shop for bargains on Black Friday?



How much do you plan to spend (in euros)?



Source: Oliver Wyman

## 84% of consumers in Spain are attracted by these offers and spend an average of 258 euros

However, Spanish consumers tend to spend slightly less than the European average on Black Friday discounts, although this is to be expected because average income is lower than in other EU countries. Even so, shoppers in Spain spend an average of 258 euros, which is 14 euros less than average. This level of spending is in line with the fact that Spanish consumers are less demanding than other Europeans when deciding to buy a discounted product. About 17 per cent (the highest percentage of consumers in Europe) say they would buy something which is up to 20 per cent cheaper than normal and only 15 per cent would insist on a reduction of 50 per cent or greater.

The study concludes that around 20 per cent of Spanish consumers are using Black Friday to cover present or future needs, including Christmas gifts, although only six per cent expressed an interest in 'Ciber Monday' on 2 December. Only 18 per cent of those who took part in the survey said they buy spontaneously, compared with 64 per cent of those in France and the European average of 35 per cent. Another attraction of Black Friday is that many offers are available online, so there is no need to queue or battle for bargains.

IN BRIEF

### Ruling clears way for more Sunday opening

**MALAGA**

**SUR.** A court has overturned a regional government restriction on larger shops and shopping centres in Malaga city opening on Sunday and public holidays. Malaga is officially classified as an area with a high concentration of tourism, meaning shops can open. But the Junta banned stores over 300 metres and parts of national chains opening on Sundays and public holidays in areas outside the centre of the city. Larger shops have been complaining, and now the court agrees, saying that the Junta cannot impose those restrictions and that all stores should be free to set their own timetables.

### Telefónica restructure is welcomed by market

**MADRID**

**E. MARTÍNEZ.** Telefónica shares surged on Thursday after it announced it was reorganising its business to stem off a decline in its value. Directors of the Spanish telco and communications giant said that in the future it would concentrate on its businesses in Spain, UK, Germany and Brazil, which represent 80 per cent of its sales. Its other Latin American subsidiaries will be grouped into a separate division as the firm deprioritises those markets. Two further new divisions will be set up; Telefónica Tech to focus on new technologies like cloud; and Telefónica Infra for its infrastructure network.

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## WILL BONDS PROTECT YOU IN A CRISIS?



It is a tenet of modern portfolio theory to allocate capital in a balanced portfolio to low-risk fixed-interest securities (bonds) to protect against exposure to more risky growth assets like equities. Some suggest as a rule of thumb to allocate capital to bonds in line with your age. The rationale for this is that the older you are, the fewer risk assets you should be owning. Bonds (a contractual obligation on behalf of the creditor to pay the debtor) are less risky than equities (a claim on an asset) and the idea is that allocating capital to bonds will protect the investor against market turmoil or financial crisis.

But is this really true? Is it really sensible to assume that an allocation to bonds will hold steady when markets decline violently? Let's assume that you have one million euros, allocated 50% to equities and 50% to bonds. If the market were to drop by half, you would on paper have lost 250,000 euros, correct? I say 'on

paper' because you lose nothing until you sell, locking in a real loss.

This example assumes that the bond element will hold. But will it? We simply do not know. Bonds may fall further, increasing the loss, or they may rise, offsetting the loss. In the above example, what affects the price movement of bonds is: a) the immediate cause of the stock market decline; and b) the types of bonds held by the investor.

Morningstar data for the vicious 2008 market decline shows that during the period when the US equity market fell most sharply, the high yield corporate bond market fell heavily with it. This happened as investors sold the debt of companies most vulnerable to default. Investment grade debt also fell along with equities, although not as much. In both these cases, holding high-yield bonds and some investment-grade debt would not have protected the investor, but would

have increased the loss.

In contrast, US Treasury bond prices rose substantially when equities declined. Investors sought a safe haven from the chaos pushing up prices and allowing holders of US Treasuries to offset equity losses. US Treasury bonds provide investors with full faith and credit from the US government, by far the largest and most liquid bond market in the world. For investors with a sterling bias, UK government bonds (gilts) would have afforded some protection. For investors with a Euro bias, German government bonds, considered the safest paper in Europe, would also have provided a level of protection.

What bonds you hold will determine your level of protection during a severe market downturn. Sensible investors will examine carefully what type of bonds they hold and why they hold them, before concluding whether bonds offer the desired protection within their overall portfolio.

*The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor.*

*The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.*



The former Correos is a landmark in Malaga :: MIGUEL FERNÁNDEZ

## Israeli magante is sole bidder for city's old post office tower

✉ **JESÚS HINOJOSA**

**MALAGA.** Next Monday, 2 December, the auction will be held for one of Malaga's landmark building, the old Correos, a 13-storey modern tower that was the main post office until it closed to the public nine years ago.

The Junta de Andalucía, that was awarded the building in a debt for property swap with central government, is selling it off. However there is just one bidder expected to come forward on Monday.

Nitsba Spain, with a base in Barcelona, is owned by Haim Tsuff, an Israeli magnate who is president of Isramco, a large gas and

oil company.

A further 21 buildings throughout the region are being put up for sale in the auction in Seville, including the Palacio de la Tinta, a building east of the city centre that is likely to have several suitors due to its potential as a hotel.

The initial price set for the Correos post office building is 16.8 million euros. Interest has been muted as currently the building can only be used for public or social purposes under the city's town plan.

The Israeli-owned potential bidder had until today, Friday, to correct a couple of omissions on its application form for the auction.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Hospital volunteers needed

Our small group of volunteer interpreters at the Hospital Regional in Malaga (Carlos Haya) would like to find additional members to join us in helping the medical and administration staff communicate better with the non-Spanish speaking patients admitted, as well as providing support for these patients and their families.

If you have some free time, on a regular or occasional ba-

sis, have a very high level of English and Spanish and a caring and compassionate attitude, then please get in touch.

This work is entirely voluntary although highly rewarding and much appreciated by both the staff and the patients.

If you would like to find out more then please email Eve at info@hotelmacharaviaya.com

**EVE BROWNE**  
BY EMAIL

## Padrón, yes and no

For at least 30 years town halls have been encouraging all property owners, holiday home owners as well as genuine residents in their town, to register on the padrón. This morning a municipality on the Costa del Sol refused to renew the padrón registration of my son and daughter-in-law even though I have a power of attorney for each of them.

The man at the desk said registrations and renewals now can only be made in person and those registering/renewing are required to prove they are living in the town. That is:- that they are permanently resident, so 100% tax resident too, thus required to pay tax in Spain on their worldwide income and certainly some assets. One such asset would be any property in addition to one's principal home in Spain, which is not let, in Spain any other country. If let then income tax is payable on that income, either in the other country or in Spain. I have a lock-up garage in Spain and my wife has a house in the Philippines; we pay "second home tax" on them when we make our annual tax declaration in Spain.

The law has always been clear that only residents can, and indeed are obliged to be registered on the padrón. The man at the counter said in some areas the authorities were already taking legal action against those who registered illegally.

**JULIAN WARD**  
BY EMAIL

## Dire water situation

I have been living here in Southern Spain now for 23 years, and am a keen photographer in my spare time. I frequently visit Istan, either for work purposes or to take photos of the wonderful "Embalse de la Concepción".

I have a photo taken from just along the road from Urbanización Zahara de Istán, and the lake looks almost full. However, on my next visit, September 22nd, I was shocked when I saw the low level of the water, AND that there was a house visible on the side of the lake, which obviously had previously been totally covered. In all the years I have lived here, I have never seen a house in the lake! Then, SHOCK HORROR, I managed to walk down to the side of the lake last weekend [November 9th/10th], and the water level is almost non-existent.

So, my point is, why is somebody within the government/local MPs not doing something about this? Surely, we should be on hose pipe bans, and everyone should be warned of the pressing lack of water, and a possible repeat of water rationing like those imposed in 1991, when I first moved here.

In the UK, the Government are very proactive when it comes to warning people about pending water shortages/rationing, and should people here also not be made aware how dire the situation is here on the Costa del Sol?

**MICHELE BRECKNELL**  
BY EMAIL

We accept letters by email (surinenglish.su@diariosur.es), post or fax, but they must include identification and a telephone number, and be exclusive to SUR in English. We do not publish anonymous letters. Opinions expressed by contributors to this and other pages of SUR in English do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publishers.

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## Do the light thing

**PETER EDGERTON**  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

**T**his evening Antonio Banderas will bash a big red button with an oversized comedy mallet and the Malaga city centre Christmas lights extravaganza will be under way. Actually, the mallet bit was just my imagination running away with me - he'll probably just flick a switch or something - but, nonetheless, the ensuing spectacular lightfest is guaranteed to bring joy and wonder in equal measure to everyone present.

There was an extraordinary photo in the paper of last year's event when throngs of revellers were captured on camera at the moment the lights came on. So many of them were recording it on their mobile devices that the light show below from the phones, etc. nearly stole the thunder of the official display. The whole of Malaga's main street - calle Larios - was awash with outstretched arms pointing Samsung 987654321x's

or whatever at the unfolding beauty above them. Why on earth do people do this? The resultant recordings can't possibly serve any positive purpose unless you count boring the pants some poor bloke in the pub by showing him some flashing lights now reduced to the size of the palm of his hand. A reduction in dimensions which is directly proportional to the reduction in fun and enjoyment.

Mind you, there are those people who still insist on you listening to music on their mobile phones. We're talking about work recorded painstakingly in professional studios after hours and hours of rehearsal and repetition, fine tuning the resulting soundscape throughout the process.

"Have you heard the latest by \*insert name of artist\*?"

"No, and I really don't want to on that th..."

"Listen." (Sticks phone in your uncompliant, retreating lughole).

"Tish tish, tsst tsst, tish tish tish, tsst tsst."

"That sounds dreadful, please don't ever do that to me again."

"Yeah, it's great isn't it? Wait 'til you hear Ed Sheeran's new one, man."

"Barman! Here's fifty euros. Keep the change."

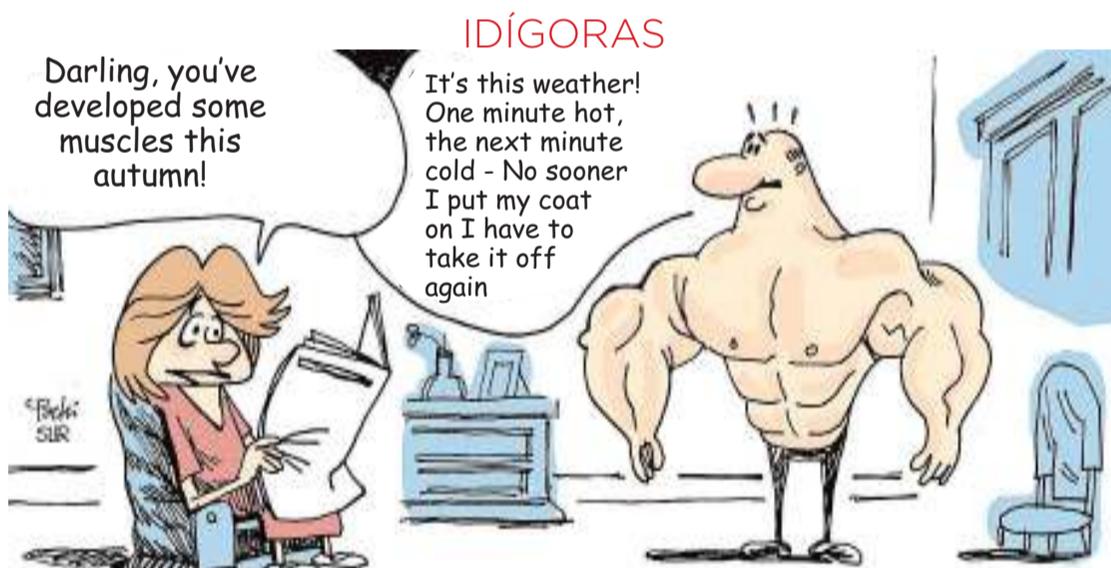
"But you only had one beer, sir. Sir? .... Sir?!"

\*Door slams, car screeches.

Mobile phones should have been a blessing (in certain circumstances they still can be) but in most cases they're a curse.

Next year, I propose the ayuntamiento in Malaga promotes the Big Switch On Switch Off whereby just as the Christmas lights come on, everyone present turns off their phone for rest of the evening. If they'd agree to implement my idea I'd be quite happy to contribute to the scheme.

Maybe they'd let me pay for the mallet.



## Invader birds

**IGNACIO LILLO**

**T**he provincial government, with a display of common sense that is unusual among local institutions, has called representatives of all the town halls affected by the growing plague of an invasive species of parakeet to a meeting to compare notes on causes, consequences and possible solutions. Technical advice will be sought from Malaga's University's top specialist on these matters, biologist and ornithologist Antonio Román Muñoz; as well as from a specialist from the Environment minis-

try at the Junta de Andalucía.

For the first time since this flying phenomenon invaded our tree-tops, politicians and experts are going to sit down to talk about what can be done to control the spread of these birds.

There is just one obstacle left: for whatever is scientifically agreed upon, to actually be carried out. Why do I say that? Because I fear that a weak mayor could break under the pressure from misunderstanding animal activists and ecologists, those who have been swayed by the colours, the cawing and the

Caribbean image that these birds have brought with them; it might be very bright and cheerful for a while, but ask the residents who have to put up with them day after day. And that's all without mentioning the spread of disease and the financial risk if they get as far as farmers' crops as researchers predict. So while the spirit of the initiative is positive, the problem here is, as in many other matters, that politics is put before scientific criteria, or that urgent measures are ignored to pacify indignant protest.

Underneath their pretty and cartoon-like façade, these birds are a serious environmental threat. If the plague is permitted now, it will spread and start to damage crops and other financial resources and infrastructure in the province; then the solution will be more expensive, and, what's worse, much less animal-friendly.

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Banderas and his daughter, Stella del Carmen, in Madrid. :: FEX

## A prizewinning week for Antonio Banderas

:: SUR

**MÁLAGA.** It's been a good few weeks for Antonio Banderas. Coming straight after the sellout launch of his new theatre in Malaga, the Teatro Soho Caixa-bank, earlier this month, the locally born Hollywood actor has been awarded two top prizes. In addition, his latest film has picked up a prestigious accolade from Time Magazine.

On Monday, Banderas was in Madrid to collect the award for most influential personality of 2019, awarded by the Spanish edition of Vanity Fair.

The actor was joined by his daughter, Stella del Carmen, and

his girlfriend, businesswoman Nicole Kimpel.

Meanwhile, next Monday, 2 December, Banderas will receive a SUR prize for Malaga personality of the year in the Culture category at a special ceremony organised by the newspaper group.

Time magazine's film critic Stephanie Zacharek, has given the Malaga star the accolade of Best Movie Performance 2019 for his work in Pedro Almodóvar's Pain and Glory.

She said he "gave an aching unguarded performance".

The film and Banderas himself are tipped for Oscar success early next year.

## Wartime drama starring Colin Firth set to film on Costa next March

Operation Mincemeat is based on the elaborate plot to fool the Nazis about the Allied invasion of southern Europe with a fake Royal Marine body

:: F. GRIÑÁN / N. HESKETH

**MÁLAGA.** John Madden, the director of Oscar-winning Shakespeare in Love, is to film in Malaga and surrounding area in March in his latest project, and Colin Firth is set to take one of the lead roles.

Exact details of the filming aren't known, but the title of the World War II drama is Operation Mincement. The script centres on the true story of a plot to fool Nazis into believing that the Allied invasion of southern Europe in 1943 wouldn't come via Sicily but from Greece instead.

As part of an elaborate double bluff, British intelligence faked the death



Colin Firth. :: PAUL BUCK EFE

**A Malaga casting company is looking for extras who should be men over 20 with a classic look**

of an officer in the Royal Marines using the real body of a tramp. The officer was found by a fisherman on the coast of Spain near Huelva carrying misleading information about Allied plans, which the Spanish government passed to the Germans. A 1956 film, The Man Who Never Was, was also based on this wartime story.

The dates set for filming in the Malaga area are 4-8 March. Not all locations have been revealed, but it is known that Malaga city hall will be used for at least one scene.

A Malaga casting company is searching for extras. ModExpoR is looking above all for men over 20 with a classic look and short hair, and clean shaven, who would be able to play German or Allied soldiers. Those interested in taking part can initially apply online at the casting company's website.

In addition to Colin Firth, Scottish actress, Kelly MacDonald will play a leading role.



:: JOSELE

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR DA BRUNO RESTAURANTS

The well-known Italian restaurant group, Da Bruno's, has celebrated the 25th anniversary of its opening on the Costa del Sol. Many friends, customers and family of founder Bruno Filippone attended the celebration in Marbella, along with representatives of different public authorities.



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DENISE BUSH

# GARDENING

## Graceful spurge

**Frothy clusters of delicate, white flowers embellish mounds of dense, grey-green foliage resembling Gysophila**

Euphorbia hypericifolia is a tender, evergreen perennial originating from Central to South America. Other names include graceful spurge, Chamaesyce hypericifolia 'Inneuphe' and

Euphorbia hypericifolia 'Inneuphda'.

Euphorbia 'Silver Fog' is also a very similar cultivar and all belong to the ge-

nus Euphorbiaceae, a large and varied group of plants which include annuals, perennials, shrubs and succulents. All members of the genus have a common trait, they contain a sap that can irritate sensitive skins and eyes.

Therefore care should be taken when handling especially as this species bears a strong resemblance to Gysophila paniculata and is therefore popular as a white frothy filler for cut flower arrangements.

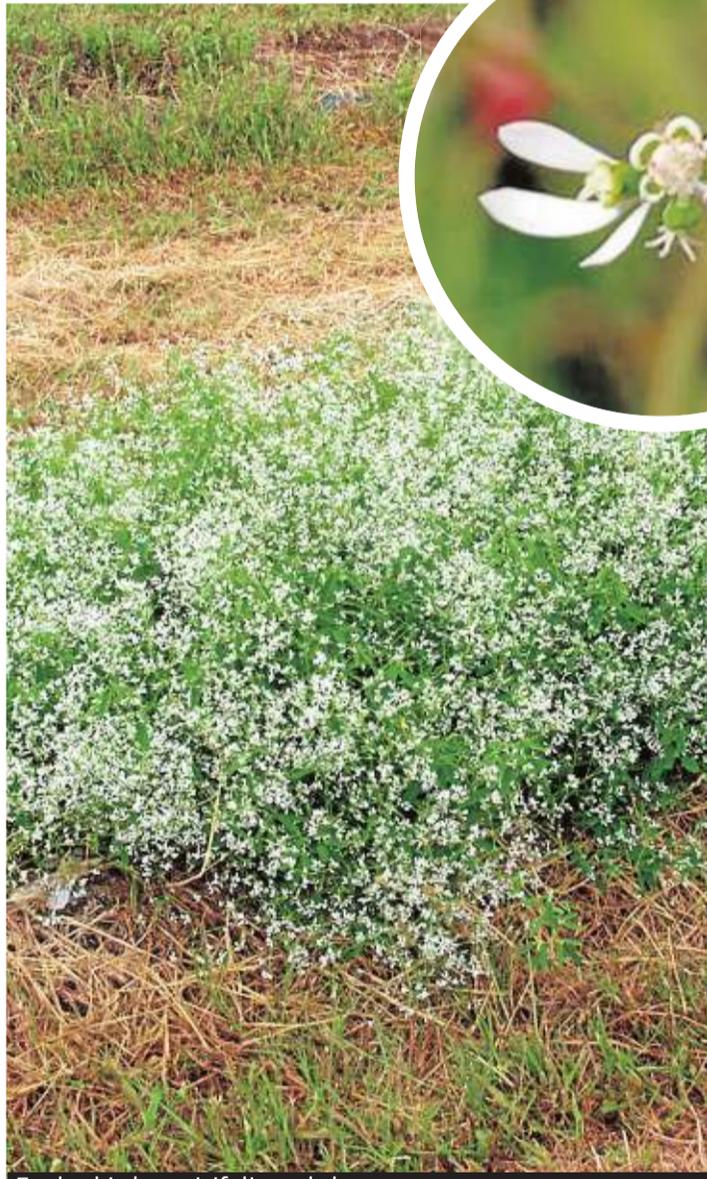
The dainty white flowers are actually white bracts surrounding an even smaller flower. Euphorbia hypericifolia is heat and drought tolerant and will grow in full sun or partial shade. It will flower most of the year, only stopping when the weather turns cold.

