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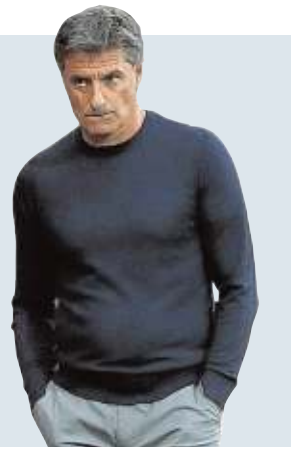
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MALAGA CF

### A miserable start to preseason for Michel's side

Pablo Fornals is the latest high-profile departure from the team which has lost four out of four friendlies **P66**



## No quick fixes for weekend motorway tailback misery

The DGT says it won't open up extra lanes on hard shoulders and tells motorists to use the toll roads

After 30 kilometres of tailbacks built up on the Costa del Sol's motorway network last Sunday evening, the DGT road traffic authority has said it sees no easy solution to the problem. Opening relief lanes has been ruled out and it asks drivers to avoid travelling at peak times or pay to use

the toll roads. The extra pressure from traffic comes as the economy improves and the tourist industry in the area booms. However motorist associations have called for summer toll prices on the AP-7 and AP-46 to be slashed if more vehicles are to be encouraged to use them. **P2**

**Missing toddler found dead** from a head injury on Pizarra-Álora train line after huge overnight search **P10**

**European charm, American vibe.** Andrew Forbes takes us to the American Riviera for our Travel special **P38-43**



:: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

### QUEEN AND CULTURE MEET ON THE COSTA

Malaga hosted the annual meeting of Spain's international cultural organisation, the Instituto Cervantes, this week. Queen Letizia was at the city's Tabacalera building on Monday to hear its future plans and was welcomed by Malaga's mayor and other dignitaries. **P4**

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# No easy solution to summer motorway chaos after long tailbacks built up last weekend

Numbers of vehicles using the roads are almost back to levels last seen before the financial crisis as an expert warns that traffic congestion could choke the Costa's tourist boom

✚ IGNACIO LILLO

**MÁLAGA.** Hold ups on the Costa del Sol's motorways look set to be a permanent feature of weekends over the remaining weeks of summer. Last Sunday there were almost 30 kilometres of tailbacks at different points on the A-7 coastal motorway and the A-45 road from inland areas to the coast.

The national road traffic authority, Dirección General de Tráfico (DGT), has said that it cannot offer any quick solution or relief measure, as it has done in the past. Instead it has issued advice to motorists on how to avoid the worst of the hold-ups.

Before the 2008 financial crisis significantly reduced movement on the motorways, during the peak summer months the traffic authority used to open up extra lanes on hard shoulders at weekends along key congested sections.

However the DGT has said that it is no longer able to put most of these measures in place. Officials say that road widening and improvements over the past decade mean that hard shoulders either don't exist in some key areas or are too narrow to take moving vehicles now.

They also say that the road management strategy has changed and that priority is being given to keeping the hard shoulders clear for emergencies and accidents. They add that they believe that opening a hard-shoulder lane on one section of road just pushes congestion onto



Summer tailbacks have returned to the Costa's roads. ✚ SUR

## IN NUMBERS

# 5%

is the expected increase in traffic this summer on the province's main road network.

# 30

kilometres of hold ups were recorded last Sunday, the worst day so far this summer.

**A road users' association is demanding that prices are reduced on the toll motorways to take pressure off other roads**

another part of the route.

The DGT has admitted that tailbacks have been building up every weekend since May, but that they started to get worse in June, as an especially warm month inland forced many locals to flock to the coast.

## Chaos last Sunday

Last Sunday's tailbacks, the longest so far this summer, were made worse by many local celebrations for the Virgen del Carmen saint and several small accidents at different points on the motorway network.

As more visitors head to the coast for holidays and day trips again as the economy improves, the main road network is feeling the strain. In 2015 traffic increased by just over 5 per cent compared to the previous year and last year it went up a further 4.2 per cent, data shows.

On the A-7 motorway on the western Costa del Sol, the busiest stretch of road in the area, there were 108,476 journeys made daily on average in 2016. This is still a little behind the peak of 118,000 daily

## Despite complaints, toll roads are being used more as well

✚ I. LILLO

**MÁLAGA.** Many road users complain that the prices on the Costa's toll roads are too high and usually prefer to stay on the normal, free motorways instead. However, figures from the start of the year show that more of them are taking the decision to pay to travel. As yet data is only available up to March and does not include any of high season.

The newest of the toll roads, Las Pedrizas (AP-46), which links the

coast with inland Andalucía as an alternative to the A-45, increased its users by almost 10 per cent in January, versus a year earlier, and 9 per cent in February. In 2016 overall it increased users by 13.4 per cent.

The AP-7, the main toll road that runs along the western Costa del Sol, increased its users by 5 per cent in January, 10 per cent in February and 2 per cent in March. In 2016 6.3 per cent more motorists used the AP-7 as an alternative to the A-7.

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trips recorded back in 2005, but, on current trends, that figure is expected to be exceeded in the next couple of years.

#### Cheaper tolls called for

Although there is no official data as yet, traffic levels in Malaga province look set to grow by 5 per cent this high season, compared to last year.

As a way to avoid the worst chaos on Sunday evenings, the DGT is recommending that drivers bring forward or delay their departures to outside the peak 8pm to 10pm period.

It is also urging more motorists to take the alternative toll motorways that are currently under used; the AP-7 along the coast and the AP-46 into inland Andalucía from Malaga.

The authority says that, despite having to pay a toll, drivers actually save money when there are tailbacks on the normal roads as they don't use as much fuel as they do trapped in a traffic jam.

Mario Arnaldo, president of Automovilistas Europeos Asociados (AEA), a motorists' pressure group, has criticised toll road operators for cashing in during the summer months and increasing tariffs, calling on central government to do more to keep tolls lower.

"Malaga's success could be killed off because of the congestion; the tourist industry needs to come up with creative solutions to reduce the cost of the toll for their customers," he added.

## Family GPs allowed to request a wider range of specialist tests for their patients

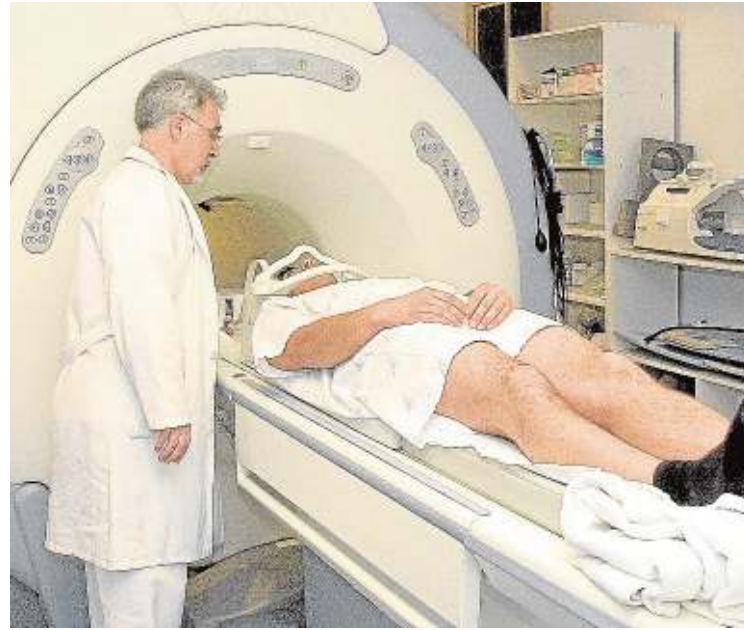
The regional public health service (SAS) has changed its rules to include tests such as scans, ultrasounds and complex blood tests in order to take pressure off hospital consultants

by ÁNGEL ESCALERA

**MALAGA.** Local GPs in public health centres will soon be able to ask for a whole range of additional diagnostic tests for their patients that previously had to be arranged through specialist consultants at hospitals.

In practice, this means that earlier results of tests, including ultrasounds, X-rays, CAT scans, MRI scans, cardiac echos, detailed blood analysis and others, will improve the ability of frontline GPs to make a diagnosis and shorten waiting times for patients, who until now have had to be referred to a hospital consultant first. The measure is expected to be in place from the middle of September.

GPs have been calling for more access to tests for some time, saying



Scans are one test that GPs can now ask for directly for patients. :: SUR

that they are trained enough to handle them. The Andalusian public health service (SAS) is allowing tests to be requested where doctors have clear guidelines laid out on how to deal with different conditions and is working to ensure that these are standardised across all parts of the region and that there is on-going co-

ordination between primary health care in the centres and the specialist units in the hospitals.

Besides this move, which is designed to take pressure off busy hospital outpatients departments, the SAS has announced a series of other measures to bolster local primary care.

The SAS is planning to carry out improvements to the operating theatres in most health centres and expand the facility to those that don't have them so that more minor surgery can be carried out locally.

The health service is also working on plans to increase the amount of one-stop doctors' appointments, where the number of visits in which patients get a diagnosis and treatment plan at the same time is increased.

Officials are also reviewing the amount of patients each doctor is responsible for in their local catchment area where they see that local conditions mean that more doctors are needed to cope with fewer people. They will look to recruit more doctors and nurses if needed.

Moreover, the programme to give chronic patients a personalised treatment plan will be updated, drawing in not just GPs and health-centre nurses, but also social workers and other medical support personnel into a small, virtual team to support the patient.

To introduce all these measures, 12 working groups have been studying the proposed changes in order to start to roll them out from the middle of September.

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# Instituto Cervantes chooses Malaga to outline its future

Queen Letizia presided over the opening on Monday of the annual directors' meeting of Spain's flagship international cultural and educational organisation

by **ANTONIO J. LÓPEZ**

**MÁLAGA.** Queen Letizia was on the Costa del Sol on Monday morning to preside over the opening of the annual meeting of directors of the Instituto Cervantes, which took place in Malaga's Tabacalera building.

The Instituto Cervantes, a worldwide non-profit government agency, is the largest organisation in the world responsible for promoting the study and the teaching of Spanish language and culture.

The queen, who didn't speak officially, was present to get the annual meeting under way. The gathering aimed to agree the organisation's plan for the forthcoming year.

Monday's agenda began with a debate on the ambitious "culture

shock plan" proposed by the organisation's director, Juan Manuel Bonet.

Other topics that were discussed include the opening of new centres in Seoul (South Korea), Dakar (Senegal) and Zurich (Switzerland), as well as commemorations for Miguel Hernández, Azorín and Francisco Nieva, among other authors.

In addition, the medium term aim for the institute of extending its presence across the United States with new delegations in California and Washington was addressed.

According to Bonet, "[Promoting] better quality culture needs more money. We hope to see an increase in funds from the state and greater spending power." Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alfonso Dastis, also attending the first day, recognised this need and promised an increase pending negotiations with the "the guardian of the money", Treasury minister, Cristóbal Montoro.

The event, which ran until Thursday, had the city's Russian museum (where Monday's inauguration took place) and the Centre Pompidou as its official venues and included vis-



Group photograph of the meeting's opening, with Queen Letizia in the centre. by **FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ**




Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alfonso Dastis speaks. by **F.G.**

its to the Picasso museum, the Museum of Malaga and the Antequera dolmens.



"Be in no doubt," Bonet said, "Our directors will go home as ambassadors for the city."

This came as good news to the city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, who said: "Directors at the Instituto Cervantes are opinion formers, builders of the Spanish brand, and we want Malaga to be part of that."

Provincial head, Elías Bendodo, stressed the province's role as one of the leaders in language tourism, with 30,000 students a year coming to Malaga to learn Spanish across the 23 centres accredited by the Instituto Cervantes, half the number in the whole of Andalucía.



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# The flow of European funds has dried up for eight municipalities in Malaga

The government has rejected applications from several town halls for the second batch of 'Edusi' funds, but they will be able to apply again next time

✪ JESÚS HINOJOSA

**MALAGA.** Important projects in eight municipalities in Malaga province have been definitively excluded from the second batch of the European 'Strategies for Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development' funds (Edusi), which are co-financed by the FEDER programme for sustainable growth 2014-2020.

The first funds were made available last year and Malaga city received 15 million euros, Estepona 10, Nerja five and, indirectly, Antequera, Ardales, Álora and Valle de Abdalajis also benefited, from the 10 million euros spent by the provincial government, the Diputación, on places associated with the Caminito del Rey.

The government then allowed a second application to be made for



Ronda was hoping for five million euros. ✪ VANESSA MELGAR

Edusi funding, but on this occasion only Vélez-Málaga was successful: it has been given 10 million euros to restore its historic town centre.

The unsuccessful applications included projects in Marbella, Ronda, Fuengirola, Torremolinos, Benalmádena, Alhaurín el Grande, Alhaurín de la Torre and Cártama.

The decision by the Ministry of Finance, which was published this week, specified that 26 appeals had been turned down because the projects did not meet the criteria for the Edusi funds or merit the relevant number of points.

All the appeals from town halls in Malaga were rejected.

However, those municipalities have not lost all chance of funding because there will be another chance to apply in the autumn.

They will, however, have to start the application process all over again and they will be competing with other places all over Spain who have not managed to obtain any of this Eu-

## SOME OF THE PROJECTS WHICH WERE REJECTED

► **Marbella.** 15 million euros for different projects related to improved mobility, energy saving and improvements to beauty spots such as Turtle Lake.

► **Ronda.** About five million euros to carry out improvements in the historic town centre.

► **Torremolinos.** Ten million euros to pedestrianise part of the town centre, redefine its urban model and clean up the Cañada de los Cardos, among other plans.

► **Benalmádena.** About 15 million euros for different projects, such as making Avenida Antonio Machado semi-pedestrian and restoring the Roman remains - these are in a very bad state of repair and no other money is available.

► **Cártama.** Applied for five million euros for a project which would include improving the link road to Estación de Cártama, among other measures.

ropean funding.

The money has been earmarked to be used for projects until the year 2020.

# The regional government adds 11 natural monuments to its list

The gorge in Ronda, Monte Jabalcuza in Alhaurín de la Torre and the Hundidero cave in Montejaque have all been designated in Malaga province

✪ SUR

**MALAGA.** Three more places in Malaga province are to be designated as 'natural monuments': the gorge in Ronda, Monte Jabalcuza in Alhaurín de la Torre and the Hundidero cave in Montejaque will now be afforded the special protection which accompanies this important classification.

The Junta de Andalucía's Minis-

try of the Environment and Land Regulation has begun the official process, and the document in question can be viewed on the ministry's web page until 11 August. This is a transparency measure, in case anyone wishes to lodge a formal complaint against the classification.

Other enclaves in Andalucía are also to be designated 'natural monuments': the Peñón de Bernal

(Vicar, Dalías and El Ejido), Encina de la Peana (Serón), Encina Marchal del Abogado (Serón) and Canales (Padules), in Almería province; the fossilised bones of Medusa (Constantina), in Seville; the source of the Riofrio river (Loja), in Granada; the Tíscar water cave (Quesada), in Jaén; and the oak woods of the Dehesa de San Francisco (Santa Olalla de Cala), in Huelva province.

The inclusion of these places in the Network of Protected Natural Spaces of Andalucía comes as a result of applications from local councils, owners, associations and interested social sectors, and is decided by the regional government.

The term 'natural monument' applies to protected natural areas with ecological features, or those of remarkable beauty, such as caves, rocks, ancient trees, islets, woodlands, geological formations etc.

## The gorge in Ronda

The Ronda gorge has been accepted because it is an extraordinary geological feature formed by erosion from the Guadalevín river. From an environmental and biological point of view, it is home to communities of birds who nest in its steep rocky walls, especially a large colony of lesser kestrels. Crossed by three bridges, it also has undeniable historic, geographic and cultural value.

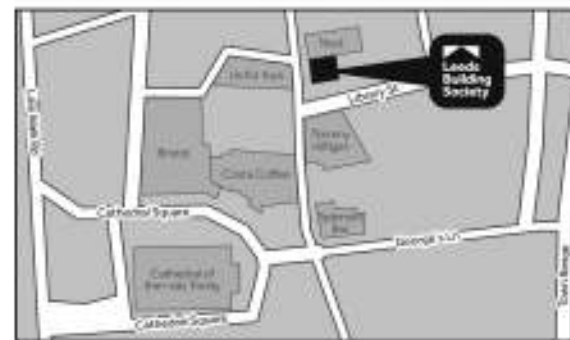
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# Major new Costa park opens at last, even though it's unfinished

Parque Benítez, on the site of an army barracks, can now be visited, although a five-million-euro improvement scheme is on hold while the Junta approves the plans

by AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

**MÁLAGA.** As of last weekend, residents of Málaga and nearby towns, plus millions of visitors a year to the area, can now enjoy a large new park near the city's airport.

Parque Benítez is located on the city's border with Torremolinos and covers 29 hectares, around a quarter bigger than London's St James' Park.

The landscaped parkland that is home to a large number of 90-year-old pine trees was formerly the grounds of the Benítez army barracks, in use until 1995 and now demolished. Málaga city council had been campaigning since then for the land to be opened up for public use.

In 2013 the city finally gained control of the site and drew up plans to install all the necessary facilities to convert it into a major new draw for visitors and locals.



A cyclist discovers Parque Benítez on the first day of opening. :: F. G.



Local politicians 'open' the park last week. :: F. G.

However, work started then came to a halt when the five-million-euro investment plan failed to receive the go-ahead by the Junta de Andalucía's environmental officials.

The council disagrees with requirements the Junta is imposing, including improvements to storm drainage in a stream bed, which, the council says, never normally floods. In addition, work on an ornamental lake has been controversially stopped amid fears that it would attract too many birds and disrupt air traffic at the nearby airport.

Faced with not knowing when the landscaping plans will be approved, mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre, has decided to open up the space to the public in the meantime, so "it is put to use and enjoyed" by local people. "We don't know how many years the bureaucratic process for the plan could take, so we have decided to go for this quick fix of getting it ready," explained De la Torre.

Currently, the space, which will be open 24 hours a day, has just one entrance and a temporary car park. It lacks lighting, toilets, drinking fountains and a barbecue zone. Barbecues are banned in the meantime, as is camping, but some rubbish bins and picnic tables have been put in place.

Local residents began visiting the park last Friday after politicians, including the mayor and the president of the Diputación provincial authority, Elías Bendodo, had declared it open. First to enter was María del Pilar, a retired teacher from the Los Álamos district next door. "It's nice, but I thought that the council was going to transform it more, do more things," she said, somewhat disappointedly.

The current car park, and only way in, is reached off the same roundabout next to the entrance road to IKEA, just off either the A-7 or MA-21 motorways.

## Hope for CIOMijas workers as payout of three years' missing salary seems to get closer

by IVÁN GELIBTER

**MIJAS.** Workers at a hotel and catering college that has been shut for three years could soon be getting their outstanding pay checks.

The CIOMijas college, in La Cala de Mijas, closed when the consortium running it, a joint venture of the Junta de Andalucía as majority partner and Mijas council, became embroiled in legal red tape when it tried to wind itself up. It meant the doors shut and the salaries of five remaining staff went unpaid. The last time they received pay was in late 2014 although they have continued to turn up for work in the disused building.

### Legal shortcut

Despite various lawsuits against the Junta and the consortium, they had become resigned to having to wait for the wind up of the consortium before finally getting paid.

There was joy last week after a court decision in an action brought by one employee in the meantime seemed to suggest that the way would be cleared earlier than expected to getting the salaries paid via a legal shortcut.

This now appears to have been a false dawn, as officials at the Junta, who had implied that they would be forced to pay out after the court sentence, appeared to backtrack, saying that if Mijas council, the minority partner, appealed the ruling, it would delay payment. Mijas said earlier this week that it was seeking legal advice as soon as possible.

However it looks like the story may have a happier ending sooner than expected as sources have said that the long-awaited winding up of the consortium may happen as soon as next week, meaning the employees will finally get their money without court action.



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# British couple found at home in Sabinillas died of natural causes

The pair's son in the UK contacted a neighbour after he had heard nothing from his parents for several days and Guardia Civil officers entered the flat

by JUAN CANO

**MANILVA.** The autopsy carried out on the bodies of a British couple found dead at their home in Sabinillas, Manilva, has concluded that they died of natural causes.

The bodies of the pair, who have been named only as Michael and Valetta, were found on Thursday last week in different rooms in their flat. Michael was 71 and Valetta 80, reports said.

The grim discovery was made after the couple's son, who lives in the UK, had contacted neighbours as he had heard nothing from his parents in several days. A hairdresser who made home visits to Valetta then contacted the Guardia Civil.

When officers entered the property on Avenida de la Paz they found the bodies in separate locations and in an advanced stage of decomposition. It is thought that they had been



Police supervise the removal of one of the bodies. by SUR

dead for more than ten days.

Valetta's body was found in the bedroom lying face down on the floor. Her husband was discovered near the sofa in the living room face up, according to sources.

## Michael died first

During an initial inspection of the scene no signs of violence were detected, nor other evidence of the cause of death. The flat was locked

from the inside, initially indicating that no third party was involved. The bodies were removed to Malaga for an autopsy.

Announcing results of the autopsy the following day, investigators confirmed their initial hypothesis of death from natural causes. They believe that Michael died first suddenly and that his wife, who had Alzheimer's, passed away two days later due to some form of stroke.



Emergency workers near the site of the find. by S. SALAS

# Lost three-year-old girl found next morning dead on train line with head injury

by A. F. / A. M. R.

**PIZARRA.** The Guadalhorce valley was in mourning on Thursday after a three-year-old girl who had gone missing the previous evening was found dead.

The body of Lucía Vivar Hidalgo was discovered alongside the railway between Pizarra and Álora in the morning. An autopsy in the afternoon confirmed that she had died from a severe bang to the head and had no other injuries.

Lucía had disappeared from a bar in the old station building in Pizarra shortly after 11pm on Wednesday night. Witnesses said she had been playing in and out-

side the building, which had two doors, while her parents ate inside.

Her disappearance prompted a huge search involving 600 people and both the mayor of Pizarra and the Guardia Civil sent out pleas for help.

Efforts to find the toddler however proved fruitless until a driver on a train spotted something next to the track some three kilometres further up the line towards Álora.

It was not clear how Lucía had reached that point, however early investigations suggested that she may have wandered off and been hit by an early passing train.



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# Aifos: Malaga's biggest bankruptcy case, still unresolved eight years on

Ordinary creditors have little chance of being paid but people who bought properties which were not built have a chance of recovering their money

**MALAGA.** A few weeks before the owner of Aifos was detained as part of police operation 'Malaya', which marked the start of the collapse of the biggest property development company in Malaga province, he was about to sell it to a British investment fund for an astronomical sum. He failed to do so, according to people who know him, for the same reason that led him to keep money from pur-



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chasers of properties which were never built, or which made him, during the bankruptcy proceedings, ruin an agreement with the banks which could have made the company viable.

Jesús Ruiz Casado always wanted more; when he had closed a business deal or agreement, he couldn't resist trying to turn the screw another couple of times. He was the star entrepreneur of the property boom, but it was greed which brought him to the

position he is in today, waiting for the Supreme Court to confirm several jail sentences against him.

It is now eight years since Aifos filed for bankruptcy with debts which were estimated at the time to be around one billion euros (the sum was later calculated to be 890 million). The company has been in liquidation since 2014, but the end of this highly complicated judicial process is still nowhere in sight. For now, an 18-month extension has been granted for the settlement plan. "Nobody wants this to go on for another three years," admits one of the company's three insolvency administrators, Nicolás Molina, a partner at PWC.

It is the sale of assets which is mak-

ing the Aifos case so complicated. Firstly, the vast majority are mortgaged, which means the banks can call in the loans: in fact, most have already taken that step. Then there are town planning problems with many of the developments, or their location is unattractive. "We are finding some very surprising things: a piece of land right beside the motorway and down in a hollow, for example," says Nicolás Molina.

In addition, the process is being complicated by other litigation. There are already more than 800 cases, and many have been started by Ruiz Casado himself. "It has been his strategy to draw out the process," say sources at the insolvency administrators. They have also contested acts

allegedly carried out by the businessman while he still had powers to make decisions in the company, such as renting properties very cheaply to private individuals to prevent them being sold. There are also complicated overlaps with the seven subsidiaries of Aifos which are also bankrupt: these range from its Ziur construction company to the one which owns the Guadalpín hotels (PSH).

## Last in the queue

During these eight years, around 5,000 ordinary creditors - suppliers and purchasers of properties which were never built - have seen the possibilities of recovering their money fade for several reasons. More than half of Aifos' debt is with banks (550

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## THE RISE AND FALL OF A GIANT, IN PICTURES



▲ **2003.** A Danish couple camped out on land owned by Aifos in Benalmádena, to demand the refund of money they paid out for a property which was never built. :: SUR

► **2006.** The Aifos group became involved in tourism with the Guadalpín hotel. In the photo, two directors at Fitur.

:: S. SALAS



▲ **2004.** Julio Iglesias was presented as the face of Aifos. :: JOSELE-LANZA



▲ **2007.** The Aifos stands at property fairs were usually large and luxurious. :: SUR

▼ **2006.** The head office was searched for evidence in the police operation 'Malaya'. :: SUR





million euros) and they have priority because of their mortgage loans. They are followed in order of priority by the Hacienda tax authority and Social Security, who are owed about 46 million euros, then there are debts which accumulate during the bankruptcy process, from IBI tax on the properties to the salaries of the insolvency administrators, which are the first that have to be settled and have already reached 20 million euros.

Ordinary creditors are so far back in the queue that it will be practically impossible for them to recover a single euro, even if all the Aifos properties were to be successfully sold. They include several small and medium businesses and self-employed professionals who have been ruined because they were not paid by the developer.

Nevertheless, some of those who bought Aifos properties have found a way to recover their money: taking legal action against the banks where they paid their deposits. The Ley 57 law firm has been a pioneer in Malaga in exploring this possibility, and in 2015 the Supreme Court decided in several cases that the banks in which people deposited funds to buy a prop-

erty off-plan are responsible for repaying the same if the guarantee which is obligatory by law was not fulfilled.

"In 2015 we lodged 100 cases, and a similar number last year. We have had 72 favourable decisions so far, and in about a dozen of them no appeal can be made," explains Carlos

Comitre, the manager of Ley 57, which represents 200 clients of this type. He says people should claim: "If they have a contract and documents showing the payments they made, and they have proof that the property was not built, then there is a chance," he insists.

Jesús Ruiz Casado, meanwhile, is

still living freely in Malaga. He has been found guilty of misappropriation of funds in the 'Malaya' case and at least two others, and if the sentences are ratified by the Supreme Court he will go to jail. At one point 70 cases were ongoing against him. With regard to the bankruptcy, the administrators are asking for a 15-

year ban (the maximum) and for him to be ordered to pay the bankruptcy deficit, estimated to be about 110 million euros, from his own assets.

The case which will determine whether the entrepreneur is to blame for the biggest bankruptcy case ever to be heard in the courts of Malaga is due to be heard in 2018.

## "We've been winning court cases for years but still don't have our money"

**José Miguel and Susana paid 30,000 euros for an apartment that was never built**

■ N. T.