Although quite a tough plant, it is not frost hardy and will need protecting during the winter in inland areas.

The only other requisite is a free-draining soil as graceful spurge does not like to be waterlogged. Occasional watering in the summer with the addition of a liquid feed during the spring and summer will ensure a mass of blooms.

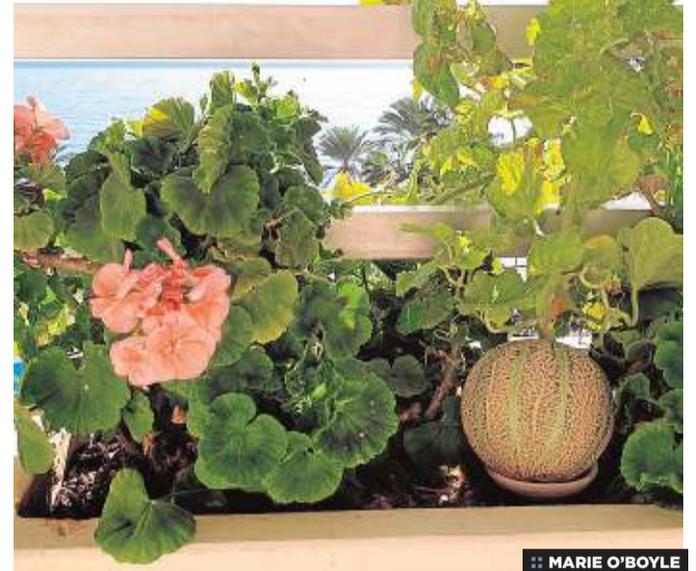
Euphorbia hypericifolia is a versatile addition to a border, hanging basket or container. It can also be used as an informal edging and will provide plenty of pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects.

Propagation is by cuttings.



Euphorbia hypericifolia and close-up. :: WIKIMEDIA/WWW1.IF1.CUNI.CZ

### READER'S PHOTO



:: MARIE O'BOYLE

## A SWEET SURPRISE

Marie O'Boyle sent in this photo of a sweet surprise she discovered growing among her pelargoniums in Marbella. She says, "I presume the seed was left by the pigeons!"

### GARDENING IN DECEMBER

## Feed the birds

Birds are a gardener's friend and to encourage them into your garden try to grow at least one plant that will provide berries for the birds through the winter. Choose from holly, pyracantha, cotoneaster, crabapple or hawthorn. All are prolific producers of berries (holly needs male and female plants to produce berries or search out

a self-fertile variety). If you don't have room for any of these, birds love rose hips so don't prune off the spent flowers. You can also hang an apple from a tree along with sprigs of millet or invest in a birdfeeder or table. The best situation is some where out of cats' reach but where you can discreetly watch the visiting birds.

### PHOTOS

## Calling all gardeners

We know that many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies, so why not share them with others?

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook (surenglish) or Twitter (@SUR\_English)



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# Senegal sojourn

This colourful sub-Saharan nation is a visitor-friendly introduction to the vibrancy of West Africa



ANDREW FORBES

✉ Twitter: @andrewforbes

The chorus of voices, a powerful harmony of hope and joy, filled the courtyard of the grand house. The mixed choir, dressed in white robes and colourful woven sashes, sang heartfelt lyrics with an energy that was uplifting.

## Gorée island - historical reconciliation

We had spent the morning strolling the narrow dusty lanes of the Unesco-designated Île de Gorée. This picturesque island, less than a kilometre long, sits out in the Atlantic, a short ferry ride from Dakar. Free of roads and cars, the island is a peaceful place, with charming colonial architecture, painted in weatherworn pastel shades. This living community, a thriving centre for the production and sale of Senegalese art and handicrafts, also represents probably the darkest chapter in West African history - the slave trade.

The highlight of the visit to Gorée island was the exceptional performance of the acclaimed Daniel Brottier choir - a remarkable welcome to the evocative House of Slaves, (Maison des Esclaves), one of the last remaining 18th century colonial slave trade houses on the island.

The property, which would have been one of so many that once stood in West Africa, has become a museum to the transatlantic slave trade. This memorial to the millions of Africans taken as slaves (up until the mid-19th century) is a requisite destination for travellers to Senegal. Nelson Mandela has visited; so did Pope John Paul II; and in 2013 Barack and Michelle Obama came to Gorée island. This is more than just a tourist destination; it feels like a place of pilgrimage, and of reconciliation with the past.

It was an unforgettable way to start my own journey in this West African republic. Visiting Senegal is to discover the authentic sub-Saharan Africa, a country of cultural and environmental diversity, excellent food, and in my limited experience, engaging, open people.

## Dakar - art and wealth

I had arrived in Dakar. The capital city, once evocative of the famous rally, is now a metropolis more defined by its luxury hotels, restaurants, street art, galleries and nightlife. The city has covered much of the Cap-Vert peninsula, and its beaches provide a fascinating insight and snapshot of urban life. In the evenings the sandy bays are filled with families and friends socialising and exercising together. It's also the place to discover Senegal's na-

tional sport, wrestling. Youngsters, looking to realise their dream of becoming a national (and very well-paid) hero, are locked in combat - in ritualised fights that combine art and athletics. Accompanied by rhythmic drummers, the young men intersperse dance and choreographed movements with the sparring, grappling and throws of wrestling.

From Dakar the famous pink waters of Lac Rose (Lake Retba) are

about an hour's drive away and, continuing north, one reaches the colonial charm of Saint Louis, the former capital of Senegal.

## Petite Côte - nature, fishermen and luxury resorts

Yet I headed south by road, discovering the 150 kilometres of the 'Petite Côte' (a favourite coast for surfers) and then arrived at the vast wetlands of the Siné-Saloum river delta

national park.

The main roads leading out from the capital are well maintained modern highways, yet that is where any similarity with Europe ends.

In the towns the traffic frequently becomes intense, with taxis, buses and cars competing for space, sometimes also negotiating the crowded road with goats, long-horned cattle and typically with plenty of pedestrians who swiftly manoeuvre in

and out of the traffic, traversing the street. It's hard to explain the energy of these urban interchanges - a cacophony of roadside radios, vehicle horns, vocal street traders, and the occasional mild dispute among drivers.

Ramshackle development reaches out into the countryside, with almost endless rows of tyre workshops, and unfinished buildings either side of the thoroughfare. Yet soon enough the road escapes into the lush rural landscape, often punctuated with modest hamlets of small traditional circular homes, with thatched roofs, clustered together behind high fences of branches and twigs. By the road kids play football - the sport is everywhere in Senegal, on TV, in the street and the subject of many conversations, almost eclipsing Senegal's obsession with wrestling.

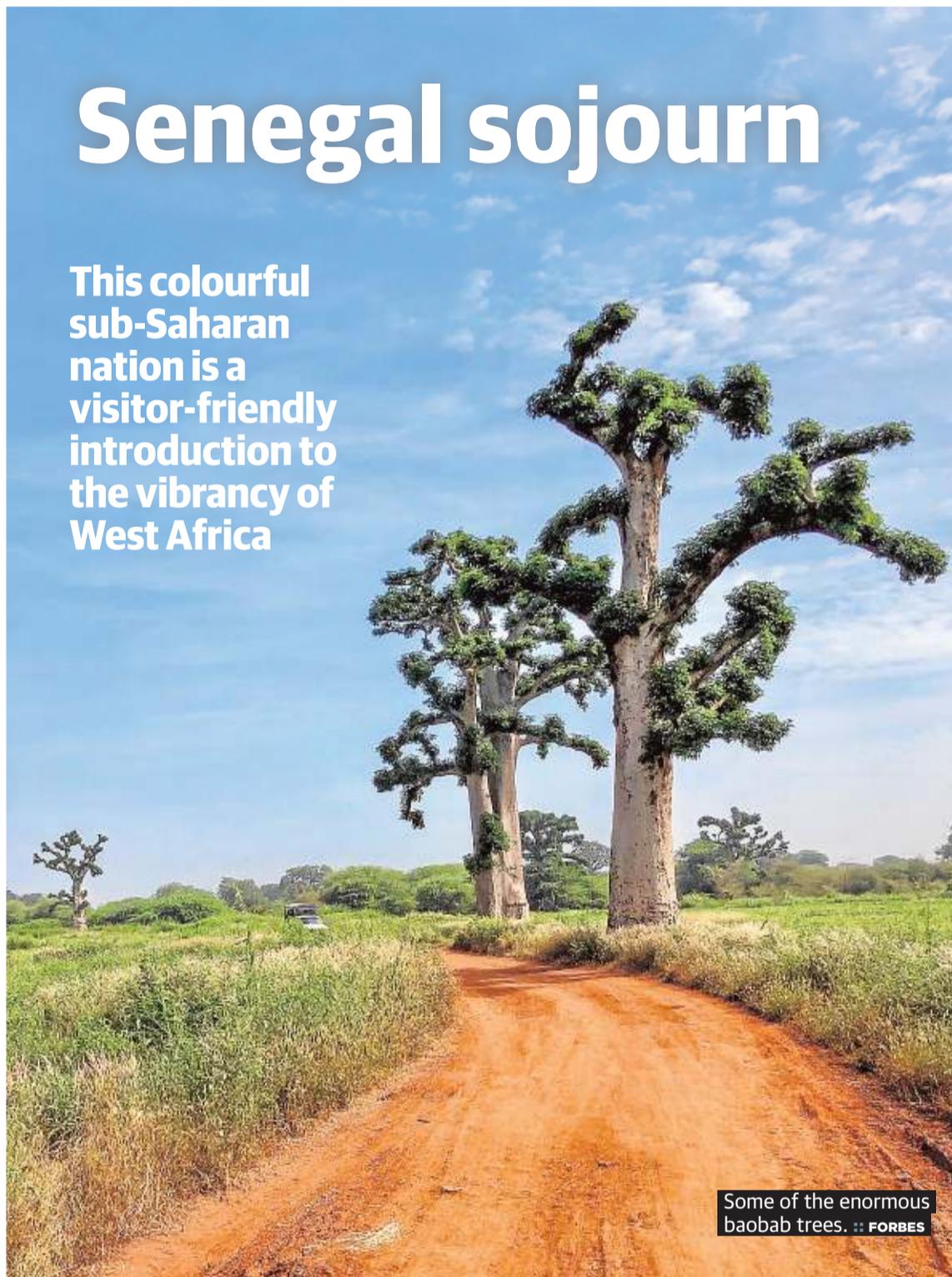
## Street scenes - authentic Senegal

The highway south is lined with timber stalls selling produce, often piled high with vegetables, tropical mangoes, papayas, citrus fruit, and bags of nuts. Stopping to buy Senegalese peanuts at a road crossing (they taste so fresh here, by the way), or a tasty snack of spicy dried ginger with coconut, is an opportunity to strike up a conversation with locals about anything from football to family life. If you put away your smartphone or camera, people are no longer shy. I found residents to be open, friendly and eager to engage and share a story. Remarkably Senegal is a country of tens of languages. Wolof is the most widely spoken, although French is the official language, one of the many legacies of colonial times. Together with Spanish or more often English, you can make a connection.

## National Parks - nature on an African scale

Against the ever-growing urban sprawl, the Bandia Wildlife Reserve offers the peace of nature. It is a huge protected area that is found between Dakar, and the luxury beach resorts of Saly, on the Petit Côte. The nation is working to restore and re-wild areas like the Bandia Wildlife Reserve where native species are being introduced and indigenous fauna protected - albeit in the context of a wildlife park. These projects are in collaboration with landowners and hospitality businesses that offer wildlife experiences and safari lodge accommodation. Towering above everything are the iconic Baobabs. These massive trees, that can live hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years, are symbolic of this West African republic, probably more so than the dwindling numbers of West African lions.

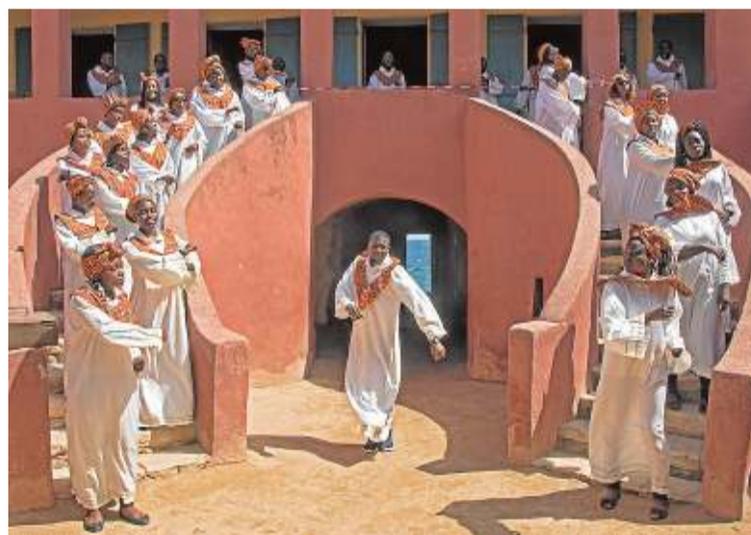
Senegal is surprisingly not really regarded for its African wildlife, instead seen as more of a cultural destination. Yet its national parks are extraordinary. Continuing further south to the Unesco-listed Siné-Sa-



Some of the enormous baobab trees. :: FORBES

If you put away your camera, people are no longer shy. I found residents to be open, friendly and eager to engage and share a story

Travelling in a country such as this, one is directly confronted by the daily challenges of life in Africa



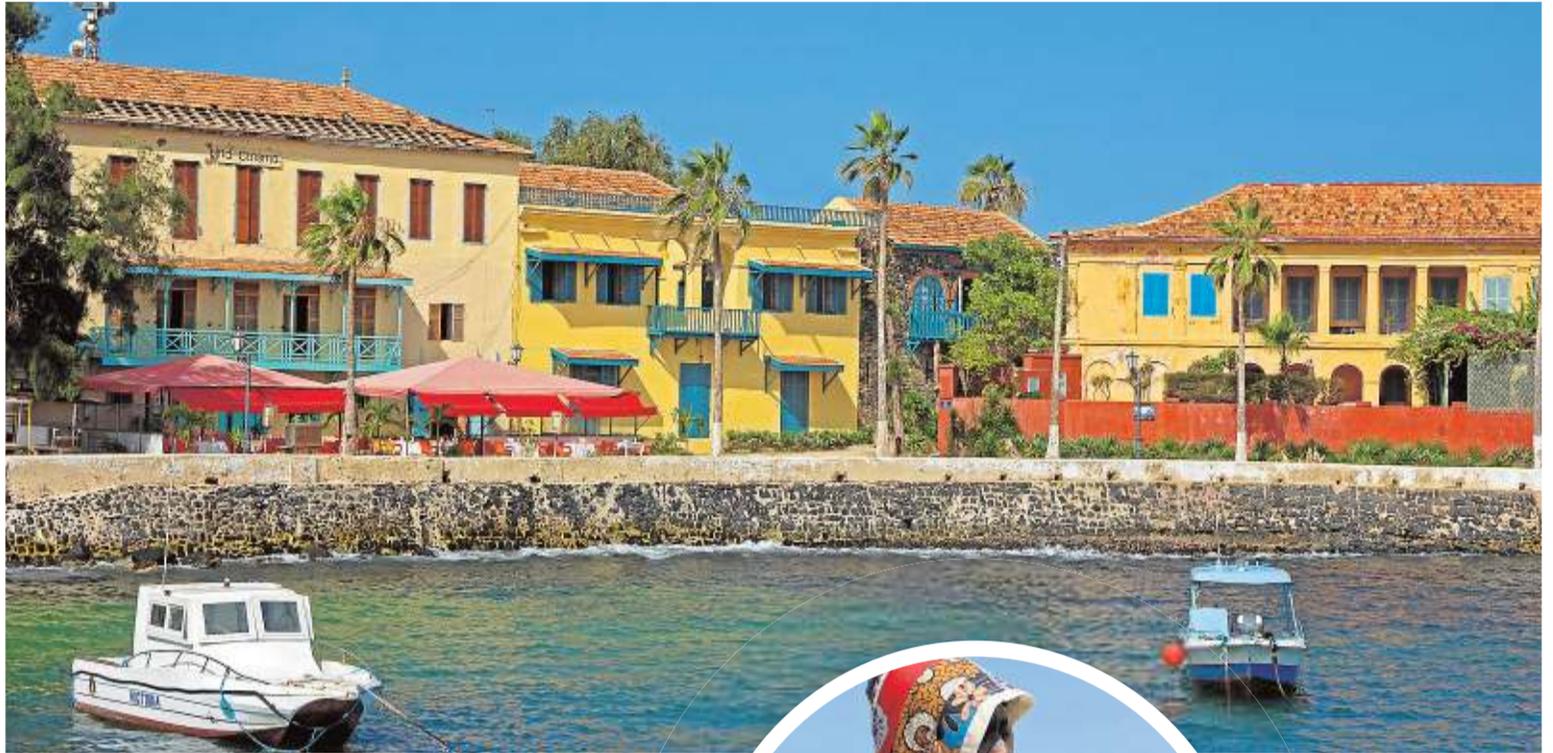
The Daniel Brottier choir. :: CARDINALIA COMUNICACIÓN

loun national park, not far from the border with The Gambia, one leaves behind the contrived wilderness of the Bandia, and the commercialised safaris of the Fathala Wildlife Reserve and instead one is embraced by genuine nature on a truly impressive, African scale.

Among the vast wetlands of the river deltas that spill out into the tidal waters of the Atlantic ocean, there are islands covered in hardwood trees, where the sounds of exotic bird calls fill the air. Dusk is the time to experience the remarkable phenomenon of birds going to roost among the mangrove trees. Overhead squadrons of pink-backed pelicans can be seen flying towards the security of isolated islands, where among the mangrove branches, sieges of goliath herons jostle for a perch. Private boat trips take visitors to the shores of these islands to witness the nightly ritual, before heading back to a wilderness hotel as the sun sets over the water.

**Senegal - the stable gateway to West Africa**

A flight of just four and half hours from Madrid takes one to the magic of this sub-Saharan nation. Senegal offers travellers a captivating



Gorée island. :: **CARDINALIA COMUNICACIÓN**

African experience, from the sophistication of its capital Dakar; to the wild spaces of its national parks; to the modern beach resorts of Saly.

This democratic country is among the most stable in Africa. Despite a questionable record on human rights, particular towards LGBT citizens, freedom of worship is protected within this predominantly Muslim nation. Among the mosque towers in the cities one might also find a bell tower, or spire of a Catholic church. Alcohol is

widely available too; visit a bar or nightclub and you'll be drinking among the Senegalese. It would appear that Muslims here are not as conservative as others in Africa.

However, travelling within a developing country such as this means one is directly confronted by the daily challenges of life in Africa. As one drives through Senegal there are frequent scenes that cruelly show



A Senegalese street musician. :: **FORBES**

the poverty, inequality, and environmental challenges in this part of the world.

Yet humans are remarkably resilient; and the powerful songs of the Daniel Brottier choir, which I experienced on my first day in Senegal, epitomised for me a confident nation, confronting and reconciling the country's colonial past and endeavouring to face the future with optimism and hope.

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## THE INSIDER GUIDE

## Senegal

## Dakar, Petite Côte and Siné-Saloum Delta



Lamantin Beach Resort. :: FORBES

## :: ANDREW FORBES

To visit Senegal is to be immersed in the colour, vibrancy and creative culture of Africa; to experience the intensity of urban life, the authenticity of the people, and the wonder of its nature.

## STAY:

## King Fahd Palace Hotel - Dakar

Five-star property favoured by Senegal's president. Seaview rooms and recently remodelled luxurious suites. Among the country's best meeting and conference facilities. [KingFahdPalaceHotels.com](http://KingFahdPalaceHotels.com)

## Keur Saloum Hotel - Siné-Saloum Delta

Rustic lodge hotel in Toubaouta, in the delta national park. Modest accommodation in private circular, thatched cottages, with private pool and a restaurant. It's quite magical to sip a drink at the bar, as the sun sets over the delta, and the huge bats roosting in the rafters, swoop down overhead! [KeurSaloum.com](http://KeurSaloum.com)

## Lamantin Beach Resort &amp; Spa - Saly, Petite Côte

World-class beach resort with luxury spa. Stylish contemporary rooms and suites, within tradition-

ally styled cottages around a beautiful pool. The hotel's Blue Bay mini resort of 10 rooms with private beach access is ideal for an upscale family holiday. Since this is West Africa, expect to see the most spectacular sunsets.

[LeLamantin.com/en/](http://LeLamantin.com/en/)

## The Rhino Resort &amp; Hotel - Saly, Petite Côte

Well-established, and award-winning property, renowned for its spa. [TheRhinoResort.com/en/](http://TheRhinoResort.com/en/)

## EAT:

## Chevalier de Boufflers - Gorée Island, Dakar

Modest island hotel, with seafood restaurant with terrace overlooking the bay.

## La Calebasse African Restaurant - Dakar

Upscale restaurant offering excellent Senegalese cuisine, accompanied by live music. Beautiful building decorated with striking artefacts and works of art.

## Taverne du Pecheur - Joal-Fadiouth, Petite Côte

The Fisherman's tavern is right by the boardwalk leading to the shell island of Fadiouth. Wide selection

of fish, seafood and traditional Senegalese cuisine.

[LaTaverneDuPecheur.com](http://LaTaverneDuPecheur.com)

## Chez Rasta, Lagune de la Somone, Saly

Here the Caribbean and Africa collide at this colourful seafood restaurant right on the stunning lagoon that flows into the ocean.

## SEE &amp; DO:

## Museum of Black Civilizations - Dakar

This impressive Musée des Civilisations Noires, opposite the new Grand National Theatre of Dakar, opened in 2018. The vast halls are dedicated to black civilisations across Africa and beyond.

[www.mcn.sn](http://www.mcn.sn)

## House of Slaves, Gorée Island - Dakar

This beautiful diminutive island is one of the best places to see the colonial architecture of Senegal. It is also the place where visitors learn about the horrors of the slave trade. Senegal is at Africa's most western point - closest to the Americas. It is also positioned between the north and south. In the 16th century this made Senegal a strategic colonial base for the trade, creating constant rivalry between the Portuguese, French, Dutch and British for control.

Particularly moving is the 'Door of No Return'. Passing through it, to the palmwood pier beyond and the waiting ships, ready to set sail to North America, would be the last time the captured men and women would ever see their families, or Africa.

<https://whc.unesco.org/>

## Ousmane Sow house &amp; gallery - Dakar

One of Senegal's most celebrated artists, sculptor Ousmane Sow created extraordinary, larger than life sculptures, using unique techniques and combinations of materials. His former home in Dakar is now a gallery of his work.

[OusmaneSow.com](http://OusmaneSow.com)

## Village des Arts - Dakar

Senegal has a thriving arts scene, and few places showcase this better than the Village of Artists; a collection of more than 50 studios and an exhibitions space, where you can meet creatives.



Village of Fadiouth. :: FORBES



Siné-Saloum Delta. :: FORBES



King Fahd Palace. :: FORBES



Street vendor. :: FORBES



Fathala wildlife reserve. :: CC

## Facebook.com/VillageDesArtsDeDakar/

## African Renaissance Monument - Dakar

Said to be the tallest monument in Africa, this vast, almost Soviet-style structure is dedicated to Senegal's independence and the rebirth of Africa following colonialism.

## Bandia Wildlife Reserve - Petite Côte

Private wildlife park where visitors can see antelopes, gazelles, elephants and rhino which roam grass-

lands amongst huge baobab trees. The restaurant makes for a good stop-off on a road trip heading south. Eating al fresco you are surrounded by abundant wildlife, including monkeys, warthogs, colourful birds - and at a safe distance, even crocodiles!

Accommodation is now available at Le Ranch de Bandia; new, private lodges with terraces that open directly onto the reserve, with views of the wild animals.

[ReserveDeBandia.com](http://ReserveDeBandia.com)

## Accro Baobab Adventure Park, Bandia, Petite Côte

A family-friendly park built amongst baobab trees, with challenges, obstacles and zip-lines. Suitable for children and adults.

[Accro-Baobab.com](http://Accro-Baobab.com)

## Joal-Fadiouth - Petite Côte

An hour or so's drive south from the luxury beach resorts at Saly, is the fishing community of Joal, where you can take in the remarkable sight of the colourful fishing boats coming ashore.

Opposite Joal, reached by gondolas, or a narrow wooden footbridge, is a manmade island, Fadiouth, built up from millions of clam and mollusc shells. On the neighbouring island one finds a Muslim and Christian cemetery that overlooks the ancient wooden granaries that stand on stilts.

## Fathala Wildlife Reserve - Siné-Saloum Delta

Over 6,000 hectares of protected wilderness, renowned for its Western Giant Eland antelopes, as well as elephants, zebras and other quintessentially African game. Visitors can controversially 'walk with lions' that have become relatively tame. Accommodation is in luxury tented suites.

[Fathala.com](http://Fathala.com)

## TRAVEL:

For more information about Senegal, ideas, and travel advice, visit the official tourism website, [VistezLeSenegal.com](http://VistezLeSenegal.com)

[VistezLeSenegal.com](http://VistezLeSenegal.com)

As one of Africa's safest countries, Senegal is ideal for adventurous, independent travellers. However, if you are looking for a package with guide, then CTA Incentive can also create tailored itineraries. [www.cta-incentive.com/do\\_en/](http://www.cta-incentive.com/do_en/)

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# MORE PERSONALISED ONLINE BANKING

Forrester has recognised the BBVA App as the world leader in mobile banking for the third year in a row

For the third consecutive year, BBVA has been placed at the head of mobile banking at a global level. Forrester Research have just published their global report, 'The Forrester Banking Wave™: Global MobileApps Summary, 2019' which reveals that BBVA's app remains the unarguable leader in global banking. The consultancy firm once again stresses the fact that the BBVA app combines excellent functionality – with an almost perfect rating – and the best user experience.

The report highlights the fact that BBVA offers very relevant contents within the app, which range from the simplest of scenes to the most complex in different steps, and with a clear design.

**The App combines excellent functionality – with an almost perfect rating – and the best user experience**



The BBVA app combines excellent functionality.:: SUR

## 2019 MILESTONES FOR THE BBVA APP

- ▶ Personalised notifications
- ▶ Programme your account
- ▶ My travel
- ▶ Visible feedback
- ▶ Future Planner
- ▶ Online POS request
- ▶ Bizum
- ▶ Integration of mobile payments into the App
- ▶ Online travel insurance
- ▶ Removal service

Sofia Rodríguez-Sahagún, director of Digital Transformation for BBVA Spain, explains: "Forrester has assessed our work focusing mainly on functionality as well as the large number of features we have, all with an excellent user experience. As we develop new features and services, we also become more competitive in the race for this prize."

A race, as the director points out, that has turned out to be a long-distance one as the bank began to commit to digital transformation more than ten years ago. This has allowed it to now become an absolutely transversal matter at BBVA which reaches all areas of business. "It's in our bank's DNA," Rodríguez-Sahagún notes.

BBVA's work methods based on multi-disciplinary teams of professionals from very different fields of knowledge and an agile methodology that places clients in the centre are, along with their commitment to innovation and technology, essential. This, the director explains, is much more than just a statement. "The clients are the axis of activities and their feedback is key to our development and features, they participate with us from

**Rodríguez-Sahagún: "Digital transformation is in our bank's DNA and it reaches all the areas of business"**



the conceptualisation of the different features to their development and implementation."

Ahead of digital neo-banks

In this new edition of their report, Forrester Research has evaluated apps belonging to 54 banks in Australia, Canada, China, France, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Holland, Poland, Turkey, the UK, USA and Spain, examining both functionality and user experience. The analysis included 36 parameters of function-

ality and 26 user experience criteria.

Furthermore, it includes analysis of new digital banks which, according to the study, can be as good as their traditional rivals. It's important to note that despite the fact that it isn't a native digital bank, BBVA has still managed to rank ahead of those which are.

If one thing has characterised the bank's work above all others, it is their commitment to constantly improving their customer services.

**The BBVA App will continue to work on personalising services to further adapt them to what each client needs**

Proof of this are the next challenges they have set themselves in their digital transformation process. "We're finishing off the products and services that can be contracted and managed via the app, which we call end-to-end, in product fields such as car and home insurance."

Likewise, Rodríguez-Sahagún confirms that they will continue to work on personalisation of services to further adapt them to what each client needs. "We work to make online banking more personalised and to that end, the clients are our best partners and our main jury, they're the ones who tell us what they need and encourage us to continue adding developments to the services we provide them with."

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



# Not just cricket

**T**he sports ground in the photograph, is the pre-eminent sporting facility in this country and is primarily used for the national sport of cricket. Besides witness-

ing the Cricket World Cup final in 2007, it is the site of a very important event taking place tomorrow, 30 November.

The stadium is located in the capital of this sunny country, a

city which was formerly named after Saint Michael.

The special occasion happening tomorrow is an annual event which thousands of people will attend to see.

There will be a parade of the armed forces, the mounted police troop and other organisations including the prison service, Red Cross and youth corps.

If you know where this is, plus

the event that is celebrated tomorrow, you could win a prize. Please send the name of the city, the country as well as that of the event taking place, to english@diariosur.es.

Only entries with your full name, address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, which held the annual Polar Circle Marathon in October.

Congratulations to Franco Fernández who answered last month's Where In The World? correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

## LEGAL ADVICE



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#### REF. E. N. I.

I work in a restaurant as a waiter, and some time ago, when we were serving diners, I went into the kitchen and I slipped in a puddle, as the kitchen helper was scrubbing the floor. As a consequence, I broke my arm, and am on sick leave. The point is that my work contract expires within a few days, and I would like to

know if I will continue receiving the allowance that I am receiving now or if the payments will stop when the contract expires.

In this sense, law establishes that when an employee is on sick leave and during that time the contract expires, he will continue receiving the allowance until the leave concludes.

#### REF. D. R. A.

Last week I went out with some friends to dinner and celebrate my birthday. After some drinks we decided to go to the casino to play poker, but when we got there, a member of the staff asked for our identifications, and told me that I could not go in. I did not understand what he meant, and maybe due to the drinks that I had had, I asked him quite rudely the reason why I could not come in. The caretaker moved me away from my

friends and whispered that I could not go in because my name appeared in a list of gambling addicts. After that, one of the security guards invited me to leave the casino. What does that mean? This was the first time that I had visited the casino, and I am certainly no gambler. I am not interested in going to the casino but I don't like the fact that my name appears in a list of gambling addicts, when I am not. How can I rectify this?

Casinos and the rest of gaming establishments, such as bingo halls, video arcades and gamerooms, are the ones that elaborate these lists, and anyone, usually gamblers, can register on them voluntarily, in order to be banned from entering, thus avoiding the temptation. No one can register someone on those lists without their consent, so you should speak with the manager of the casino to remove your name from the list.

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## IT SURGERY



JANUS R. NIELSEN

# Recognise a fake

What should I be aware of in the case of fake emails? I look in my email inbox almost every day, and every time I open it, I've received emails that I'm not sure whether they are fake or not. It takes me a long time to find out whether they are real or false, and often I end up guessing. Therefore, I want to hear if you have any small concrete things that I can look for when I receive these emails? I do not want to be cheated out of money, I hear that so much in the media.

First of all, it is good to hear that you are aware of the fake emails that are currently flourishing. A good rule of thumb is that you should never open an email if you are unsure whether it is a scam or not. Even if you are just a little unsure, delete the email. If you are concerned that it is an important message from the bank or a friend that you are not re-

sponding to, please contact the sender instead to inquire if that person/company has sent you an email. You can check the sender of the email to see if you have previously received emails from the same person or company. Compare the new mail with the old ones to see if it's the same. It may be a full stop or an extra letter in the middle that makes the difference. And otherwise, of course, just call the sender.

### Top tip:

Even if you are just a little unsure, delete the suspect email

Janus R. Nielsen, with more than 20 years of experience in the IT industry, is IT security expert at the Marbella-based IoT company AnyTech365. If you have a question about IT security on wireless networks or social media, IoT or PC problems send it to [suri-nenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:suri-nenglish.su@diariosur.es) marked IT Surgery.

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RACHEL HAYNES



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

29 NOVEMBER 1899

# The birth of a football giant

**FC Barcelona, also known as Barça, was founded by an international group of sports enthusiasts 120 years ago**

**O**n 29 November 1899, a group of young men of different nationalities met in Barcelona to found a sporting association. Several of them had answered an advertisement placed in the magazine *Los Deportes* several weeks previously by Swiss sports enthusiast Hans Gamper, who had arrived in Barcelona the previous year for professional reasons.

Hans, whose name was later Catalanised to Joan, was joined by 11 others keen to get involved in his project, part of the ongoing expansion of the game of football across the continent.

Present at the meeting, along with Gamper, were fellow Swiss

Otto Kunzle and Walter Wild, English brothers John and William Parsons, German Otto Maier and six locals: Lluís d'Ossó, Bartomeu Terrades, Enrique Ducay, Pere Cabot, Carles Pujol and Josep Llobet.

They decided that the club would be called FC Barcelona (originally Foot-ball Club Barcelona) and that they would use the city's coat of arms as their club badge as a sign of identification with their home. (In 1910 the club decided it needed a symbol of its own and a new badge was designed, still using the flags of Catalonia and St George.)

It was later decided that the players would wear white shorts and shirts that were half blue and half burgundy, which led to them becoming known as the "Blaugranas" (blau is blue and grana, dark red, in Catalan). The choice was, according to the club's own website, probably due to the colours worn by the rugby team of Merchant Taylors' School in England, where the Witty brothers, two of the first club mem-



FC Barcelona in an image taken in 1903. :: SUR



Hans Gamper. :: SUR

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

<b>Fútbol</b>	Football
<b>Equipo</b>	Team
<b>Extranjeros</b>	Foreigners
<b>Anuncio</b>	Advertisement
<b>Revista</b>	Magazine
<b>Llamamiento</b>	Appeal
<b>Escudo</b>	Badge / Coat of arms
<b>Camiseta</b>	Shirt
<b>Palmarés</b>	Track record
<b>Jugadores</b>	Players
<b>Equipación</b>	Football kit
<b>Suizo</b>	Swiss
<b>Fundador</b>	Founder
<b>Temporada</b>	Season

to belong to their supporters rather than being managed as a privately owned firm.

Today the club's track record is beyond anything those 12 young men could have imagined when they met on that 29 November 1899. Barça now boasts more than 150,000 members and the club has teams competing at all levels of football, as well as in different sports such as basketball, handball and rugby.

Barça is the most successful Spanish football club chalking up 74 national championships and 22 international trophies.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

## Good turnout for launch of new U3A group in La Viñuela

By J. RHODES

**LA VIÑUELA.** Around 50 people attended a meeting to launch a new University of the Third Age (U3A) group last Friday at La Viñuela restaurant.

La Viñuela councillor Ria O'Brien said, "We had a very successful

launch despite the inclement weather."

She explained that the U3A president for the Axarquía region, Terry Brady, along with existing members from clubs on the coast attended "to support the new venture in the Viñuela area".

The next meeting will take place on 3 December and Ria explained that groups will be formed after that, but so far there has been interest in a book club and 'lunch bunch' as well as groups for art, sewing, Spanish conversation, health and well being, meditation and general discussion.

"And many more to come," she added.

For further information about the next meeting and about joining any of the groups contact Ria on 667 966 884.



U3A existing and new members at La Viñuela meeting. :: R. O'BRIEN

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# La Térmica takes a look at the fascinating Lee Miller

Over 100 photos portray the career of the charismatic American artist



ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

@ajavierlopez

**MALAGA.** The 20-year-old girl on the front cover of Vogue also portrayed the horror of the Nazi concentration camps in Dachau and Buchenwald; the muse of Man Ray and the avant-garde media captured the former prime minister of Hungary, László Bárdossy, facing the firing squad in a Budapest suburb; the girl who was raped when she was seven years old exercised free love during her whole life as a sovereign woman, the owner of a destiny which led her from model to war correspondent, from object of desire to an example of women's liberation and emancipation in the first half of the 20th century.

If the fascinating life of Lee Miller has sometimes overlapped with her extraordinary work as a photographer in the past, that is not the case with the exhibition which has just opened at La Térmica, the arts centre which is owned by the Diputación de Málaga, the provincial government.

It relates the extensive and protean career of the American artist in a display of more than 100 photos which have never before been shown in Spain.

So, the exhibition, 'Lee Miller. Surrealista', highlights the weight - and the spirit - of surrealism in the artist's production, in her facet as a fashion photographer as well as during the horrors and the clamour of the second world war.

"She was not only a fascinating woman, but also a great surrealist artist," said Antony Penrose, who is the director of the Lee Miller Foundation and son of the photographer and Roland Penrose, at the opening. The photos on display at La Térmica until 26 February are on loan from his own collection.