**MALAGA.** In 2003, everyone was buying apartments, and José Miguel Baldrich and his partner Susana were no exception. They chose one in Las Gaviotas development, in La Cala del Moral. "Aifos was a big development group, it even had Julio Igle-

sias in its adverts. Who would have thought this would happen?" ask this couple, who were victims of the 'modus operandi' of Jesús Ruiz Casado: he refused to return the money paid by purchasers of apartments which were never built, either for town planning reasons or because,

simply, it was more profitable for him to resell the land. "It was a fraud. They never had any intention of building," says José Miguel.

This couple's problem began before Aifos went bankrupt. In 2003 they paid the deposit for their apartment: 9,000 euros, lent to them by José Miguel's father. For the next two years the couple religiously made monthly payments of about 500 euros, until they had paid 30,000. However, no building works began.

"They kept making excuses. When we demanded our money back they said they would give us an apartment

in another development instead, but they wouldn't honour the price we had signed for four years earlier," they explain.

They went to court and won, but the company appealed and then filed for bankruptcy and their hopes of recovering their money faded. However, the law firm they were using,

Ley 57, found another way: they claimed against the bank into which they had paid the money, which was obliged by law to guarantee it. The judge found in their favour, but the bank appealed. "We have been winning court cases for ten years, but we still don't have our money," they say.



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▲ **2006.** Jesús Ruiz Casado, after being detained as part of 'Operation Malaya'. ■ AFP



▼ **2010.** The Aifos bankruptcy case is the most complex ever heard by the courts in Malaga. ■ SUR

▲ **2012.** Ruiz Casado was sentenced to three years in jail and a fine of 2.2 million euros. ■ SUR



### THE FIGURES

**890m €**

The sum of Aifos' liabilities, according to the latest report from the administrators. More than half of this debt (550 million) is with banks and financial institutions.

**780m €**

is the amount the company's assets are worth. This means there is an insolvency deficit of 110 million euros.

**5,000**

creditors are involved in the Aifos bankruptcy case, which is being handled by Mercantile Court number One in Malaga

**346m €**

was Aifos' turnover in 2005, when it was the third biggest company in Malaga in terms of volume of business. It employed more than 2,000 people.

**1997**

was the year the company was founded by Jesús Ruiz Casado and his wife, Teresa Maldonado. The name 'Aifos' is Sofia (the name of one of their daughters) spelled backwards. The subsidiary construction company Ziur was named the same way: it is Ruiz the other way round.

**2,713**

contracts were signed for properties which were never handed over.



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## REF. P.H.O.

My mother and my aunt inherited a property in Spain. My aunt does not pay any of the expenses because she is not interested in coming to Spain and therefore she does not use it. From the very beginning my mother and I have been paying everything. Now I am thinking about moving to Spain temporarily

and I would like to live in the property. Taking into account that I also pay the expenses, could I move in to the property without the consent of my aunt?

The fact that you pay the expenses does not entitle you to live in the property without your aunt's consent, since you are paying the expenses voluntarily, and are not legally obliged to do so. If your aunt does not pay the expenses, your mother as co-owner, can demand that she pays half. If she does not voluntarily pay, there will be no problem in claiming at Court, since the judge will accept the claim and sentence your aunt to pay all the expenses caused.

## REF. M.A.N.

I rented an apartment to a couple with a verbal contract. Two months ago I told them that I needed the property, since I have divorced and need to live

in it myself. However, they have told me that they are entitled to renew the contract for three years, and I do not know what to do now, since they have stopped paying the rent and the utilities. Can I cut the supplies to force them to go, or do I have to claim at court in order to evict them, having to pay the legal costs?

According to the Urban Leases Act, the mandatory extension of the contract will not be applicable if once the first year of the contract has passed, the owner notifies the tenant that he needs the rented property to live there permanently himself or his relatives. Regarding the best way to "get rid of" the tenants, we do not recommend to cut the supplies, since they could report you for coercion. The most appropriate is to lodge an eviction claim, even if you have to pay the lawyer and bailiff fees if the judge does not sentence the tenants to pay the legal costs.

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A view of the crystal clear waters of lagoon. :: SUR

## New development boasts the first crystal lagoon in Europe

An open day was held recently to invite guests to sample the unique leisure experience at Alcazaba Lagoon

## :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**ESTEPONA.** Prime Invest and OSIM investments held an open day on Saturday for estate agents, businesses and the media at the new Alcazaba Lagoon development.

The event was to promote the unique leisure experience offered by the new complex next to Estepona Golf Club which has the first crystal lagoon in Europe.

The urbanisation is built next to the white, sandy beaches and crystal clear waters of the lagoon which are constantly kept clean and topped up. The water consumption is said to be lower than that used to maintain a lawn and has chemical levels similar to that of tap water.

The lagoon covers 1.5 hectares and is three metres deep at the deepest point making it ideal for many water sports such as paddle surfing, sailing and canoeing etc, some of which were sampled on the open day.

The new installations and facilities, it should be noted, are only for the use of residents of the urbanisation.

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# San Pedro councillors threaten to bring down Marbella's mayor

The three OSP members of the town hall's ruling coalition have been offered favours for San Pedro by the PP opposition if they agree to swap sides

by H. BARBOTTA / N. CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** The position of José Bernal as PSOE mayor of Marbella looked to be in doubt this week as three councillors in his ruling coalition mulled over an offer from the opposition PP party to swap sides.

The three councillors from Opción Sampedreña (OSP), which seeks to separate the town of San Pedro from the control of Marbella council, have been voting with the coalition of the PSOE and Izquierda Unida (IU) parties since local elections in 2015 unseated the PP mayor, Angela Muñoz.

This three-party ruling coalition has 12 seats, against the PP's 13, which means that mayor José Bernal has to rely on the two votes of councillors from Podemos to get many of his motions passed.

Now the three OSP councillors have grown tired of the uncertainty



Rafael Piña of OSP (r) chats with PP councillors in San Pedro. by C. M.

generated every time a vote needs to be made, reminding the mayor that they only agreed to go into the coalition deal for two years. Angela Muñoz's PP have offered concessions, if OSP agrees to give them back their majority, that would see more council resources allocated to San Pedro.

PSOE and IU are now working on a counter offer for the OSP, with José Bernal saying that the PP cannot offer the people of San Pedro "honesty

and integrity". The OSP party is likely to decide which way to turn at a meeting relatively soon.

The uncertainty comes the week after Marbella council failed to vote on unblocking the long process towards a new, legal PGOU master town plan. An unfavourable report from the town hall's own lawyers and a dispute over details with Podemos prevented any progress being made in the last council meeting.

## Benalmádena councillor in hot water after hitting moped rider in illegal U-turn

Beatriz Olmedo, who sits on the town council, was driving along the main coastal road when she made use of an unused mini roundabout

by ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**BENALMÁDEN.** A moped rider is recovering from a leg injury after being taken by surprise by a car while driving along the main coastal road in the heart of Benalmádena Costa. The car was being driven by the town's councillor for Human Resources, Beatriz Olmedo.

According to witnesses, Olmedo's car, which had been travelling along Avenida Antonio Machado towards Fuengirola made a U-turn at a new mini roundabout recently placed in the road to allow cars to change direction but which is yet to be opened to traffic. The roundabout still had a warning sign on stopping vehicles from using it.

As the car completed its turn it collided with the unsuspecting moped rider. The councillor is understood to have admitted the offence to police when making her statement.

Olmedo joined the council in May 2015 as a Ciudadanos party

councillor but became independent after her party removed the whip from her and another one of its team for supposedly trying to do a clandestine deal with the PSOE party. As an independent councillor she entered the PSOE-led coalition last year with responsibility for the municipality's personnel.

Sources said that there was unhappiness within the town-hall-controlled local police for the way the force was dealing with the incident "much more sensitively" than usual, an accusation that the head of Local Police has denied, adding that it was being treated as "routine".

### HERE & THERE

#### Opposition parties push for a better Puerto Banús

**MARBELLA**

by C.M. The opposition PP group in Marbella has called for the council to approve a plan to halt what it is calling "the degradation" of Puerto Banús. They say that the area, key to the national and international image of the resort, is becoming rundown and lacks a coherent local plan. Meanwhile Izquierda Unida's councillors have said they will ask national and regional coastal authorities for agreement to keep the well-used but temporary pedestrian walk at Coral Beach near Puerto Banús open to the public.

#### New cinema in Estepona after a decade's wait

**ESTEPONA**

by C.M. The Felipe VI auditorium in Estepona is to convert one of its halls into a 100-seater cinema. A deal has been reached with Cines Goya in Puerto Banús to show a daily programme of films from the middle of August. Estepona's last cinema, Veracruz Multicine, closed in 2006 and the town is one of the few places with over 50,000 inhabitants that doesn't have any screens at present. The planned Gran Bulevar shopping centre in the town is expected to include a multi-screen venue as well.



View of Estepona's port. by C. M.

#### Port's mouth to be dredged this year

**ESTEPONA**

by C.M. The Junta de Andalucía, responsible for Estepona's port, has agreed with the local fishing industry's request for dredging to take place. Work lasting three

months will start this summer to remove an estimated 40,000 cubic metres of sand and silt from the access channel and mouth. The aim is to clear a depth of at least five metres that will benefit not just the fishing fleet but also the leisure craft that use the marina, which has space for 447 vessels.

#### San Pedro street festival gets under way

**MARBELLA**

by C.M. From 1 to 6 August, San Pedro will play host to a festival of culture on the town's streets called ArtFest. Fourteen different groups will put on cultural performances and shows, including magic and aerial theatre. The idea harks back to the 1980s when San Pedro organised similar events. There will be two to three different performances daily in the programme, which has a budget of 60,000 euros from local funds allocated to San Pedro by Marbella town hall. Acts will be local, national and even international (from Colombia).

#### Ojén deal guarantees residents' water supply

**OJÉN**

by C.M. A five-million-euro deal between property developers and the local water company has been approved by Ojén councillors. Palo Alto, a new development of high-end homes on the Ojén hills, overlooking the Marbella coastline, has reached an agreement with AcoSol to share the cost of upgrading the municipality's water supply. It comes amid concern that planned development in the predominantly rural area would see water supplies dry up. The move also clears the way to finalising Ojén's updated PGOU master town plan.



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# Anger as surge in holiday lets sees prices rise and locals forced out of Malaga city centre



NURIA TRIGUERO  
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A growing number of tenants are losing their homes because the owners want to use them as tourist accommodation

**MALAGA.** For a long time, artist José Luis Puche dreamed of living in the centre of Malaga. He wanted to be close to the museums, the galleries and the cultural life of the city. Four years ago, he achieved his dream: he and his girlfriend found a “fantastic” apartment to rent in Calle Montañó. “The first year was wonderful. I loved being at the heart of things. My studio was close by, we went to nearly all the inaugurations of exhibitions,” he says. Then one day they noticed more activity in their block, where there were only 12 apartments. “A girl who was renting an apartment put it on Airbnb with the owners’ consent,” he says, and then the problems began. Parties on the landings, noise late at night, damage to communal areas and the occasional fright when a drunken tourist tried to get into the wrong apartment.

The person who advertised the apartment, seeing that it was always full, rented another in the same building to double her profits. “Then it was like a plague; it spread. Other people saw there was money to be made and started doing the same thing,” says José Luis. An apartment of this type would cost 600 euros a month to rent long term, but it can make nearly 3,000 a month from holiday lets. “That’s a lot of money,” he explains.

There came a time when only two apartments in the block were permanently occupied, the one rented by José Luis and his girlfriend, and one other. In September last year they received notification from the landlord that they would have to leave because someone wanted to buy it and rent it as tourist accommodation. By then, their street was full of Airbnb lets. “We already wanted to move, because we felt completely out of place,” he says.

This is by no means an unusual story in the central and eastern districts of Malaga city. The boom in holiday lets is affecting numerous people who work in Malaga and want to rent long-term.

For Andrea, a partner in a graphic design studio, a similar situation occurred but in her case it involved an office instead of a home: one day the landlord told them they had to leave because he was going to use the premises, in the historic city



The interior of a rental apartment in Malaga city centre. :: SUR

centre, for holiday lets.

## Some owners break the law

For the Rentacasa agency, which specialises in rented accommodation, this situation is not unusual. “Many people are being ‘evicted’ because of Airbnb, and the numbers are growing,” says one of the partners, Inmaculada Vegas. The agency’s clients include numerous people from abroad who work for technology companies on the PTA. “Since Easter more than 15 clients have received notice to leave their apartments, all of them in the historic city centre,” she says.

In many cases the property owners are breaking the law, because for the first three years, rental contracts should automatically be extended each year, unless the tenant says they want to leave. The owner can only rescind the contract if he or she is going to live there or needs it for a close relative. “Very few tenants do any-

thing about it, because they don’t want to get involved in legal proceedings,” says Inmaculada.

There have even been some dramatic cases where families have ended up with nowhere to go, because the long-term rental market has become “impossible” because of the popularity of holiday lets.

On average, 33 properties join the tourist accommodation market every day in Malaga province; there are already 10,000 of them, offering 54,000 beds, and more than 7,000 are in the city. The number of properties for long-term rent is currently just 784, according to a recent report by the Solvia agency, which concludes that the number is “clearly inadequate for a city with 600,000 inhabitants and a large floating population.”

José Luis Puche is well aware of the difficulty in finding an apartment to rent in Malaga. It took them four months to find somewhere they liked

and could afford, and it meant being outside the historic city centre.

“The best they could offer us there was a 30 m2 apartment for 600 euros a month. We couldn’t even get a sofa in it,” he says. After considering leaving Malaga altogether they found their present home in the Armengual de la Mota area. “We have rediscovered what it’s like to live in a district, with proper neighbours: there are shops, supermarkets... the city centre is becoming inert, just a decorative area for tourists and I don’t understand why nobody seems worried about that,” he says.

## Eight months of searching

Lakshmi Aguirre and her partner, professionals in their thirties, have been looking for somewhere to live for eight months. Their case is not directly related to holiday accommodation, but it does reflect the scarcity of long-term rentals in the city. They

## WHAT IS THE LAW?

► **Contracts signed before 2013.** The length of the rental contract can be freely agreed between the parties, but if it is for less than five years, then at the end of each yearly period, if the tenant wants to stay, it has to be extended annually until it reaches a minimum period of five years. The contract does not have to be extended if the owner needs to occupy the property as his or her main residence before the five years are up, or if it is needed for direct family members.

► **Contracts signed after 2013.** The tenant may remain in the property for a minimum of three years if they so wish, plus one additional year as long as the owner has not given notice to end the contract. However, the law allows owners to recover the property and use it as their permanent residence even if this is not stated in the contract, although at least one year of the contract must have passed before they can do so.

had to leave their apartment because it was full of termites and damp and the owners refused to carry out repairs. However, they found themselves trapped.

“When a decent apartment comes onto the market it is 400 euros more than they were asking five years ago, and there is still such high demand that you end up being subjected to a type of casting session. They also make some abusive demands, such as demanding six months’ rent as a deposit,” says Lakshmi.

In the end they did find a new home, but they had to pay more than they had hoped: 1,000 euros a month for an apartment in Pedregalejo. “Tourism is great,” she says, “but if it gets to the point where local people can’t even live in their own city, something has to be done.”

Javier, a chef who is also in his thirties, is afraid he will find himself in a similar situation in a few months’ time. He signed his rental contract two years ago, so in theory he should be able to stay there for another two years, but he isn’t sure that will be the case.

“I live in El Morlaco, near the seafront, and nearly all the houses in my complex are used for holiday accommodation. I have a feeling mine might, as well,” he says.

## QUOTES

**Inmaculada Vegas**  
Estate agent

“Since Easter, more than 15 clients have had to leave because the owners wanted to rent with Airbnb”

**José Luis Puche** Tenant

“The city centre is just becoming a decorative area for tourists; I find that very worrying”

**Lakshmi Aguirre** Tenant

“Tourism is great, but if it reaches the point where local people can’t live here, something has to be done”

## Overnight stays up by 4.6% thanks to foreign demand

### :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** In the first six months of this year a total of 598,296 tourists stayed in hotels in Malaga city, which is six per cent more than in

the same period last year.

Julio Andrade, councillor for Tourism, says this has been the best half-year since records began, and there were 1,114,459 overnight stays, an

increase of 4.6 per cent compared with the same period in 2016.

The councillor says the figures are due to increased demand from international markets, which has more than made up for a drop in the number of Spanish visitors.

Between January and June, 356,434 of those who stayed in hotels in the city were from abroad, which was 14.5 per cent more than

in the first half of last year. They accounted for 748,236 overnight stays, which was 11.68 per cent higher.

Average hotel occupancy in Malaga city was 75.07 during this period, an increase of two per cent. The average length of stay was 1.94 days. In the first half of this year, Malaga was the third city in terms of growth in tourism, behind only Zaragoza (+8.96%) and Barcelona (+7.58%).



# Calls for action as offensive advert reappears in skies above the Axarquía

Authorities have been unable to identify the people behind the publicity stunt which looks likely to return in some form today

:: E. CABEZAS / J. RHODES

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Once again a controversial and offensive advertisement flew over the Málaga coast last Sunday, a week after it was first spotted being flown by light aircraft from Cadiz to Almería.

This time the people behind the publicity stunt, who are still unidentified, were polite enough to put a red banner with the word 'Censurado' (censored) over an image of the back of a naked woman.

The advertisement, which along with the image of the naked woman, uses sexually suggestive wording in Spanish, first appeared as a poster in an underground car park in Torre del Mar earlier this month and was removed as soon as the town hall was told about it.

Around a week later - the weekend before last - the same advertisement was flown along the Andalusian coastline and attempts were made to find out who was behind the stunt to no avail.

Local police believe they know who was responsible for the Torre del Mar poster, but the young man in question has denied any link with the aeroplane stunts.

A website ([www.comemetoerhigo.com](http://www.comemetoerhigo.com)), which shows the same, graphic image of the woman, also fea-



The advert appeared this time with the word 'censurado' over the image. :: SUR

tures a clock counting down to today, Friday, and the words (in Spanish): "Coming soon... this is only the beginning." The end of the countdown coincides with the Torre del Mar international air show. However, no

link between the event and the advertising campaign has been made publicly.

Vélez-Málaga town hall opposition spokesperson, Francisco Delgado, posted on Facebook earlier this week

asking why the women's councillor and Junta de Andalucía women's representative had not been involved. The coalition responded by saying that the matter was "in the hands of the police."

## Volunteers swap cigarette butts for drinks in annual environmental initiative

:: JENNIE RHODES

**LA HERRADURA.** A number of volunteers of all ages spent two hours picking up hundreds of cigarette butts from La Herradura beach on Wednesday in the town's annual 'We exchange cigarette butts for drinks' campaign.

Volunteers were challenged to fill up cups of cigarette ends which are then deposited in a special container in exchange for tokens which can be used in La Herradura's numerous chiringuito beach bars for a drink.

The initiative was started by the Amigos del Mar Costa Tropical residents' group and has the backing of the local authority's environment department and the Asociación de Chiringuitos de la Costa Tropical. According to the town's environment department, cigarette butts are difficult to pick up due to their size and take up to 10 years to biodegrade.

## Drought draws closer as reservoir levels drop due to summer demand

Fruit growers will bear the brunt as the first water shortage since November 2008 becomes a likelihood

:: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

**AXARQUÍA.** The threat of drought in the Axarquía continues to loom as the area's population increases in the summer months. The Viñuela reservoir is hovering above its minimum levels at 54 square hectometres, but the Axarquía has been on alert for two years and if there is no rainfall between now and the end of September and levels drop to 45 square hectometres, a drought will officially be declared.

Water authorities said that last



La Viñuela reservoir is likely to reach critical levels. :: A. PELÁEZ

week 1.1 square hectometres of water were used, which if levels keep dropping at that rate would mean the reservoir would reach the 45 threshold by mid-September.

The agricultural sector would

feel the impact first as restrictions would be put in place, prioritising water for domestic use.

The last time a drought was declared in the Axarquía was November 2008.

### IN BRIEF

#### Opposition party plans to block 2017 budget

NERJA

:: E. C. Ciudadanos, in opposition at Nerja town hall, released a press statement on Wednesday saying that they planned to block the 2017 budget, due to go to Thursday's council meeting.

The statement said that they would not support the proposed budget "due to the non-delivery of promises and paralysis in the town." Ciudadanos cited projects including the wastewater station, fire station, coastal path and El Playazo improvements as examples of "paralysis".

Mayor Rosa Arrabal responded saying that the projects don't just "depend on the town hall" and that she didn't understand why Ciudadanos had not mentioned their opposition in the "last seven months" when the 2017 budget had been in the negotiating stages.

#### Two killed in a week in motorbike accidents

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA/TORROX

:: E. C / F. T. Two people have been killed in the last week in separate accidents involving motorbikes in the Axarquía.

José Antonio Villena, the union spokesperson for Torrox's public cleaning company, died when he lost control of his motorbike near the San Roque football pitch in the town on the A-7207 on Thursday 20 June.

The second accident occurred in Mezquitilla, which belongs to Vélez-Málaga, at km 277,8 at around 6.30pm on Tuesday when a motorbike collided with a lorry and then caught fire.

The victim was a 62-year-old German man with the initials M. W. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene.

#### Local man arrested for ill treatment of horses

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: EUROPA PRESS. A 40-year-old man from Vélez-Málaga was arrested earlier this week on suspicion of ongoing animal abuse and failure to comply with legal requirements for owning horses after police received complaints about the state of the animals' health.

Three dehydrated and malnourished horses, as well as a mule, were rescued by National Police officers who reported that they had also found a dead mule when they arrived at the farm in the La Zamorana industrial estate in Vélez-Málaga.

Officers said that the animals were tied up and had no access to water or food.

The four surviving animals have been taken in by an animal shelter located in Fuente de Piedra.



# Virgen del Carmen processions to receive regional tourism distinction

This procession is the most important and emotional day of the year for residents of La Carihuela

by TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** The residents of La Carihuela in Torremolinos were celebrating this week following the news that the annual procession of the Virgen del Carmen is to finally receive the status of Fiesta de Interés Turístico de Andalucía (a festival of touristic interest in Andalucía). Following several requests made by Torremolinos town hall over the past few years, the Diputación de Málaga (provincial government) is to bestow the coveted distinction on this popular tradition. The news was announced by Jacobo Florido, councillor for economic and productive development, who explained that the provincial government gives this distinction to those traditional customs that promote cultural tourism in the province of Málaga.

The procession of the Virgen del Carmen, which takes place on 16 July, is the most important and emotional day of the year for the resi-



An estimated 25,000 people attended the fiesta this year. by SUR

dents of the former fishing district.

On this day, the image of the virgin, who is the patron saint of sailors and fishermen, is carried in procession through the streets of La Carihuela, before being taken out to sea, escorted by dozens of brightly-decorated fishing boats. This year an estimated 25,000 people attended the procession, making it one of the best-attended events after the

Romería de San Miguel.

The feast of the Virgen of Carmen was very popular in the eighteenth century, and during the nineteenth century a small hermitage was erected to house the virgin, although the original image was destroyed during the Civil War.

The current image was produced by Málaga sculptor, Francisco Palma Burgos in 1940.

# Torremolinos takes steps to prevent potential insect and rodent infestations

The fumigation will concentrate on general sewerage systems, parks and gardens, municipal buildings and schools

by T. BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** Torremolinos town hall has begun a pest control campaign in order to combat a possible insect and rodent infestation this summer. The council has stressed that these measures are being enforced as a precautionary measure against rats and cockroaches, as summer is their peak breeding time.

The fumigation plan, which began this week and will continue throughout August, will be effective in El Pinillo, Montemar, La Carihuela, Bajondillo and the town centre.

The fumigation will concentrate on the general sewerage systems, parks and gardens, public roads, various municipal buildings and public schools.

One of the worst affected areas during the summer in the centre of Torremolinos is the old sub-

terranean passageways that run between Plaza Costa del Sol, Plaza Andalucía and Plaza de la Unión Europea.

## Foul odours

Locals have often voiced their opinions concerning these former shopping malls because of the foul-smelling odours that are emitted from them during the high season. They claim that these are perfect breeding grounds for unwanted vermin and pests.

Cockroach infestations can be a huge concern for home and business owners alike, as not only do they spread food-borne illnesses, but they can also trigger asthma and other allergies.

## A warning

The town hall has asked residents and business owners in Torremolinos not wash or hose down the fumigated areas until 24 hours after it has taken place, so as not to compromise the effect of the fumigant.

Information concerning the schedule of the fumigation can be obtained from the town hall's website.



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# New online service launched to help non-resident foreigners in Spain

Banco Sabadell has set up the first online platform to provide information and assistance to people from abroad who come here to live or work on a temporary basis

## ■ SUR IN ENGLISH

Banco Sabadell has launched a new online service for expats who are not resident in Spain, following an important survey called the International Talent Monitor which was carried out in 2015 by Barcelona Global. The study looked at the views of foreigners living and working in the Barcelona region, and found that they had been disappointed, when they arrived, that there was no office or website to provide them with useful information about matters such as administrative procedures, taxation, schools, health care, housing, culture, sport, banking services, insurance and integrating into the local community.

After analysing the results of the survey, which was carried out with the backing of Banco Sabadell, the bank's foreign client department saw that there was an opportunity to help



It is not necessary to be a client of the bank to use the service. ■ SUR

people who come to Spain to live and work on a temporary basis, and set to work to find the best way to do this. They found that although there are websites to help people make contacts, there was no platform to welcome newly-arrived visitors and give them all the advice they need in order to settle in.

For that reason, the bank has now created the online 'Welcome Serv-

ice', a platform for expats who come to live and work in Spain on a non-permanent basis, or those who have second homes here. The platform is open to everybody, and it is not necessary to be a client of the bank to use it. The Welcome Service website includes all the information which families, students, researchers, employees of multinational companies, business owners, or investors, among oth-

ers, are likely to need. For example, there is a section called 'Setting up home' for families. Starting up a Business for entrepreneurs and Investing in Spain for those with an interest in investing.

Banco Sabadell's 'Welcome Service' is manned by a team of professionals who are available 24 hours a day. They can be consulted in English, German or French, either via the website (chat or click-to-call) or by phone. The bank has also joined forces with specialist partners who can offer a wide range of information and services relating to the law, relocating, property and finance etc. These partners include the Cuatrecasas law firm, Eres Relocation Services, the TAX accounting firm and the Solvia estate agency, among others.

Thanks to this new Welcome Service, users can receive an answer to any question within 24 to 48 hours and receive personal advice from the specialist partners. If they decide to use the services of any of the partner firms, they will also benefit from advantageous conditions. For people in Catalonia, there are also nine Welcome offices: six in Barcelona city, one in Sant Cugat, another in Castelldefels and one in Sitges.

## HERE & THERE

### Upkeep of ancient remains is slammed

#### RONDA

■ V. MELGAR. The Asociación ArqueoRonda, which promotes archaeology in the town, has criticised the state of important local prehistoric remains. They say that the La Planilla dolmens site, three dolmens and a burial crypt, "look like a rubbish tip[...] after being abandoned by successive administrations at Ronda town hall." The group says that there were once 15 dolmens but only 3 are left "after years of neglect".

### Third well drilled to keep water flowing

#### ARCHIDONA

■ F. TORRES. The part-private, part-public local water company in Archidona has won a small battle against expected water shortages over the rest of summer. Aguas de Archidona has managed to open up a new well to access water reserves under the town to add to the two it already has. This means that less pressure from pumps is needed to reach the underground supply, which in turn reduces the amount of sediment sucked up, improving quality for local users.