Starting from the surrealist premise, the exhibition shows how the influence of Man Ray and other artists in the Parisian avant-garde in the early 20th century is reflected not just in Miller's photos of the Egyptian pyramids but also portraits of Charles Chaplin and

Joseph Cornell (to mention some of the most notable names in the exhibition).

This path in her life takes a joyful turn in the first room with one of the happiest walls of the display, showing 'Man Ray shaving', 'Nude bent forward' and 'Tanja Ramm under a glass bell', taken in Paris between 1929 and 1931. And from there it moves on to such delicious pieces as 'Nude with protective mesh' and Miller's own self-portrait.

## From luxury to war

But there is more, because this sensitivity, this eye, travels with the American photographer to London, where she arrives from Cairo to capture the havoc of World War II. Miller portrays the senselessness of such barbarity in her picture of a destroyed typewriter and a sculpture reduced to rubble after the bombing.

"You don't need to be hard to deal with such tragedy," said Penrose about his mother's work, a paradigm of personal and creative freedom.

"She rebels against the way in which men normally see women. If you look at the photograph of the breasts on the plates you can feel quite uncomfortable about it. It's a way of saying that men often look at women as if they were a piece of meat, and the surrealists confronted this way of thinking and always defended freedom, peace and justice," he explained.

The opening of the exhibition began with a talk given by Antony Penrose, who gave a chronological report on his mother's travels from Paris to New York, then crossing the pond again to Cairo and then moving on to London, Germany, Hungary, France and back to the USA again.

"In all the works she did in all the places she visited, Miller maintained that surrealist view of life, and that included the photos she took for the fashion magazines.



Antony Penrose, Lee Miller's son, at the opening at La Térmica. :: FÉLIX PALACIOS



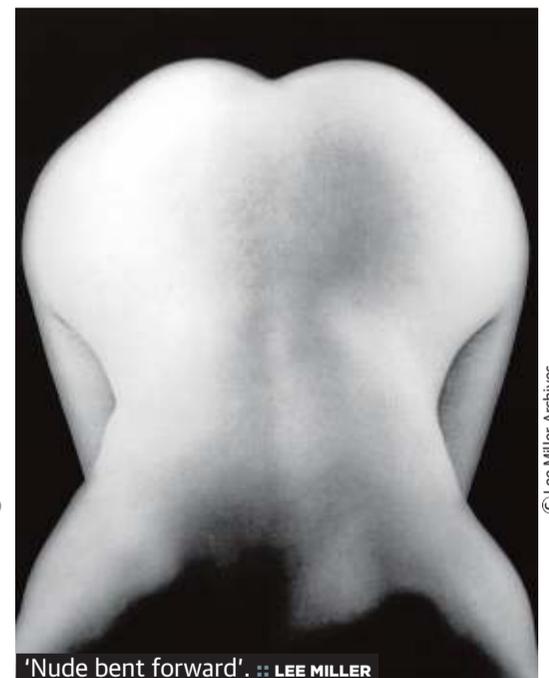
There are more than 100 photos on display. :: FÉLIX PALACIOS

## THE EXHIBITION

- ▶ **Title.** 'Lee Miller. Surrealista'.
- ▶ **Where.** La Térmica. Avenida de Los Guindos, 48.
- ▶ **When.** Until 26 February 2020.
- ▶ **Opening hours.** Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm.
- ▶ **Entry.** Free.



Portrait of David E. Scherman. :: LEE MILLER



'Nude bent forward'. :: LEE MILLER

She combined that with her work as a war correspondent," said Victoria Mainoldi, who is the joint curator of the exhibition together with Mario Martín Pareja.

Martin Pareja recalled that Miller went from being a subject of the photos to taking them, swapping her role as a model for her activity as an artist.

## The exhibition highlights the influence of surrealism in the photographer's works

"She was the absolute owner of her career, to such an extent that she broke off with art altogether when she decided to retire," he said.

As this exhibition shows, Lee Miller was much more than a beautiful woman who had a fascinating life.

## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Sierra Nevada is all prepared for the 2019 winter season. :: CETURSA



A ride at the Mirlo Blanco park. :: CETURSA



### QUICK GUIDE

#### What to do in the Sierra Nevada

▶ **Mirlo Blanco.** An activity park for the whole family, without the need to wear skis.  
Prado Llano, s/n. 18196 Sierra Nevada, Granada

#### 'El Dornajo' visitors centre.

▶ An information centre about the National and Natural Park of Sierra Nevada.  
Ctra. Sierra Nevada, km 23. 18160. Güejar Sierra.

▶ **Parque Sulayr.** Considered nowadays as the most complete snowpark, with more levels and bigger than any other in the country.  
Loma de Dílar, s/n. 18196 Monachil.



#### Santuario de la Virgen de las Nieves.

▶ A chapel at a height of 2,700 metres, built at the end of the 18th century.  
Calle de los Pinos, 2, 18196 Sierra Nevada, Granada.

#### Los Cahorros route.

▶ A walking route with hanging bridges across parts of the Monachil river.  
18193 Monachil.

# A snow white end to the year

JAVIER  
ALMELLONES

### 2 days in the Sierra Nevada

Car + walking.

Journey time: 2 hours from Malaga.

Attractions and sport: 5 hours.

Nature: 4 hours.

Other visits: 3 hours.

**S**ierra Nevada is looking at its best. In fact, the official start of the winter season should have been last weekend, but the bad weather meant it was put off until this one, the start of December, which is also the beginning of peak season for this popular resort in Andalucía.

Since Saturday 23 November there have been more than 13 kilometres skiable in the Sierra Nevada,

with snow between 20 and 80 cms thick below a height of 900 metres.

The runs which are kicking off the new 2019-2020 season are mainly in the Borreguiles and El Rio areas, and the lifts which are in operation at present are the Al-Ándalus tele-cabin, the Dauro, Borreguiles and El Bosque gondolas and the Emile Al-lais, Veleta II and Veleta chairlifts.

The Sierra Nevada ski resort is not just for adults, and

children will love the Mirlo Blanco activity park, which is also partly open now. There, as well as the usual attractions, they can now enjoy some new ones, such as tubing, sledges and the 'Russian sled'.

The Sierra Nevada has become an international benchmark for winter sports, with the biggest ski station in Spain and one of the most important in Europe.

It offers skiers up to 50 kilometres of pistes every season, and there are excellent facilities. This, combined with the panoramic views from the main slopes attract a loyal clientele who return year after year.

This impressive mountain range, which is home to the peaks of Mulhacén - the highest on the Iberian Peninsula - and Veleta, is protected as a national park and biosphere reserve because of its remarkable geology and to preserve its ecosystems of great ecological value.

It is a combination of rugged rock, small lagoons and Mediterranean woodland, forming a unique landscape which is biodiverse and truly remarkable to find in the south of Europe. Its important historic and ethnographic heritage should also not be forgotten.



This is a very popular resort with skiers. :: CETURSA



## EXHIBITIONS

**Pedro Gabiola**

**Estepona.** 29 November to 11 December. *Casa de Las Tejerinas.* Local resident and painter Pedro Gabiola presents 14 works which bring together a passion for painting and bullfighting in 'The exquisite and the tragic'.

**Visibles**

**Marbella.** Until 30 November. *Hospital Real de la Misericordia and in San Pedro Centro Cultural.* In a tribute to the women of Marbella and San Pedro this exhibition consists of photographs presented as if they were the front cover of a magazine.



'Visibles', Marbella

**International art**

**Marbella.** Until 31 December. *Kempinski Hotel Bahía.* Free. A trio of international artists present paintings, sculptures and crystallised works within the hotel Art Foyer and Art Gallery. [www.kempinski.com/marbella](http://www.kempinski.com/marbella)

**Magpie International Art**

**Marbella.** Until 30 November. *C/Virgen del Pilar.* 'November Collective' art exhibition of various format.

**Extraordinary women**

**Marbella.** Until 29 November. *Hospital Costa del Sol.* Frida Kahlo, Malala Yousafzai, Eva Perón and Cleopatra are some of just a few women who feature in 'Luminaries, extraordinary women' to mark the International Day of the Elimination of Gender Violence.

**'Hope'**

**Órgiva.** From 30 November until 21 December. *The old town hall.* An exhibition around the theme of 'hope' has been arranged by Artists Network Alpujarra. Tues, Wed, Fri 5-8.30pm; Thurs, Sat 11am - 2pm.

# Christmas traditions in Benalmádena

The Christmas Traditions Festival will offer typical products, live performances and gastronomy from 15 countries

**TONY BRYANT**

**BENALMÁDENA.** The Festival of Christmas Traditions will be the first in a series of festive activities scheduled to take place in Benalmádena in the lead-up to Christmas. Organised by the foreign residents' department and various local expat associations, the festival will be held in Plaza Mezquita in Arroyo de la Miel between Friday 13 and Sunday 15 December.

This popular festival presents unique Christmas experiences, typical products, shows and gastronomy from 15 countries, including Germany, France, Argentina, Ukraine, Mexico, USA, Italy and the UK. Visitors will be invited to sample a variety of traditional festive food and drinks, from the customary mulled wine and mince pies to more exotic cuisine, like Allahabadi cake,



The Christmas festival attracts thousands of visitors. :: SUR

traditionally eaten by Indian Christians during Yuletide.

The festival will begin with a presentation parade of all the countries and associations involved, followed by live music and dance shows on the main stage. These will include Bollywood dance, African ballet, Argentinian tango and various performances by local choral societies.

Several British organisations will also participate, including the popular Banana Studios, which will present an energetic display of song and dance from the 1970s until present day.

The Welsh Society will be serving typical Gaelic gastronomy and offering a choral performance in order to raise funds for a British expat who is suffering from motor neurone disease.

## INFORMATION

► **When.** Friday 13 - Sunday 15 December.

► **Where.** Plaza Mezquita. Arroyo de la Miel.

► **Festival.** Christmas products, shows and gastronomy from 15 countries.

The Welsh Society uses the event to raise money for local causes and this year they have chosen to support Della Hall, a mother-of-two who has suffered with the muscular weakness disorder for almost three years.

The festive gathering will offer plenty of activities to keep children occupied and these will include a bouncy castle, face painting and festive games and competitions; while Father Christmas, the Slavic Santa Ded Moroz, and the Three Kings will make appearances throughout the day.

The festival, which is free, begins at 1pm each day.

For more information, see [www.benalmadena.es](http://www.benalmadena.es)

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Advent concert**

**Benalmádena.** 29 November, 7pm. *Castillo del Bil Bil.* 12€. Mezzosoprano Mariza Ruppman, together with Mitch Jansen (vocals and trumpet) and Heather Bellene (pianist) will celebrate the start of the advent season with gospel and other popular and traditional music. Proceeds from tickets, sold on the door, go to the Cudeca hospice.

**TAPAS Christmas craft fair**

**Coín.** 30 November. *Venta La Masia, Villafranco.* 12 to 3pm. Free entry. Stalls, gifts, crafts and entertainment - a chance to buy Christmas gifts and stocking fillers. Money raised will go to CHAIN animal charity and the Un Si por La Vida cancer support charity. 5€ pitch fee for stallholders (call Betty on 679 757 610).

**Last Chance Animal Rescue**

**El Paraíso.** 29 November, 5-7pm. *Neli G's Bistro Cafe.* Christmas gift ideas, stalls, mince pies, mulled wine, Christmas Bake Off, live music, tombola and more.

**La Cala Lions Christmas Fayre**

**Las Lagunas.** 30 November, 11am-5pm. *Treetops, El Chaparral Golf.* The Costa Soul Singers and Stagecoach's Children's Choir will be providing the music at this Christmas fair which will have stalls selling crafts, cakes, gifts etc.

**Christmas Cookie event**

**Álora.** 30 November, from 9.30am until 5pm. *El Nido del Chorro, C/Conde del Guadalhorce 20.* Mince pies and mulled wine, juice for little ones, churros and hot chocolate. 10 per cent of cookie sales will be split between Cudeca and Cruz Roja charities. Places are



Hope, Orgiva.

limited. Bookings: 663 086 637.

**Christmas party**

**Malaga.** 30 November, from 5pm. *malaga city centre.* To coincide with the inauguration of the Christmas lights on Saturday Malaga city centre will be full of activities with zambombas (traditional flamenco carols), an ice rink, bouncy castle, a parade through

the old quarter and at the Christmas tree which will offer a light and sound show every day at 6.30pm, 7.30pm and 8.30pm. Father Christmas pays a visit 5 December at 5pm and the royal postmen will be collecting letters on 27 December and 4 January to hand on to the Three Kings.

**Christmas Fair**

**Almoguera.** 30 November, 1 December, 11am - 8pm. *Hacienda Almoguera, Carretera Vieja de Los Barrios.* 4€ per vehicle.

Unique gift ideas, craft and gourmet products. Christmas activities for kids. Lunch available. Email: [feriachristmas@gmail.com](mailto:feriachristmas@gmail.com)

**Christmas market**

**Almuñécar.** 30 November, 1 December, from 4-10pm Saturday and 11am - 7pm Sunday. Crafts, gastronomy, children's

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[www.acentos-te.es](http://www.acentos-te.es)

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workshops and inflatables, Christmas decorations and live music. A paella on Sunday will raise funds for the Three Kings Parade and there will be a collection of children's items for Cáritas.

#### **Kempinski Christmas market Marbella.**

**30 November, 12pm.** A lavish Christmas market featuring choirs (performances at 1pm, 5.30pm and 18.20pm), Santa and a large gingerbread house will be raising funds for a number of local charities including; La Asociación de Autismo de Estepona, Fundatul San Pedro, Asociación de Alzheimer Estepona, Piel de Mariposa Marbella and Cáritas.

#### **Love To Sing Carol Concerts**

**Duquesa. 30 November, 2pm.** Bellavista Campsite Christmas Fair in aid of Alzheimer's.  
**Manilva. 7 December, from 3.30pm.** Plaza de la Vendimia. Gastronomy Fair.

#### **ADANA Christmas Fair**

**Estepona. 1 December, 10.30am - 4pm.** *Palacio de Congresos.* Various stalls, entertainment, activities for children.

#### **Club Naranja Calahonda**

**Mijas. 1 December, from 12pm.** *C/Málaga.* Home baked goods, Christmas decorations and gifts, clothing, Home decor, jewellery, and many craft stalls. Food and drinks will

be available. Guest appearance of the Costa Soul Singers.

#### **St George's Christmas Fair**

**Malaga. 1 December, from 12.30pm.** *St George's Anglican Church Málaga, Avda de Pries (the English Cemetery).* Free entry. Christmas Gifts, Baked Goods, Second-hand Books and Clothing, Tombola.

#### **Lux Mundi Bazaar**

**Fuengirola. 4 December, 10.30am - 12.30pm.** *Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva.* Cakes, jewellery, books, toys, gifts etc. Free entry.

#### **Municipal band and Christmas lights**

**Vélez-Málaga. 5 December, 5.30pm.** *Plaza de las Carmelitas.* The town band will be playing Christmas songs followed by the inauguration ceremony for the lights and the nativity scene (in the town hall).

#### **ADANA Christmas dinner**

**Manilva. 6 December, from 7pm.** *Duquesa Golf.* 35€. Three-course Christmas dinner (fish option available), with glass of cava on arrival and glass of wine, beer or a soft drink with the meal. Entertainment provided by Neily Diamond, Ivan (80s hits) and guitarist Les Carter. Bookings: [adanaevents@gmail.com](mailto:adanaevents@gmail.com)

#### **Nuevo Futuro Rastrillo**

**Malaga. 6-9 December from 11am**

*until 9pm. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos.*

Nuevo Futuro raises funds to provide welcoming homes for children who come from difficult backgrounds. They will be holding a market with various stalls selling all sorts of crafts, Christmas gifts and foods.

#### **Absolutely Bazaar Christmas Boot Sale**

**Alhaurín el Grande. 7 December, sellers from 8am, buyers from 10am. Closing at 3pm.** *Venta Los Arcos.*

Sellers are required to display their goods on a table or stand and not on the floor. Book a pitch: [www.absolutelybazaar.es](http://www.absolutelybazaar.es). All other information call: 652150951

#### **Ricky Lavazza's Christmas Cracker**

**Benalmádena. 7 December, doors 8pm.** *Moonlight Lounge, Sunset Beach Hotel.* 12.50€.

By invitation, the TAPAS choir join popular vocalist Ricky Lavazza in his Christmas Show. Karen Danzig will also appear. Tickets available from Sunset Beach reception or [www.lava-productions.rocks](http://www.lava-productions.rocks)

#### **TIMS Christmas concert**

**La Cala de Mijas. 10 December, 6pm.** *Town hall.* The choir will sing arrangements of Christmas songs. Tickets on door or from 654 891 790. [www.timschoir.org](http://www.timschoir.org)



Lieuwke (left) at the symposium in India. :: L. LOTH

## Luz de la Vida gallery brings a taste of India to Cómpeeta

by J. RHODES

**CÓMPETA.** Cómpeeta-based Artist Lieuwke Loth will be hosting an Indian evening at her Luz de la Vida gallery (Calle Laberinto 15) in the village on Saturday 30 November at 6pm.

The evening is inspired by Lieuwke's recent trip to India where she attended an art symposium.

She will show pictures from her trip and talk about her ex-

periences, including the art symposium she attended and the artists she met there.

There will be an opportunity to sample Indian 'tapas' and musicians Lothar and Lukasz will be performing Asian music on the hang and didgerido. For further information about the event see:

[www.galerialuzdelavida.com](http://www.galerialuzdelavida.com) or [www.facebook.com/galerialuzdelavida](https://www.facebook.com/galerialuzdelavida)

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## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Christmas Carols and Brunch Nerja.** 7 December, 11.30am. *El Parador de Nerja.* 42€.

A recital with soprano Lucía Millán and harpist Félix Miguel Ángel Sánchez followed by brunch at the hotel. Reservations: 690 073 871 or [www.ventana-abierta.es/reservas](http://www.ventana-abierta.es/reservas).

## CHARITY

**Cudeca Book Fair**

**Arroyo de la Miel.** 30 November, 10am-2pm. *Public library.*

There will be a sale of books at the public library to raise money for Cudeca Cancer Hospice. Prices start at 1€ and the books will be in a variety of languages.

**Charity concert**

**Malaga.** 4 December, 7.30pm. *La Fábrica de Cervezas Victoria.* 12.50€.

A night of live Gospel music, both classical and modern, will raise funds for Los Ángeles Malagueños de la Noche. The entry fee will provide two family meals on Christmas eve, the beer factory is hoping to raise enough for at least 500 economically challenged families to enjoy Christmas. Only persons over 18 are admitted to the factory. [www.cervezavictoria.es](http://www.cervezavictoria.es)

## THEATRE

**Peter Pan the musical**

**Vélez-Málaga** 30 November, 6pm. *Teatro del Carmen.* 10€.

An adventure in Never Never Land for all the family (in Spanish).

**Alice's Trip**

**Vélez-Málaga** 30 November, 1, 7, 8 December, Saturdays 9pm, Sundays 7pm. *Sala Gades, C/Calvo.* 8€ in advance, 16€ on door.

An adaptation of the classic story of Alice in Wonderland (in Spanish) by the Fernando Hurtado Dance Company and Fundación Pasos. Tickets: [www.tickets.janto.es/](http://www.tickets.janto.es/)

## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

**Dire Straits tribute**

**Malaga.** 29 November, 9.30pm. *París 15, Polígono Industrial San Luís.* 15€ + fees.

Alchemy Project will perform a tribute to the band's 1983 concert in London. [www.proyectoalchemy.com](http://www.proyectoalchemy.com)

**Fugitivos del Swing**

**Malaga.** 29 November, 5pm. *La Fábrica de Cruzcampo*

Rock'n'Roll with the Fugitivos del Swing. <https://lafabricadecer-veza.com/>

**Vintage Girls**

**Malaga.** 30 November, 5pm. *La Fábrica de Cruzcampo*

The Vintage Girls perform a swing concert with a touch of the Andrew Sisters. <https://lafabricadecer-veza.com/>

**Piano concert**

**Almuñécar.** 2 December, 8pm.



A stall at a previous edition of the event. :: SUR

## Gaucín's annual Christmas fair marks its 25th anniversary

### :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**GAUCÍN.** This weekend, Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December, the Gaucín Christmas Fair celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Around 40 stalls have been reserved selling quality gifts, jewellery and local artisan products from 10am to 5pm in front of the new town hall building.

The whole road will be closed off to accommodate the bar and lunch area, as well as live music all day long. On the Saturday, Marcus Myers and The Poogy Brothers will be per-

forming while on Sunday it's the turn of Elizabeth Zeder and mark Colley.

Many local charities will be represented and this year the newly formed ADECA Gaucín animal charity commissioned the local school to design a calendar. The 12 winning entries were selected by renowned artist Joseba Sánchez Zabaleta and will be on sale at the fair and all the 100 entries will be on display.

Every year the Gaucín Christmas Fair attracts many visitors from far and wide. For more information, call 677 054 284.

**Casa de la Cultura.**

Pianist Javier Herreros will be in concert. Tickets from box office an hour before the concert.



Dire Straits tribute, Malaga.

**The Rat Pack**

**Nerja.** 5 December, 8pm. *Casa Grande, entrance on C/San Isidro, parking on Río Chillar car park.* 10€.

A tribute to Frank, Dean and Sammy with all the banter from their shows as well as the classic hits. Info: 691934626

**GarumTrio**

**Nerja.** 4 December, 8pm. *Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Granada.*

The Garum Trio, like the ancient Roman sauce from which it takes its name, takes advantage of the viscera of the most notable folklore of Andalucía as well as Caribbean music, jazz and Brazilian. With flutist Fernando Brox they offer a

trip through Havana, New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro.

**Jazz Festival Gibraltar.**

6 December, *Chatham Counter-guard.*

At 4.30pm there will be a marching Jamba Brass band around the town starting from John Mackintosh Square and ending at Chatham Counter-guard followed at 6.30pm by performances by Anya Feat Ny-Gee, The Street Dogs and Jamba Brass Band.

**The Wall Bar**

**Malaga.** *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 10pm, entry free.*

29 November, 9pm. Fernando Berra vocals and guitar. Blues, pop and rock.

30 November. Iris Nieto. Oboe and acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop.

**Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Malaga.** *Teatro Cervantes.*

29 November, 8pm.

Conducted by José Luis Gómez, the orchestra will perform Beethoven's Overture Coriolano; and Mozart's Idomeneo music for ballet in part one followed by Beethoven's Symphony N°7 in A major. Tickets: [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)

**Casa Pestiño**

**Torremolinos.** 30 November, 8.30pm. *Auditorio Principe de As-*

*turias.*

Malaga-based flamenco company, Casa Pestiño, will host a zambomba night that will present popular villancicos (Spanish carols) and a fusion of jazz and classical music. Tickets: [www.eventbrite.es](http://www.eventbrite.es)

**Flamenco Christmas**

**Torremolinos.** 30 November, 8.30pm. *Auditorio Municipal Principe de Asturias.*

A flamenco Christmas with Casa Pestiño. Classic Spanish Christmas songs and carols. Tickets: Maruja Limón or [www.eventbrite.es](http://www.eventbrite.es)



Casa Pestiño, Torremolinos

## EVENTS AND TRIPS

**Historical re-enactment**

**Mijas.** 30 November, 11.30am. *Playa del Charcón.*

A re-enactment of Torrijos disembarking on the beach and his subsequent capture will be performed followed by a recreation of the everyday life of the carabineri stationed in the watch tower in La Cala de Mijas in 1831 (1pm).

**Motor Fair**

**Malaga.** *From 29 November until 1 December. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos. Free entry.*

Around 1,000 vehicles will be displayed with another 5,000 available, both new and used. [www.salonmotormalaga.com](http://www.salonmotormalaga.com)

**Christmas Lights, Puente Genil**

**Fuengirola.** 10, 11 December. *Various departure points.*

Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. 952474840. [www.lux-mundi.org/](http://www.lux-mundi.org/)

**Seville Christmas lights**

**Torre del Mar.** 10-12 December.

*Various departure points.* Staying at 4\* Hotel Fernando. 219-239€. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. 952 543 334 or [luxmundi@lux-mundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@lux-mundi.org)

## LECTURES &amp; TALKS

**U3A Lectures**

**Fuengirola.** *Lux Mundi. free to members, guests 5€. Email: u3a-fuengirola@gmail.com*

**Travel: 'City Of Dreams, Bombay Then and Now'**

3 December, 11am. John Smith is much travelled in India and will illustrate a first hand account of the cities history. urban development, architecture, overcrowding, trains, communal tensions and of course, cricket. Group Leader Geoff Cooke.

**'Science And Technology In The Theatre'**

4 December, 11am.

A history of science and technology in the theatre from the Ancient Greeks upto present time. Group Leader: Ian Phillips

## O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

**Cine Albéniz**

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com)

**The Irishman:** 16.30, 20.10.

**Marriage Story:** 20.05.

**A Rainy Day In New York:** 22.35.

**Cinesur El Ingenio**

Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.

**Frozen II:** 19.00, 21.00 (Mon, Tues).

**Knives Out:** 18.35, 21.10 (Tues).

**Cinesur Miramar**

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.

**Ghost Fleet:** 21.45.

**Knives Out:** 12.00, 16.15; 18.50, 21.30, 0.15.

**Le Mans 66:** 12.00, 15.45.

**Hustlers:** 15.45.

**Cines Teatro Goya**

For tickets and information call 951196665.

[www.cinesteatrogoya.com](http://www.cinesteatrogoya.com)

**Knives Out:** 15.30, 17.45, 22.15 (Fri-Sun); 17.00, 21.45 (Mon-Wed)

**Frozen II:** 15.30, 17.30, 18.30, 19.30 (Fri-Sun), 12.00 (Sun), 17.15, 19.15 (Mon-Wed).

**Hustlers:** 22.15 (Fri-Sun), 21.30 (Mon-Wed).

**Joker:** 15.45 (Fri-Sun), 17.00 (Mon-Wed).

**The Irishman:** 15.30, 18.00 (Fri-Sun), 17.30 (Mon-Wed).

**Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor**

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León.

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Knives Out:** 12.30 (Sat, Sun); 16.10 (every day); 18.40 (Tues).

**Frozen II:** 18.30 (Tues).

**Joker:** 19.05 (Tues).

**Le Mans '66:** 16.00 (every day); 19.00 (Tues).

**Last Christmas:** 20.05 (Tues).

**Hustlers:** 21.05 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria.**

Calle Arroyo Totalán Tel: 902 220 922 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Frozen II:** 18.30 (Tues).

**Joker:** 19.20 (Tues).

**Last Christmas:** 20.30 (Tues).

**Le Mans 66:** 19.50 (Tues).

**Knives Out:** 19.40 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Vialia.**

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Le Mans 66:** 20.45 (Tues).

**Doctor Sleep:** 22.05 (Tues).

**Joker:** 19.30 (Tues).

**Frozen II:** 18.30 (Tues).

**Last Christmas:** 19.35 (Tues).

**Hustlers:** 20.45 (Tues).

**Knives Out:** 19.10 (Tues).

## Poor man's pepper

The Spanish condiment with humble origins that has become kitchen gold

### Picante (Hot)

Hot paprika is not so red but poor quality paprika is also paler in colour.

### Escamas (Flakes)

The flakes, also called 'hojillas' in Spanish are ideal for stews, marinades or for adding the final touch to a dish.

### Dulce (Sweet)

Sweet paprika is made from the ñora or jaranda pepper, typical in La Vera.

|| DANIEL MALDONADO

### || ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

**G**astromomers such as Francisco Abad Alegria, who dedicated his investiture speech to the Academia Aragonesa de Gastronomía to Saffron and paprika, ventured that the red of the paprika was the backbone of Spanish cuisine.

This is because, unlike some other spices, paprika had always been cheap and easily accessible to everyone. The first varieties of *Capsicum* that Christopher Columbus brought from the Americas were hot. In its place of origin, 'chilli' was as valuable as salt and for the sailor who had discovered that country while he was looking for India and its gold and spices, it was a very interesting find.

Abad Alegria and other historians

believe it was Columbus who took the first pepper seeds to the Real Monasterio de Guadalupe while on a pilgrimage in 1493 to pay thanks for his good fortune. The monks then took seeds to their monastery in Yuste, also in Cáceres and then to other monasteries including San Pedro de la Ñora (Murcia), where it was called 'pimiento dulce'.

Both zones, La Vera in Cáceres and Ñora in Murcia, are the only regions in Spain that have the DO (Denominación de Origen) for paprika. By the eighteenth century the sweet varieties were being used as a vegetable: the 'pimienta de pobres' (pepper of the poor), which came to be called 'pimiento'.

The condition of the cheap condiment meant that it was completely absent from wealthy homes and rec-

ipe books for nearly two hundred years.

It is likely that in 1557, when Charles I of Spain and V of Germany retired to the monastery at Yuste that the monks were already growing peppers, but documents at the time don't mention it as the emperor took his own select spices such as cloves and cinnamon, nutmeg and pepper. He would not have eaten the vulgar red version although it did appear in paintings by Velázquez such as the 'Vieja friendo huevos' (1618).

The peppers used to make paprika have little flesh and are rich in carotenoids such as capsanthin, capsorubin and beta-carotene, which give them the intense red colour of the sweet varieties. The hot varieties have an abundance of a defensive chemical, capsaicina,

which is responsible for the burning sensation. The drying process concentrates these substances which dilute easily in contact with fats (carotenoids are liposoluble which is why they quickly colour other foods when fried with them).

As paprika was a cheap condiment there are few documents available with which to trace its history. Its popularity spread from Spain to Turkey and then to Hungary where it was called 'paprika'.

Initially the dried peppers were used whole. Nowadays it is possible to find it in flakes and powder. Dried peppers are used rehydrated and chopped in stews that require long cooking, flakes can be used as a topping or garnish and powder is perfect for marinating and dressings and other short cooking dishes.

The main difference between the La Vera and the Murcia paprikas is the drying process. In La Vera the peppers are dried in oak smoke. In Murcia they are dried in the sun. The varieties differ too, Murcia only use the ñora pepper for their sweet paprika and in La Vera they produce three types using the long jaranda pepper in all of them. For the sweet paprika they mix it with bola, a sweet variety; for the intensely flavoured bitersweet paprika they add jariza and for hot paprika they add jeromin.

Choosing the most suitable one for each dish is a matter of taste, but it is worth using a quality paprika (the common ones are made with paprika grown in third countries), because it is still an affordable spice and the only one genuinely Spanish.

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# A dream come true, a Belgian twist on Mediterranean food

**MIJAS**

Yoni and Stephanie worked for several years in their father's restaurant in Belgium there dream was to start their own business and they have come to Spain to do just that.

**ROMANTIC AMBIANCE**

El Cárstel opened at the beginning of November and is located in El Zoco (formerly Mandragora), Calahonda.

It has recently been converted into a wonderful place to relax, with soft lighting, low background music and a romantic ambiance.

The menu is a clever but subtle mix of Mediterranean and Belgian cuisine using fresh ingredients and cooked to perfection.

The restaurant and bar also serves delicious cocktails and aperitifs which can be enjoyed in the cosy bar area or outside on the spacious terrace.

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**

Yoni and Stephanie are already planning for Christmas and New Year celebrations and are accepting reservations now.

A copy of their exceptional four-course Christmas menu is available online, on their Facebook page (details below). Book early (by phone or through their Facebook page) to avoid disappointment.

**OPENING TIMES**

Restaurant opening hours are Tuesday until Sunday from 6.30pm. Kitchen closes at 11pm. Closed Mondays

**El Cárstel Restaurante y Bar Calahonda**

**Address:** El Zoco, Calahonda, Mijas.  
Tel: 952 930 440  
[www.facebook.com/El-Cárstel-Restaurante-Y-Bar-Calahonda](http://www.facebook.com/El-Cárstel-Restaurante-Y-Bar-Calahonda)



The restaurant has soft lighting and a romantic ambiance.



Succulent steak is just one of the delicious items on the menu.

ANDREW J. LINN

## THE CARNIVORE WAY



**S**outhern Spain has never been a carnivores' paradise. While from Madrid northwards meat has always formed a substantial part of the diet, nearer to the Mediterranean the sparser water supply has dictated that animal protein demands are met by chicken, pigs, sheep and cattle in that order.

Indeed, a Spanish friend told me once that his grandfather had never tasted what we now refer to as beef, the closest he ever got being young beef calves slaughtered at a few months' and eaten the same day. Tough is probably a kind description.

As Andalusians got richer and more bored with the staple fare of fish and pork, the demand for quality beef has exploded. Fortunately restaurant suppliers and supermarkets have been up to the task, and in even the most modest eatery these days the steak will at least taste of beef rather than cardboard.

It seems there have never been so many specialist meat restaurants opened on the Coast as in the last 24 months, but finding them is challenging. If you ask guides like TripAdvisor about 'best meat restaurants' you will get everything from hamburger joints to Turkish kebab houses.

Word of mouth still seems to be the best guide in every sense of the phrase. If there have to be categories, then the obvious chapter headings must be Asador and Steak House.

**The asador**

The asador was originally the Basque name for a restaurant where the meat is cooked in full view on a red-hot grill. Apart from a supervising chef, the guys who do the hard work usually have their own bottle-green-aproned uniform. On the other hand, in a steak house

**Even in the most modest eatery the steak will at least taste of beef rather than cardboard**

everything happens in the kitchen and all you see is what turns up on your plate.

Full marks therefore for the new Erre Grill at Marbella's Melia Don Pepe Hotel. Taking over from where the T-Bone Grill left off, Iñigo Urrechú is the Basque chef, and, with his correctly-attired assistants, offers a huge choice of variously aged meat cuts from Friesian to Wagyu, cooked over oak wood; orange wood is used for grilling the vegetables.

There is also an excellent fish choice, and this also gets its own combustion – olive wood.

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# Doctors perform thyroid surgery using a new and less invasive technique



ÁNGEL ESCALERA

✉ aescalera@diariosur.es

The operation was carried out at El Ángel hospital by Thanyawat Sasanakietkul, Enrique Glückmann and Luis Ocaña

**MALAGA.** A patient has recently undergone thyroid surgery using a new technique. The successful procedure, which is known as 'transoral thyroidectomy' and is carried out via the mouth, was performed at the HLA El Ángel hospital by Thai surgeon Thanyawat Sasanakietkul and colleagues Enrique Glückmann and Luis Ocaña, who are from Malaga.

Dr Sasanakietkul, who is normally based at the General Hospital in Bangkok, is the world's leading expert in this technique, which is minimally invasive and is used for patients with thyroid cancer or thyroid nodules. The thyroid is a small but-



A moment during the transoral thyroid operation. :: sur

terfly-shaped gland in the lower front of the neck, just below the Adam's apple.

The procedure is carried out by endoscopy, so it leaves no scarring on the neck and the patients recover much more quickly. They do not

suffer as much pain and they are able to go back to work sooner than those who have undergone the traditional surgical technique.

The operation which took place this week was broadcast live on an internal circuit at the hospital so more

than 60 experts on thyroid could watch it, while listening to a running commentary from Dr Sasanakietkul.

This was only the second operation of its type to be carried out in Spain, and it was part of the first workshop on transoral thyroid surgery.

"In ten years or so, most thyroid operations will be carried out using this technique," said Dr Glückmann, who organised the workshop alongside Dr Jorge García-Alemán, in collaboration with the Clínico hospital's endocrinology department.

The event also included a conference on thyroid cancer at the Ilusión hotel, which was attended by 170 experts. The incidence of this type of cancer has increased threefold, from 50 cases a year to 150, and although the reason for this increase is not exactly known, one reason could be that better diagnostic methods mean that thyroid cancer is detected earlier nowadays.

The conference also featured the latest medical and surgical advances in treating thyroid tumors. This type of cancer used to be treated more aggressively, by removing the thyroid and giving the patients a hormonal therapy for the rest of their lives. Now, more conservative techniques are used. Only part of the thyroid is removed so the rest of the gland continues to function, and the patients do not need to take the tablets, explained Dr Glückmann.

Another important subject covered at the conference was advances in the field of molecular biology, through which doctors study DNA and can predict the diagnosis and prognosis of patients in the future, such as whether the tumor might return and their chances of survival. It can also determine whether patients' family members are also at risk of developing thyroid cancer.

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# "We go to bed with someone as if we were about to sit an exam"

Francisco Cabello Sexologist



✉ mstuber@diariosur.es

"Pornography creates false expectations among our young people," says this expert, who wants sex education to be part of the school curriculum

**MÁLAGA.** Sex is the most intimate form of communication between two people. At the same time it is the most direct path to paradise or hell, depending on how one carries out a process which in Spain lasts on average for three and a half minutes. This framework illustrates very well the totally irrational expectations which occur in many bedrooms in Malaga and the rest of the country. Francisco Cabello, a psychiatrist, doctor of

psychology and sexologist, sheds some light on the situation.

-When people talk about their plans for the weekend, why does nobody ever say they are going to have sex?

-Because sex is seen as a necessity. I want it and my partner wants it. It is not seen as another form of leisure activity or personal growth.

-Fertility and reproduction. Ought there to be more to it than that?

-We reproduce because it gives us pleasure to do so. There are about 100 primitive places remaining in the world where coitus is not associated with reproduction. According to Aristotle, women were fertilised by menstrual blood. In other words, we used to reproduce before we knew sex would lead to having children.

-Thinking about sex, how are we programmed with regard to it?

-From the time we are little we accumulate what we call pleasure incentive memory. Your mother caresses you, your father caresses you. Your parents speak to you in a cer-



Francisco Cabello during the interview. :: FÉLIX PALACIOS

tain way and look at you in a specific way. All this is accumulated in the memory in the long term. With cognitive and hormonal development, we have sexual impulses which are activated by stimuli that mobilise this memory of pleasure.

-You have just presented the biggest ever study about sexual desire in women. What do women dream of?

-These days, they dream of being loved.

-And men? Would it be wrong to say it is more simple for them?

-Men also dream of being loved, but in our culture they tend to hide their emotions more. But they function better if they have a stable type of attachment.