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# The UK's exit from the EU

HMA SIMON MANLEY

## An open letter to UK citizens living in Spain

**G**iven the success of the Spanish State Visit to the UK the week before last, which, among other things, highlighted the importance of people-to-people links between our two countries, I thought it timely to return to the subject of citizens' rights in the negotiations on our departure from and future partnership with the EU.

In the year since the EU referendum, I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you across the country, from the Balearics to the Canaries, along the Costas and in Madrid, and our consular teams have met many more.

I know from those conversations that there has been uncertainty for many of you. My teams and I have listened to your concerns about the future, including about your residency status in Spain, the level of your UK pensions, and your access to Spanish health and other social services, and have noted the questions you have about tax, inheritance, right to work and the implications of applying for Spanish nationality.

At our meetings, on our social media and in interviews, I have also pledged to keep you up to date as negotiations on our exit from the European Union continue. So, let me update you on where matters stand now, in light of the latest negotiation round in Brussels last week.

The UK Government has been clear that citizens are our top priority in the exit negotiations.

We want an agreement that provides citizens with greater certainty about their future.

Last week, we held constructive and substantive discussions with the European Commission on the bulk of the issues underpinning our respective positions on citizens' rights. Together we have taken a big step forward. There is a much clearer understanding on the detail of the positions on both sides and significant convergence on the key issues that really matter to citizens. You can read this technical note which compares the UK and EU positions on these issues online ([tinyurl.com/ybt5mqbn](https://tinyurl.com/ybt5mqbn)). It is clear both sides want to move towards an agreement.

As you know, on 26 June, the Prime Minister outlined to Parliament an offer to protect the rights of EU citizens in the UK. We are entering the negotiations with the European Commission and the other 27 EU Member States constructively and we therefore hope that the EU27 will offer reciprocal treatment for British nationals resident in the other Member States.

Many of you will have seen press reports of our 26 June offer, whether in the UK or Spanish media. I hope you will also have read the detailed proposals which are set out in "Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU" (<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/brexit>) and I would encourage you to

sign-up for email alerts (you can do so on the Home Office [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) page) to receive updates, to ensure that you are receiving information and guidance from official sources.

The first key element of the new proposal is residence status and working rights. Until the UK's exit, EU citizens in the UK will continue to enjoy all the rights they currently have under EU law; they can continue to live and work in the UK just as they do now.

The same rights also apply to you, British residents in Spain. You can continue to live and work here in Spain as you always have done. After the UK's exit from the EU, we are proposing a reciprocal deal that would protect the right of UK nationals already in the EU to continue to live and work in the EU. We hope that the European Commission and the 27 other Member States will agree to this.

The second key element is healthcare, pensions, education and access to benefits. It is our intention to treat EU citizens with settled status in the UK in the same way as if they were UK citizens for the purposes of access to education, benefits and pensions.

For you, the Government has announced that the UK will continue to export and uprate the UK State Pension and provide associated health-

care cover within the EU, issues which I know from my conversations over the last year were important to many of you.

At the moment, those of you who are UK pensioners and resident in Spain access healthcare through the S1 form. This means the UK reimburses Spain the cost of providing medical treatment. After the UK leaves the EU, we want to continue your healthcare entitlements on the same basis. Healthcare in Spain was indeed one of the case studies cited in the detailed proposals made by the British Government on 26 June.

Subject to negotiations, we want to continue participating in the European Health Insurance Card scheme meaning EHIC holders continue to benefit from free, or reduced-cost, needs-arising healthcare while on a temporary stay in the EU — and vice versa for EU EHIC holders visiting the UK. We hope the European Commission will agree to this.

The British Government has repeatedly said that, until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. You can continue travelling throughout the EU on your UK passport, without any visa requirements. You can continue to access Spanish healthcare and draw your UK pension. If you have any difficulties accessing those rights, do please let our Consulates know.

I will continue to engage with you and listen to you, as will my consular teams across Spain. In the meantime, please follow me on Twitter (@SimonManleyFCO) and access the Embassy's social media (@UKinSpain on Twitter; British Embassy Madrid and Brits in Spain on Facebook) to keep up to date with developments.

*The author of this open letter to UK citizens living in Spain is Simon Manley, Her Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid.*

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## Gibraltar Customs authority applies for extra powers to combat smuggling

New measures have already been put into effect on Western beach including a reinforced frontier fence and patrols by Customs officers

by DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The Customs authority has announced that new measures are being introduced on Western beach as part of its campaign to combat smuggling. The frontier fence at the beach has been reinforced with extra strands of barbed wire extending out to sea and hardened fences have been placed parallel to the wire. Officers from HM Customs will now also be stationed at the beach to carry out overt and covert operations, and a portacabin has been placed at the entrance to the beach for the use of officers.

As part of this campaign, a bill is also to be presented to the Gibraltar parliament to enable Customs officers to search premises which are licenced to sell tobacco without a warrant. Additional provisions will include making it an offence to assault, resist or obstruct officers and to give false information by signing any document in respect of the im-



Customs officers will be watching Western Beach. :: SUR

port or sale of cigarettes.

Chief minister Fabian Picardo has stressed that the government will continue to support Customs in their work to control the illicit trade in tobacco. "That means giving them the resources necessary and the legislative powers necessary when they seek that we should provide them with greater powers," he said.

A few days ago plain-clothes Customs officers arrested five people on Western beach and seized a vehicle and 209 cartons of cigarettes. The officers chased three Spanish teenage boys as they ran along the beach to the frontier fence and two Spanish women were arrested for transporting the cigarettes. The haul of tobacco, worth approximately £4,000, was confiscated.

### IN BRIEF

#### Ricky Martin to perform at Music Festival

**GIBRALTAR**

Superstar Ricky Martin will be giving an exclusive one-off show at the MTV Presents Gibraltar Calling music festival in September. The Puerto Rican singer will be bringing his World Tour to the Rock on Saturday 2nd, and tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

Ricky Martin's musical career began when he was just 12 years old. He shot to stardom in 1999 with his worldwide hit 'Livin' La



Ricky Martin. :: SUR

Vida Loca' and now, aged 45, he is an icon in Latin music.

Tickets for this concert are available from [www.gibraltarcalling.com](http://www.gibraltarcalling.com) and local outlets.

#### Recycling bins now on all Gib's beaches

**GIBRALTAR**

Recycling bins have now been installed on all of Gibraltar's beaches, as part of the Environment department's campaign to reduce litter and increase the amount of recycling. There are yellow containers for plastic, tin cans and cartons; green 'bottle banks' for glass; blue bins for paper and cardboard and black containers for other general rubbish.

If litter ends up in the sea it becomes one of the deadliest killers of marine wildlife and also poses a threat to human health.

#### Royal Philharmonic concert on 9 September

**GIBRALTAR**

Lovers of orchestral music will be delighted to learn that the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will be in Gibraltar as part of the National Day celebrations and to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum on whether Gibraltar should remain British.

The concert will take place at the Victoria Stadium on 9 September, and tickets will cost £5. They will be available from 31 July from [www.buytickets.gi](http://www.buytickets.gi) or John Mackintosh Hall on weekdays from 11am to 1pm.

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## Salvador Dalí's body is briefly dug up in paternity suit

### FIGUERES

:: **SUR.** The body of surrealist artist Salvador Dalí was successfully removed from its grave in Figueres (Girona) last week to allow forensic scientists to remove samples of hair and nails and two large bones. The controversial move comes as part of a long-running paternity suit. Pilar Abel, 61, claims the artist was her father and a court ordered the exhumation to finally settle the matter. Dalí died in 1989 without any known children. The samples are currently being analysed for DNA.



The distinctive moustache. :: SUR

## Four Brits quizzed over woman's death on Costa Blanca in April

### BENIDORM

:: **SUR.** Four British men appeared before a judge on Wednesday in Benidorm as part of an investigation into the death of 27-year-old Kirsty Maxwell from Livingston, Scotland, in the resort on 29 April.

Kirsty was on a hen party in Benidorm when, after returning to the apartment building where her and her friends were staying, she apparently became disorientated and found her way into another apartment on the tenth floor. In the holiday apartment were

five British men and police say they believe that Kirsty felt trapped and panicked before jumping to her death from the apartment's balcony.

Investigators discovered evidence of drugs, a viagra-like pill and alcohol in the men's apartment. An autopsy found that Kirsty had drunk alcohol on her night out but not taken drugs.

The investigating judge summoned four of the men for questioning under oath yesterday. British media reported them as all from Nottinghamshire and aged between 27 and 32 years. The fifth man had already been quizzed in May.

All were released pending further investigation.

## Balearic Islands stop bulls dieing in fights after regional vote

### PALMA

:: **SUR.** Regional parliamentarians on the Balearic Islands have voted in a new law to protect animals at events that has effectively banned the traditional format of bulls being killed in the ring.

The region joins Catalonia as the second part of the country to actively prevent the Spanish tradition. As part of the new legislation, fights can still take place, but bulls cannot be killed. Opposition regional MPs and bullfight supporters have said they will take up the matter with Madrid.

# Mariano Rajoy testifies in court as a part of corruption trial

The prime minister answered questions about his role at the top of the PP in the early 2000s and any links to the 'Caso Gürtel' accusations against his party

### :: MATEO BALÍN

**MADRID.** The Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, became the first holder of that office to appear in court on Wednesday. He was appearing as a witness in the long-running 'Caso Gürtel' corruption trial.

The complex trial centres on the involvement of Francisco Correa (Correa's name means belt, which in German is Gürtel) with PP party officials in the Madrid and Valencia regions. Correa organised events during the PP government of José María Aznar.

Although the appearance of a serving prime minister was unprecedented, court documents and the PP itself stressed that Mariano Rajoy was appearing not in his role as head of the government but as a private citizen answering questions about his roles at the top of the party in the early part of the century.

Some members of the panel of



Rajoy at different stages of the court interview. :: AFP

judges trying the case had been reluctant to call the PM, however once the decision was taken earlier this year, the debate then focused on whether the court would go to Rajoy's office or he would give evidence via video link. Finally it was decided that he would attend the court sitting in person, which was broadcast live on national television and attracted wide interest.

For almost two hours Rajoy fielded a hundred questions about what he knew about alleged corruption involving Correa and former treasurer of the PP party, Luis Bárcenas.

The PM claimed that while head-

ing the PP, "I ran the politics, not the accounts", saying that he left the party's financial affairs to others. He said he know nothing of alleged illegal donations.

In reply to questioning about supposed 'black' payments to some senior party members, he denied it happened, saying all money was declared.

Communication experts watching Rajoy's performance in court generally agreed that he came across well in the interrogation. One said: "I expected a more insecure and subdued Rajoy. But he was comfortable, with fluid answers, without hesitating."



:: AFP

## 25 YEARS SINCE BARCELONA OLYMPICS

This week is the 25th anniversary of the start of Barcelona's Olympic Games. Celebrations took place in the city, including a ceremony attended by national and local dignitaries. King Felipe VI, shown here with city mayor Ada Colau on Tuesday, was a young sailing competitor at the 1992 games and led the national team into the Olympic stadium carrying the Spanish flag.

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ZONE

## BAD TIMING

**T**his week, BBVA and Bankia SA announced that Spain's economic expansion in 2017 is likely to be 3.3% - even better than 2016's 3.2%, which was almost double the eurozone average. Their bullish forecasts came after early indications that second quarter growth in Spain will be around 0.9% (the official Q2 statistics are out today) and if the two banks are correct, 2017 will be the best year for the Spanish economy since the country's much-celebrated recovery began in early 2014.

Various bodies - including the IMF, Spain's Central Bank and the Spanish government itself - have been upwardly revising their economic predictions steadily throughout this year, but BBVA's and Bankia's contributions to this absurd numbers game will be tough to beat. Even so, Mariano Rajoy will probably up the official government forecast to match the banks' sunny outlook sometime in the coming weeks. Currently, the Spanish government's official prediction is for GDP expansion of 3% this year - a very conservative outlook compared to this week's euphoric projections.

Speaking of Rajoy, you may have wondered why he wasn't asked to comment on BBVA's revised growth forecast when it was announced on Wednesday morning. The fastest expansion since the crisis is surely a big deal for a government that presents itself as the only competent steward of the Spanish economy. Indeed, Rajoy rarely misses a chance to tell Spaniards that it is

his party, the conservative Popular Party (PP), that has dragged Spain out of recession and put it back on economic track. But on Wednesday morning, he was unable to celebrate a potentially bumper year of economic expansion. Instead, the Spanish prime minister was appearing as a witness in a corruption case that implicates many members of his own party (see page 25).

The so-called Gürtel case centres on allegations of cash-for-contracts kickbacks among senior PP politicians during Spain's property boom in the early 2000s. It involves 37 defendants and over 300 witnesses. Although Rajoy is not under investigation in the Gürtel case and denies any illegal activities, his appearance in court on Wednesday - an event unprecedented in Spanish history - will serve as an emblem of a political class many Spaniards see as irretrievably corrupt.

Rajoy was aware of how disastrous his court appearance would be for the PP's reputation. He asked the judges if he could appear via video link instead, arguing that his journey to the courtroom 18km out of Madrid would be a misuse of public funds (one hopes the wonderful irony of that argument was not lost on the judges). But he was summoned anyway and by mid-morning on Wednesday a soon-to-be-iconic photo was appearing online, showing Rajoy standing gloomily in the witness box. It is the Spanish PM's appearance in the Gürtel case that will occupy headlines in the coming weeks, not the fact that Spain's economy is enjoying a bumper year.

# Only 15% of young locals can afford to leave home before 30

Low salaries, increasing rents and persistent, high youth unemployment means Malaga province has the fewest in Andalucía living away from the family home

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

**MALAGA.** Only 15 in every hundred young people aged between 16 and 29 who lives in Malaga province is able to leave home before the age of thirty, new data has shown.

This is one of the lowest levels in all of Andalucía, which, in turn has one of the lowest levels in all of Spain. At a regional level, 17.4% of young people have set up their own home, compared to 19.5% at a national level.

According to the 2016 report, published by the Andalusian youth council, a grouping of regional youth representatives, and presented in Malaga on Tuesday this week, the low levels in the area are due to the clash between low average salaries earned by young people and the relatively high cost of renting locally.

The average take-home salary of a young resident under 30 in Malaga province is 781 euros a month, the lowest in all Andalucía. Whereas average rent is 635 euros a month.

To add to this conundrum is the high level of youth unemploy-



Increases in property rents is making it harder to leave home. ■ SUR

## IN NUMBERS

# 781

euros a month is what a Malaga resident under 30 takes home in pay on average.

# 81%

is how much of their salary they need to pay to rent a typical property locally.

ment. Even if the level has fallen, it is still high; almost 40% in Malaga, although this is lower than the Andalusian youth unemployment figure of 43%. Many new jobs are on part-time or temporary contracts as well.

Moreover, the data is getting worse, with a fall in the percentage of those under 30 who manage to live away from home compared to the last study a year ago.

The report's authors highlighted the differences even within Andalucía. Whereas in Malaga a young person needs 81% of their salary to cover the rent, in the inland Andalusian province of Jaén, only 32% of the average pay packet is taken up renting a home.

# Unemployment falls below four million for first time since 2008

■ SUR

**MALAGA.** Unemployment in Spain fell in the second quarter of this year reaching 3,914,300. Between April and June, there were 340,700 fewer people out of work compared to the previous quarter, giving a national unemployment rate of 17.22%.

It is the first time since the end of 2008 that the country's jobless figure has dropped below four million. The total was helped in part as Easter, traditionally a period

when a lot of tourism jobs are created, fell in April this year.

The official data comes from the government's quarterly EPA survey of the amount of people engaged in economic activity. It is generally seen as more reliable than the monthly social security figures and is the data that the EU uses to compare with other countries.

There was a decline in jobless in all parts of the economy, with the service sector leading the way.

It shows that in the last year unemployment has fallen by just over 14% in Spain.

## Local figures

There was good news also on a local level. Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, saw 33,500 few people unemployed in the second quarter of the year. Only Madrid and Barcelona saw a bigger drop. The provincial unemployment rate is now 21.94%, down from 26.20% at the start of 2016. Once again, it was the service sector leading the way.

In the Andalucía region overall, unemployment is now at one million, a rate of 25.24%.

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST  
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE  
SO PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS

## Dirty sea water

We have been suffering from the problem of continual spills coming from the Cerrado del Águila plant for years.

However in recent years the problem has been growing as the population of Fuengirola and Mijas increases and this wastewater treatment plant has not enough capacity to adequately treat the flow of wastewater coming in.

Due to this, the operator has to bypass an important part of flow, pouring the wastewater directly without any treatment, day after day, especially in summer.

Additionally the spill is just on the beach next to 'El Castillo', and later the east wind pushes the spill directly to La Cala beach.

Residents have presented continual claims to the mayor, but up to now without result.

I would like to remind you that the power over water was

transferred to the Junta de Andalucía many years ago, and every consumer pays one euro on their water bills as a 'treatment fee'. The Junta de Andalucía has received 500 million euros for that.

This daily spill has become an important health problem, in my opinion the greatest problem Mijas has.

I suggest a quicker way to improve the problem: to build an underwater outfall, one or one and half kilometres out to sea to take the spill to deeper water.

As a definitive solution of course the Junta has to enlarge and upgrade the Cerrado del Águila plant or to build a new one.

Our health and the future of the village depends on the decisions taken by authorities.

JOSÉ M. JANICES  
LA CALA, MIJAS COSTA

A tribute to the first  
tourist guides in the  
city of Malaga

Malaga city is certainly having a great decade as a tourist destination. But this tourism boom has not been created in the last ten years. In fact 60 years ago dozens of "guides" with no qualifications whatsoever gathered in Malaga port and Acera de la Marina, speaking about four or five words in English between them.

For five 'duros' [25 pesetas - about 15 cents in today's euros] they showed Malaga to the tourists of those days: the Alcazaba, the Cathedral, Calle Larios, the Parque, the Jardín de los Monos, the bullring and all the churches and old neighbourhoods, even the brothels for those who wanted them.

I remember well how Juan Chaparro, the leader of the group who had one useless arm like Cervantes, boasted in his home district of La Trinidad of being the best tourist guide in Spain, and I had the honour of

being his relative.

We ought to stop and remember these true tourism entrepreneurs who are no longer with us; they were educated people, the majority of them professionals who had lost their jobs for serving on the losing side [in the Civil War].

Now after 60 years and in the middle of a tourism boom, we mistreat the horses that pull the carriages up to the Gibralfaro laden with tourists with no shade to protect them from the sun or a suitable place to rest. Every August we boast of our bullfighting fair, where we murder bulls, putting them through an inhumane agony. What does this mean? That we are still as inhumane as we were then.

Malaga is currently having a tourism boom, but the birth of tourism came through those men and women who worked ten hours a day for five 'duros' and a mortadella sandwich.

BARTOLOMÉ FLORIDO  
MALAGA

## The shape of view

PETER EDGERTON  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Imagine trying to shove an enormous star-shaped object into, say, a much smaller triangular hole. There you'd be, slaving away and suffering until your dying day, grunting and ramming, puffing and shoving, cursing and sweating, all to no avail. Then, one Wednesday in April or something you'd just keel over and snuff it with barely enough time to think 'What the hell was all that about? Blimey, I think I've just wasted my whole life. Hang on, can I have another g...'. Too late, buster.

This image often comes into my mind (no, it really does) when I'm scrolling through social media posts and witness on a grand scale the total and abject absence of flexibility with regard to their world view that the vast majority of people seem to have. It must be torture to live like that.

The world's such a brilliant

place, precisely because it comprises myriad views, perspectives and ideologies, each one based on personal, individual and selectively collective experience. The idea that any person would try to cram an entire world teeming with billions of other souls into a hole designed in the shape of their own visions is astonishing and, frankly, futile.

The happiest - and, interestingly, the most generous - people I know are always the most flexible. They understand, intuitively, that their perspective on the world cannot feasibly be imposed on others without all hell breaking loose. Historically, this is proven - every time some lunatic has tried to shape the world to his (it's almost always a bloke) own personal design the result has been unspeakable horror. It's the same deal on a small scale - shrieking your views in capital letters on TwitFace doesn't make the recipient think

'Oh, sorry, yeah - crumbs, I didn't realise that I was completely mistaken until you called me an idiot. I'll be changing my opinions first thing in the morning. Thanks for opening my eyes.' Those godawful pink hats didn't bring much to the party either.

The greatest diplomats and negotiators in the world have always known that finding common ground is an essential first step in trying to bring others around towards your way of thinking, even if only in a small way. They should teach this skill in schools, instead of prime numbers, playing Green-sleeves on the recorder and balancing chemical equations, none of which is of much use when you're forty-six with a mortgage the size of Alton Towers and have fallen out with your wife, your teenage children and the neighbours.

A touch of empathy might come in handy, though.

## IDÍGORAS



## Letter to a boat baby

IGNACIO LILLO

They didn't tell us your name, they never do, so I'll call you Boat Baby. You arrived on one at Malaga port, in the early hours of the morning, in a jacket that had miraculously stayed dry with a hood, under which we could just see a pair of eyes, sleepy but attentive. It's summer and the calm sea under the moonlight is still dark and empty. And cold, like the statistics from another day's work for the Maritime Rescue services, when you were just a number without a face: so many male adults; so many women, some of them pregnant; and a young child. You are strong, Boat Baby, and just a few months after being born you have survived the most difficult journey of your life. Strong, and brave, as you

didn't cry even once when those men in red with white masks lifted you to safety from that flimsy boat. Not even later, when they carried you on land, wrapped in a small shiny blanket.

The last time we saw you was on the quayside, in the arms of a Red Cross volunteer. Another of the passengers was your mother, and they took you both away to who knows where or for how long. For the time being you are both in a flat run by an NGO, where you are being cared for. Life isn't easy for her, with no documents and no work, although at least the threat of hunger, violence and war have been left behind on the other side of the Strait.

But there are still dangers. If your mum hasn't paid her debt with the

mafia for your boat 'ticket', you will spend long nights alone while she earns your freedom through sweat and tears. If she can't care for you, there will be dozens of families eager to take you in. This is Spain you see: homes without children, children without homes.

There'll be one city after another, in the eternal search for an opportunity. You'll cut your teeth in the south, learn to walk in the north and cross half the continent; no one will be able to say you are less European than those who can see no further than their own ancient mental frontiers. Perhaps on a cold Nordic night you'll wake up from a nightmare in which you are out at sea, with a powerful flashlight shining into your small open eyes, hearing those cries for help that shocked you then and disturb you now. Then will come endless days of badly paid underground work to be able to put a meal on the table, but that will be another story.

I can only hope that when you grow up you won't bear us too much of a grudge.

**SUR** English

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EUGENIO CABEZAS  
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The British press and a German magazine have both been impressed by the incredible photos taken by Javier Rupérez, town council secretary

**ALMÁCHAR.** Ants, flies, wasps, spiders and beetles are insects that we share our lives with and which previously have been relatively in-offensive. However, in photos taken by Javier Rupérez they appear to be real-life monsters.

Rupérez, from Madrid, has been the Almáchar town hall secretary since 1980 and specialises in macrophotography. This is a complicated technique that enlarges the subject of the photo with optimum image sharpness and detail.

"I'm the municipal secretary in the town hall, I came to Almáchar 37 years ago and am a great fan of photography in my free time. For the last three years now I have been using extreme macrophotography, although before that I used normal macrophotography for years," said Rupérez, who further explained that extreme macro is the enlargement of over '2X'. In layman's terms that means that the image is over twice the size of the subject in reality.

Together with the town architect Gabriel Postigo, who is also a photography buff, they have specialised a technique that allows enlargements from '2X' to '12X' and sometimes even '20X' or '60X' or more.

"Basically what we do is take lots of photos of the insect or the spider and then, with a computer programme, put them together. It's hard work," he continued.

In three years the two specialists have taken around 200 photos of insects and spiders.

"Friends and neighbours bring us dead insects and it's very impor-



Image of a common wasp amplified five times. :: JAVIER RUPÉREZ / SOLENT NEWS

## An Almáchar resident specialising in extreme macrophotography has managed to get some of his work published in the international press

tant that they haven't been dead long as they soon lose their colour," explained Rupérez.

The photos that he takes of a common ant, bee, wasp, fly or palm weevil never fail to impress so it's not surprising that after publishing the photos on various web pages, he attracted the attention of Solent News, a British news

agency, with whom he has signed a distribution contract.

Strangely, the photo of the hated palm weevil which is decimating palm trees in Spain has been one of the most successful.

Papers such as The Sun, The Daily Mail, The Guardian and The Telegraph have published photos in recent weeks explaining the

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Bee taken '4,44x'. :: J. RUPÉREZ / SOLENT NEWS



Example of a palm weevil. :: JAVIER RUPÉREZ / SOLENT NEWS

technique used and developed by Rupérez and Postigo.

The 29 June edition of The Sun newspaper compared the image of the palm weevil (given to the photographers by a friend at the Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía) with a photo of the British boxer, Anthony Joshua. The Daily Mail was also interested in the photos of the beetle which has been attacking palm trees around the world for more than two decades and was first discovered in Spain in the Granada town of Almuñécar. It published the photo, explaining the extreme macro technique used and the peculiarities of the creature.

#### Comparison with boxers

The Guardian also published photos. They used the enlarged image of the palm weevil across a double page and also a life-sized photo for comparison. The Telegraph chose



Fly. :: J. RUPÉREZ / SOLENT NEWS

one of the photos of the beetles as the picture of the day and joked about how the insect was copying the pose of the famous boxers Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor, measuring each other up for their bout on 26 August at the T-Mobile



Javier Rupérez and Gabriel Postigo in their studio in Almáchar. :: SUR

stadium in Las Vegas.

The German magazine Stern also reproduced the image of the beetle in its 6 July edition.

"We keep some of the insects at home but we throw away the majority because they soon deteriorate," said Rupérez, who believes

that besides amazing people with the colours and the beauty of the creatures he photographs, that the images also help to make people aware of the biodiversity of the natural environment.

"Insects are fundamental to the ecosystem and you can't just keep killing them off. They form part of the food chain and contribute to the pollination of numerous species of fruit and vegetables," stated Rupérez, echoing the phrase attributed to Einstein, "If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live."

In respect of the huge international response by fans of extreme macrophotography, the town hall secretary is very grateful.

"It has given us great satisfaction that our work has been recognised by the international press but it is really just a hobby," insists the photographer, who explained that the technique of stacking multiple photos is fairly recent; it was only developed about seven years ago.

Rupérez explained in more detail, "We have been perfecting the technique, investing thousands of euros in specialised equipment."

Each photo takes several days to complete. "It is a very painstaking process. I see our skills as comparable to entomology and our work can be of enormous help to entomologists in their study and identification of different species of insects."

"We should respect all living things and only do what's necessary in order to carry out our work. It would be impossible to create these photos any other way," he concluded.

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DARYL FINCH



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

Luis Aragonés, architect of Spain's footballing domination, is born

28 JULY 1938

It was an unpopular decision; but he never shied away from controversy (he once got into a spot of bother for calling Thierry Henry a “black shit”). Ahead of his side's Euro 2008 qualifier against Sweden, Spain coach, Luis Aragonés, left Raúl, captain of both Spain and Real Madrid, out of his squad. It was the first time in ten years that the Galáctico had been omitted by his national side.

“I have chosen the players that I think are in the best form at this moment in time,” said Aragonés. Even so, he had just done the unthinkable.

Doing away with Raúl was just the beginning. For years, Spain went into major competitions with really strong squads, but always fell short because of an apparent shortage of mental strength. Getting rid of the star brought an end to an over reliance on a star player.

Following Spain's shock defeat to Northern Ireland earlier that



Spain players celebrate Euro 2008 victory with Aragonés. :: AFP

month, Aragonés also dropped winger Joaquín, left back Mariano Pernía and midfielder Borja Oubiña.

It was not only the personnel that would be changing. With a new spine built around Xavi, Andrés Iniesta and Cesc Fàbregas, Aragonés knew that his team couldn't compete on a physical level with their opponents. What they had to do was dominate possession of the ball,

make the opposition do the running, and rely on quick short passing and intelligent movement to break down defences.

This style, tiki-taka as it became known, changed the face of world football, setting the benchmark for the way football “should” be played.

It wasn't something new; its roots came from the time Johan Cruyff coached Barcelona in the

late 1980s and early 90s. However, what Spain under Aragonés (and Barcelona under Pep Guardiola) started to do was pair this style with pragmatism and positional flexibility.

Change was coming, but few would have quite envisaged the success that would be about to come the veteran coach's way when he named his final squad for the tournament which only included two players with over 50 caps (Carles Puyol and Xavi).

Far from household names, the likes of Marcos Senna, Dani Güiza and Joan Capdevila would all prove important cogs in the machine that would go on to beat Germany by one goal to nil in the final, Spain's first major trophy win in 44 years.

This was the turning point in the history of Spanish football, with Aragonés' successor in the dug out, Vicente del Bosque, following the blueprint to win the World Cup in 2010 and the Euros again in 2012. Many observers suggest the Spanish success story didn't continue because Del Bosque himself could have done with his own “Raúl” moment, instead of remaining faithful to the tried and tested.

When Aragonés died on 1 February 2014 in Madrid from leukemia, tributes poured in from around the world for one of the games great-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Equipo         | Team                |
| Entrenador     | Coach               |
| Seleccionador  | National team coach |
| Jugador        | Player              |
| Balón          | Ball                |
| Fichaje        | Signing             |
| Banquillo      | Bench               |
| Estadio        | Stadium             |
| Camiseta       | Shirt               |
| Temporada      | Season              |
| Innovar        | To innovate         |
| Clasificar     | To qualify          |
| Fuera de juego | Offside             |
| Campeonato     | Championship        |
| Partido        | Game                |
| Eliminado      | Knocked out         |
| Torneo         | Tournament          |
| Copa           | Cup                 |
| Relegado       | Relegated           |

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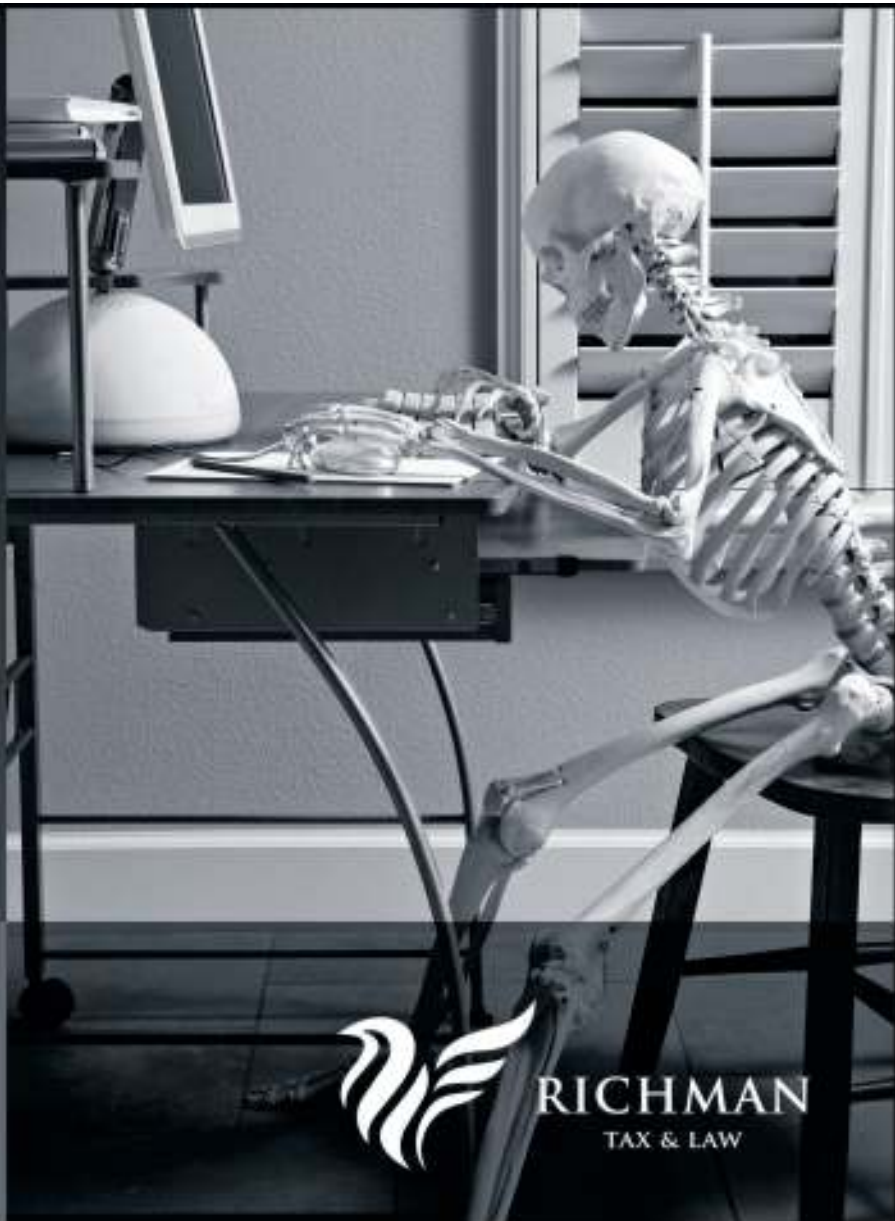
Atlético Madrid, for whom he is the top scorer in their history and who he managed in four separate spells, marked his passing with his name on their collars during the 2014 Champions League final. Fans also called for their new stadium, which will actually be called the Wanda Metropolitano for sponsorship reasons, to bear his name.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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## GARDENING

# Yellow mangosteen

**A beautiful rainforest tree with extremely fragrant white flowers, thick, glossy leaves and sweet, edible fruit**

*Atractocarpus fitzalanii*, commonly called Yellow Mangosteen, Brown or Native Gardenia, is a large, woody shrub or small tree native to Australia and Asia. Strictly speaking it is a tropical plant but it will withstand short periods of frosts unlike other species in the genus. Being tropical means it is not drought tolerant and needs a rich, moist soil

in order to thrive, preferably mildly acidic. The star-shaped flowers have an intense fragrance similar to gardenia hence its common name Brown (or Native) Gardenia.

In its native habitat it would be shaded from the sun by taller plants so a situation in dappled

shade is ideal. Yellow Mangosteen is not related to the tropical mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) and will reach a maximum height of around five metres by a width of around four metres. However it can be grown very successfully in a large container, preferable if you live inland as it can then be moved under cover or wrapped in fleece easily in the winter. The trunk of the shrub will develop a smooth, grey bark and although a perennial, it may drop a few of the deeply-veined, leathery leaves in cold weather.

Yellow Mangosteens will flower all year round in ideal climatic situations and attract bees, butterflies and birds. The fruits are the size of a large peach and have a yellow skin. There is little flesh surrounding the flat, disc-shaped seeds but it is said to be sweet and delicious. The seeds can be used to propagate new plants but they must be harvested only when the fruit is over ripe and starting to rot. Wash all the pulp from around the seeds and leave them to dry. Once dry they can be germinated on damp paper towels and then planted immediately; they do not store very well.

*Atractocarpus fitzalanii* was named after Irish botanist and plant collector Eugene Fitzalan. The genus name *Atractocarpus* (a member of the Rubiaceae family) was once known as *Randia* and the Yellow Mangosteen can often be found listed as *Randia fitzalanii*.



The heavily scented flowers of *A. Fitzalanii* and fruit (inset). :: SUR

## READER'S PHOTO



:: FRANCES KNOWLES

## A VERSATILE HERB

This photo of Santolina was sent in by Frances Knowles who says, "Santolina is used as a edging plant and is also useful for hanging in wardrobes, placing in drawers and inside books to deter insects and moths. It grows in full sun and needs little watering."

## GARDENING HINTS FOR AUGUST

## A - Z of plant terms, part 1

Since it is too hot to do much more than watering and dead heading during the summer, it is a good time to relax (by the pool) and brush up on a few botanical terms that you may come across in plant listings and catalogues. Here are just a few: Androgynous - with male and female flowers in the same flower head (i.e you don't need to buy a male and a female plant as it is self pollinating). Arborescent - tree-like in growth or appearance. Biennial - plant which comple-

tes its life cycle and dies within the second year. It usually only flowers and fruits in the second year. Bract - a modified leaf often confused as a petal when coloured, eg. Bougainvillea. Bulblet - a bulb growing from another bulb. Campanulate - bell-shaped flowers. Caudex - sometimes used instead of the more common term 'rootstock' and refers to the basal stem from which new growth arises. Corm - fleshy, swollen stem base storing food reserves.

## 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](mailto: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, or send them via Twitter @SUR\_English or Facebook @surenglish and we'll do the rest!



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## PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



# Redundant animals

We read so much about the robot revolution and how humans are being replaced by machines which are cheaper and often more efficient. It is nothing new.

In the early years of the nineteenth century, the Luddites took aggressive action, headed by weavers, to destroy the machines, regarded as evils to deprive workers of employment.

As you look over more recent years the development of technology has made more and more people redundant. Remember the telephone exchange operator? I recall it taking me three days to call Karachi. In 1961, my first visit to Spain, I was on business in the Costa Brava and had to borrow the telephone of a friend to call the UK. I was used to a two-hour wait and was glad my friend owned a bar! Times have changed. Now you dial away and no operator involved.

Times have changed for the animal kingdom as well and I was reminded of it very recently when an elephant was rescued from the sea off Sri Lanka - no easy task with a very large frightened animal. How did it get into the water in distress? We can only speculate but I have seen many elephants in different parts of the world working in forests on the Thai-Myanmar border and in Sri Lanka where they moved tree trunks to rivers.

In the Second World War, elephants were used to move heavy bombers. In Malaysia I have seen elephants working on moving heavy equipment on difficult building sites. When you go back to those places now, a whole different scene appears and powerful machines do the work with ease.

This is not a situation limited to elephants. My grandfather ran several teams of shire horses carrying heavy goods between Leeds and Bradford. Imagine that today! Horses were used extensively in the First World

War (the word cavalry comes from the Old French for horse). Present day cavalry is equipped with tanks and armoured cars while horses have a limited role (albeit more tranquil) in ceremonial activity.

Here in Spain donkeys were once a common form of transport. Only twenty-three years ago when we first visited Alora (we moved years later) donkeys carried loads of olives through the main street. No longer does such a lovely rural scene exist.

The list of animals becoming redundant becomes longer and longer. Fortunately man's best friend the dog has not been replaced. Dogs play a vital role as search and rescue animals, guard dogs, guide dogs for the blind and the deaf, tracking and many other roles, not forgetting the great companionship they offer to people generally. Personally we could not be without one.

Sadly when an animal has served its useful purpose, the owner is faced with a dilemma, especially if the cost is a major consideration. A friend of mine runs a home for retired animals but there are not many people like him around.

It is a problem but one we must face realistically and with compassion. There exists a belief that animals were originally in the wild so returning them is letting them return to nature. I have even heard of a teacher in Spain who suggested it to a child whose parents said they could no longer afford to keep the dog. This belief is a complete fallacy. It is a cruel abiding of responsibility. Domestic animals have been attached to humans for hundreds of years. They stand no more chance of survival than you or I. Forget stories of Robinson Crusoe or Swiss Family Robinson. They are just fiction. Like us, domestic animals cannot survive and often meet a sad end with predators or passing vehicles.

## The Malaga Bar Association makes 5,600-euro donation to Cudeca after fundraiser

BY TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** Following a successful fundraising dinner held in Malaga in June, The Malaga Bar Association has donated more than 5,600 euros to the Cudeca Cancer Hospice.

At a special presentation in Malaga last week, the Dean of the Ilustre Colegio de Abogados (MBA), Francisco Javier Lara, presented a cheque to Ricardo Urdiales, the president of the Cudeca Hospice.

More than 70 people participated in the fundraising dinner, which was



Members of the Malaga Bar Association with Ricardo Urdiales. BY SUR

held in support of the organisation's twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations. In addition to the dinner, a charity auction was also held to boost the overall funds raised on the night.

Speaking on behalf of the cancer charity, Esther Ráez Martínez said:

"It is because of events like this that Cudeca is able to continue to offer the special care and attention to people with advanced terminal illnesses. We are extremely grateful to the Malaga Bar Association and everyone who was involved with the event."

MARK NAYLER

## RUNNING WITH THE BULLS



**T**uesday 11 July 2017 is a date that will forever be imprinted on my memory. It was the day that I first ran with the bulls in Pamplona, during the town's annual San Fermin fiesta. I also attended this anarchic and joyful party in 2015 but didn't run. As I told people afterwards, this was because I had stayed up partying the night before I had vaguely planned to do the 'encierro' (as the bull run is called), thus rendering myself a bottle of liquor with arms and legs. That was true. But I'd stayed up all night because I feared running with fighting bulls the next morning.

I was frightened this year, too, but determined to face my fear. One of my oldest friends was in Pamplona celebrating San Fermin with me and we had agreed to run together that morning. Having a running partner is important: not only do you give each other courage in the testing moments before the bulls are released, but you can talk about it endlessly afterwards and not risk boring each other stupid.

On the day, I awoke at 5.30am already nervous, as if I'd also been nervous in my sleep. My friend and I were on the town hall square - the section of the 'encierro' we had chosen to run - by 7.15am and for the next 45 minutes there was nothing to do but wait. The atmosphere on the street was calm, quiet and tense. We didn't talk much.

Finally, the agonising wait was over. Church bells started chiming eight and a rocket exploded high above the streets, signalling that the 'encierro' had begun. Emotion surges within me when I remember that moment. The bulls gallop at great

speed and, surprisingly, make no sound on the cobbled streets. In less than ten seconds the fastest of the herd arrived at the town hall square, preceded by violent waves of other runners sprinting past, crashing into us and shouting at us to run. We ran.

It was all over in a few surreal seconds. A pack of three black bulls came hurtling through as I sprinted, back turned, to the barrier on the right of the square. After having pulled in here among a crush of other runners, I looked across to see a beige bull absolutely flying past on the square's opposite side. My memory took a photo of that bull and I will never forget how much grace and power it had in full flight. I couldn't believe the sheer speed at which it was running.

By 8.05am my friend and I were enjoying the best beer of our lives. I hope that later runs last a little longer and that I get closer to the bulls, but I know that there will never be another 'encierro' like the first for sheer emotion, speed and drama.



The San Fermin 'encierro'. BY EFE

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## IN THE FRAME

TONY BRYANT  
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# Seeking new boundaries for an old custom

**Antonio Soto Arjona** Guitarist and composer

**Antonio was already well-versed in the art of the gypsy fiesta by the time he was eight**

**O**ne of Malaga's most respected flamenco guitarists has recently released a new recording in a bid to deliver his traditional flamenco custom to a much wider audience.

A leading figure in the world of Andalusian flamenco, Antonio Soto Arjona has spent the past few decades accompanying some of the greatest flamenco singers and dancers of our times, and he has further demonstrated his talent with a fresh and inventive new recording called 'Rosas Blancas'.

Born in Barcelona on 2 December 1966, Antonio went to Madrid and began working in the tablaos at just 14 years of age. At the age of 18, Antonio settled with his parents in the gypsy flamenco district of El Perchel in Malaga.

Descending from the bosom of a flamenco and bullfighting family, his paternal genealogical line includes artistes such as La Pirula, El Tiriri, Paco Aguilera and La Cañeta de Malaga. His mother was the granddaughter of the coveted - although little known outside of the flamenco circle - Manuel Arjona.

Antonio's sister, Isabel Soto, also played her part in the family saga, working as a dancer in some of Madrid's top tablaos and travelling the world with the National Ballet under the guidance of Antonio Gades.

Antonio's father was a singer and his grandfather played the guitar, so by the time he was eight, he was already well-versed in the



Antonio Soto accompanying the flamenco song. :: SUR

art of the gypsy fiesta.

He first gained an interest in the guitar at an early age and without realising it, he had become a relatively competent guitarist by time he was ten.

He studied the guitar with Antonio Sierra and Andrés Batista, but of course, at this stage of his life he was greatly influenced by Paco de Lucía.

"I never thought I'd be like Paco de Lucía, because a phenomenon like him is unique, but I think I was greatly influenced by him. If it were not for Paco de Lucía, the rest of the world would never have come into contact with flamenco; although we must not forget the musicality of Manolo Sanlúcar," Antonio explains in his relaxed Andalusian accent.

His first professional break came at the age of 14, when he accompanied the dance of Juana Ximenis (a disciple of the great Carmen Amaya) on a tour of the United Arab Emirates.

Since these early days, he has accompanied some of the biggest names in the business and has

been specially requested by many of the most prestigious singers. However, his greatest recommendation came in 1997 when he began accompanying Fosforito, receiver of fifth Llave de Oro, the golden key of flamenco.

Being chosen by the master of Puente Genil leaves no doubt about the quality of Antonio Soto as an accompanist.

He has received several important awards, including first prize in the Concurso de Guitarra in Alhaurín de la Torre in 1992, and the Premio Nacional de Guitarra in the Gran Teatro in Córdoba in 2001. Antonio also won the Bordón Minero, during the Festival del Cante de las Minas in La Unión in Murcia in 2002.

## Recording artiste

His first recording, 'Pa'er Teto', was released in 2002 and this shows his incredible knowledge of the most orthodox flamenco styles.

There has been a considerable

gap between his first CD and 'Rosas Blancas', and this he puts down to the fact that he has simply not had the time.

plains with a smile. His latest offering has moved away from the orthodox flamenco of his first disc.

The title was born out of his desire to dedicate the work to the people he loves, although he is quick to point out that this is not a flamenco fusion CD, even though he has used non-conventional instruments on it.

"This work is dedicated to my family, my friends, my colleagues and the fans that follow what I do. What better gift could I give them than a bouquet of white roses? It is, at least to me, like giving my sincere friendship, a true fondness for all those people who have given me so much," the musician says with sincerity.

'Rosas Blancas' has a fresh, vibrant feel and he has adhered to the basis of flamenco, while adding his own stamp when experimenting with styles like the Fandangos de Huelva, on which he has incorporated the drums and electric bass.

The disc has a bluesy, jazz feel, largely contributed by the vocals of Suzette Moncrief and the intricate rhythm section supplied by El Fósil, Antonio's brother-in-law, who played an important role in the production of the disc.

It is hard to believe that a recording artiste, who is also in great demand by the flamenco hierarchy, and someone who travels extensively around the festivals of Andalucía, would have time for anything else, but Antonio also offers guitar lessons at his studio in Torremolinos.

He is already making his mark as a tutor in Malaga, for three of his students have excelled with the instrument and two have already turned professional.

Although Antonio occasionally performs solo concerts, he believes that his role is to accompany the song, because, as he astutely points out, "The singing is my lifeline, something I cannot live without."

**"I never thought I'd be like Paco de Lucía, because a phenomenon like him is unique"**

gap between his first CD and 'Rosas Blancas', and this he puts down to the fact that he has simply not had the time.

"It has been several years since my last recording, but one of the reasons is because of my commitment to Fosforito and Agujeta: obviously playing for these masters left little time to prepare any new material for the CD," Antonio ex-

El Fósil and Antonio Soto. :: T. B.

## Help Save Part of Malaga's International Heritage

The English Cemetery Foundation (La Fundación Cementerio Inglés de Málaga) urgently needs your help to maintain this beautiful place that is of great historical and cultural significance to the entire international community on the coast.

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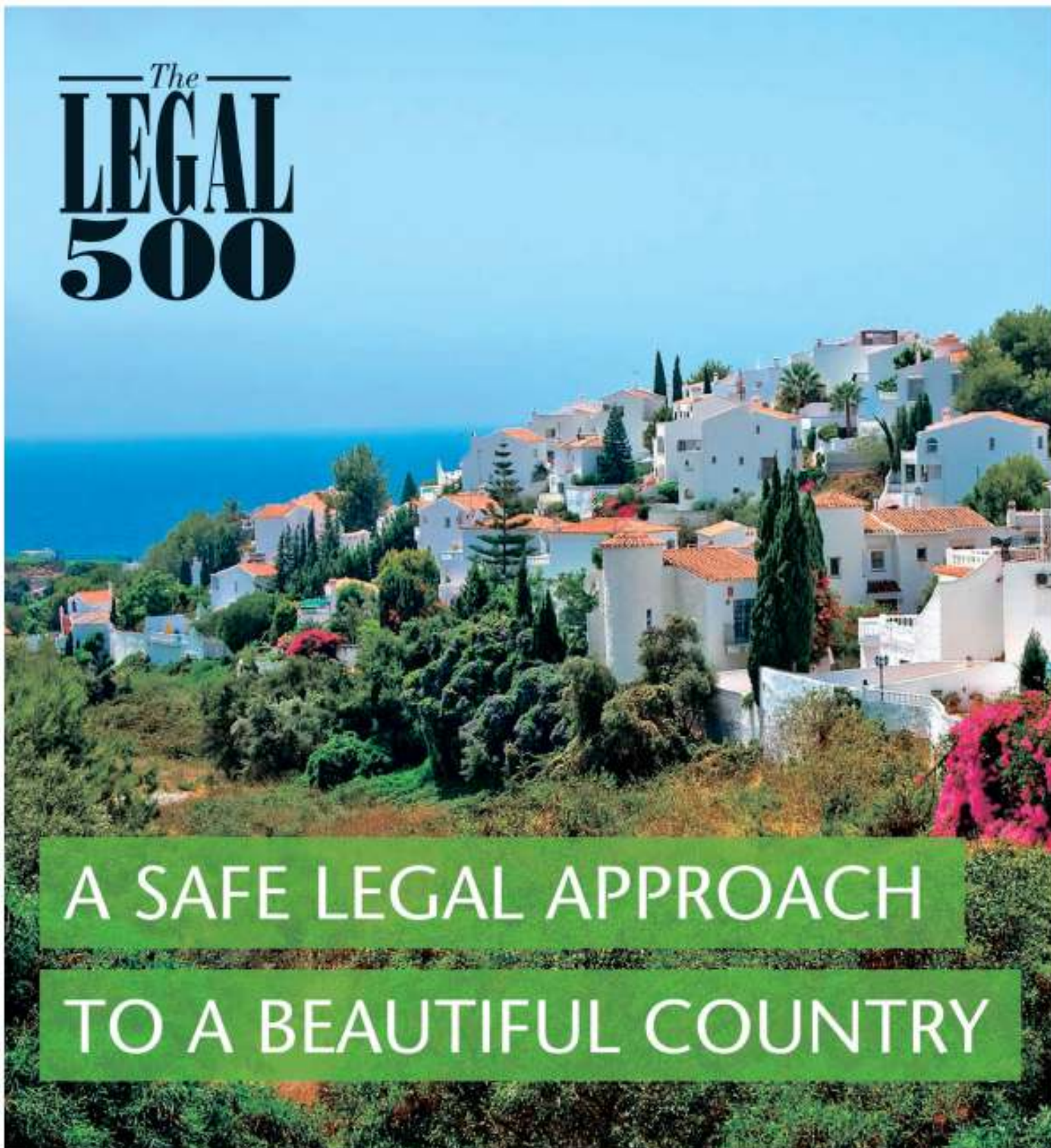
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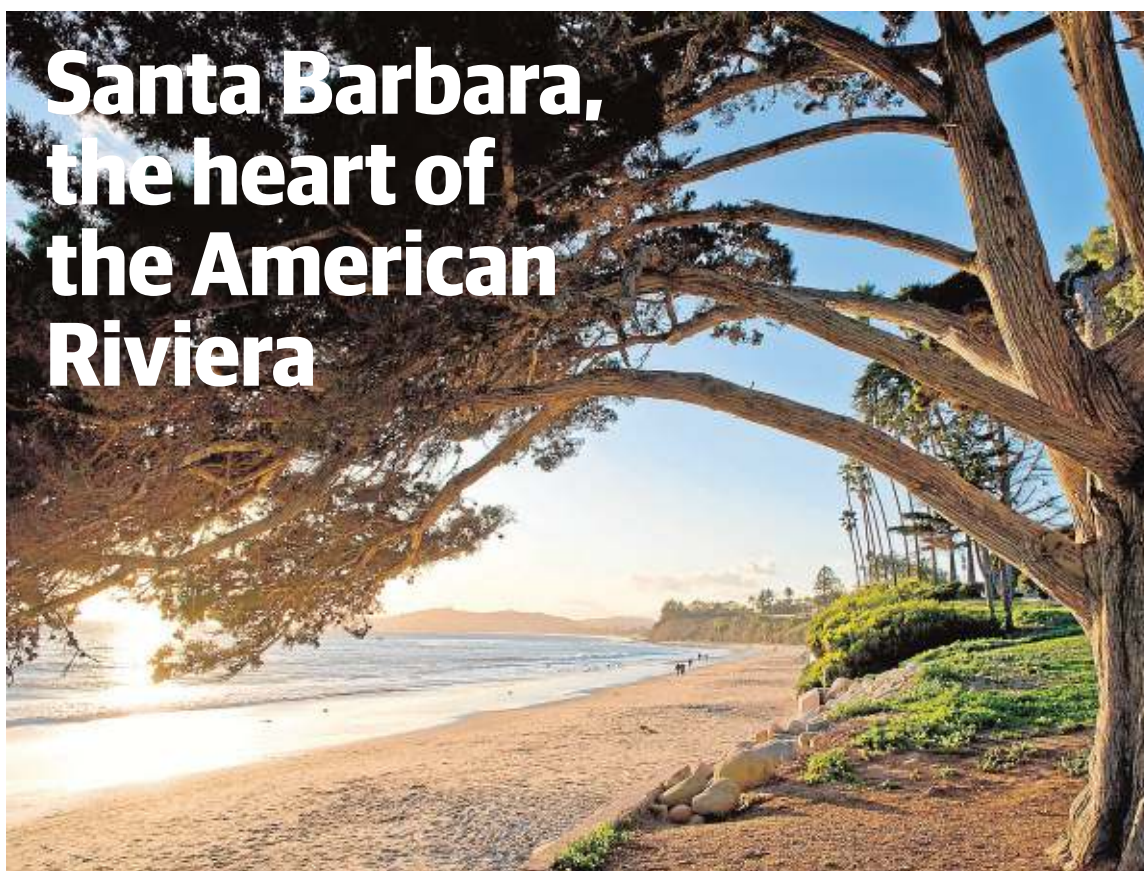


Twitter: @andrewforbes

This charming Californian town is home to fascinating history and refined West Coast hospitality

California has always been synonymous with the notion of the American Dream, and it consistently makes for a compelling holiday destination. The glitz, glamour and urban energy of Los Angeles in the south; together with the renowned openness of San Francisco in the north are always on the visitor hot list.