## HIS WORDS

**"If we continue generating fear of failing at sex, the future is the robot"**

**"Love exists and it is the healthiest type of drug in the world"**

-You talk of attachment, but there is the fact that men would like to be with several women at the same time.

-That is an acquired incentive memory, among other reasons because of pornography. It is a cognitive distortion which has been generated. If it is hard for a man to be with one woman, you only have to imagine what it would be like for him to be surrounded by five.

-Are there key stimuli?  
-There are those stimuli, as I said, that we link to our memory of pleasure. They enter through our senses. For women, it is the tone of voice, the way someone looks and smells. Then there is a stimulus which depends on our learning, which is erotic fantasy.

-But hasn't pornography killed eroticism in the Greek sense? There was a generation of young people for who Emmanuelle was much more than just a French name.

-Putting an end to eroticism is very difficult. What is certain is that the ease of accessing pornography is bringing a lot of problems. Young people nowadays are not satisfied. Why? Because they have imagined sex that they have learned about from porno. In Spain every 14-year-old boy has watched pornography.

-Where is the problem with that?  
-The problem is that a boy has a penis that measures on average 12 centimetres and not 24 centimetres like Rocco Siffredi.

-And how does it affect the girls?  
-It creates false expectations in them. Then, they post in their Whatsapp group for their girlfriends that Luis is a disaster in bed and also has a very small penis. And Luis's parents bring him to see me because mentally he is ruined. Every day we see 16 and 17 year old boys who come for consultations. Every single day!

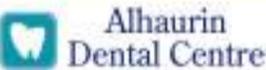
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A couple without passion are no different to good friends, says the expert. :: SUR

bar.

-The authorities, no matter what political party they are, need to introduce sex education at school. If we want society to have sexual health, it is necessary for pornography to be deconstructed.

**-Is there an ideal age to start having sex?**

-I don't really like giving an opinion, but the data is what it is. We see more sexual problems in people who start too early. The ideal age could be around 17 or 18.

**-Is fidelity natural?**

-It's quite unnatural. Faithfulness is something inherited and it has a religious and historical character. We have a clear tendency not to be faithful, just like we tend not to eat lentils every day.

**-Is the assumption that we have to perform well in bed our worst enemy?**

-Totally. We go to bed with someone as if we were about to sit an exam. We have what is called performance anxiety. A fear of failure.

**-What are the most common problems you see?**

-Premature ejaculation, erectile dysfunction and lack of desire. Although a third of the people who come because of premature ejaculation don't actually have it or suf-

fer from it. They say they can only last about ten minutes... well, the average in Europe is three and a half minutes.

**-Can excitement lead you, shall we say, in one direction or another?**

-Yes. It's all a question of control. The therapy for premature ejaculation, for example, includes relaxation techniques.

**-How important would you say sex is in a relationship?**

-It's very important. We talk about passion, intimacy and commitment. If there is only intimacy and

commitment, what are people in reality? Just good friends.

**-Can you give any example or technique to combat routine and boredom? Asking for a friend...**

-Couples should try to carry on sharing moments and leisure situations. Couples lose their passion because they stop sharing positive aspects of life. Sex is directly related with recreation. People need to cultivate erotic reading or be innovative in where they have sex at home.

**-Has our western society lost the chance to develop a culture**

**around sex, like India did, for example, with the Kama Sutra?**

-That idea about India is also a bit of a myth. If you go now to Khajuraho, the town where the Kama Sutra started, it only exists in the bas-reliefs of the temples.

**-Inflatable dolls seem to have been relegated to stag parties, but the Japanese and robotics are working miracles. Are we at the doors of a sexual dystopia?**

-Bearing in mind that there is no sex education in schools, if we continue generating fear about failing at sex, the future is the robot. Be-

cause the robot is compliant. I fear that we are heading down that path.

**-What influence does religious education have on sexuality?**

-The people with the greatest desire are agnostics. Among Christians, it is the non-practising Catholics. The cognitive part shuts down if sex is related with elements such as sin.

**-Is polyamory a reality?**

-In Malaga there is a very powerful colony of polyamorous people. They typically tell you that if you have three children and love them equally, why can't you have three partners?

**-Are you in favour of prostitution?**

-Personally, I think prostitution should be prohibited. It leads to women being treated as objects, and there is no justification for them to sell their body for sex. In rehabilitation services, yes, there should be therapies with sexual substitutes. If I am a man and I have a disability which means I can't access sex, there should be health professionals who train those abilities, or have sex with disabled people or those with low mobility. In Israel and Sweden that already happens.

**-Does love actually exist?**

-It does exist, and it is the healthiest type of drug in the world.

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Doctors Miguel Marcos Herrero, Andrés Carlos López Díaz, Rafael López Arévalo and Pedro Rosón Rodríguez took part in an event held last Friday to mark the anniversaries of the hospital and SUR Deutsche Ausgabe



Doctors with the journalist. :: SUR

## QUALITY AND INNOVATION THE CENTRE OF DISCUSSION AT THE 1ST QUIRÓN MEDICAL TECHNICAL TABLE

### MÁLAGA

Fifteen years have gone by since the launch of SUR Deutsche Ausgabe (SDA), the German edition of Diario SUR. Since its launch, SDA has been a pioneering publication that has responded to the information needs of the almost 50,000 German citizens who live in Málaga province.

Five years later, in November 2009, the Málaga Hospital Quirón project came to life, creating an integral care centre that set the bases for a new private medical system in the city thanks to its team, commitment and quality of service. Today the centre is a leading medical benchmark in care activities, high-level clinical complexity and research. A success forged by the best human team and the most advanced technology and equipment for image diagnosis, examinations and special treatments, minimally invasive procedure units, a full portfolio of services, surgical and critical care area as well as a 24-hour emergency service.

To celebrate these two occasions, a Medical Technical Table was held last Friday with the participation of Hospital Quirónsalud Málaga specialists Dr Miguel Marcos Herrero, Medical Director and Head of the Málaga Internal Medicine and Medical Check-up Service; Dr Andrés Carlos López Díaz, head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Service and the Pelvic Floor and Intimate Laser Surgery Units; Dr Rafael López Arévalo, Head of the Traumatology Service; and Dr Pedro Rosón Rodríguez, Head of the Digestive System Service.

During the encounter, which was moderated by journalist Carmen Alcaraz Sanz, the doctors outlined the evolution of the centre and their professional experience over the last decade from the points of view of their respective specialities.

“When I arrived at the hospital it wasn’t even open to the public,” said Dr López Díaz. “The beginning was tough, because we had the equipment and the facilities, but we hardly had any patients. However,

**The Medical Director also wished to highlight other innovation and research projects that are currently being developed at the Hospital, such as the collaboration with the University of Málaga**

we were sure we were doing the right thing so we took the risk because we believed in our project, we knew about Quirón’s experience in other provinces and we knew a different sort of private medicine was possible in our city. It was a huge effort, but time has proved that we were right,” the specialist continued.

“It was very exciting to go from a classical private system to one with a team

concept that for the first time wasn’t based on freelance doctors acting independently from the hospital. That was the best part: creating a team, with units inside and, most of all, watching it grow,” Dr López Arévalo commented.

Dr Marcos recalled that Quirón’s (the original company, before it joined up with IDCsalud to form Quirónsalud) commitment to Málaga was “visionary because it was a city that already had a few hospitals of some prestige. However, in a slightly kamikaze way, they started off with a great project but zero agreements with companies.” The specialist evaluated the centre’s evolution over the last decade: “During this time we have worked hard, putting the patient at the centre of the experience, to achieve the current level of excellence, which has no comparison in private medicine in Andalusia. This quality is apparent in the profiles of the professionals as well as the equipment and the portfolio of services.”

**D. López**

Head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Service and the Pelvic Floor and Intimate Laser Surgery Units



«I always say to my colleagues that if we work well, we'll enjoy our work and work harder. We must always be respectful though and humanise the service»

**Dr. Marcos**

Medical Director and Head of the Málaga Internal Medicine and Medical Check-up Service



«That Quirón's commitment to Málaga was visionary because it was a city that already had a few hospitals of some prestige»

**Dr. López Arévalo**

Head of the Traumatology Service



«It was very exciting to go from a classical private system to one with a team concept that for the first time wasn't based on freelance doctors»

**Dr. Rosón**

Head of the Digestive System Service



«Quirónsalud it's the only private hospital in Spain with a permanent place in collaborative studies in the area of endoscopic procedures»

The specialists also noted milestones in other departments, such as the Lengthening and Correction of Bone Deformities Unit; the recent delivery of the 10,000th baby; or the Hospital's position as the leading umbilical cord blood donation centre

The Medical Director also wished to highlight other innovation and research projects that are currently being developed at the Hospital, such as the collaboration with the University of Málaga. "Thanks to this agreement with the University of Málaga's Cardiology Department, at Quirónsalud we're going to contribute to development, innovation and training in the fields of Cardiology and Functional Medicine. We're very excited about it, and in January we will start training medical students at the Hospital itself with our own training itinerary."

Thanks to all of this, as Dr Marcos noted, "a hospital which was practically bound to be a disaster has become a benchmark for professionals, research and teaching in the entire Andalusian region and is also growing constantly, as proven by the upcoming opening of more than 4,000 square metres of facilities in another building which will extend the Nuclear Medicine department, operating theatres and number of beds. All with the intention of continuing to respond to our patients' needs."

Dr Rosón stressed the progress in his area, which has gone from carrying out around ten endoscopies in the centre's early days to more than 550 operations per month. The specialist highlighted the complex nature of the procedures carried out. Not in vain, we must remember that Quirónsalud's Endoscopy Department directed by this specialist is present on almost all the national and international registries; it's the only private hospital in Spain with a permanent place in collaborative studies in this area of endoscopic procedures (within the mucosal resection group of the Digestive Endoscopy Society); and it has held, thanks to a collaboration with Telefónica, the world's first medical encounter with



:: SUR

**The Hospital's International Area, with staff dedicated to foreign patients, both tourists and residents, and professionals who speak different languages such as English, German, Russian or Chinese**

live procedures retransmitted via 5G, a global pioneering experience.

The specialists also noted milestones in other departments, such as the Lengthening and Correction of Bone Deformities Unit; the recent delivery of the 10,000th baby; or the Hospital's position as the leading umbilical cord blood donation centre, both in the private and public sectors, among many other remarkable achievements.

"The secret is to do things well. I always say to my colleagues that if we work well, we'll enjoy our work and work harder. We must always be respectful though and humanise the service. We have to rise to the circumstances," said Dr López Díaz.

**A CONSTANT COMMITMENT TO QUALITY**

Regarding the patients' nationalities, the specialists recalled that the Hospital belongs to a German capital group, Fre-



senius, via the Helios parent group, dedicated to the sanitary sector. A leading position as a private hospital group that puts it at the forefront both in Spain and in Europe.

"The German contribution isn't limited to capital. We've benefited from the collaboration of many German colleagues who have shared their way of doing things such as, for example, the transparency policy or Peer Review, a pair control technique under which the most prominent figures in certain conditions visit the centres to evaluate the procedures carried out and improve them. We are also in the process of obtaining accreditation from the Joint Commission International, a mark of medical excellence," explained Dr Marcos.

The Hospital's International Area, with staff dedicated to foreign patients, both tourists and residents, and professionals who speak different languages

such as English, German, Russian or Chinese among others, was also highlighted.

Regarding the future challenges the doctors aim to take on in their profession, as well as continuing to increase quality and grow in innovation, Dr López Arévalo stressed the need to reduce delays in getting patients seen by consultants, which he said would be corrected by the hospital's future extension.

Dr López Díaz said he hopes to create a Maternity and Children's Unit to bring all the specialities under one roof.

Dr Rosón meanwhile outlined three challenges: to maintain constant commitment to quality, boost the research department and continue building on technology.

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# The Spanish health service now finances a pill that prevents HIV in people who are at high risk

Between 130,000 and 160,000 people in Spain are infected by HIV and every year around 3,400 new cases are diagnosed. Sunday 1 December is World Aids Day

:: E.P.

**MADRID.** The Spanish national health system (SNS) has started financing a tablet that can prevent HIV infection in high-risk patients.

The pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with emtricitabine (FTC) and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF), is given to people at risk of HIV infection, such as men who have intercourse with other men, HIV-negative transsexuals with certain characteristics and HIV-negative sex workers who say they do not habitually use condoms.

This was decided earlier this year by the Interministerial Committee for Pricing of Medication, which sets the prices for financing drugs on the SNS and in which several ministers and the regional authorities form part. The tablets, which won't cost the patients anything but are valued at 187.39 euros, will be dispensed by hospital pharmacies and authorised centres. They will be prescribed by HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection experts who work in SNS centres which provide essential care for and monitoring of patients for whom this medication is suitable.

As well as homosexual men and HIV-free sex workers who do not normally use condoms, HIV-negative transsexuals over the age of 18 will also have access to the medication under certain criteria.

The use of tenofovir with emtricitabine has been used to prevent HIV in Spain since 2016, but no decision had been taken about whether to include it in national health financing. On 10 October, the secretary of the National Plan against Aids, Julia del Amo, announced at the XI Congress of the State HIV and Aids Coordinator



The drug can prevent new infections. :: SUR

**According to figures 18% of people infected with HIV in Spain are unaware they have the virus**

**Most of the cases diagnosed involve young men who have sexual relations with other men**

(Cesida) that it would be included from now on.

### HIV figures

Sunday 1 December is World Aids Day, and the news that this tablet is now free in Spain has been welcomed by those involved in the medical sector. Recent figures from the European Centre for the Prevention and Control of Illnesses and the European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men Internet Study have shown that half a million homosexual men in Europe have no access to PrEP, although they need it.

This is despite the fact that its use

to prevent HIV infection in people who are HIV-negative, and its effectiveness, have been well documented. For example, a study in 22 health centres in Paris of 2,000 men who have sex with other men indicated that providing PrEP daily or upon request reduces the number of new contagions to almost zero.

According to the latest official figures, between 130,000 and 160,000 people in Spain are infected by HIV, and about 18 per cent are unaware of it. Every year about 3,400 new cases are diagnosed in this country, most of them young men who have sexual relations with other men.

This makes it difficult for Spain to achieve the 90-90-90 target set by ONUSIDA for 2020: 90 per cent of people with HIV diagnosed; 90 per cent of those diagnosed receive treatment; and 90 per cent of those who receive treatment have an undetectable viral load.

Spain would fail on the first of these objectives, because only 82 per cent of the Spanish population with HIV has been diagnosed. However, in terms of the other two targets, the country registers 95 per cent.

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La Cala Lions hand over their cheque to Knitted Knockers and the AECC. :: SUR

## La Cala Lions hand over a thousand euros for Knitted Knockers

### :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**MIJAS.** Members of La Cala de Mijas Lions club recently handed over a cheque for 1,000 euros to the Knitted Knockers association. The funds will go towards extending the knitting workshops along the Costa del Sol and providing kits to hospitals.

The knitters, who currently meet

once a week in the offices of the Spanish cancer association AECC in Los Boliches, produce soft breast prostheses for women who have undergone mastectomies or other procedures to the breast.

The presentation was attended by the vice-president of the AECC in Fuengirola, Paloma Gómez Díaz, the president of Knitted Knockers,

Maria Bailey, among other representatives.

La Cala de Mijas Lions are currently preparing for their Christmas Party at Treetops Restaurant on Saturday 14 December. Further details of this and other events can be obtained from the Lions Charity Shop in Calle Torremolinos, La Cala de Mijas or telephone 637 185 533.



Councillors and representatives of ECOVIDRIO in Torremolinos. :: SUR

## Recycled glass campaign to benefit breast cancer victims

### :: TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** More than 225 kilos of glass has been collected during the 'Recycling Glass for Them' cancer campaign that was held in Torremolinos last month. The campaign, now in its fourth year, was organised by ECOVIDRIO, a non-profit entity responsible for managing the recycling of glass-packaging waste in Spain.

The initiative was launched on World Breast Cancer Day, when two pink containers were installed in front of the town hall, in which residents were asked to place their

waste glass. The proceeds from the recycled glass, which this year had seen an increase of 13 per cent, were donated to the Sandra Ibarra Cancer Foundation.

Torremolinos was awarded the green flag for recycling in the initiative 'Green Flags for Sustainability', which recognises the Spanish coastal municipalities that are committed to combating climate change and coastal protection through the recycling of glass. Marbella and Mijas were also recognised for their commitment to the campaign.

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**Only two names from Malaga are practically guaranteed a place at the Olympics, but others may be added later**



**PEDRO LUIS ALONSO**

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Karateca **Damián Quintero** and golfer **Azahara Muñoz** will classify, barring last-minute surprises, and some women are in with a good chance

**MALAGA.** This century began extremely well for sportsmen and women from Malaga. Thirteen athletes represented the province, winning two medals, at Sydney 2000, and nine competitors went to Athens in 2004, but the situation regarding those heading to the Olympics next year is currently looking very different. Hopefuls from the Costa del Sol can practically be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Leaving to one side those who will be in Tokyo between 24 July to 9 August as coaches, referees, journalists, photographers and volunteers, with only eight months to go the list of locals who will be competing for a medal or a diploma has only two names (**Damián Quintero** and **Azahara Muñoz**). Others stand quite a good chance of being there



# The demanding road to



as well, such as **Sole López**, **Marta López**, **Paula Ruiz**, **María de Valdés** and **Ángela Lobato**, and it is possible that more may be added to the list in the forthcoming months, but realistically, in many cases that is not looking very likely (**Borja Vivas**, **Alberto Díaz**, **María Torres** and **Martin Dockx**).

**Karate**

**Damián Quintero, second in the 'ranking' for katas**

**Damián**, who is from **Torremolinos**, is currently second in the Olympic ranking for katas, and about ten competitors will be taking part in

**Tokyo**. Now aged 35 (he will celebrate his 36th birthday just before the Games), he is feeling fortunate because his sport is making its debut in the Olympic programme, although a priori it already has an expiry date; barring last-minute changes, it won't be included in Paris in 2024. However, he stands a very good chance of bringing a medal home to Malaga next year.

**Ryo Kiyun**, from Japan, and **Ali Sofuoglu** from Turkey, who are first and third respectively in the ranking, will be **Damián's** main rivals in a discipline in which there is no fighting as such, just an exhibition of technical moves which will be evaluated by a panel of judges.

Meanwhile, young **María Torres** is 28th in the Olympic ranking for kumite in the 61+ kilos weight group. Her chances of achieving her objective are not quite as good as those of **Damián**, because only ten competitors will be taking part in each weight group. She might, however, have a chance at the qualification tournament in Paris from 8 to 10 May (for three of these places in each weight group).

**Golf**

**Azahara Muñoz returns to the Olympics**

**Azahara Muñoz**, who is from **San Pedro Alcántara**, is currently 22nd in the Olympic ranking, so it would be very strange if she were not to meet the requirements between now and 29 June - the cut-off date - to be among the 60 top golfers, which is the final quota of players. The first 15 men and women to classify will have direct access to the

Olympics in Tokyo, with the limitation that there cannot be more than four golfers from any one country. Also, the rest of the nations can only opt for two places, which means that some of the worst-classified golfers could achieve their objective and compete in Tokyo. There is a third condition, the representation of players from all the continents, which will also mean that some lower-ranked golfers will be included.