Yet instead, last month I headed to the central coast of the Golden State, to sample the archetypal Californian lifestyle of Santa Barbara. Here the state's Pacific coast is south facing, and the valleys, sheltered by the Santa Ynez mountains, are home to the cluster of small ocean-facing communities of Summerland, Montecito, and Goleta – with Santa Barbara at their heart. This is among the most desirable



The American Riviera has been a favourite retreat among the Hollywood A-list. :: JAY SINCLAIR

and exclusive areas to live in the United States.

As a retreat it has been a favourite among the elite and the Hollywood A-List for at least a century, yet now it has a new moniker, the American Riviera. Conjuring thoughts of European sophistication, small-town charm and Mediterranean chic, it seems a smart

choice for this refined region.

#### European charm, American vibe

The town of Santa Barbara has plenty of European elegance, yet a distinct identity, built upon food, wine, sport and culture. The wealth of California has nurtured this idyllic small town into a place of upscale boutiques, di-

verse art galleries and an abundance of restaurants and cafes that celebrate the wholesome food and acclaimed wines of the region. Deli-style eateries, micro-brewery and wine bars, and upscale restaurants all seem to share the same commitment to quality, a sophisticated sea-to-table and farm-to-table ethic. I had not been so impressed since I visited South Af-

rica's Cape Winelands.

In fact, continuing the international comparisons, one could sum up this destination as a place with the climate of Andalucía, the charm of Tuscany, the elegance of Provence, yet the vibrancy, energy and great service that really one only finds in the States.

#### Fly, drive or train

Getting to Santa Barbara is easy from the main international hubs of San Francisco or Los Angeles. Although Santa Barbara has a small airport, it makes better sense to rent a car (essential in California) and cruise the state's multi-lane freeways to the Riviera. Yet expect traffic; especially if you drive the 150 kilometres north from Los Angeles airport to Santa Barbara; it's simply a fact of life in this part of the world. Alternatively take it slow and make the journey part of the adventure by choosing the coast-hugging Pacific Coast Highway 1. It's a narrow, two-lane road which, believe me, is worth the extra travel time and more leisurely pace. California has beautiful, unspoiled coastline and Highway 1 showcases it, making for an unforgettable journey.

Next time though, I want to let the train take the strain, and ride the Amtrak train, evocatively named 'Surfliner' from Los Angeles.

#### Tent, airstream or suite

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places to stay. With a similar climate to southern Spain, with over 300 days of sunshine, camping in this part of California is always a popular choice, and here there are beach sites, urban parks, as well as more isolated campsites in the canyons and mountains.

Quaint, sometimes eccentrically-styled guest houses; boutique hotels, as well as Spanish-style inns offer distinctive accommodation – and of course, the big hotel, spa and resort names are here too, including Rosewood, Four Seasons and Belmond. New for 2017 is the Hotel Californian, a large dining, spa and hotel resort on Santa Barbara's waterfront.

### Hollywood hideaway

One of the most historic properties is the El Encanto. Its modest beginnings as student accommodation in 1913 (before its transformation into a hotel in the 1920s) is easily forgotten when one strolls around the elegantly-landscaped grounds or sip a cocktail on the Pacific-facing terrace. In the early noughties, this iconic estate had begun to fall into disrepair, so the family-owned property was sold to Orient-Express Hotels (later rebranding to Belmond) who, under the supervision of Santa Barbara's Historic Landmark Commission, restored the estate into what is now the only Forbes Five Star resort on the American Riviera.

The guest bungalows retain their



Downtown Santa Barbara. :: MARK WEBER

vintage style and it still very much feels like a 1950s Hollywood hideaway. The spa, bar, and dining areas are open to non-hotel residents, so it's well worth a visit to capture the essence of the historic American Riviera.

### Spanish colonial

Santa Barbara's new destination marketing moniker is not the first time

the town has been reimagined. A short walk down from the El Encanto hotel, one finds another charming part of Santa Barbara; the town's historic white sandstone Old Mission, with pink pastel-coloured columns and twin Spanish Colonial bell towers.

Regarded as the Queen of the Missions, this parish church and monastery was once one of 21 colonial mis-

sions built by Franciscans in the late 18th Century. 'California Alta' was then part of New Spain and later came under Mexican rule before the state joined the Union in 1848. The Mission makes an interesting part of any visit to the Santa Barbara. There are guided tours, or alternatively just buy an entry ticket and look around on your own, and feel the Spanish and

Central American history of this part of the United States. The setting, gardens and architecture are very photogenic, and there are regular community events held there. My visit coincided with the end of the Madonna street painting festival, when the church's plaza was covered in more than a 150 striking pastel chalk images. Summer brings the Old Spanish Days Fiesta and the Mariachi Music Festival.

The Old Mission is a colourful and picturesque icon of Santa Barbara's colonial past, but it has been significantly rebuilt following the Santa Barbara earthquake of 1925. As well as toppling the Mission's unique bell towers, the quake also devastated the town centre. The disaster provided the community with an opportunity; to rebuild in a cohesive, unified style. Santa Barbara chose the Old Mission as their inspiration, and the town was rebuilt in the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

So now visitors to Santa Barbara can enjoy a quintessential Spanish colonial style town, with vintage buildings that date back a century; including the County Courthouse.

Terracotta red roof tiles, intricate ironwork, whitewashed walls and romantic courtyards make Santa Barbara an old-world holiday destination, yet with all the dynamism of contemporary California. That's the unique quality of the American Riviera.

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## THE INSIDER GUIDE

## The American Riviera

## ■ ANDREW FORBES

Running from Summerland to Goleta, with the historic, postcard-perfect towns of Santa Barbara and Montecito at its heart, this privileged south-facing stretch of the Pacific Ocean coast is the place to stay in Central California

## STAY:

## Belmond El Encanto

Santa Barbara's Mediterranean climate, unspoilt, small-town feel, and natural setting between the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Ynez mountains has attracted a wealth of upscale and ultra-luxury properties to the area. Visitors can choose from sprawling resorts, stylish ranches and exclusive hotels.

Yet for the classic Santa Barbara experience, stay in a cosy, vintage-style bungalow suite at the El Encanto. This exclusive hilltop estate, once student accommodation in the early 1900s, became a chic and understated retreat for Hollywood celebrities.

Following its 2014 multi-million-dollar remodelling, the property may have lost some of its eccentric charm, but the stunning ocean view and the essence of this exclusive hideaway remain, yet with new contemporary enhancements including an infinity pool, gym, and public spaces decorated with world-class contemporary art.

The guest bungalows, a mixture of classic American 'Craftsman' style or elegant Spanish Colonial Revival 'Mission' style boast the kind of amenities and furnishings expected of a Belmond property.



AutoCamp Santa Barbara.

Drop in for cocktails on the terrace; you never know what A-Lister you might bump into. The spa is also open to non-resident guests, and Sara Scott and her team will create a tailored well-being experience.

ens, spa bathrobes and boutique amenities; a fully-equipped kitchen, TV, MP3 sound system and outdoor barbecue all combine to make this a very cool and comfortable way to enjoy this magical part of California. You can also hire bikes and ride to the beach in 20 minutes.

[autocamp.com/guides/location/santa-barbara/](http://autocamp.com/guides/location/santa-barbara/)

## EAT:

## Fish &amp; chips on the harbour

With so many sophisticated, and award-winning dining options it can all seem a little pricey and overwhelming. So, for something authentic and relaxed, try fish and chips overlooking Santa Barbara's harbour at Brophy Bros., a favourite with locals and visitors for seafood, beers and cocktails.

## BrophyBros.com

## Coffee with culture

Get your morning caffeine fix, with a side order of art at this coffee shop, store and gallery.

## BreakfastCultureClub.com

## Santa Barbara public market

Markets are always a lively place to become immersed in a locality; and Santa Barbara's public market is perfect for creating your own great-value picnic of regional food and wine! It's also a fun place to enjoy a drink and a chat with the locals.

## SBPublicMarket.com

## Dinner at El Encanto

For memorable holiday moments, consider dinner on the terrace at the El Encanto. Expect balmy weather, splendid views out across the Pacific, and a menu that offers the best of California's earth and ocean. Try the grilled octopus with lamb sausage; and then the delicate and tender day boat scallops. If you're lucky enough to have a local serving you, you'll be charmed and learn lots about the area.

## DO:

## Chill on the beach

Santa Barbara remains synonymous with surf culture. Although summer may not be the best time to catch the best breaks on California's west coast, it's certainly a perfect season for enjoying the beach. Beautiful sands stretch for kilometres, lined with cedar pines. Head to Montecito and chill on Miramar beach.

## SantaBarbaraca.com

## Old Spanish Days Fiesta

From 2 to 6 August the American Riviera celebrates its rich colonial Spanish and Mexican culture with themed markets, parades, music, dance and folklore. This part of California was part of colonial Spain and then independent Mexico until the late 1840s.

## OldSpanishDays-fiesta.org

## 22nd Mariachi Festival

As part of the annual celebrations of the region's history, on 5 August The Santa Barbara Bowl concert venue hosts this festival of Mariachi music.

## SBMariachiFestival.squarespace.com



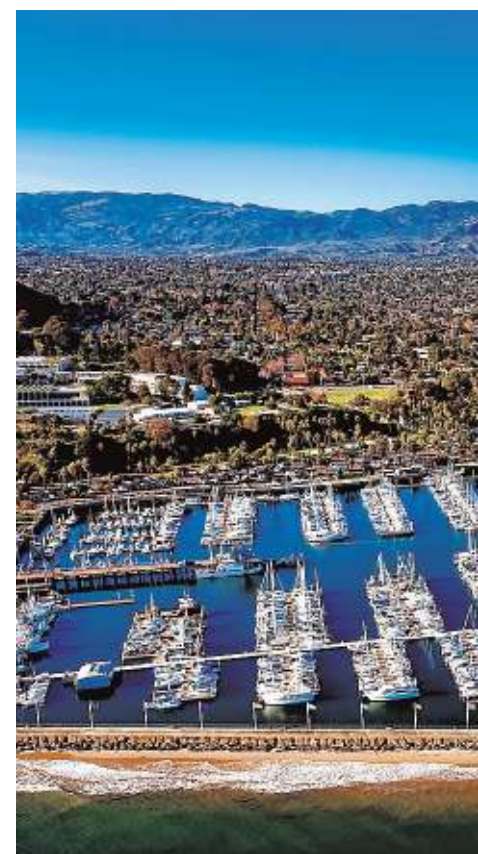
Lotusland.



Old Mission.



Market picnic.



El Encanto.

[www.belmond.com/el-encanto-santa-barbara/](http://www.belmond.com/el-encanto-santa-barbara/)

## Vintage Airstreams at AutoCamp

Of course, holidaying on the American Riviera doesn't mean one has the budget of a movie star. AutoCamp offers on-trend urban Airstream accommodation, in classic, all-American trailers, distinctive for their retro good-looks of polished aluminium coachwork. Choose Airstream suites 1 or 5 and you not only get all the amenities of a fully-equipped luxe caravan, but also a deep-soak bath tub. Luxe beds, lin-



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### Explore the 'Funk Zone'

Once a fishing industry warehouse district, it is now a creative hub of downtown studios, galleries, and indie boutiques. The area also forms part of the town's 'urban wine trail' where visitors can try local vintages at different tasting rooms. In September around harvest time, the American Riviera has several wine-related events and festivals.

**FunkZone.net**

### BUY:

#### Channel Islands National Park

Getting out on the Pacific is a must. There are lots of public cruises and sailing trips from Santa Barbara's harbour, as well as opportunities for private charters. Try and get out to the protected Channel Islands, about 40 kilometres off shore. If you want to stay closer to the beach, there are businesses offering kayaks for hire too.

**SBSail.com**

#### Polo Party

This upmarket sport just got

more fun with the chance to stay on and party each Sunday with DJs and cocktails at the Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club. On 7 October 7, the club has a Polo and Wine Festival.

**SBPolo.com**

#### Get lost in a garden

Montecito's Lotusland, created by opera singer Ganna Walska, is a magical and flamboyant botanic oasis. When it's too hot to hike the foothills overlooking the ocean, one can instead be surrounded by exotic nature as well as creative beauty in these fascinating, themed gardens.

**LotusLand.org**

#### Old Mission Santa Barbara

Founded by Spanish Franciscans in 1786, this active parish church is an integral part of the American Riviera's history. On 10 August, the Franciscan Friars are offering a behind-the-scenes look at the Old Mission, at their 'Drinks at Dusk' event.

**SantaBarbaraMission.org**



Santa Barbara harbour.

## Heading to Los Angeles this summer?

Be sure to enjoy al fresco screenings of cult and classic movies in the capital of cinema

### ■ A. F.

If you're off to Southern California this summer, then there's a wonderful way to enjoy some of your favourite movies in unique surroundings. On my recent trip to 'So-Cal', I discover Cinespia, a company that offers open-air movie screenings in the spectacular setting of the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

This extraordinary Los Angeles landmark is where many of the greatest stars of music, entertainment and the silver screen have been



Cinespia offers open-air movie screenings. ■ SUR

laid to rest, in a city landscaped park that will be recognisable to many.

Pack a picnic and arrive early to enjoy pre-screening DJs, the friendly, summertime atmosphere, before relaxing in front of the huge screen, projected against the mau-

soleum. The image and sound quality is exceptional.

For August listings, including Reservoir Dogs on 35mm, and Some Like It Hot, check their website, where you can also book tickets (Cinespia.org).

# HOLIDAY WORLD



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right corner of the photo is the home stadium to a football club as well as a handball team and often holds international concerts. Many famous singers such as Alice Cooper, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Shakira and Whitney Houston have performed there.

It has just hosted a world-class sporting competition which ran until 26 July. The event involved twelve individual and team events with both male and female competitors taking part.

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ing the second time it has hosted the event as well as holding the 90th anniversary celebrations of a connected association.

If you know the name of the city and the sport associated with it, you could win a prize. Send your answers to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es) and put 'Where in the world' as the subject. Please also include your address and telephone number so we can send your prize to you.

Congratulations to Garrett Scanlon who won last month's competition for correctly identifying the city as Edirne and the sporting event as 'Kirkpinar', oil wrestling.

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Myles Sanko and his band closed the 30th edition of Jazz on the Costa. :: SUR

## Myles Sanko takes in the Almuñécar jazz festival as part of his European tour

Fans queued up to meet Myles Sanko, the British born singer-songwriter, after his energetic two-hour performance

:: JENNIE RHODES

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** The thirtieth Jazz on the Costa closed in Almuñécar last Saturday night with a sell-out performance from British-born singer-songwriter, Myles Sanko.

Sanko, whose mother is from Ghana and father from France, per-

formed songs from his new album, *Just Being Me*, as well as older numbers.

Speaking in English and some Spanish to the audience, the soul and jazz musician had the Parque Majuelo on their feet throughout much of his two-hour set.

When asked about his nationality, the 37-year-old, who speaks with a distinctive American accent, simply said, "I am French." Either way, he said that he had made his home in London.

Whatever his nationality, Sanko clearly wants to spread the mes-

sage of love to all of his fans and happily posed for photographs and signed albums and autograph books after the performance.

Around 200 people from different countries including Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK waited in a long queue to meet the star.

His Almuñécar appearance is part of a European *Just Being Me* tour. Before visiting the Costa Tropical, he had been at jazz festivals in France and the tour continues into early 2018, taking in Girona and then going onto the Neth-

erlands and also dates in the UK, France and Germany.

Known as the 'lovechild of soul music', Sanko said, "I want my music to be a space where people feel alive. My real motivation is the audience's reaction when I sing."

No matter what the native language it was clear on Saturday night that fans have learned the songs and sang along. Those who didn't know the words were helped out by the singer himself who, fol-

lowing in the footsteps of other great showmen got the audience involved throughout the concert.

Sanko said that his great influences are Wilson Pickett, whose music can clearly be heard in Sanko's own *Promises*; Curtis Mayfield through *This Ain't Living* and *For You*; and a version of Marvin Gaye's *Mercy, Mercy Me* and *What's Going On*.

The singer was joined on stage by Rick Hudson on drums, Jon Mapp on bass, Tom O'Grady on keyboard, Phil Stevenson on guitar, Ric Elsworth on percussion, Gareth Lumbers on saxophone and flute and Tom White on trombone.

While albums can be bought on CD and downloaded, Sanko still produces vinyl versions of his music and that is what many of his fans brought along to the concert to be signed. "Soul and jazz will always sound better on vinyl," said Jan Bakker from the Netherlands, who was on holiday in Almuñécar at the time of the concert. "It was a great coincidence. I hope to see him again in the Netherlands," he added.

More than 10,000 tickets were sold during this year's Jazz on the Costa festival, with additional tickets having to be printed for the Híromi, Myles Sanko and Charles Lloyd concerts. All but one of the performances were sold out and the town hall stated in a press release after the event that online sales were made from as far afield as the USA. Festival director, Jesús Villalba, said, "People book their holiday here a year ahead to be here for the festival."



Myles Sanko signs a fan's album. :: J. R.

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Guests at the red carpet event in Nikki Beach Marbella. :: SUR

## Evening of glitz and glamour raises thousands for charity

:: RACHEL ARMSTRONG

**MARBELLA.** A charity gala in Marbella last Friday raised over 35,000 euros for Maiti Nepal in a bid to help put a stop to human trafficking of young women and children. Almost 200 guests attended the red carpet event at Nikki Beach Marbella to support the fight against human trafficking.

The evening included champagne on arrival, a three-course dinner and live entertainment with music from 90s star Rozalla and Payback, a ten-piece band from the UK.

Nick Moran, of Harry Potter and Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels fame, and Simon Jordan, former owner of Crystal Palace Football Club, compèred the proceedings with Marco Dalli on hand as the auction host.

Donations to the auction included football shirts signed by the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Diego Costa and Dele Alli, a luxury holiday to Thailand, an Ascari track day, a year's supply of lingerie - and the chance to create your own lingerie line - from Boux Avenue, art work by Belgian artist Hannes D'Haese and an Eastenders sign signed by the whole cast. Organisers were delighted to see individual items raise up to 6,000 euros for the charity.

Marianne Steneholm, who organised the gala with Claudia Kempe, Henry and Alex Corker, praised Nikki Beach for its generosity and efficient service: "I wanted a luxury, renowned venue with a beautiful setting and Nikki Beach are very charitable."

"Simon Jordan was a huge help in the success of the event and our auction host Marco Dalli did a great job working the room. It was an incredi-

ble effort to make it all happen."

After four months of preparation, Marianne was overcome with emotion to see so many people come together to support Maiti Nepal, a charity which she describes as being very "close to [her] heart", having launched a JustGiving campaign in support of their work earlier this year.

The money raised "will be used towards providing basic necessities at the shelter such as nappies, milk supplies for babies, undergarments, toiletries and special dietary needs for the 70 HIV infected children residing at Maiti Nepal".

Speaking about the reasons behind her involvement in the fight against human trafficking, Marianne revealed that she often thinks about what life must be like for those suffering.

"I identify myself with these women and get a real perspective on bad luck. If I was unlucky and born there, in their shoes, what would my life be like? Just the thought is scary for me but for them it is real."

The funds from Friday night will push the total raised so far towards 45,000 euros and Marianne admitted she is now determined to get past her goal of 50,000 euros before her trip to Nepal in November.

The plan is to spend two weeks in Nepal later this year to learn more about the work that Maiti Nepal does; she hopes that meeting the children and seeing the shelters first-hand will develop her understanding of the situation and enable her to plan the best way to provide further help.

"This is my first charity experience but after visiting the refuge in Nepal I believe it will be a lifelong relationship."

Marianne will be joined on her visit to Nepal by a Norwegian family that will look into the possibility of extending the shelter to provide better schooling facilities for more children and building a playground.

Although the trip is less than four months away, Marianne still has another couple of fundraisers in the pipeline, including a golf event and a fashion show ladies lunch, in the hope that the JustGiving campaign can surpass her 50,000-euro target.

Maiti Nepal is a non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting girls and women from crimes such as trafficking and exploitation.

📞 [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marianne-steneholm](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marianne-steneholm)



Marco Dallion auctioning a signed shirt. :: THINGS2DOMARBELLA

## THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



### Telescopes vs binoculars

People often ask me which telescope they should buy. My advice is unless you're serious about taking up astronomy as a hobby then don't buy a telescope, buy a pair of binoculars instead.

Spending 100 euros on a telescope will only buy you a 'toy' telescope, but spending the same amount on binoculars will get you a decent pair that will show you the same if not more of the night sky.

The beautiful colour images that you see in books and magazines have been taken with huge telescopes costing millions of dollars.

What you will see using an amateur telescope will be very disappointing. The best you can hope for is craters and mountains of the moon, the rings around Saturn and some of the details on Jupiter, all of which can be seen with a good pair of binoculars. Deep sky objects such as galaxies will appear as fuzzy blobs. Even the best telescopes in the world cannot make the stars appear any bigger than the tiny point of light that you can see with the naked eye.

What a telescope and binoculars will let you see is more stars that are too faint to be seen with your eyes alone; they both increase the brightness of faint objects.

A telescope collects the light through either a lens or a con-

cave mirror that then sends the light onto an eyepiece that magnifies the image. A refracting telescope with at least a three inch main lens or a reflecting telescope with a six-inch mirror is about the smallest practical size for amateur use, these usually cost around 200 to 300 euros. Many of today's modern telescopes come with a 'goto' system that automatically moves the telescope on to a particular object that you wish to see, saving a lot of time trying to locate it yourself, but these do require initial setting up before use.

Binoculars come in many different sizes and are labelled with two numbers etched into the body, 10X50, 8X25 etc. The first number indicates the amount of magnification and the second number is the diameter of the main lens in millimetres so a pair of 10X50 magnifies 10 times and has an objective lens of 50 millimetres.

This is the ideal size to use for astronomy, any smaller and they will not gather enough light to make them worthwhile, any larger and they will be too heavy to hold steady enough without a tripod. With these, many objects will be clearly seen at a fraction of the cost for a comparable telescope.

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# Andalucía

## Colombinas festival

JAVIER ALMELLONES



As in all Spanish ferias, there will be a firework display on the last day of the festival. :: EFE

The most western capital of Andalucía celebrates its involvement in the discovery of America next week



### How to get there Huelva.

It takes just over three hours from Malaga to Huelva city by car. By public transport, the best option is the Alvia train, although this has to be caught at Cordoba.

In Andalucía's seasonal calendar one of the oldest festivals in the country stands out. At the beginning of August, the Fiestas Colombinas, celebrated in the town of Huelva for 135 years, commemorates the sailing of the expedition from the Puerto de Palos which resulted in the discovery of America.

From Tuesday until Sunday, the town will be honouring this event in history with various leisure activities. The feria ground, situated next to the estuary, will be the main stage for the festivities.

This edition of the festival coincides with the 525th anniversary of the sailing of the three ships commanded by Christopher Columbus heading for India.

For this reason it will be a very special event and various places in Huelva have been celebrating the historic 'Aniversario del Encuentro entre Dos Mundos' since January.

Every night from next Tuesday there will be demonstrations of Spanish-American dancing and processions. On the inauguration night, there will be a display of Argentinian dancing.

The festival will also have some special concerts. Performing on the 'Mapas de Música' stage will be some of the most prestigious Spanish-speaking artists and groups including Loquillo, Love of Lesbian, Morat, Antonio Carmona, Rosario Flores, Coti, Carmen Costa, Diego Guerrero and Tequila.

The Fiestas Colombinas will also be celebrated in other parts of the town such as the Isla Chica and in the historic centre where the holiday atmosphere will certainly be felt.

The main day will be next Thursday, 3 August, midway through the festival which includes the ubiquitous bullfighting. During the festival there will be several sporting events and competitions taking place such as football, swimming, canoeing, sailing, fishing, golf, pétanque and archery.

The climax of the festival

### WHAT TO SEE



**Barrio Reina Victoria.** These houses were built by the Riotinto Company Limited for its workers.

**Monument to the Fe Descubridora.** Erected in 1929 in the Punta del Sebo, it is also known as the Monumento a Colón.



**Catedral de la Merced.** The main religious building in Huelva, it was rebuilt after the previous church was destroyed by an earthquake.

**Muelle del Tinto.** This dock, now fallen into disuse, was fundamental in taking the mineral ore from the interior of Huelva.

takes place on the last day over the estuary with a musical display of fireworks. This is best watched from the Paseo de la Ría.

Another incentive to visit the Fiestas Colombinas is the celebration of the town's gastronomical traditions. To fully appreciate the variety of food available it will be necessary to visit several of the restaurants and bars around the Andalusian town.



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EASY PARKING



# A lesson for the summer

**Some parents are demanding that their children have "holidays without responsibilities" but experts disagree: "An hour of academic activity a day doesn't leave them too exhausted to have fun"**

A flexible routine of maths, reading and writing can make a difference when the new school term begins

## INÉS GALLASTEGUI

Ever since the school term ended, Gregorio has sat down every afternoon with his seven-year-old grandson Bruno at his home in El Masnou, to do some work. Just for one hour, and nothing too formal: writing, reading, a few exercises... "It's not hard work; we enjoy ourselves," he says. Now that Bruno has gone on holiday with his parents, his grandfather has asked him to send a postcard every day, relating his experiences.

Gregorio Luri is not just a grandfather like any other: he is a doctor of philosophy, qualified in Education Sciences, and has been a teacher at junior, secondary and university level. "If we carry on eating every day in the summer, like we do normally, why shouldn't we continue to do a bit of intellectual exercise?" says Gregorio, who is the author of a book called 'Mejor educados' (Better educated), published in 2014.

The debate about holiday homework, which has led to rivers of ink in the past couple of years and even been considered by the Spanish Parliament, is particularly relevant in the summer. Gregorio Luri is in the 'yes' group, as are other experts in education. The 'no' group consists mainly of parents.

"Children have as much right to

**Time for everything.** A girl does some homework beside a pool, before having a swim. :: S. SEVILLA



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rest as teachers and parents. They have the right to relax on the beach, or in the mountains, for the summer without any pressures," insists Antonio Martínez, vice-president of the Spanish Confederation of Parents Associations (Ceapa), which last November called for a 'homework strike' and held a campaign at Christmas and Easter called "Something is missing at my school: my free time."

"We're not saying that children can't read books or take part in cultural activities in the summer, but that is different from having to do maths, biology or social studies. Those are things they would have to do on their own, anyway, so it wouldn't be much use to them," says Antonio. The argument is that free time is an essential part of a child's 'overall education'.

Eva Bailén is of the same opinion. She has set up a petition against homework on Change.org and it already has 225,000 signatures. She started it because her middle son, at school in Madrid, was "overwhelmed" by having to do two or three hours of homework every day, as well as extra work in the holidays.

"He didn't have any time left to play. He ended up seeing a psychologist," says Eva, who also has two daughters and has written a book called 'Cómo sobrevivir a los deberes de tu hijo' (How to survive your child's homework).

At her son's school, holiday work books - designed to refine the knowledge acquired during term time - were not optional. They had to be completed and handed in at the start of

## MORE HOMEWORK

### Passes and fails

Between 60 and 70 per cent of Spanish schoolchildren pass all their tests in June and around 10 to 12 per cent do so in the follow-up test, according to data from Concapa. About 20 per cent move up a year with subjects still to be passed - up to three are possible, if only one is a core subject - or they can repeat a year.