Right now, however, it looks as if **Muñoz**, who was at Rio in 2016 (the first time golf was included in the Olympic programme) and came 21st, will be there, and will be accompanied by her compatriots **Carlota Ciganda**, **Jon Rahm** and **Rafa Cabrera Bello**.

**Handball**

**Sole López and Marta López: World and Pre-Olympic**

The two women handball players from Malaga, who have the same surname but are not related, are doing well enough so far to expect to be at the Games, barring previous injury. This would be the third time for **Marta López** (who plays in Romania for **Ramnicu Valcea**), and her team won a bronze medal in London 2012, where she was a last-minute substitute for an injured player. Now, what is most important, is that these female 'warriors' get their ticket to next year's Olympics, something which won't be easy but is doable. After coming 12th in the European Games last year, Spain was not able to take that route for a place in the world qualifiers. The only way is at the World Championships

which take place in Japan from 29 November to 15 December, for six tickets to the Olympic Qualification Tournament.

They will not be opting for those yet, and nor will the champion of the tournament, the continental champions (France, Korea, Angola, Brazil) or the host, Japan. With regard to the format for the qualifiers, twelve countries will be competing in three groups of four. The first two of each will classify for the event in Tokyo.

**Swimming**

**Paula Ruiz and María de Valdés will try in May**

Malaga has two good possibilities for the open water format, **Paula Ruiz** (CN Mairena) and **María de Valdés** (CN Liceo). Neither of them was able to classify (they came 24th and 33rd respectively) at the recent World Championships in Gwangju (where ten places were available for Tokyo). Nevertheless, they both stand a good chance at the qualification event in Fukuoka on 30 and 31 May. Nine or ten places will be available (depending on whether or not a Japanese competitor is included) for the best swimmers in this competition, with the limitation that there will only be one place per country and gender.

There will, however, be five places for the best representative of each continent, being from a country with no classified swimmers.

**Beach volleyball**

**Ángela Lobato, from Nerja, isn't ruling anything out**

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From left to right, Ángela Lobato, Azahara Muñoz, Sole López, Marta López and Damián Quintero. :: SUR

# Tokyo 2020



volleyball is one of the most complex, but it also has one of the least curious options. There will be 24 couples per gender (a maximum of two per country) and in the women's section Ángela Lobato, from Nerja, who competes with Catalan player Amaranta Fernández, is part of the first Spanish women's pair to be outside the cut, but at the same time nearest to their objective.

The World Championship and Qualification events have now passed and Liliana Fernández and Elsa Baquerizo got through, so it now remains to be seen what happens with Lobato and Fernández. Points are accrued for the Olympic ranking between June 2018 and May 2020 and things are looking quite good for Ángela, because several good pairs from Brazil and America are ruled out.

Currently the pair are 24th on the 'ranking' with 3,620 points and there are others ahead of them with more points but who have not fulfilled the quota of a minimum of 12 trials, although they are close. And their principal advantage could be the only place awarded if they win the Continental Cup in Madrid in May.

### Others

#### Possible surprises ahead in various sports

Thanks to the title of European under-21s, Spain will be sending a team of male players to the Olympics and Ontiveros, from Marbella, Junior (Barcelona) from Benalmádena and Pozo (Rayo Vallecano), from Fuen-girola, could have a chance although it is pretty remote.

The same goes for Unicaja's Alberto Díaz in the men's basketball (Spain as world champion will be going to Tokyo), and athlete Borja Vivas, who will be returning to the competition in January after a year off, and will be almost obliged to beat his record for shotput and manage 21.10 (the minimum set initially by the IAAF). Meanwhile, Ouassim Oumaiz isn't ruling out breaking his 5,000 metres record (13:13.50), either

María Torres' situation was explained in the section on Quintero, but other remote options are horse rider Martín Dockx, who took part in the last two Olympics and now rides a new horse; cyclist Luis Ángel Maté - who was added to the list of the Spanish team for the Europeans - and Ismael Sánchez in 3x3 basketball, although the FEB usually opts for professionals of the ACB.



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Cifu and Mikel celebrate with Antoñín (right) after he scored the equaliser at La Rosaleda on Sunday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

## Fighting spirit alone can't lift Malaga out of the drop zone



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

The Blue and Whites fought back from 3-1 down to claim a point but remain in 19th place as a result of their draw with Elche

**MALAGA.** Malaga remain in the drop zone despite a spirited late comeback against Elche at La Rosaleda on Sunday. After going 3-1 down, all seemed lost for Víctor Sánchez del Amo's side, but two goals in the space of two minutes late in the second half turned the game on its head.

The hosts made five changes following the international break, welcoming back Munir, Keidi Bare, Juanpi and Mikel Villanueva and reinstating Armando Sadiku up front after his injury lay-off.

With all these changes, however, Malaga needed some time to settle, but Elche were not in a

charitable mood. The side from Valencia raced into the lead with a quickfire double. First, Fidel sent Munir the wrong way from the penalty spot after the Moroccan upended Josan in the penalty area with his outstretched leg.

Josan turned provider for Fidel once again just five minutes later when his low cross from the right was turned home from close range by the winger on the turn.

With half time approaching, Malaga needed a way back into the game and got it when Dani Pacheco's smart volley punished Edgar Badia for his weak flap at

### SEGUNDA DIVISIÓN

Results	Match day 18
Sporting - Tenerife 0-2	Numancia - Malaga
Rayo - Zaragoza 0-1	Alcorcón - Huesca
Racing - Extremadura 3-0	Mirandés - Sporting
Deportivo - Alcorcón 0-0	Ponferradina - Albacete
Huesca - Ponferradina 2-0	Tenerife - Almería
Almería - Numancia 2-0	Zaragoza - Girona
Albacete - Mirandés 1-2	Fuenlabrada - Cadiz
<b>Malaga - Elche 3-3</b>	Oviedo - Rayo
Girona - Fuenlabrada 2-0	Elche - Racing
Las Palmas - Oviedo 3-1	Lugo - Deportivo
Cadiz - Lugo 2-1	Extremadura - Las Palmas

### League table

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Cadiz	17	12	3	2	27	14	39
2. Almería	17	7	8	2	25	15	29
3. Huesca	17	9	2	6	21	13	29
4. Fuenlabrada	17	8	4	5	22	18	28
5. Girona	17	8	3	6	22	18	27
6. Zaragoza	17	7	5	5	22	18	26
7. Alcorcón	17	6	7	4	21	18	25
8. Numancia	17	6	7	4	19	16	25
9. Albacete	17	8	1	8	12	18	25
10. Elche	17	6	6	5	22	20	24
11. Mirandés	17	6	6	5	22	26	24
12. Ponferradina	17	5	8	4	23	20	23
13. Las Palmas	17	6	4	7	20	22	22
14. Rayo	17	4	9	4	24	22	21
15. Lugo	17	4	8	5	18	23	20
16. Tenerife	17	4	6	7	20	21	18
17. Sporting	17	4	6	7	17	19	18
18. Racing	17	2	10	5	20	21	16
19. Malaga	17	3	7	7	14	18	16
20. Extremadura	17	4	4	9	16	25	16
21. Oviedo	17	3	6	8	20	27	15
22. Deportivo	17	1	8	8	14	29	11

## Adriana saves a point for Femenino during frantic end to Andalusian derby

The home side took the lead in the 84th minute but Malaga's captain equalised with a spectacular goal

### CORDOBA 1 MALAGA 1

#### OPTA SPORTS

**CORDOBA.** Despite having the better chances, more possession and more drive than their opponents on Sunday, Malaga Femenino had to content themselves with rescuing a draw late on away to Cordoba.

After conceding a chance in the third minute, Malaga's domination of the first half was almost absolute. They kept Cordoba camped on the edge of their own box for much of the opening 45 and were unlucky not to take the lead when Postigo rattled the crossbar.

Further chances came for Ana



A Malaga corner causes panic in the Cordoba box. :: ADG

Buceta and Ornella but the sides went in at the break with the scores even.

So dissatisfied with his side's first-half performance, Cordoba coach Manu Agudo made a double change at the break and his side responded

accordingly. Kerlly troubled Noelia Gil between the sticks with a powerful header before Sofia's ambitious chip from range narrowly missed the target.

Malaga then made changes of their own and that once again tipped the balance in their favour. María Ruiz was their main threat but she couldn't show the requisite clinical edge in front of goal.

Instead it was Cordoba who took the lead with six minutes left to go. Mery Martí controlled the ball with her right before firing home what she thought was the winner with her left from the edge of the box.

Just four minutes later, however, Malaga had the equaliser. Captain Adriana left Gordillo statuesque in her goal as she launched a spectacular shot from 20 metres out.

With this point, Malaga remain sixth in the women's Second Division, reducing the gap to Cordoba to just three points.

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# 3-3

## MALAGA-ELCHE

**Malaga:** Munir; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Luis Muñoz, Mikel, Juanar; Dani Pacheco, Keidi, Juanpi (Renato, 68'); Sadiku, Antón. Unused substitutes: Gonzalo, Diego González, Lombán, Boulahroud, Benkhemassa, Hicham.

**Elche:** Edgar Badía, Óscar Gil, Dani Calvo, Gonzalo Verdú, Juan Cruz; Josan (Pere Milla, 68'), Manuel Sánchez, Gonzalo Villar, Fidel (Iván Sánchez, 52'); Nino, Claudio Medina (Qasmi, 79'). Unused substitutes: San Román, López, Folch, Mfulu.

**Goals:** 0-1 Fidel (23') [pen], 0-2 Fidel (28'); 1-2 Dani Pacheco (39'); 1-3 Gonzalo Villar (64'); 2-3 Sadiku (79') [pen], 3-3 Antón (81').

**Referee:** Moreno Aragón. Yellow cards for Munir, Luis Hernández, Dani Pacheco, Luis Muñoz, Gonzalo Villar, Claudio Medina, Juan Cruz, Óscar Gil, Manu Sánchez, Pere Milla.

**Ground:** La Rosaleda (13,691 spectators).

Juanpi's shot seconds previously. The second half saw Malaga completely in control. Badía made ammends for his error with a spectacular reaction save to parry away a rocketed volley from the edge of the area from Sadiku.

However, as has been the pattern in recent weeks, Malaga's possession was not converted into goals and Gonzalo Villar made them pay with a glancing header leaving Munir with no chance.

The atmosphere around La Rosaleda changed significantly. The optimism as the side looked for the equaliser gave way to resignation.

### A bit of luck

The players responded in much the same way but a bit of luck in the 79th minute swung the game back in their favour. When Villar lazily dangled his leg in Juanar's path in the penalty area, Sadiku had a chance from the spot which he duly converted.

Suddenly La Rosaleda was rocking again and just two minutes later the comeback was complete. Mikel's cross from the left found Antón in acres of space and the youngster powered his header into the roof of the net.

"This season is really proving to be a rollercoaster ride but this team is showing time and time again that it knows how to fight, despite the adversity we are facing," said Víctor following the game.

"We improved a lot in our accuracy. We're on the right path."



**ROB PALMER**

Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbpalmer



# Bale and Piqué fall into the fans' bad books

## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**Both Real Madrid's Gareth Bale and Barça's Gerard Piqué have been criticised for putting other projects or hobbies before their respective clubs**

What's worse for a footballing superstar in his downtime - a game of golf or arranging an internationally renowned tennis tournament?

Both are the root of all evil according to the Spanish media and have been used as a club, or racket, to beat Gareth Bale and Gerard Piqué with.

Bale is still suffering the aftermath of a throwaway comment when it was suggested that playing for Wales and playing golf were priorities ahead of playing for Real Madrid.

Piqué has suffered similar by making a success of the previously faltering Davis Cup competition.

There are far worse extracurricular activities footballers have got up to in their spare time, but let's not explore those in a family newspaper.

Bale's 'crime' was posing behind a flag that cheekily read "Wales, golf, Madrid... in that order" following his nation's qualification for the finals of Euro 2020. He didn't make the flag; he didn't produce the flag from his sock; he merely allowed himself to be photographed behind it with teammates in the celebrations.

One should remember that he's the one whose professionalism was questioned by Pedrag Mijatovic back in October when the former Real Madrid star summarised, "The



Piqué and wife Shakira at the Davis Cup final. :: AFP

first thing he thinks about is Wales, then golf and then after that, Real Madrid." He never actually said "... in that order."

Since then Bale has been the butt of countless jokes. When a shot has missed the target in training, colleagues have shouted 'fore' and it was suggested that he'd rather play golf than go on an 'all-nighter' with the other players.

So, it was payback when he saw the flag, got caught up in the emotion and smiled for the flashbulbs. On his return to Madrid I'm reliably told that it was the worst whistling for a home player ever heard when his name was read out by the stadium announcer.

### Commitment

It's not often a Barcelona player would have sympathy; however, Piqué can empathise. In tennis circles he's been lauded for the success of the Davis Cup which was won by Spain, but the football pages have questioned his commitment. If you measure commitment by tweets, then his mind



Bale, this week. :: EFE

was elsewhere, yet he was putting his body on the line in the successive victories over Leganés and Dortmund.

Bale reacted with an outstanding cameo performance against Real Sociedad and then almost won the Champions League game with a stunning stoppage time free-kick against PSG. Now Eden Hazard is injured, Bale's presence is vital to Real's ambitions, so I predict he'll be playing less golf and not heading to China or the Premier League in the winter.

Piqué is pivotal to Barcelona's grand plan and one day is destined to be president of the club. It's been reported that he's already involved in sponsorship negotiations so he's more than a player at an institution that boasts to be 'more than a club'.

Compare Bale and Piqué's misdemeanours to Ross Barkley dancing shirtless in a nightclub when he was supposed to be injured and there is perspective. Golf and tennis are OK, topless dancing in Dubai is a 'no-no'.

# Marbella, Spain's only unbeaten side, come unstuck and suffer first league defeat in Badajoz

## BADAJEZ 1 MARBELLA 0

### ADG

**BADAJEZ.** Luck was not on Marbella's side as they fell to their first defeat of the season away to Badajoz on Sunday.

The visitors managed to contain their hosts for the majority of the first half, though they did need to call on the swift reactions of their keeper Wilfred to keep César Morgado's close-range effort at bay in the 13th minute.

At the other end, Morgado was involved again, clearing Óscar's effort off the goal line to keep the scores level going into the break.

Two minutes into the second half, however, and the deadlock was broken. Álex Corredura seized on a loose pass in midfield by Redru before trying his luck from distance. A huge deflection off Saúl carried the ball into the back of the net when otherwise it would have been quite a straightforward save for the Marbella keeper.

This goal had a demoralising effect on the visitors who were then outplayed by their direct league rivals.

Badajoz could have doubled their lead in the 84th minute but Gorka Santamaria's effort came back out off the post.

The best response Marbella could muster came from Añón in stoppage time but the midfielder fired over the crossbar.

Marbella remain in the play-off positions, but victory for Badajoz moves the Extremadura side above them on goal difference.



Marbella's Mustafá shields the ball from an opponent. :: ADG

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Bautista (centre) and Nadal (2r) celebrate with the rest of the Spain team. :: EFE

## Nadal and Bautista deliver Spain's sixth Davis Cup

The Spanish players beat Canada 2-0 in Sunday's final in the Caja Mágica in Madrid

:: SUR

World number one tennis player Rafael Nadal, along with teammate Robert Bautista won a sixth Davis Cup for Spain on Sunday after beating Canada 2-0.

Spain have become the first

team to lift the Salad Bowl trophy after the competition changed to its new format, with one Davis Cup Finals event, played among 18 teams, in one place in one week. The venue this year was the Caja Mágica centre in Madrid.

The final was played on Sunday between host team Spain and Canada. Castellón-born player Robert Bautista was first up, beating Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6(3) 6-3.

Nadal then secured the title with a 9-3 7-6(7) victory against

Canada's Denis Shapovalov. The Mallorca-born world number one added to an impressive personal track record in the Davis Cup, with 18 consecutive knock-out wins, 29 consecutive single victories and 32 consecutive wins including doubles matches.

The final was as much Bautista's as Nadal's however, the player returning to the tournament after the death of his father on Friday.

Spain hadn't won the Davis Cup since they beat Argentina in 2011.

## Jon Rahm seals Dubai double

The Basque golfer won the DP World Tour Championship on Sunday and with it top spot on the Race to Dubai

:: EFE

Spanish golfer Jon Rahm secured a major double on Sunday as he won the DP World Tour Championship and with it top spot on the Race to Dubai.

After a voluntary break of six weeks, the golfer from Barrika came back with a bang. He picked up exactly where he left off, following up his win in the Open de España with victory at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai.

Rahm had previously won here in 2017 and it shows up once again on his honours list now after a card of 269 strokes across the four rounds (66, 69, 66 and 68). This left him



Jon Rahm on Sunday. :: EFE

on 19 under par overall, ahead of Brit Tommy Fleetwood, with 270, and Frenchman Mike Lorenzo-Vera, with 271.

This second victory for Rahm in Dubai allows him to lead 'the race'

for the first time in his career, making him, in the eyes of the world, the best player this year on the European Tour.

### A day of "ups and downs"

Rahm sealed this honour after a day of "ups and downs", with four bogeys and eight birdies. The last was on hole 18. "How many times in your career do you find yourself in this situation? I needed a birdie to win the tournament and I said to myself that I needed to make the most of the opportunity. Luckily, I did it well; I made the putt," he said on Sunday.

With his fourth win on the Rolex Series, Jon Rahm brings the curtain down on "a big year". "I knew it was a risk taking a six-week holiday before coming to Dubai but I needed it. Rest is also important. Let's hope I have a good 2020," said Spain's top golfer after picking up the double prize of trophy winner and the leader's baton.



Azahara Muñoz during Thursday's play at Aloha. :: EFE



Germany's Olivia Cowan was in the lead after the first day. :: EFE



Christina Kim, USA, in action on Thursday. :: EFE

## Open de España gets under way at Aloha

Local golfer Azahara Muñoz is looking for her third title following wins in 2016 and 2017; at the end of day one she was in 18th place

:: ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

**MARBELLA.** The Open de España competition got under way on Thursday, the first of four days of world class golf at the Aloha Club in Marbella.

Local star Azahara Muñoz went

into the competition hopeful to secure her third victory after wins in 2016 and 2017 and a disappointing second place last year.

Muñoz takes on some of the stars of the European Tour such as last year's Open de España winner Anne Van Dam and American Christina Kim.

German player Olivia Cowan was in the lead after the first day, followed by Norwegian Marianne Skarpnord, Christina Kim, Van Dam and Cheyenne Woods, Tiger's niece. Muñoz was in 18th place after Thursday's play.