### State and private schools

Concapa, the biggest confederation of PTAs in state-funded private education, is in favour of homework; Ceapa, its counterpart for state schools, wants it abolished. Why do their opinions differ so much? "We all want the best education for our children, but we think it is better to work with the teachers so everyone progresses, rather than entering into confrontation with them," says Pedro José Caballero, the president of Concapa.

the autumn term. That is not often the case. "When the children were smaller I used to buy them. I ended up loathing them," she admits. "I remember my summer holidays when I was a child: I didn't do anything. I'm

# 6.5

hours a week on average are spent doing homework, according to an OCDE study in 2013, and that was after it had been reduced by nearly an hour. Only in Poland, Ireland, Italy and Russia, with nearly 10 hours homework a week, do pupils do more, and in Finland and South Korea, the leaders in terms of school results, they do less than three hours' a week, although that is now increasing.

### Fierce debate

The 'homework, yes or no?' debate is a reflection of opposing views of education. Those against homework believe that in order to correct social inequalities, extra tuition should be given at school to help children from disadvantaged environments. Those in favour of homework think the opposite: that those are exactly the children who need more homework, in order to overcome their disadvantages.

a telecommunications engineer now: doing homework in the summer holidays doesn't guarantee you anything."

### Preparing for September

The National Catholic Confederation

# 73%

of parents would like to do away with homework altogether, according to a survey of over 67,000 families carried out by Ceapa. The percentage rose after the campaigns against extracurricular study which were organised by Ceapa, which has 12,000 PTAs as members. The same study showed that nearly 85 per cent of parents would like the existing education system to be changed.

# 11

euros is the average cost of holiday work books. "It's just business for publishers. We don't think teachers should recommend them," says the head of Ceapa. "If they are really educational and they are used properly, they're fantastic. Anyone who says otherwise doesn't know what they are talking about," says education expert Enrique Castillejo.

tween parents, teachers and schools," says the president, Pedro José Caballero. He would support a national protocol to regulate the matter, with the participation of families and without impositions. "Homework should never affect the children's family life and leisure time," he says.

Everybody, including Ceapa, agrees that for children who are weak in certain subjects or are having to re-sit exams in September - in some regions these were brought forward to the end of June - studying is essential. But even in this case, it is good for them to have a few days of total relaxation after the end of term, says Enrique Castillejo, president of the College of Pedagogues and Psychopedagogues of Valencia.

In some regions secondary school pupils who are going to have to re-sit exams have the chance to make use of the long holidays. In Catalonia, summer homework is in the form of a 'contract' which each teacher sends to the pupils who have failed some parts of the course: if they do the work in the holidays, it counts towards their marks in the exams in September. This is a way of extending the continual evaluation of their progress at school.

And what about pupils who have done well? Most experts agree that holiday work books which are on sale in the shops can be interesting, because they reinforce the content of the school curriculum in a more leisurely and relaxed manner than the textbooks. However, it is not necessary to spend money in order to keep to a certain academic



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Many parents think holidays are all about fun. :: AVELINO GÓMEZ

## From a promise by Pablo Iglesias to parliamentary recommendation

Multiplication and division, language tests, exercise books and plastic folders: they all became part of the political debate in the campaign for the last general election, when Pablo Iglesias set his sights on future voters.

"There is something in our programme which you are sure to like," said the general secretary of the Podemos party to children who interviewed him for a TV channel. "There might be no more homework in junior schools." The response was enthusiastic: "We'd vote for you!"

Afterwards, the party refined its initial proposal. "Not everything has to be laid down by law," said MP Javier Sánchez, a member of the parliamentary Education Committee, explaining that this could be a decision

made by individual schools.

"Homework can be a cause of inequality, because it takes the process of teaching out of the classroom and moves it into the home. If a pupil needs extra tuition, they should be given it at the school, during term time," he said.

In December, the parliamentary Education Committee approved a proposal by the PSOE party, with votes in favour from Podemos and Ciudadanos, to limit schoolwork to ensure that children had a right to enjoy their free time.

"In many cases the work is repetitive, tedious, and educationally there is no point to it," said socialist MP María Luz Martínez. The Partido Popular voted against the motion, considering that the amount and content of homework is part of the autonomy of schools and teachers. Similar recommendations have also been approved in the regional parliaments of Madrid, Aragón, Castilla-León, Cantabria, Murcia and the Canary Islands.

derstand this concern for a child who spends an hour a day doing systematic intellectual activities, academic activities, in the holidays. We should feel happy for them, not concern," says Gregorio Luri.

"It's not as if one hour a day spent reading, writing, doing maths or social studies is going to leave them absolutely exhausted for the rest of the day so they won't be able to play, have fun or take part in social activities," he says.

## Routine is important

The vice-president of the College of Pedagogues of Catalonia, Victòria Gómez Serés, stresses that the school holidays should be based upon three 'legs': some type of cognitive exercise, leisure activities, especially "a great deal of sport," and time spent with parents and siblings.

With regard to the first 'leg', she says a flexible routine should be agreed and the holiday studies should be personalised to suit each child, depending on his or her age and academic performance during the year. It is a good idea to reinforce basic skills in the youngest children - reading and 'sums' - but the reading has to be fun and adapted to match their interests.

Enrique Castillejo recommends creating a routine and doing homework for a "reasonable" length of time, no more than 30 minutes for children under the age of ten, so it never seems "like a punishment."

Do children 'unlearn' things during holidays? Yes, is the resounding response from experts, and the worst

routine during the summer vacation.

For Gregorio Luri, the simple deed of writing, putting thoughts in order and reflecting them on paper, is already a wonderful exercise, as is reading. "And reading something also pro-

vides you with a bit of a challenge," he stresses.

A child who has learned 20 new words during the summer has more tools to develop their intellectual ability when he or she returns to school. More than that: they can do sums to

improve arithmetic agility, consider problems of spatial conception or learn to recite poetry, which is a wonderful way to develop young children's linguistic ability. The professor regrets that those in favour of "other ways of learning" don't pay

enough attention to memory, which is the only mechanism the human brain has to acquire new concepts.

Eleven weeks of school holidays are a long time, so there is plenty for leisure as well as work, family activities and school exercises. "I never un-

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thing is that they do so depending on the socioeconomic status of their parents.

Covadonga Ruiz de Miguel, a professor at the Complutense university and a researcher with the Society and Education Foundation, refers to studies which confirm that the difference in academic performance is exacerbated during the summer holidays. Children from disadvantaged environments spend more hours in front of the TV, videogames or mobile phone, while the middle-to-upper class spend more time and resources on cultural activities, sport and travel.

#### Summer timetable

Gregorio Luri finds it "depressing" that those who support the campaign against holiday homework use the argument that school work increases social inequalities. "Why don't we just look at the reality? These differences exist, so we have to see how they can be reduced," he says.

He points out that children only spend 12 to 15 per cent of their time

**Enrique Castillejo** Education expert

"In autumn you see a difference between those who have studied and those who haven't"

**Covadonga Ruiz** Professor

"Children need to be bored sometimes. It's good for them"

each year at school, so it is even more important that they study at home. He is eternally grateful to his parents, he says, for having "struggled" to find the money for him to attend lessons given by a support teacher in summer; the rest of the time he helped out on their land in the countryside.

In autumn, when school begins again, the difference between the pupils who have enjoyed unlimited free time and those who have had some type of homework routine is enormous, say experts. Victoria Gómez Serés says that during the holidays it is also essential to set up some type of routine, albeit with a certain amount of flexibility: the children should get up no later than 9am or 10am and should be in bed before 11 at night. They shouldn't lie in bed till midday. "Even though they may sleep the same number of hours, going to bed early improves neuronal ability," she says.

Enrique Castillejo agrees. "Some pupils find it hard to get back into routine when term starts again, because they're not used to it," he says. Gregorio Lura prefers not to talk of 'advantages' when the children go back to school. "Intellectual activity affirms us in our human essence. The brain atrophies from lack of exercise. We have the moral duty to be intelligent," he says.

## Experiences as a family, better than studying

INÉS GALLASTEGUI

Those who think children should do some type of academic work during school holidays and those who reject the idea completely do share one idea: summer is a time when parents and children should spend more time together and do things which are not possible during the rest of the year because of work commitments, school hours etc.

While Gregorio Luri, a firm believer in exercising the intellect during the long summer break, asked his seven-year-old grandson to send him postcards, earlier this year the Ceapa organisation, in its 'Homework-free April' campaign, proposed that families draw up a 'menu' for the Easter holidays: travelling by bicycle or public transport, creating a photo album, playing videogames and table games together... "and discovering that we have the right to do nothing when we feel like it."

For Eva Bailén, mother, blogger and campaigner against homework, "going to the supermarket and weighing the fruit, following a rec-

ipe, watching a documentary and doing experiments at home" are more educational than doing repetitive exercises in which the children see no point.

"Writing emails to their grandparents or a cousin, creating a web page about their trip, with photos, details of prices and excursions, or writing a report about their holidays are all different ways of working," explains education expert Victoria Gómez Serés.

Maths can be practised by going to the supermarket and calculating how much money can be saved on different items, and English can be improved by watching films or TV series with subtitles in the original language.

"For a teenager who has done well at school, reading books about things which interest them and watching films in English is enough work for the summer holiday" she says.

Summer camps with cultural and sports activities, or visits organised by some museums and historical buildings are also a good idea. Covadonga Ruiz de Miguel,

a professor in Research and Diagnostic Methods in Education, says the brain should be kept active with "artistic activities, or summer camps where the children can make new friends, or trips to learn languages and see new places." There should also be time to do nothing: "Children need to be bored occasionally. It's good for them," she says.

In 2015 a list of tasks given by Italian secondary teacher Cesare Catà to his pupils went viral. They were definitely not standard homework: "Dance shamelessly," "If you really like someone, tell them so," "At least once in your life, you must watch the dawning of a new day," "Write down your feelings in a diary," "Make notes of what happens," and finally: "Be good."

#### Work and family life

Many of the most creative suggestions for summer are based on families spending time together, but this is not always possible if both parents work: in fact, school holidays seem twice as long for most workers. The difficulty in reconciling work and family life is one of the reasons many parents are keen to reduce the amount of homework. "When the children are younger and they need parents' help with their homework, it can be very "stressful" for the whole family, says Eva Bailén.



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# Associations for rare diseases demand improvements for patients

A letter has been sent to the ombudsman to complain about delays in diagnosis and the difficulty in obtaining information

:: ÁNGEL ESCALERA

**MÁLAGA.** People affected by rare diseases face an ordeal; the delay for an accurate diagnosis can take up to ten years and the difficulty in obtaining treatment adds to the agony they are already suffering.

With the aim of getting better medical attention for these patients, the Red Española de Madres y Padres Solidarios, the Apoyo a la Investigación de las Enfermedades Raras (REMPS) and the Asociación Síndrome de Rett de Málaga, sent a letter of complaint to the regional ombudsman, explaining the problems faced by the patients and demanding solutions to this terrible problem.

The president of REMPS, Rosa García, told SUR that the patients with rare illnesses felt abandoned. "It is disgusting the way they are treating us," she explained. She also criticised the difficulty in obtaining new



The letter was handed in by members of the associations wearing yellow T-shirts. :: P. HÉRVELE

drugs and the lack of information for patients and family members.

There are currently around 8,000 rare illnesses catalogued affecting around seven per cent of the population. This includes approximately 600,000 people and their families in Andalucía, of which nearly 150,000

are in the province of Málaga.

Besides being a rare occurrence, these diseases have a series of characteristics in common such as delays in diagnosis, confusion, serious physical and physiological effects and usually, an early death.

An illness is considered rare if there

are less than five cases in every 10,000 inhabitants. The most well known rare diseases include haemophilia, cystic fibrosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Rett syndrome, among others.

In the letter to the regional ombudsman, the associations complained

that in Andalucía, the International Classification of Diseases is not being applied. They also point out that in Andalucía, "terminally ill children are refused public health care resources for physical therapy from the age of six; they are abandoned and have to rely on private health care, unlike other autonomous regions of Spain."

The letter also points out that "the quality of life of these children and their natural development is seriously affected, their lives are also put in danger when the appropriate treatment is not guaranteed."

Also mentioned is the infringement of the patients' rights to information about new treatments available, which if followed, could improve their quality of life, and that the compassionate use of medication is refused at public health service hospitals in the region.

## The response

The regional health department replied that the International Classification of Diseases is used to identify the rare illnesses, "It is one of the most advanced systems of classification at an international level."

They stated that Andalucía has a register of rare diseases and is part of a working team that generates a national register of rare illnesses which includes all the autonomous regions.

The department added that to authorise the compassionate use of a drug it must be proven to be efficient in treating the specific disease and not have any serious side effects.

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## The Festival Arte Sano celebrates its 13th edition this weekend

The largest free alternative festival on the Costa del Sol returns to San Pedro this weekend with a selection of live music, workshops and healthy food stalls

:: RACHEL ARMSTRONG

**SAN PEDRO DE ALCÁNTARA.** Celebrating its thirteenth edition, Festival Arte Sano is set to take place at Playa la Salida on the Pseafont in San Pedro de Alcántara this Saturday and Sunday, from 9.30am until midnight.

Deemed 'a healing arts festival on the beach', Arte Sano aims to promote alternative living and diversity in Andalucía. Organisers welcome children and adults from along the coast to join them, with "something for everyone" on the programme.

Workshops on natural health topics, massage techniques and energy balancing are on the agenda as well as a dedicated yoga space for visitors to find out about local yoga schools and try different styles.

All activities, classes and talks are free of charge.

An alternative market exhibits various artisan and organic prod-



The market with various artisan and organic products. :: R. ARMSTRONG

ucts, natural cosmetics and vegetarian food, while a dynamic children's area, run by 'La Casa Verde', offers activities with an eco-holistic theme to get kids involved.

Over the years the Arte Sano festival has built a reputation on the coast as a benchmark for natural health concepts, performing and healing arts and personal development.



The ancient Greeks and Romans believed that a man should be content with one meal a day, and although they may have eaten some fruit on rising, it was normal to eat nothing until early evening. This habit was observed by senators in the Capitol and soldiers fighting in far-flung corners of the Empire, but, as in all other European countries, it was the ruling classes that started to look for an excuse to eat heartily at midday, resulting in a pretentious social occasion. The



middle classes were stuck at work, so there was no alternative but to eat in the early evening before darkness fell. Country labourers however would eat in the fields at midday, usually bread and a stew of vegetables.

Spain persists in treating lunch as the main meal, much to the chagrin of the government's National Commission for the Rationalisation of Working Hours. This no doubt worthy body has been banging its head against a wall for more than a decade, and would

have us believe that 60% of Spaniards are prepared to swap lunch for dinner. And now that medics and nutritionists have begun to support evidence that a substantial lunch followed by a light evening snack is best, the Commission's uphill task is becoming a vertical one.

A US journalist, visiting Spain for the first time last month, wrote on his return, "In the USA people never stop eating from when they get up to when they go to bed. Whether or not they are

hungry they consume hamburgers, hot dogs, pizzas, cookies, ice cream, etc. They do not sit down to eat with friends or family as is the custom in Spain, and a freshly-cooked lunch taken at a leisurely pace is unknown to them. I now believe the importance of the midday meal cannot be exaggerated, both for health and social reason, and Spain would be the loser if it ever dropped the habit. Wherever there is a discussion as to which option is best, we should adopt Spanish customs..."



García (left), Albert Adrià (right) and Japanese chef Nobu (centre) :: DANIEL BARTOLOMÉ

## Dani García and Albert Adrià open a restaurant in Marbella

The Marbella and Catalan chefs are keeping much of their plans secret but they can confirm the location of their joint venue

:: MARINA MARTÍNEZ

**MARBELLA.** Just a year after paying tribute to the Japanese chef Nobu, at the 'A Cuatro Manos' event in the chef's own kitchen in Puente Romano, Albert Adrià and Dani García are opening a restaurant together in Marbella.

The idea arose during a meal between the friends, García and the Ad-

rià brothers, Albert and Ferran. Months later, and after many meetings, the proposal has become a reality and the site has been confirmed, the Puente Romano.

"We still have many details to sort out but it's clearly going to be brilliant for both Marbella and Malaga. Puente Romano is going to become a gastronomic epicentre difficult to match. Instead of a centre with big clothing brands, it will be a centre with big names in gastronomy," said Dani García.

The location is the only detail confirmed at the moment, what type of restaurant and when it will open are still undecided although Holy Week "would be ideal" admits Dani.

Dani and Albert first met in Japan in 2005 and since then have both gone on to become hugely successful. The Marbella chef has achieved two Michelin stars for his restaurants (DG, BiBo Marbella, BiBo Madrid and Lobito de Mar) and also has a catering line and airport catering with over three hundred employees in total. The Catalan chef, along with his brother Ferran, have built an empire of restaurants in the El Barri district of Barcelona. The restaurants, Tickets, Pakta, Bodega 1900, Niño Viejo, Santa Leaf and Enigma, have earned three Michelin stars between them.

Whatever the end result of their plans it's sure to be a sublime pairing of skills.



:: AYTO TORREMOLINOS

## TORREMOLINOS FOODTRUCK XPERIENCE

The ninth edition of 'Foodtrucks Xperience' Torromolinos 2017 is continuing until Sunday in the Plaza de La Nogalera. Twelve foodtrucks will be parked up offering international food including Mexican, Cuban, Thai, German sausages, Iberian ham, American hot dogs etc. Prices will vary between three and eight euros. There will also be a shaded area and bar, live music, an artisan market and children's area.





# Three-day punk festival

BY TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** More than 40 punk rock and hardcore grunge bands will perform at the eleventh edition of the Canela Party in Malaga this August. The festival will begin on Thursday 3 August in Sala Velvet, with performances by Kill Kill, Fuckaine and Cuchillo de Fuego.

The following day, visitors can enjoy the sounds of Kokoshca, Terrier and Cómo Vivir en el Campo, during a free concert in the Eduardo Ocón auditorium in Malaga.

The main event of the festival will be held in Sala Paris 15 on Saturday 5 August, when two international groups will perform their distinctive, thrashy styles of punk rock.

Holy Fuck, from Toronto, will be making their first appearance in Spain, while Metz, also from Toronto, will make their second appearance at the festival, having previously played there in 2013.

Biznaga, a leading punk rock band from Madrid will also appear. They will be performing songs from their new album, Sense of the Show. The band is renowned for its raw sound, forceful guitars and lyrics that reflect



Biznaga will bring their raw sound to Malaga in August. :: SUR

the reality of their time.

The Canela Party has the ambience of a grand fancy dress party, and the audience is continually showered with confetti as they dance the pogo and the metal mosh at the front of the stage.

Tickets cost between 30 and 40 euros and are available online or on the days of the festival.

## INFORMATION

► **When.** 3 to 5 August.

► **Website.** [www.canelaparty.com](http://www.canelaparty.com)

► **Tickets.** 30 to 40 euros

## EXHIBITIONS

### Legendary vinyls

**Marbella.** Until 31 July. Auditorio Felipe VI.

'Portadas míticas' is an exhibition of legendary records from the 70s and 80s such as 'Even in the Quietest Moments...' by Supertramp, or the Spanish and American editions of 'Sticky Fingers' by The Rolling Stones.

### Magpie International Gallery.

**Marbella.** Until 14 September.

C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.

A collection of works by the late Julio Ceníán entitled '60 años de humor, o no'.

### Fred Friedrich

**San Pedro.** Until 31 August. Museo

Fred Friedrich, La Nueva Campana industrial estate.

'Exodus/Pensamientos Oscuros' is an exhibition of large format works by the artist.

### 'Des - figuraciones'

**Marbella.** Until September. Galería Yusto/Giner, C/Madera 7.

Yusto/Giner turns to the abstract for its summer exhibition with paintings from Fernando Clemente, Paloma Gámez, José García Vallés, José Piñar and Daniel Solomons.

### Museum Jorge Rando

**Malaga.** Until 30 September. Cruz del Molinillo, 12

A temporary exhibition entitled 'El Nacimiento del Color' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. It includes over 100 works by Jorge Rando. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.

### Pacífico 54

**Malaga.** Until 25 August, Espacio Expositivo, C/Pacífico 54.

An exhibition of paintings, ceramics, video art, photographs and sculpture by the Igneo Group. The group are artists who form part of the Bib Azahar Cultural and Social association.

<http://grupoigneo.jimdo.com/>



Photos of Picasso, Casa Natal.

### Picasso's birth place

**Malaga.** Sala de Exposiciones, Casa Natal de Picasso

Until 8 October. The exhibition entitled 'Palau mira a Picasso' consists of a collection of photos and documents of the artist. The images anecdotal and personal, taken by Picasso's close-friend the poet José Palau.



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From Friday 28 to Thursday 3: 16:00, 22:30



### DUNKIRK

Starring Fionn Whitehead - and Tom Hardy  
ACTION - 107 min.



From Friday 28 to Thursday 3: 18:10, 20:20, 22:45



### SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

Starring Tom Holland - and Michael Keaton  
ACTION - 133 min.



From Friday 28 to Thursday 3: 15:40, 17:40, 19:00, 22:00



### CARS 3

Director Brian Fee  
ANIMATION - 90 min.



From Friday 28 to Thursday 3: 15:50, 18:15



### DESPICABLE ME 3

From Friday 28 to Thursday 3: 15:40, 18:10



### WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

From Friday 28 to Thursday 3: 15:40, 20:10





### Málaga, Ciudad del Saber'

**Malaga.** Until 24 September. Museo de Patrimonio Municipal. Paseo de Reding. An exhibition of rarely seen artefacts from Malaga such as documents, utensils, and archeological finds that illustrate the Islamic period in the city's history. [www.museodelpatrimoniomunicipal.malaga.eu](http://www.museodelpatrimoniomunicipal.malaga.eu)

### La Concepción botanical gardens

**Malaga.** Until 30 July. The garden will be exhibiting sculptures by the artist Pablo Rekalde until the end of July. <http://laconcepcion.malaga.eu/>

### Imaginario Mister Kaikus

**Malaga.** Until 23 August. La Casa Amarilla, C/Santos 7. The exhibition consists of a series of imaginary portraits without a real model, where the artists create a face with volume, colour and texture.

### Philippe Starck

**Malaga.** Until 17 September. Pompidou Centre, Muelle Uno 'Secret Drawings, 4,000 sketches unveiled' is an exhibition of the artist's works which give an insight into how his mind works when he is creating his art.

### Happy Artists

**La Cala de Mijas.** Until 31 August. BocArte Restaurant, C/Cómpeta. American artist Wendy Lucas is exhibiting a selection of her work.

### AIA exhibition

**Mijas.** Until 4 August. Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas. A collective exhibition of works by ten, international artists. For more information: [www.aia.artgroup.com](http://www.aia.artgroup.com)

### Marlou Smits and Meta Wolters



Philippe Starck, Malaga



Maria José Santiago will perform in Coin on Friday :: TB

## Flamenco: between Jerez and Triana

BY TONY BRYANT

**COÍN.** Lovers of flamenco will enjoy the twenty-eighth edition of the celebrated Coín Flamenco Festival tonight (Friday), which will be held in the Cuevas Rupestres de Coín. The festival is usually held in the Plaza Bermúdez de la Rubia, but this year the town hall has decided to hold it in the town's historic Mozarabic cave temple.

This year's edition will welcome Maria José Santiago and Chiquetete, two of the genre's most celebrated singers. They will deliver a unique show titled 'Between Jerez and Triana', a show that will embrace the purity of the 'cante jondo', while focusing on the two unique styles that evolve from these two gypsy-flamenco cradles.

Maria José Santiago was born in Jerez de la Frontera - the town where the flamenco song is thought to have first sprouted - and she is one of today's best interpreters of the fiesta styles for which this town is renowned.

She has recorded more than 20 albums and has been bestowed numerous awards, but

one of the highlights of her long career came in 2015, when she sang in front of the Pope in Rome.

Chiquetete, born in Algeciras, but raised in Triana in Seville, is another much-respected singer renowned for his command and knowledge of the flamenco song.

A first cousin of Isabel Pantoja, Chiquetete was a member of the Trío de los Gaditanos, a flamenco group who received considerable fame performing at summer festivals during the 1970s.

The dance will be supplied by Sergio González, a young dancer from Seville famed for his energetic and extremely visual performances.

Tickets for the show, which is part of the fifth biennial of flamenco in Malaga, cost 15 euros and can be purchased online or at the door on the night. The show starts at 10pm and organisers are predicting a full house, so early arrival for those without tickets is advised.

**Information :** [www.malagaenflamenco.com](http://www.malagaenflamenco.com)

**Calahonda.** Until end of August, Restaurante Federika, Avenida de España.

An exhibition of paintings by Marlou Smits and Meta Wolters.

**Oliver Perry Vélez-Málaga.** Until 11 August. Sala El Pósito.

British artist Oliver Perry is exhibiting his work 'Hierros y nudos'.

### Arja Linteri

**Alhama de Granada** Until 15 September. Patio del Carmen.

An exhibition of art work by Finnish artist Arja Linteri. She also has an exhibition running until 16 July

at the Galería del Carmen.

### Contemporary artists

**Nerja.** Until 3 September, Museo de Nerja.

Works by thirty five female artists in the collection owned by the Diputación de Málaga.

### Galería Krabbe

**Frigiliana.** Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín.

Until 2 September.

Works by a selection of artists including Fernando de la Rosa, Gert Mathiesen, Pamela Smilow, Yaiza García, Luise Haugen and introducing Danish guest artist Camilla West.

### Emma Plunkett and Manuel Morego

**Granada.** Until 6 August. Jardín Nazari, C/Blas Infante.

A joint exhibition

## CHARITY

### Charity Padel

**Marbella.** 28, 29, 30 July, Manolo Santana Racquets Club.

In aid of Collective Calling, a charity that works to improve the life of disabled children. Live entertainment, bar, raffle, children's activities. Facebook Collective Calling. Info: 626 656 446

### Swinging sixties night

**Coin.** 29 July, from 7.30pm. El Cruce.

The TAPAS choir will be singing popular songs of the 60s to raise funds for the kennels of the PPP (Perros Potencialmente Peligrosos).

### ARCH quiz night

**Coin.** 2 August, 8pm. La Parilla de Pepe. 2.50€.

Maximum six in a team, monthly quiz night for the Andalusian Rescue Centre for Horses.

### Moonlight Gala dinner

**Marbella.** 4 August, from 7pm. Lew Hoad Tennis and Padel club.

Crta Mijas km3.5. 40€. Ten euros of each ticket will go to Cudeca Cancer hospice. Ticket price includes a three course meal, live entertainment from Deborah Dee, Clarice Williams and Reality Es. [info@lew-hoad.com](mailto:info@lew-hoad.com) or tel: 663083249 / 952 47 48 58.

### Charity dinner under the stars

**Mijas.** 27 August, from 8.30pm.

Hotel Tamisa Golf. 33€ Live entertainment with Amaru

Inti from Peru, includes three course dinner with half bottle of wine. email: [starbabi-es5@gmail.com](mailto:starbabi-es5@gmail.com) or tel 654513380 or ring the hotel: 952585988 email: [reservas@hoteltamisa-golf.com](mailto:reservas@hoteltamisa-golf.com)

### The Charity Summer Ball

**Mijas.** 8 September, 7pm. Hotel Tamisa Golf. 40€ Welcome drink and canapés, three-course meal with wine and beer and live entertainment. Proceeds to FAMA animal charity. Tel: Pat Coleman 620 354 885 or email: [patriciamarycoleman@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamarycoleman@gmail.com)



Oliver Perry, Vélez-Málaga

## MUSIC & DANCE

### Jitterbug jazz group

**Malaga.** 6 August, 8.30pm. St George's Church, Avda de Pries.

15€ Tickets include pre-concert drink. Contact Rosella: 638 339 691.

### Portón del Jazz

**Alhaurín el Grande.** Finca Municipal El Portón. 10.30pm.

28 July. Kiko Berenguer at 9.30pm followed by the Kenny Garrett Quintet.

### Antequera Blues Festival

**Antequera.** Plaza de Santa Maria. Free.

28 July. Richard Ray Farrell Trio, Mike Vernon and the Mighty Combo, Mama Paula.

28 July. Mr Groovy and the Blue Heads, Big Mama Montse Band.

### Mijas Blues Festival

**Mijas.** 29 July, 9.30pm. Miguel González Bernal auditorium.

Free. The Vargas Blues Band, the Lito Blues Band and Richard Ray Farrell will be performing.



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## MUSIC & DANCE

### The Wall Bar

**Malaga.** *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.*  
**29 July.** Dana and Gianni. Blues and jazz fusion.

### Ocean Bar

**Malaga.** *29 July, 10.30pm. Hotel Vincci. C/Pacífico.*  
Dana Andrews vocals and Gianni Piras guitar and bass. Jazz and Blues fusion.

### Cervantes Summer concerts

**Malaga.** *Teatro Cervantes.*  
**7 August, 8.30pm.** James Rhodes.

### Jazz, blues and swing

**Torre del Mar.** *Mondays 10pm, Pase Marítimo de Poniente.*  
**31 July.** La Custom Blues band.  
**7 August** Dana Andrews Project.

### 'Julio Musical'

**Malaga.** *Gibralfaro.*  
**28 July.** Insostenible Big Band.  
**29 July.** Ximo Tébar.  
All concerts are at 10pm and tickets 10€ from [www.mien-trada.net](http://www.mien-trada.net) or tel: 902646289 or from post offices.

### Palmito Rock Festival

**Villanueva de la Concepción.**  
*11 August, 10.30pm. Plaza Pablo VI.*  
Four bands: Hollywood Arson Project, J. J. Sprondel, Break the Senses

and Ten Shots & K. O. are in concert. More information on Facebook: Palmito Rock.

### On the Beach festival

**Malaga.** *29 July. Playa Misericordia. From 11am until midnight.*  
Coca Cola Music Experience On the Beach with Efecto Pasillo, Piso 21, Carlos Marco, Ana Mena, Ventino and Laura Durand among others.



Dana & Gianni, Wall Bar

### The Paul Keeling Trio

**Malaga.** *29 July, 8.30 and 10.30pm. Clarence Jazz Club, C/Cañon, 5.*  
American jazz pianist and composer Paul Keeling is touring Spain. The trio is made up of Paul on piano, Rafa Sibajas on bass and Stik Cook on drums. Tickets 10€ in advance, 12€ on the day. [www.clarencejazzclub.com](http://www.clarencejazzclub.com) or tel: 951 918 08 Price includes a drink on arrival.

### Wonder Gay Festival

### Torremolinos. Until 30 July.

Gay themed parties and concerts at different venues in the town and on the beach of El Bajondillo. On Saturday 29th, Rosa López will be in concert at the bullring. The closing party will be held at Aqua Club on the Sunday. [www.entradasatualcance.com/wonder-gay-festival-en-torremolinos/](http://www.entradasatualcance.com/wonder-gay-festival-en-torremolinos/)

### Starlite

**Marbella.** *Until 26 August, 10.30pm. La Cantera de Marbella.*  
<https://www.ticketea.com>  
**31 July.** Carlos Vives.  
**1 August.** Joaquín Sabina.

### Sundown Sounds

**La Cala de Mijas.**  
Sundown Sounds are a series of free open air concerts held in the plaza in front of the La Cala de Mijas Town Hall every Thursday from 9pm. The event is organised by the Foreign Residents Department in collaboration with Martyn Wood of Big M Promotions.  
**3 August.** *Voulez Vous, Abba tribute duo.*  
**10 August.** *Arte Azabache, Traditional Flamenco show.*

### Festival of Sound

**Fuengirola.**  
**29 July.** *Marenostrum.* La Noche Rosa.  
**4 August.** *Castillo Sohail.* Diego La Cigala.  
**6 August.** *Castillo Sohail.* Richard Clayderman.

More information:  
<http://marenostrumcastlepark.com/festival-ciudad-de-fuengirola/>

### Take That, Bon Jovi and the Bee Gees tribute acts

**Mijas.** *5 August, 9pm. Mijas Municipal Auditorium. 15€.*  
Take That tribute act from the UK, Bon Jovi and The Bee Gees tribute shows at the auditorium in Mijas. Tickets tel: 609 488 572

### Dirty Dancing

**Malaga.** *Until 6 August. Teatro Cervantes.*  
A theatre production of the classic film Dirty Dancing. Songs in English. [www.teatrocervantes.com](http://www.teatrocervantes.com)

### Terral Festival

**Malaga.** *Until 7 August. Teatro Cervantes. and La Malagueta bull ring.*  
The festival celebrates all music genres from traditional Spanish and classical to modern pop music. Information on the events:  
<https://malagadecultura.com/2017/05/17/programa-del-festival-terral-2017/> or <http://www.teatrocervantes.com>

### Pink Purple Zep Fest

**Estepona.** *26 August, Plaza del Toros. 25€ or 70€ VIP.*  
The Pink Purple Zep Fest is a celebration of the music of three of the biggest names in rock history, Pink Floyd, Deep Purple and Led Zepplin. The music will be performed

by three of the leading tribute bands from the UK: Think Floyd, Deeper Purple and Whole Lotta Led. [www.pinkpurplezefest.com](http://www.pinkpurplezefest.com)

## FLAMENCO

### Flamenco festival

**Gaucín.** *29 July, 10.30pm. Plaza del Santo Niño. Free.*  
This is the nineteenth edition of the 'Del Corcho Valle del Genal' flamenco festival.



Naike Ponce, Vélez-Málaga

### Farruquito

**Alhaurín el Grande.** *29 July, 10pm. Auditorium El Portón. From 18€*  
'Baile Moreno' is a personal tribute from son to father. The flamenco singer Juan el Moreno died suddenly 15 years ago and his son 'El Farruquito' continues his legacy. Tickets: <http://www.mien-trada.net/evento/baile-moreno-farruquito/>

### Paseo del Compás

**Mijas.** *28 July, 9pm. Paseo del Cómpas.*  
Diego Morilla on guitar, Paco Gil and Diego Vilodres vocals, Feli Gabrieli and Anabel Hernández dance María José Pareja on violin and Victor Mota percussion.

### The gipsy Fred Astaire

**Malaga.** *29 July, 9.30pm. Museo de Arte Flamenca Peña Juan Brea. C/Ramón Franquelo.*  
Tito Carrete de Málaga, 'The Gipsy Fred Astaire' will be performing with his group. Reservations: 687 607 526 or in the museum.

### Open-Air Flamenco

**Vélez-Málaga.** *10.30pm. The open-air theatre on the Cerro de San Cristóbal. Free.*  
**4 August.** *Diego Carrasco and family.*  
**11 August.** *Naike Ponce and Paquete.*

## FESTIVALS

### Verdiales

**Villanueva de la Concepción.** *29 July.*  
Numerous 'pandas' (bands) come to the town to celebrate this festival which is recognised as being a Fiesta de Singularidad Turística Provincial.

### Feria de Zapata

**Alhaurín de la Torre.** *4 - 6 August.*  
A fair that started in the sixties, the small hamlet of Zapata in Alhaurín de la Torre celebrates Nuestra Señora de la Asunción and the start of the agricultural season with a

# A festival to drive you 'Lorca'

## JENNIE RHODES

**LAROLLES.** The Me Vuelves Lorca theatre and music festival is about to start its third year in the small village of Laroles in the Alpujarras.

The festival is the second phase of a project that Briton Anna Kemp, started around four years ago to try and create a catalyst for sustainable tourism in a little known part of the Alpujarra mountains.

"The first stage was to restore an ancient, tumbledown corn-threshing circle in the village of Laroles and transform it into an amphitheatre," explains Anna.

She says that she was "inspired by the Minack theatre in Cornwall," where she spent her summers as a child, as well as the figure of Rowena Cade, the woman who created it.

"The work was carried out by the local community using local materials and traditional know-how. We inaugurated the theatre in 2014 and held the first edition of Me Vuelves Lorca, our new theatre festival, in 2015."

Anna explains that as the name suggests, the festival is inspired by García Lorca's philosophy of breaking down the barriers to culture in rural areas.

To keep costs down, the village caters for the actors, as well as helping with lighting, sound and other aspects any festival needs. They recently raised 3,000 euros for a new



A scene from a play during last year's festival. :: SUR

stage as the old one had become too small. The money came from donations made by locals and festival supporters.

According to Anna, Me Vuelves Lorca has gained the support of many key figures in Spanish culture as well as tweets of support from Russell Crowe and Leonard Cohen. It has also won a host of Spanish awards, including an award for good practice in use of public spaces in Andalucía, awarded by the University of Seville in 2015 and sustainability awards.

Anna, 47, is originally from Bath

in England and has lived in Spain for nearly 25 years. She first came to the Alpujarras when she worked on Fernando Colomo's film 'Al sur de Granada' about Gerald Brenan. She now runs the festival with the help of her friend Jana Sánchez.

This year's festival runs from 28 July until 12 August and offers a variety of performances, from improvised theatre to flamenco, comedy and music.

Although last year's festival included Sudbury Dramatic Society's production of The Tempest in English to celebrate the 400th anniversary

## INFORMATION

► **When.** 28 July to 12 August.

► **Where.** Laroles, in the Alpujarras.

► **More information.** The website is in English and Spanish: <http://web2.mevuelveslorca.com/>

sary of Shakespeare's death, this year's performers are all Spanish. Anna says that the Sudbury Dramatic Society was their "first foray into internationalism".

Friday 4 and Saturday 5 August are given over to music from Jorge Pardo and Juan Perro respectively, while on 28 July the women of El Vacie present Fuenteovejuna, one of the Spanish classics by Lope de Vega, about the fight against injustice and the abuse of power. This is the latest production by this award-winning group from the shanty towns of Seville.

On 12 August, internationally acclaimed flamenco dancer, Belén Maya will be performing Romnia, her latest choreography. The dance explores different facets of Roma culture and draws attention to the discrimination and suffering of the Roma people. Belén was born in the USA to Spanish parents.



gastronomy competition. Typical dishes such as paella, and 'callos' (offal) are prepared and shared with visitors.

### Gazpacho festival

**Alfarnatejo.** 5, 6 August.

A town famous for its unique method of preparing the traditional cold soup, gazpacho. 'Gazpacho de los Tres Golpes' (Three hit gazpacho), refers to the vinegar, salt and water that are always added to the other fresh ingredients to make this dish.

### Water festival

**Alcaucín.** 5, 6 August.

Alcaucín receives abundant water from the Sierra Tejeda. The festival is celebrated with bubbles, water fountains and foam not to mention water fights.

### Día de la Uva Moscatel

**Iznate.** 5 August.

This festival has now been recognised as a Fiesta de Singularidad Túristica Provincial and attracts thousands of visitors every year. It is held just before the harvesting of the sweet Muscatel grapes begins and besides stalls selling local products there will be music, dancing and of course, a chance to taste the wine.

### Fairs and festivals

**Villanueva de la Concepción.** 12-15 August.

In honour of the patron saint of the town, La Inmaculada Concepción. Palmito Rock festival.

**Faraján.** 4, 5, 6 August.

In honour of the patron saint of the town, San Sebastián. Concerts procession, wine and tapas tasting etc.

### Moors and Christians

**Benalauría.** 6 August.

Inhabitants of the village dress up as Moors and Christians and re-enact an uprising of the Moors in 1501. The event is in honour of the town's patron saint, Santo Domingo de Gúzman.



Moors revolt, Benalauría

## EVENTS

### 'Come to my home. Perfumes of Andalucía 2'

**Torremolinos.** 29 July, from 8pm. Plaza Costa del Sol.

The eleventh Moroccan festival finishes on the 29th with poetry and music by Badara Seck.

### Costa Torremolinos swim

**Torremolinos.** 29 July, 10am. Playa El Saltillo.

Organised by the firemen and the town hall, this will be the fifth edi-

tion of the coastal swim between Playa El Saltillo and Playa de los Alamos, a total of 6,250 metres.

### Plaza Mayor Summer festival

**Malaga.** Until 26 August, 9.30pm. Plaza Mayor.

Magic shows, circus acts, music from local bands and the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra and much more. [www.plazamayor.es](http://www.plazamayor.es)

### Airshow

**Torre del Mar.** 28-30 July.

Over 40 different aircraft from different countries will be at the International Airshow including the Turkish Stars, Belgium's F16 fighter plane and the Spanish F18. In addition there will also be a pop concert in the fairground on Saturday night. Tickets for the concert from [monstertickets.es](http://monstertickets.es) or the box office. 10€ in advance, 15€ from the box office on the day.

### Malaga's Roman Theatre Festival

**Malaga.** The Roman theatre. 10pm. 20-25€

Until 29 July. La Asamblea.

2-5 August. Amazonas.

Tickets and information: [www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/teatrosromanos/](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/teatrosromanos/) and [www.elcorteingles.es](http://www.elcorteingles.es).

### Craft fair

**Puerto Banús.** Until 31 August.

Plaza Antonio Banderas.

Over 50 stalls with crafts from all over the world.

### Sea Life Jurassic Oceans

**Benalmádena.** Sea Life Aquarium

The Plesiosaurs and the Megalodon lived in the oceans millions of years ago and are represented in the new exhibition at SeaLife Benalmádena. The exhibition includes an interactive activity for



Amazonas, Roman Theatre

children which allows them to discover the skeleton of a Plesiosaurus and the tooth of a Megalodon with holgrams to help demonstrate the size of these extinct creatures and other dinosaurs.

### Cabaret Circus

**La Cala de Mijas.** 30 July, 9.30pm.

Plaza el Torreón. Free.

**Las Lagunas.** 11 August, 9.30pm.

Parque Andalucía. Free.

Acrobats, contortionists, balancing acts, monocyling, jugglers and clowns.

### Trip to Three Cultures Festival

**Fuengirola.** 25 August. Various departure points. 20€

Lux Mundi Fuengirola have organised a trip to Frigiliana to the Three Cultures Festival. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail [luxmundif@gmail.com](mailto:luxmundif@gmail.com)

### Trip to Almuñécar for fiesta

**Torre del Mar.** 15 August. Various departure points. 12€

Lux Mundi Torre have organised a trip to Almuñécar to see the procession in honour of the Virgen de la Antigua followed by firework display. Tel. 952543334 or e-mail: [luxmundi@luxmundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@luxmundi.org)



|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>COLECCIÓN DEL MUSEO RUSO</b><br>Annual exhibition:<br><b>The Romanov dynasty</b><br>Until 21 Jan 2018<br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>Kandinsky and Russia</b><br>10 August 2017 - Jan 2018                             | <b>museoPICASSOMálaga</b><br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>Bacon, Freud and the London School</b><br>Until 17 Sept 2017<br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>We are completely free. Female artists and realism</b><br>10 Oct 2017 - 28 Jan 2018 | <b>Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga</b>   |
| Temporary exhibition:<br><b>Santiago Ydanez</b><br><b>The heart rules</b><br>23 Jun 2017 - 24 Sep 2017<br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>Danielle van Zadelhoff</b><br><b>Tales of the soul</b><br>30 Jun 2017 - 15 Oct 2017 | <b>cacmálaga</b><br>Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga<br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>MÁLAGA, City of Knowledge</b><br>Until 24 Sep 2017 - 15 Oct 2017   | <b>museo del patrimonio municipal</b><br>2007-2017<br>X ANIVERSARIO<br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>The appearance of what is real</b><br><b>Fifty years of realist art in Spain (1960-2010)</b><br>Until 10 Sep 2017 |
| <b>FUNDACIÓN PICASSO</b><br>MUSEO CASA NATAL<br>AYUNTAMIENTO DE MÁLAGA<br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>Palau looks at Picasso</b><br>21 Jun 2017 - 08 Oct 2017   | <b>Centre Pompidou Málaga</b><br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>Starck, Secret drawings</b><br>Until 17 Sep 2017<br>Exhibition workshop with Alexander Calder:<br><b>Wow! Circus!</b><br>Until 15 Sep 2018                                  | <b>MUSEO REVELLO DE TORO</b>   |
| New permanent fashion exhibition:<br><b>Too much is never Enough</b>  | <b>Museo Automovilístico</b><br>Temporary exhibition:<br><b>The birth of the colour of Jorge Rando</b><br>Until 30 Sep 2017  | <b>Museum Jorge Rando</b><br>Permanent exhibition:<br><b>104 works by Malaga artist Félix Revello de Toro. Pedro de Mena house and workshop</b>  |

Museum of Málaga: Permanent collection, Art and Archaeology Collections focusing on Málaga city and province. Repository of Cultural Assets open for visits. Interactive Music Museum of Málaga (MIMMA): Permanent collection, a journey to different cultures and eras through music. Glass and Crystal Museum of Málaga: Permanent collection, more than 3,000 pieces of crystal from different periods. Ars Málaga (Episcopal Palace): The essence of Beauty. Francisco Godia Foundation (From 11 July to 17 September). And much more...

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



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# The evolution of tourism

BY TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** An exhibition that charts how Spain and the Costa del Sol were first promoted as a tourist destination has opened in the Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos.

Organised by the town hall and with funds from the Aeronautical Museum of Malaga, 'Spain for You' reveals the history and evolution of tourism from the 1930s until the present day.

Life-size caricatures of stereotypical European tourists and characters connected with the tourist industry, painted by Spanish humorist Máximo, are on display to create the ambience of Spain's first steps into the tourist boom of the late 1950s and early 60s.

The exhibition takes its name from the book, 'España para Usted', a tourist-guide published in 11 languages in 1964 by the general secretary of tourism.

More than 150 items, including posters, flight uniforms, suitcases, visas and old-fashioned ticket machines are on display, plus some of the first travel brochures and paraphernalia advertising the Costa del Sol as a serious tourist destination.

The exhibition includes mock check-in desks and customs areas, complete with information boards in both English and Spanish, which relay the story of how tourism exploded in the late 1950s and progressed into the multibillion-euro industry it has become today.

It also documents the history of Iberian Airways, complete with a



The exhibition is open until September. BY ALBERTO GÓMEZ

## INFORMATION

► **When.** Until Friday 22 September.

► **Where.** Palacio de Congresos, Torremolinos.

model of an Iberian DC10 airliner, one of the first walk-on shuttle service airplanes used during the 1970s and 80s. A private collection that was donated to the aeronautical museum includes original works of great historical value and

these have been made public for the first time.

Visitors can also see one of the original lights from the control tower of Malaga airport, which during the exhibition acquires the symbolic value of a light attracting tourism.

Spain for You will be open from 7pm to 11pm, until 31 August. From 1 September, the exhibition will open from 11am until 2pm, and from 7pm to 9pm.

Entry to the exhibition is free and can be viewed every day, except Monday, until Friday 22 September.

## EVENTS

**Coach trip to Extremadura**  
**Torre del Mar.** 25 - 29 September.  
348€ pp, double room, 398€ single  
Lux Mundi Torre trip to Mérida, Badajoz, Guadalupe monastery and Trujillo.  
Tel.952543334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

## 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 or visit [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com) or [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)  
**Maudie:** 22.30  
**Their Finest:** 18.20, 20.25  
**Tanna:** 16.45, 20.35, 22.30

**Cinesur El Ingenio**  
Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.  
**Inside:** 16.50, 18.40, 20.30, 22.30, 00.25 (Tues)  
**Cars 3:** 18.10 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)  
**Spiderman: Homecoming:** 12.00, 18.00 (every day), 20.45, 23.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)  
**Rough Night:** 19.30 (Tues)  
**Dunkirk:** 12.15, 17.05 (every day); 20.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)  
**47 Metres Down:** 19.10, 22.40 (Tues).  
**War for the Planet of the Apes:** 20.20, 23.10 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

**Cinesur Miramar**  
Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.  
**Despicable Me 3:** 16.00 (Mon - Thurs)

**Cars 3:** 16.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)  
**Rough Night:** 21.45 (Tues)  
**Spiderman: Homecoming:** 12.20, 17.00, 23.00 (every day); 18.00 (Fri - Sun and Wed); 19.30, 00.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)  
**War for the Planet of the Apes:** 16.45 (every day).  
**Dunkirk:** 12.00, 16.30, 19.15, 21.45, 00.00 (every day)  
**47 Metres Down:** 15.45, 17.45, 19.45, 21.45 (Tues).  
**Snatch:** 21.00 (Thurs).

**Cines Teatro Goya**  
For tickets and information call 951196665. [www.cinesteatrogoya.com](http://www.cinesteatrogoya.com)  
**Despicable Me 3:** 15.40, 18.10 (Fri-Thurs)  
**Spiderman: Homecoming:** 15.40, 17.40, 19.00, 22.00 (Fri-Thurs)  
**Rough Night:** 16.00, 22.30 (Fri-Thurs)  
**Dunkirk:** 18.10, 20.20, 22.45 (Fri-Thurs)  
**War for the Planet of the Apes:** 15.40, 20.10 (Fri-Thurs)  
**Cars 3:** 15.10, 18.15 (Fri-Thurs)  
**Rough Night:** 18.00, 22.30 (Fri-Thurs)

**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)  
**Dunkirk:** 12.45, 15.10, 17.20, 19.45, 22.00, 00.15  
**Spiderman: Homecoming:** 12.30, 15.15, 18.00, 20.45, 23.30  
**Rough Night:** 18.10

**Cinesa**  
La Cañada, Marbella.  
**La Bohème:** 31 July, 8pm. By Giacomo Puccini. Direct from the Gran Teatro del Leggo Puccini in Viareggio (Tuscany). [www.cinesa.es/Eventos/](http://www.cinesa.es/Eventos/)

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Kiki and Solea Morente will be performing at the charity concert. :: SUR

# Flamenco for Acompalia

■ JENNIE RHODES

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Acompalia, the Granada palliative care charity, is holding a flamenco charity concert called 'Flamencos por Acompalia'. The event forms part of the fifth Ciclo Flamenco Ciudad Almuñécar and takes place on Sunday 6 August at 10pm.

The charity night will include flamenco stars of international renown including compère Elena Furiase, singers Estrella Morente,

## INFORMATION

► **When.** Sunday 6 August

► **Where.** Parque Majuelo, Almuñécar.

► **More info and tickets.**  
[www.acompalia.org/news/flamenco-concert-2017](http://www.acompalia.org/news/flamenco-concert-2017)

Pitingo, Pepe Luis Carmona Habichuela, Montse Cortés, Solea and Kiki Morente, as well as the dancer Alba Heredia and a whole host of well-known flamenco musicians.

Acompalia president, Pepe Luis Habichuela, says: "The concert will not end on the night, the media interest will spread the name and work of Acompalia."

Tickets are on sale via the Acompalia website and cost 15 euros. All proceeds will go to Acompalia.

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| <p>30/7<br/>Disney in Concert: Magical Music from the Movies</p> | <p>31/7<br/>CARLOS VIVES</p>                           | <p>1/8<br/>JOAQUÍN SABINA</p>  | <p>2/8<br/>LUIS FONSI</p>           | <p>4/8<br/>MIGUEL BOSE</p>      |
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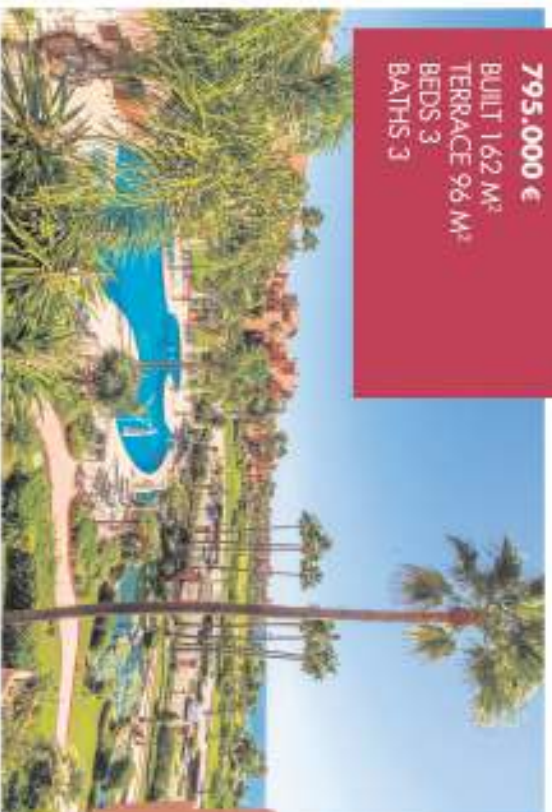
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# A pioneering league in Andalucía

The over 35s women's competition has just taken place for the fourth consecutive year



Some of the league's players on one of the Basketball Federation courts.

ÁLVARO CABRERA

The best senior women players in the province take part in a championship which is meant to be fun as well as competitive

**MÁLAGA.** A few weeks ago the fourth season of the Over 35s Women's League of the Malaga delegation of the Andalusian Basketball Federation (FAB) came to an end; this competition was designed for ladies in their thirties who want to spend some time taking part in the sport they most enjoy.

The competition is a trailblazer in Andalucía and its existence is thanks to the persistence and effort of May Bandrés, former First B (now Feminine League 2) player and sister of the FAB's delegate in Malaga, Ricardo Bandrés. In just three years, the number of teams taking part has doubled.

Participants in the competition include some veteran basketball players, some of them authentic legends in the province such as Beatriz Díaz-Larrauri, one of only three women from Malaga to play at the top level of this sport. Many members of the eight teams which take part in the competition grew up in famous clubs such as Guindos or Malaga Univesity, but over the years they had given up a sport which they loved, explains Teresa Ruano, who tried on three occasions to try to gain promotion to

the Division of Honour (formerly Women's League) with the Asunción club.

"In my case I lost interest in playing basketball. We tried to reach the Division of Honour several times and we did quite well on a couple of occasions but we never quite made it, for financial reasons. Having put so much into the training, I found that really depressing. I carried on playing for a while at university, but when I finished my degree I had the chance to go and live in America and didn't think twice. I was involved in basketball there too, but as a trainer," she says.

Like Teresa, many players in the Over 35 League, women with enormous talent and the desire to work hard and rise as far as possible, have given up because of the major differences which existed, and still exist today, between the female and male versions of this sport. Nevertheless, this league is serving its purpose, although the road that May Bandrés had to travel to create it was certainly not easy. No club in Malaga city was interested in senior women players, and the federation insisted that at least four

teams had to register in order to create the league.

"At that time I started to trawl through my contacts list and social media to find women I knew who used to play. In the end we managed to form four teams and then word of mouth and our participation in the Endesa Basket Lover competition did the rest."