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Local (municipal) Police	092
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Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

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Bus Station	952475066
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Taxi Service	952471000
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## MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

### CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Marella Discovery	03/12	-	Gibraltar	06.00	22.00
Queen Victoria	03/12	Cadiz	Gibraltar	08.00	18.00
MSC Opera	03/12	Genoa	Funchal	13.00	18.00
Costa Magica	10/12	-	Tenerife	08.00	18.00



## CONSULATES

<b>Great Britain</b>	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300	<b>France</b>	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
<b>USA</b>	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891	<b>Italy</b>	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
<b>Belgium</b>	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019	<b>Austria</b>	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
<b>Denmark</b>	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797	<b>Finland</b>	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
<b>Norway</b>	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
<b>Canada</b>	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346	<b>Greece</b>	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
<b>Germany</b>	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591	<b>Iceland</b>	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
<b>Sweden</b>	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383	<b>Philippines</b>	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
<b>Ireland</b>	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108	<b>Hungary</b>	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

**THE STARS**

**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Some frankly mad suggestions need to be treated with humour. However, don't be afraid of saying a blank 'no'.

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
An unexpected communication brings excitement. As you are able to see everything from all sides you soon see what is behind it. Be amused and respond in the right way.

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
At work it may feel as though it is time for a change. Even so, don't make any decisions until after the New Year when things are much clearer.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
As the festive season approaches someone close may be expecting you to make a long-awaited decision. Being dynamic and positive will help you to sort your head out.

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
With so much going on around you at this time of the year it is hard to see more than an emotional foot ahead of you. There is nothing wrong with a few delaying tactics.

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Is it taking a bit of time getting into the festive spirit? Serious work matters may have taken the gloss from it all. Still there is time to start to relax and realise what is important to you and others.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Recent renewed links to the past seem to be pulling on your heart strings. There may be several directions it is possible to go in.

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
With a growing sparkle in your eyes it seems that you are already in the festive mood. Is your partner still not responding to the tinsel? Take them to see some lights switched on.

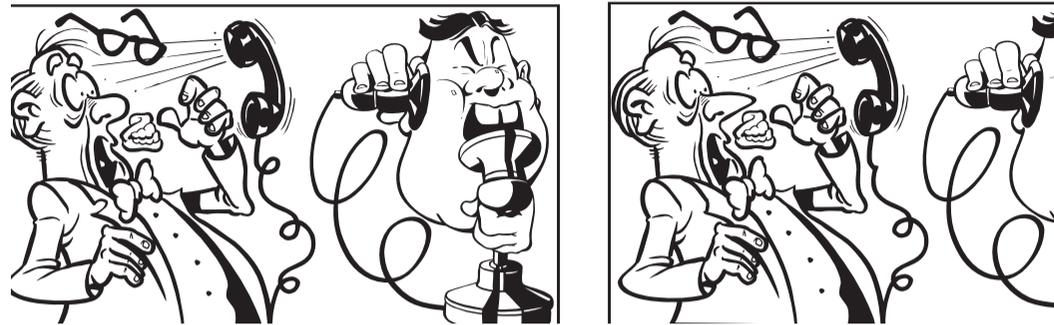
**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
With a real talent at getting folk together, fun cannot be far away. Organising anything needs plenty of notice. You don't want to miss out on having your best pals there, do you?

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
With so much going on this week you may seek a quiet corner at some time. Well, good luck with that! Avoid waiting for others to get things done.

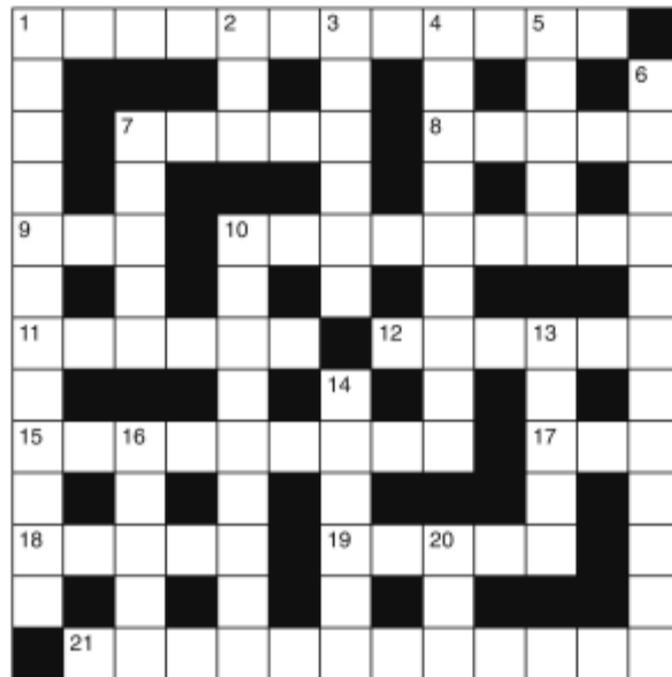
**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Being popular is great until you find that you have no time for yourself. A light approach is best and maybe a promise to help out with something later?

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
This week you are able to see how to make someone's life better. It may be an elderly person or one from the past. Sometimes some help and a smile can be enough.

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11385**



**Across**

- 1 Kind of race that goes from coast to coast? (5-7)
- 7 Play the part of Cassandra, maybe (5)
- 8 Time shown on the scoresheet (5)
- 9 It's a monster bird, we hear (3)
- 10 Rebel can't divert one in charge of the masses (9)
- 11 Sacking required, one hears, for filling up the cracks (6)
- 12 Monk losing top of rosary - that means trouble (6)
- 15 Successes for six hundred Conservatives (9)
- 17 Initially sombre and downcast (3)
- 18 Called young Edward around before noon (5)
- 19 Box cart re-routed to the East (5)
- 21 A non-runner you might put your shirt on! (7,5)

**Down**

- 1 Existing expenditure (4,2,6)
- 2 The main stratum is unfinished (3)
- 3 Ring and get together by word of mouth (6)
- 4 In which people jot down musical pieces? (9)
- 5 A drink before the sailor returns to the dance (5)
- 6 One who qualified by correspondence course? (12)
- 7 French nobleman gets at the money (5)
- 10 Harmony at Vatican agreement (9)
- 13 Hurry to plant high explosive round a street (5)
- 14 Good snooker players don't fail to take a hint, we hear! (6)
- 16 One used to desert conditions arrived and left (5)
- 20 Timber for making a kind of tray (3)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

**Instructions**  
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

		3				5		4
4		7	8		3			
	5			9		7		
3			5		4	8		6
		9					4	
1	8			6	7		2	
	4				1			8
9			7				6	3
7			2		9		5	

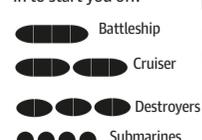
**THE WORDPUZZLER**

G	I	L	S	I	O	R	B	E	B
O	F	F	I	N	C	H	O	K	E
M	E	A	C	H	E	R	O	I	L
A	X	S	L	I	G	H	T	F	T
S	H	O	U	M	T	O	H	L	A
B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	L	O	N
I	U	R	C	O	I	N	I	C	D
C	S	E	H	E	F	I	M	K	I
U	T	A	U	D	A	W	C	E	P
L	A	M	B	O	N	N	E	T	U

- Can you identify the objects found in cars from the clues listed below?
- 1. Canal section
  - 2. Unlawful beating
  - 3. Footwear item
  - 4. Adherent
  - 5. Weighing little
  - 6. Tire
  - 7. Smother
  - 8. Woman's hat
  - 9. Hard blow
  - 10. Hold firmly

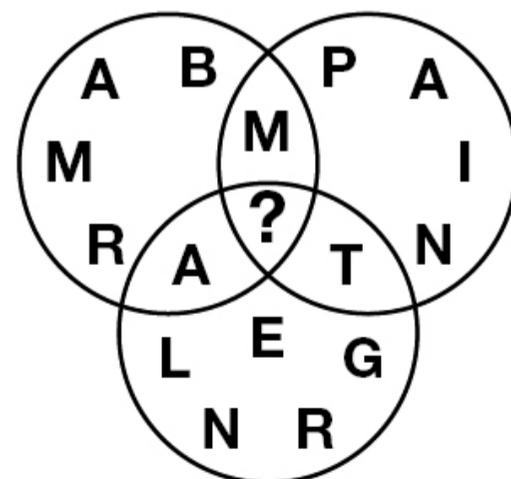
**BATTLESHIPS**

**Instructions** Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A										●	1
B					●						2
C											1
D											1
E											4
F											1
G		●									3
H											1
I										●	3
J											3
	1	3	1	2	3	1	3	0	1	5	

**CIRCLEGRAM**



**Instructions**  
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

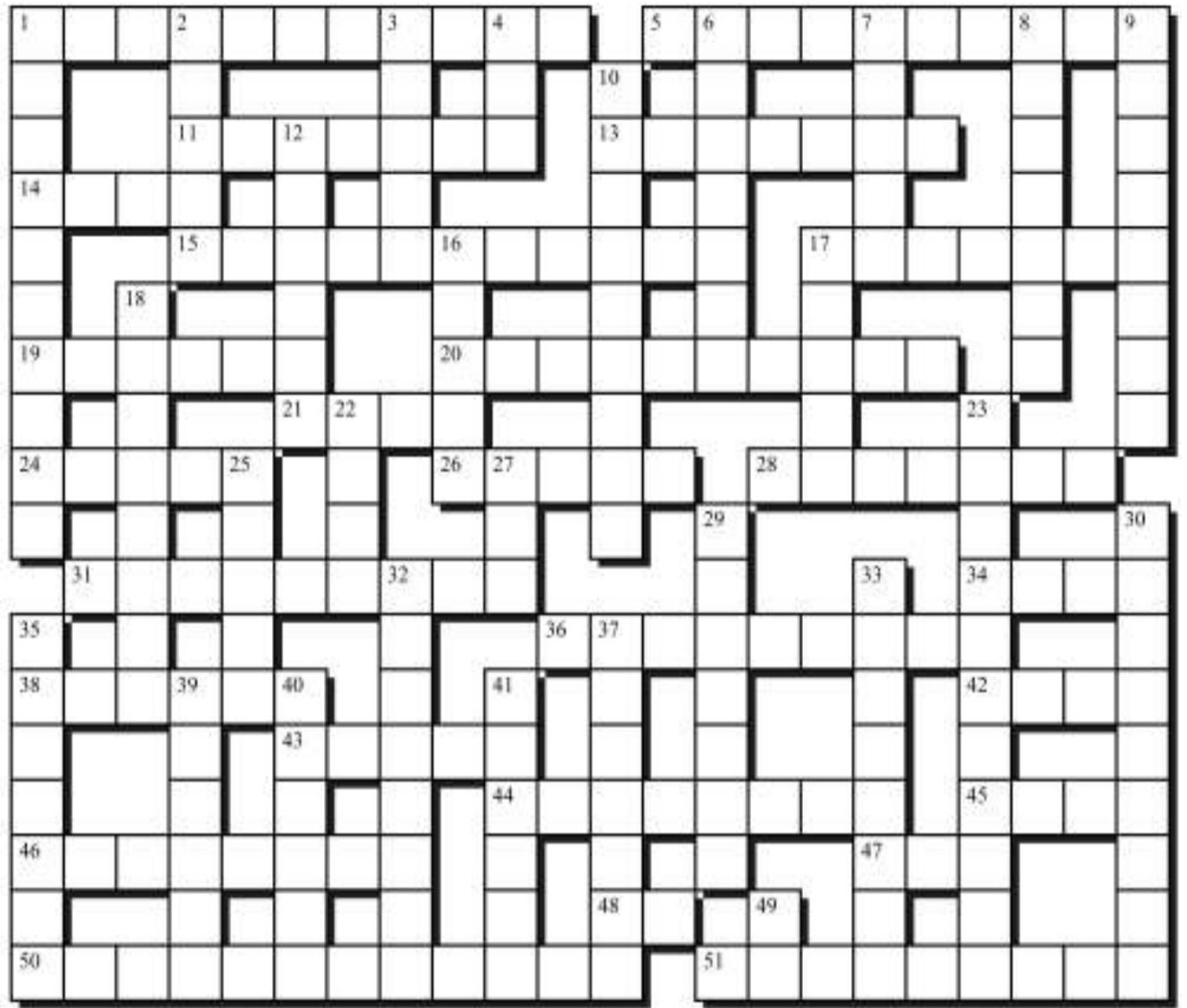
**LANGUAGE CROSSWORD** FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

**Across**

- 1) Competition (11)
- 5) British (pl) (10)
- 11) Defence (7)
- 13) We had (7)
- 14) Worse (4)
- 15) Foreigners (11)
- 17) Sorbet (7)
- 19) Team (6)
- 20) Football kit (10)
- 21) To read (4)
- 24) Waves (5)
- 26) To walk (5)
- 28) Knee (7)
- 31) Adopted (m.pl) (9)
- 34) Fashion (4)
- 36) Season (9)
- 38) To narrate (6)
- 42) Bad (f) (4)
- 43) Between (5)
- 44) Track record (8)
- 45) This (f) (4)
- 46) Creation (8)
- 47) Aeon (3)
- 48) Ace (2)
- 50) Organisation (12)
- 51) Players (9)

**Down**

- 1) Colleagues (10)
- 2) Father (5)
- 3) She sings (5)
- 4) Wave (3)
- 6) Magazine (7)
- 7) Capacity (5)
- 8) Champion (7)
- 9) Society (8)
- 10) To land (9)
- 12) Football (6)
- 16) Daughter-in-law (5)
- 17) Swiss (5)
- 18) Founder (8)
- 22) He throws (4)
- 23) Appeal (11)
- 25) It blows (5)
- 27) Us (3)
- 29) You push (7)
- 30) Catalan people (9)
- 32) Different (f) (8)
- 33) Shirt (8)
- 35) Advertisement (7)
- 37) They use (7)
- 39) Slice (6)
- 40) I received (6)
- 41) I repeated (6)
- 49) You (2)



**ANSWERS**

**Quiz answers**

**Answer:** Titanic  
**Of interest:** Fairview Cemetery is a cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It is perhaps best known as the final resting place for over one hundred victims of the sinking of the RMS Titanic.  
**Answer:** Frogmore  
**Of interest:** Frogmore cemetery was consecrated on the 23 October 1928, it surrounds the Royal Mausoleum, which was built in 1862 to house the tomb of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The burial ground lies on the Frogmore Estate, part of Windsor Home Park in Berkshire, England.

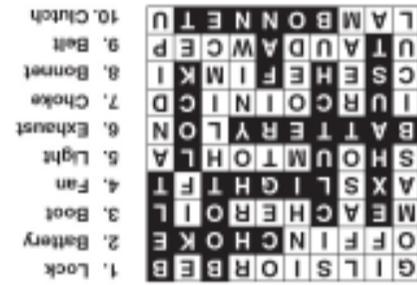
**Language Crossword**



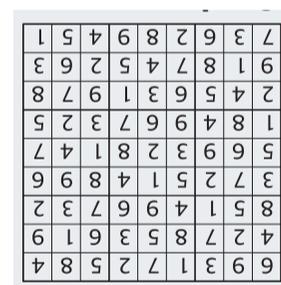
**Cryptic Crossword**

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Cross-country; 7 Drama; 8 Tempo; 9 Orc; 10 Celebrant; 11 Luting; 12 Bother; 15 Victories; 17 Sad; 18 Named; 19 Crate; 21 Clothes horse. Down: 1 Cost of living; 2 Sea; 3 Orally; 4 Notebooks; 5 Rumba; 6 Postgraduate; 7 Ducal; 10 Concordat; 13 Hasten; 14 Miscue; 16 Camel; 20 Ash.

**Wordpuzzler solution**



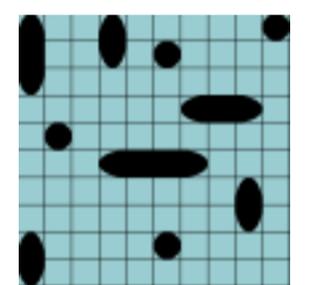
**Sudoku solution**



**Circlegram**

The letter represented by the question mark is l. Marimba, timpani, triangle, all percussion instruments.

**Battleships**



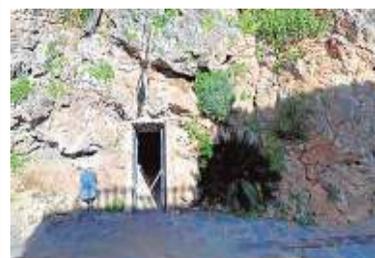
**WHERE IS THIS?**



**A castle in the clouds**

**Last week: Ojén**

This mysterious doorway in the rock wall is the entrance to the Cave of Bells and Columns on Calle Carretera in Ojén. The caves were once inhabited and the higher ones offer spectacular views.



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The official ceremony to start the twinning process took place in the Plaza de Bernardo de Gálvez. :: E. CABEZAS

# Bernardo de Gálvez brings Macharaviaya and Galveston together

## MACHARAVIAYA

The council has welcomed a delegation from the American city to start the twinning process and plan projects in tribute to the famous military officer

== EUGENIO CABEZAS. Only 500 residents compared with more than 50,000. Macharaviaya has 100 times fewer inhabitants than Galveston, but it has a major claim to fame. It can boast of being the birthplace of the founder of this American city, situated in the south of the state of Texas, at the end of

the 18th century. Unsurprisingly, its name derives from 'Galveston', in honour of the brave military officer Bernardo de Gálvez (1746-1786). Although they are separated by more than 8,000 kilometres, the two places feel much closer now, thanks to the start of the process to twin them.

In a simple ceremony which took place in the square which bears the name of the illustrious 'mcharatungo', who became the Viceroy of New Spain, governor of Louisiana and hero of American independence, a delegation from Galveston presented the mayor of Macharaviaya, Antonio Campos, with the twinning credentials, which will now have to be ratified by the council.

This is the start of a process un-

der which a calendar of activities featuring De Gálvez will be organised. His statue, created by Jaime Pimentel in 2014, was witness to the parade of members of the Order of Granaderos and Damas de Gálvez from the American city, and others from the Historical-Cultural Association which was set up in Macharaviaya a decade ago.

José Andrés Gálvez, who comes from the family of soldiers and politicians and bears a strong resemblance to his forefathers, once again dressed, as he does on 4 July every year, in the suit of the most famous member of the family, Bernardo de Gálvez. This was not the first



Antonio Campos and Bill Adriance. :: E. C.

twinning arranged for Macharaviaya in recent years: in 2012 it was officially linked to the town of Pensacola, in the neighbouring state of Florida. It was there that De Gálvez led the most famous battle in America's War of Independence against the British, and was later authorised to place the words 'I, Alone' on his coat of arms.

That was the message that Bill Adriance, representing Galveston council and responsible for presenting the documentation to Campos, proudly wore on the lapel of his jacket. He also presented the mayor with typical gifts from a city which is very popular with tourists, and which has suffered major devastation during its barely 200-year-old history. Adriance explained that three projects are currently being planned to promote the figure of Bernardo de Gálvez in the city: a large statue, a film and an opera. "We hope to receive plenty of support so we can carry them out," he said. Macharaviaya council has donated a painting which will be auctioned to raise funds.

## Another piece in the puzzle

Antonio Campos said he was "very proud" of this twinning with Galveston, "because it means a great deal to our small village and for the figure of Bernardo de Gálvez. It is one more piece in the puzzle we are putting together to gain recognition and fame for this local man who played such an important role in the history of Spain and the United States," he said.

The ceremony was also attended by the councillor for Culture, Víctor González, the president of the Mancomunidad de Municipios of the eastern Costa del Sol and mayor of La Viñuela, José Juan Jiménez and the USA consul on the Costa del Sol, among others.

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