The league only takes place two days a month, and is normally played on Sundays because of family responsibilities, explains May. "At the beginning we only played for one day, but as more teams began to take part we had to increase that

to two. We have organised things so that we all play on the same day and in the same place. We try to ensure that the matches are always indoors, because it is difficult to keep postponing them because of rain. You have to bear in mind that most of us have children, so we have to fit basketball in with our family commitments."

## An example to follow

In the stands and on the court there is a genuine display of sisterhood, which continues when the game is over: the players meet up for a drink, swapping stories about the past and commenting on the match which they have just played.

The objective of this competition is to have fun, but the women also aim to set an example for their daughters, explains May Bandrés.

"We want them to see that with effort you can achieve things and don't have to give up your sport when you go to university or get older," she says. Despite the pas-

sing of the years, women's basketball in Malaga is still in a similar situation to that of 25 years ago, with only the very recently-created Unicaja women's team for the most promising girls to aspire to join. "The girls have to realise that if they want to take basketball seriously they have to move from here," says May.

The competition has already become a benchmark in the province, where a men's league with similar characteristics has also been created, and in Andalucía, where there is nothing else like it.

When these players run onto the court they leave their role as mothers behind and become 'crack' players, scoring high marks. Their next challenge is to play in the FIMBA World Championships. However, for that to happen they would need sponsors and support from the world of basketball, something which has been denied to them on more than one occasion in the past.

## The next challenge is to acquire enough support to play in the FIMBA world championships

Mari Carmen Morales, famous patron of the +35 women's league

Mari Carmen Morales, a former player with Asunción and Malaga University, is the patron of the over-35 women's

league.

She is a famous name in women's basketball in general and specifically in the province, after playing at top level in the hope of reaching what was then known as the Division of Honour between 1990 and 1993.

Unexpectedly, however,

when she was only 27, a knee injury brought Mari Carmen's hopes of a professional career in basketball to a sudden end. Nevertheless, she still remains very involved with this sport, partly through the +35 Women's League and also through her family, who have very strong links with basketball.



# Pablo Fornals, the latest high-profile departure

The LaLiga side have agreed to pay the midfielder's 12-million-euro release clause and leaves Malaga with just 16 first-team players

## || SERGIO CORTÉS

**GARDEREN.** Midfielder Pablo Fornals has left Malaga's training camp in the Netherlands ahead of a 12-million-euro move to league rivals Villarreal.

The player communicated his wish to move to both sporting director Francesc Arnau and coach Michel and said his farewells to his colleagues before leaving the camp just before 1pm on Monday afternoon.

This was despite the player featuring in Malaga's 1-0 friendly defeat to Duisburg on Sunday. Though

it was apparent that the player would be leaving (as of Friday when the news first broke), it was understood that a delay in sourcing the funds on Villarreal's part would hold up the deal. These difficulties, however, have now been overcome. His five-year deal with Villarreal will be officialised imminently.

Pablo is the third key player to depart this summer after Sandro joined Everton for six million euros and Ignacio Camacho left for Wolfsburg in a deal potentially upwards of 13 million.

With less than a month to go until the start of the season, Malaga have a lot of business still to do and will be hard pushed to recruit players of a similar calibre to those who have left.

In fact, Michel's squad, currently training in Garderen, boasts just 16 first-team players guaranteed



Fornals leaving the club's training camp. || SERGIO CORTÉS

of a place, with the futures of Cifu, Mikel, Chory Castro and Michael Santos remaining in the balance.

Head coach Michel has grown increasingly frustrated, firstly by the failure to sign Jorge Meré, and now by Pablo's departure. He be-

lieves the club's slowness in the market is costing them and a heated meeting with Arnau is understood to have taken place, after which the head coach aired his frustrations on Twitter: "Another one is leaving us".

## Malaga to kick off LaLiga season against Eibar at La Rosaleda

### || DARYL FINCH

**MALAGA.** The first game of the season is always a special occasion, but this year it will be of special significance for Keko, Adrián and Borja Bastón as they welcome their former side Eibar to La Rosaleda on the opening day.

Fixtures for every round of the LaLiga season were announced on Friday, with the biggest news coming in the form of the Clásico coming on matchday 36 when the title battle could be settled.

Malaga will be relatively happy with their lot as they have been given a run which avoids any of the big boys until the fourth matchday when they travel to the all-new Wanda Metropolitano stadium to take on Atlético Madrid.

Likewise, the final run-in includes games against Levante, Real Sociedad, Betis, Alavés, Espanyol and Getafe.

The season, it has been announced, will get under way on the weekend of 19 August, with details still to be finalised.

## Deal agreed with Emanuel Cecchini to fill the void left in midfield

The youngster signs on a five-year deal from Argentinian side Banfield, where he shone last season

### || S. CORTÉS

**GARDEREN.** Within hours of the disappointment of losing Pablo Fornals to Villarreal, Malaga stepped up their transfer activity with sporting director Francesc Arnau leaving the Netherlands to head to Italy to sign off the transfer of Emanuel Cecchini.

The midfielder, 20, will join on a five-year deal from Argentinian side Banfield after Malaga scouts monitored his progress over the

last few months.

His performances were enough to attract the gaze of Italian sides Inter Milan and Fiorentina. In fact, a move to the latter appeared a certainty but Malaga have taken advantage of the deal falling through.

Having made his debut at just 16, hopes are high for the player who will be a more natural replacement for Fornals than Ignacio Camacho, if Michel persists with the 4-3-3 system which gave the side so much success at the tail end of the season.

The player has already touched down in Malaga and it is hoped he can sign the contract and pass his medical in time to join up with his new teammates at their training camp in the Netherlands.



|| SANTIESTEBAN

## A MISERABLE START TO PRESEASON FOR MALAGA

After finishing last in the quadrangular Cup of Traditions on Sunday, losing to Hertha Berlin 2-1 and Duisburg 1-0, Malaga were humbled in their friendly in the Netherlands against AZ Alkmaar on Wednesday night. The 3-0 defeat, with all goals coming in the second half, means Malaga have lost four out of four matches so far.

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# Marbella FC embark on an austere type of revolution

The club has already signed 11 players for its new project in Segunda B but its budget will only be one-third of that of last year

**MARBELLA.** Marbella is starting from scratch. In May the club ended a season during which it spent more than one million euros to strengthen the team. In total, it signed up 28 players (21 last summer and seven at the close of the January window). The club failed in its attempt to gain promotion to Segunda and its only consolation was achieving a place in the Copa del Rey on the final day. The view for the immediate future is completely different. With little more than 350,000 euros to spend, far from signing up players of ten different nationalities as it did last year, the idea now is to stick to the classic commitment to the "good, attractive and cheap": footballers from the region, keen to make a name for themselves, on low salaries. This will be an austere type of revolution.

The idea of promotion is not being 'sold' as it was from the very beginning of the last season. "The aim now is to stay in the division," said new head coach Fernando Estévez at the presentation. The fans can now forget that period of living the dream, appearing in the national media and beating records, and have to come back down to earth and understand that the story this season is different. New sporting director Jorge Rodríguez de Cózar is searching for the right formula for the Marbella of Muñoz, Apoño, Gaitán, Ávila and co: he wants to invest the right amount in under-23 players and spend the small budget on creating a strong backbone for the club. He is only willing to spend money on four or five up-and-coming promising players.

Jorge Rodríguez's idea was to retain a solid block from the past year, of between six and eight players, but the only player whose contract has been renewed so far is that of captain, Añón, who will play a leading role at Marbella this summer. Marcos Ruiz, Carlos Julio, Luis Rioja and Ebwelle's contracts are still in force, although the latter three have received offers from elsewhere. The technical staff want to keep Carlos Julio and Rioja, but the future of 'Ebu' is not clear. With regard to new signings, Marbella already have eleven players: goalkeepers Wilfred and Juanfran; defenders Mauri, Catena and Razvan; midfielders Sergio Narváez, Carlos Indiano, Javi Moreno, Corpas, Chus Hevia, and striker Francis Ferrón.

## A small squad

The club currently consists of 16 players on contract and two youngsters with a guaranteed place in the first team. These are the midfielder from the national youth team Álex



**JULIO RODRÍGUEZ**

✉ Twitter: @1JulioRodriguez

García and the great hope of the lower categories, Víctor Estébanez. The midfielder had received offers from top-flight clubs, but with an impressively mature attitude he decided to remain where he was. Marbella has kept him on for three seasons so far.



Jorge Rodríguez de Cózar. :: J. R.

All that remains is to strengthen the defence with new arrivals and colleagues for striker Francis Ferrón, and replacements for the midfield. There is no lack of names. Although there is interest in signing ex-Málaga player Mauri, the negotiations cooled off when they were made public. He is a local (Fuengirola) player, low cost and versatile. In principle he fulfills all the criteria to become part of the project.

Marbella trained two days last week and are now starting work with a view to league beginning on 20 August.

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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbopalmer



# Stick or twist?

**Interest in Neymar and Mbappé is plentiful, but would they be better off staying put?**

We can discount Messi as he's signed a new deal at Barcelona, Ronaldo's posturing lasted a couple of weeks until Real Madrid appeared to call his bluff. So where do the media turn next to overdose on speculation?

Will Neymar head to Paris? Is Kylian Mbappé going to be the next 'galáctico'?

Call it click-bait, claim it sells newspapers, it spices up sports bulletins... Get the name of a football superstar into your story and it seems you have found the formula.

Neymar is only too happy to be

in the spotlight, even if it appears that he was nudged there by his handlers. For me, the only loser in the saga would be the player himself who would be down-grading clubs in his pursuit of becoming the headline act.

It would be brilliant for Paris Saint-Germain if they could spring his 222-million-euro buy-out clause. The football world would be in awe of the French club.

It would be beneficial to his advisor (well, his father) who could command a commission of 40 million euros. It's an incredible amount of money for doing very little.

I don't think Barcelona would be too upset if Neymar took his dancing boots to France. In truth, the Brazilian is third on the billing behind Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez.



Kylian Mbappé. :: EFE



Neymar has been the star of preseason for Barcelona. :: EFE

His stats are impressive, but don't compare to the Argentinian and Uruguayan and if the ridiculous price was triggered, it would give them wiggle room when it comes to FFP.

I don't pretend to understand Financial Fair Play (does anyone?) but I do know that it's all to do with the equation of players' wages to club income. So off-load

one of your highest earners and rake in an astronomical fee and the FFP becomes less of an issue at the Camp Nou. Maybe then they could bring in Philippe Coutinho for about a third of the price.

If I was the advisor to Neymar, I'd say stay at Barça and play with and against the best; but his advisor is in for a windfall if he heads to Paris!

The trend is to invest in "the next big thing" and it does appear that Kylian Mbappé IS "the next big thing"; he's only a teenager but his impact with Monaco last season captured headlines. His contract runs to 2019 so speculation is rife. Monaco claim they are in negotiations for a new deal, but the wonder kid has suitors who are not ringing the front door-bell, more whistling at his bedroom window!

Anyone who has dealt with a teenager knows that moods can change, so it's a brave president who gambles 180 million on an 18-year-old.

In contrast to Neymar, this may be a deal that benefits all. Monaco cash in on a talent, Real invest in a potential superstar, the agent gets rich! It would probably be in the interests of all parties for Mbappé to stay in the French Ligue for one more season to develop his game.

Hopefully soon the speculation will be cast aside and we can concentrate on the actual football!

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Group photograph of competitors, organisers and sponsors of the Costa del Golf Tour on the steps of the Villa Padierna hotel. :: J-L

## RESULTS

### First men's category

**1st:** Javier Pérez.  
**2nd:** Alexander Reynders.  
**3rd:** Francisco Martín.  
**4th:** Juan Manuel Toro.

### Second men's category

**1st:** Julio Alonso.  
**2nd:** David Doña.  
**3rd:** Matías De los Ríos.

### Women's category

**1st:** Mercedes Espiñeira.  
**2nd:** Rosa María Sánchez.  
**3rd:** Patricia Preece.

### 'Amigos de SUR' category

**1st:** Francisco Márquez.  
**2nd:** Andrés de los Ríos.  
**3rd:** Alejandro Camps.

# Costa del Golf Tour ends on a high

## Over 500 players took part in the four rounds of this year's tournament

Last Saturday Villa Padierna hosted the final, which saw Javier Pérez crowned winner of a tour that is now rated one of the top amateur events in Andalucía

### :: ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

**MARBELLA.** Hotel Villa Padierna hosted the grand final of the Costa del Golf Tour last Saturday, the tournament organised by SUR and its specialist Costa del Golf publication. After more than two

months of competition in which over 500 amateur golfers have taken part, the best-ranked players met at Los Flamingos Golf, part of the luxurious hotel complex. This was a record turnout, up on previous years, and helps consolidate the event's position as one of the main dates in the golfing calendar for amateurs in Andalucía.

The final, sponsored by Joyería Marcos, started at 9am and finished at 3pm. After the day's play, there was a cocktail reception to announce the winners.

Javier Pérez was declared tour champion in the first male category while Julio Alonso came top

in the second male category. Mercedes Espiñeira headed the women's leaderboard. Juan Francisco Márquez took the prize in the special 'Amigos de SUR' category. The prizegiving rounded off eight weeks of superb golf on some of the best courses in Andalucía.

New business director at SUR, Federico Moret, praised "the high numbers taking part" in the tournament that started at Alcaidesa back in May. The tour's technical director, Francisco Gómez, highlighted the "good state" of the courses that have hosted the tournament (Alcaidesa, Guadalmina, Cabopino and Flamingos) and the

high quality of the field. Several members of SUR attended, including commercial director, Jorge Artero; marketing director, David Contreras; external relations head, Pilar Perea; marketing representative, Pilar Alcalá and sales representative in Marbella, Leandro Rodríguez.

### No hole in one this year

Also in attendance was head of marketing for Joyería Marcos, Esther Ruiz. The long-established Malaga jewellery company, as well as sponsoring the final, also offered an Omega watch to the player that managed a hole-in-one - a prize

that went unclaimed. Andreas Hagemann, head of golf at Villa Padierna, also attended the awards ceremony.

The tournament was played under Stableford rules, in which each hole is scored in relation to its par strokes. The events were sponsored by Acosol, Marbella town hall, the Junta de Andalucía, Joyería Marcos, Da Bruno restaurants and Línea Directa, as well as supported by Andalucía Golf Select, Copyrap, Golfriends and the four host courses.

The tournament had four legs. The six best-placed in each category in each of the first three legs of the competition qualified for the final. The first took place at Alcaidesa, followed by the second round at Real Club de Golf Guadalmina and then Cabopino. Last Saturday, the Costa del Golf Tour ended on a high note at Villa Padierna, capping off a rewarding and record-breaking year.



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# Arrested Spanish FA president suspended and national team chief also quizzed

Ángel Villar has resigned from the UEFA board as the beleaguered Real Federación Española de Fútbol manages to go ahead with its controversial AGM

■ SUR

**MADRID.** Ángel Villar, until now president of the Real Federación Española de Fútbol (RFEF), the governing body of the Spanish game, was suspended from his job for 12 months on Tuesday. The decision was taken by the Consejo Superior de Deporte, the sports governing council, part of national government.

The move follows his arrest last week along with his son, Gorka, and a vice president of the RFEF, Juan Padrón, in connection with investigations into corruption and siphoning off of funds from the governing body for personal gain.

Last week a judge ordered Ángel Villar and his son to be held in jail without bail, for fear that evidence

could be destroyed, and for Padrón to be held pending a bail of 100,000 euros.

Villar has been president of the Spanish equivalent of the FA for twenty-eight years. However he did not immediately resign from his job after being arrested, as many had urged him to do.

Instead, after a ministry of Sport sanctions committee agreed to open an investigation into Villar's conduct earlier this week, on Tuesday, the Consejo Superior de Deporte, which oversees the governing bodies of sports in Spain, voted to suspend the accused president on Tuesday.

## Pending AGM reconvened

Resolving the issue had become especially urgent as the RFEF had been due to hold its annual general meeting last week. This was cancelled after the arrests, however the board of the RFEF met in emergency session on Tuesday afternoon and appointed long-standing treasurer, Juan Luis Larrera as the interim president. Larrera is viewed as be-

ing close to Villar.

The three-hour AGM under Larrera finally convened on Wednesday with the new president making a plea for calm and perspective. "Spanish football is made up of honest people," he said.

LaLiga, representing professional football teams in leagues one and two in Spain, had urged its members not to take part in the AGM, citing that it hadn't been convened correctly and that many of the items to be voted on by attendees, including the annual accounts, are directly linked to the serious accusations of corruption for which Ángel Villar has been held.

In the event, members did attend, however discussion and votes on all financial matters were postponed until next Monday, 31 July.

On Wednesday, after being replaced as Spanish football chief, Ángel Villar resigned from his role as a vice president and board member of UEFA.

## Net widens

Besides the chaos caused in foot-



Juan Luis Larrera on the big screen at this week's AGM. ■ EFE

ball's governing body with the arrest of its high-profile suspended president, there were also further developments this week in the investigation itself.

The director general of Spain's national football team, María José Claramunt, has been placed under formal investigation by the judge in charge of the case. Claramunt, known

as "the boss" of La Roja was involved in negotiating several of the friendly games which Gorka Villar, from which the son of Ángel Villar and a sports lawyer, is said to have benefited from commission payments.

Some further members of the RFEF have also been placed under investigation in the case codenamed 'Operación Soule'.



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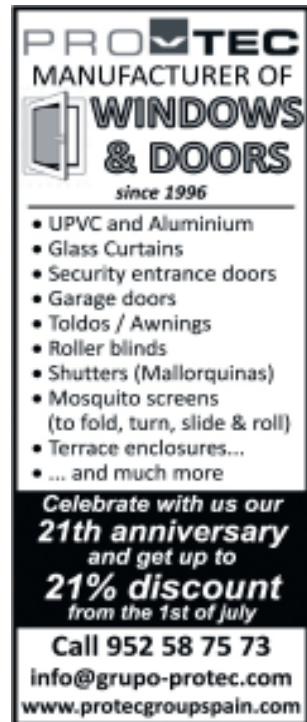
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**TANTRAZENN** Fuengirola: Indulge yourself in the hands of masseuses. Stimulate your senses. Welcome to the Tantra world. www.tantra-zenn.com. 608016983

**CAMILA, Marbella, long hair. Beautiful shape, horny, sweet, sensual erotic massage. Discreet place. 603169139**

**GORGEOUS** Paola. Model´s body, tantra, relaxing, B2B massage. Excellent company/Good vibes. relaxingtouch.es 602448534

**touch4men.com** Professional Erotic man2man massage. Incalls Torremolinos. Outcalls Costa del Sol. 628746407

**40 EUROS:** Sensitive, relaxing, prostatic massage. Happy ending. Fuengirola. 625912315

**FUENGIROLA:** Madonna, Hot oil/horny massage with my boobs! Happy ending.632157758

**MATURE** man, qualified masseur. Excellent massages for men. Torremolinos, Carhuela. 639040128

**MAIAH,** Fuengirola. Erotic, professional massage, body2body, happy ending. Miah, 647101046

**TORREMOLINOS:** Do you want to have fun with 2 girls, blonde/ brunette? Exciting, erotic, body2body massage. 633578665

**ASIAN** MM Massage Salon. A place where you can find proper good massage. Ideal for men, women, couples and have muscule problem, Clean and good atmosphere. 90 minutes 50 euros. 951482585/ 604393547



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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS



**Aquarius**

January 21 - February 19

Joining in with group activities makes you realise what fun it can be. Will this inspire you to arrange some regular get-togethers?



**Pisces**

February 20th - March 20th

Saying the right thing at home can be very difficult. Avoid giving mixed messages.



**Aries**

March 21st - April 20th

Making any long-term decisions, especially about money, needs careful thought.



**Taurus**

April 21st - May 21st

Get involved socially, especially if it is something new. A hobby could turn into a real earner!



**Gemini**

May 22nd - June 21st

If work is boring, try to think ahead and make plans for the future. Are there ways that you could be more efficient?



**Cancer**

June 22nd - July 23rd

Some folk around you may become tetchy and awkward. Better to get on with something or someone else rather than get too involved.



**Leo**

July 24th - August 23rd

Much as you may want to please a loved one, if put under pressure don't just cave in!



**Virgo**

August 24th - September 23rd

Someone who seeks your advice just needs to take a step forward rather than being stuck.



**Libra**

September 24th - October 23rd

In a very busy and passion-filled week the accent is on both pleasure and work. The two should not be combined or it could cause immediate confusion.



**Scorpio**

October 24th - November 22nd

With a busy time both at home and work you could turn into a juggler. This only seems to give you more energy.



**Sagittarius**

November 23rd - December 21st

The more you give, the more they will take. Someone needs you to be cool and mature, whatever your age.

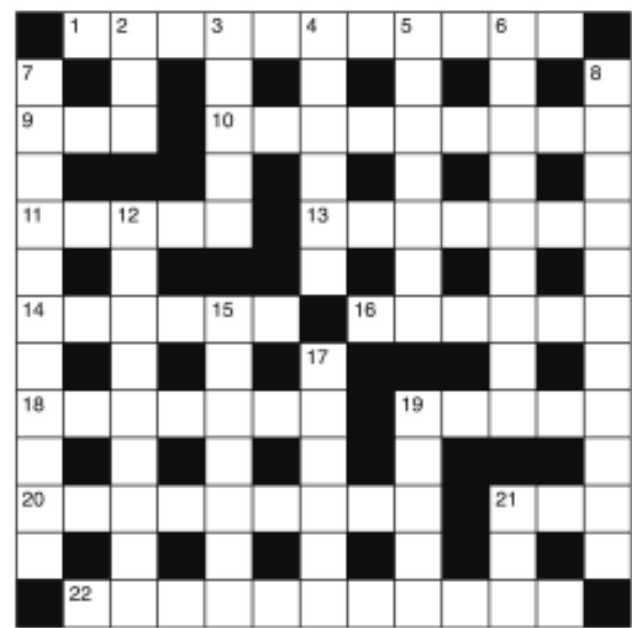


**Capricorn**

December 22nd - January 20th

Demands on your time are coming up so try to make next weekend relaxing and inspiring.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11252



- Across
- 1 Suggestion of professional appointment (11)

9 Nothing can be found in the north-west at present (3)

10 It's a gymnastic feat to provide a piece of farm transport (4-5)

11 & 13Ac What he constructs is used by a manual operator! (5-7)

13 See 13 Across

14 Ill-will shown by the man going around in charge (6)

16 Deprive the yachts of power to move - don't panic! (6)

18 Perform acrobatically, but comes to grief (7)

19 A bloomer produces a mistake in the rates (5)

20 Nothing in that pose upset the masseur (9)

21 The leading characters of bootlegging America nullify prohibition (3)

22 This low step needs adjusting for small rail halt (7-4)
- Down
- 2 Lacking experience when hostilities return (3)

3 In a recipe canneries use a kind of nut (5)

4 An amanuensis is an expert in Mosaic law (6)

5 Oil went all over the place - breakdown equipment needed (3-4)

6 The amount by which one is discredited? (9)

7 News of how the squadron is flying (11)

8 Main art rule for making deep blue (11)

12 Competition in which good driving will be of assistance (4,5)

15 Local disturbance by us showing no sympathy (7)

17 A southern sea-trip to go on to the attack (6)

19 Trees - or their remains (5)

21 Show disapproval of unfinished novel (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

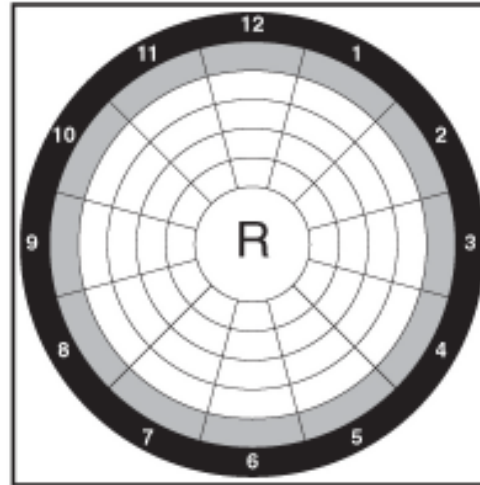
Instructions

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2 |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   | 8 | 4 | 5 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 5 | 9 | 7 |
|   | 8 | 9 | 1 |   | 5 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9 |   | 4 |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 9 | 3 |   | 6 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter R in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British comic actress and singer.



1. Shudder

2. Beam

3. Writer

4. Intelligent

5. Cream cake

6. Over there

7. Commotion

8. Pantry

9. Toil

10. Looking glass

11. Seem

12. Digit

THE WORDPUZZLER

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | H | E | S | C | R | E | E | L | S |
| O | I | T | A | L | U | M | I | O | T |
| S | T | I | M | A | M | B | O | N | A |
| I | D | S | B | R | B | E | N | D | N |
| N | A | P | A | V | A | N | T | I | G |
| T | W | O | N | E | R | O | W | N | O |
| W | A | L | T | Z | E | N | I | B | R |
| I | S | K | E | I | N | V | L | R | B |
| S | P | A | L | C | O | N | G | A | L |
| T | E | T | K | O | S | U | N | G | E |

CAN you identify the dances from the anagrams listed below?

1. Bomma

2. Leer

3. Kolap

4. Gonta

5. Zlawt

6. Ognac

7. Braum

8. Witts

9. Vapna

10. Amabs

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

**Talk Radio Europe**

105.5 Axarquía

91.5 Costa del Sol East

91.9 Costa del Sol West

98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande

News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

**Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)

24 hour music and entertainment

**Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)

3 p.m. News, views and music

**Radio Sol Almjara** (99.1 FM)

Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

**HeartfmSpain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

**Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)

Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

**Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)

Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com Fb: Radiotelevision Puebla de Cazalla

**Global** (93.6 and 96.4FM)

All week round the clock music and entertainment

**Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

**Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8)

All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

**ACE FM** (106.8 FM)

Inland radio, news and music

The Beat fm (106 FM)

24 hours, music and entertainment

QUIZ

**QUESTION 1**

Which city in the US state of Georgia was once called 'Terminus'?

1. Augusta

2. Atlanta

3. Lawrenceville

4. Gainesville

**QUESTION 2**

In which country would you find Los Glaciares National Park?

1. Spain

2. Panama

3. Argentina

4. Norway



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
1. Team (8)

4. National team coach (13)

11. To chop up (7)

12. Knocked out (10)

13. I loved (3)

14. It is (2)

16. Servile (6)

17. Fog (6)

19. I read (3)

20. They refine (7)

22. To hear (3)

23. They desire (6)

25. I wanted (5)

26. Bikes (4)

27. Shot (4)

30. They qualify (10)

31. Riffraff (6)

33. I (2)

35. It (2)

36. Traitor (1) (8)

38. Players (9)

40. To dope (5)

42. Experience (11)

43. Golf (pl) (2)

44. Organiser (11)

45. Matches (8)
1. Coach (10)

2. I will include (8)

3. Waves (4)

5. You are (4)

6. Championship (10)

7. Innovating (9)

8. Knuckles (8)

9. Challenge (7)

10. To relegate (7)

15. Biased (10)

18. Bench (9)

21. Offside (12)

24. Its (2)

27. Shirt (8)

28. Seasons (10)

29. Strategy (7)

31. Cup (4)

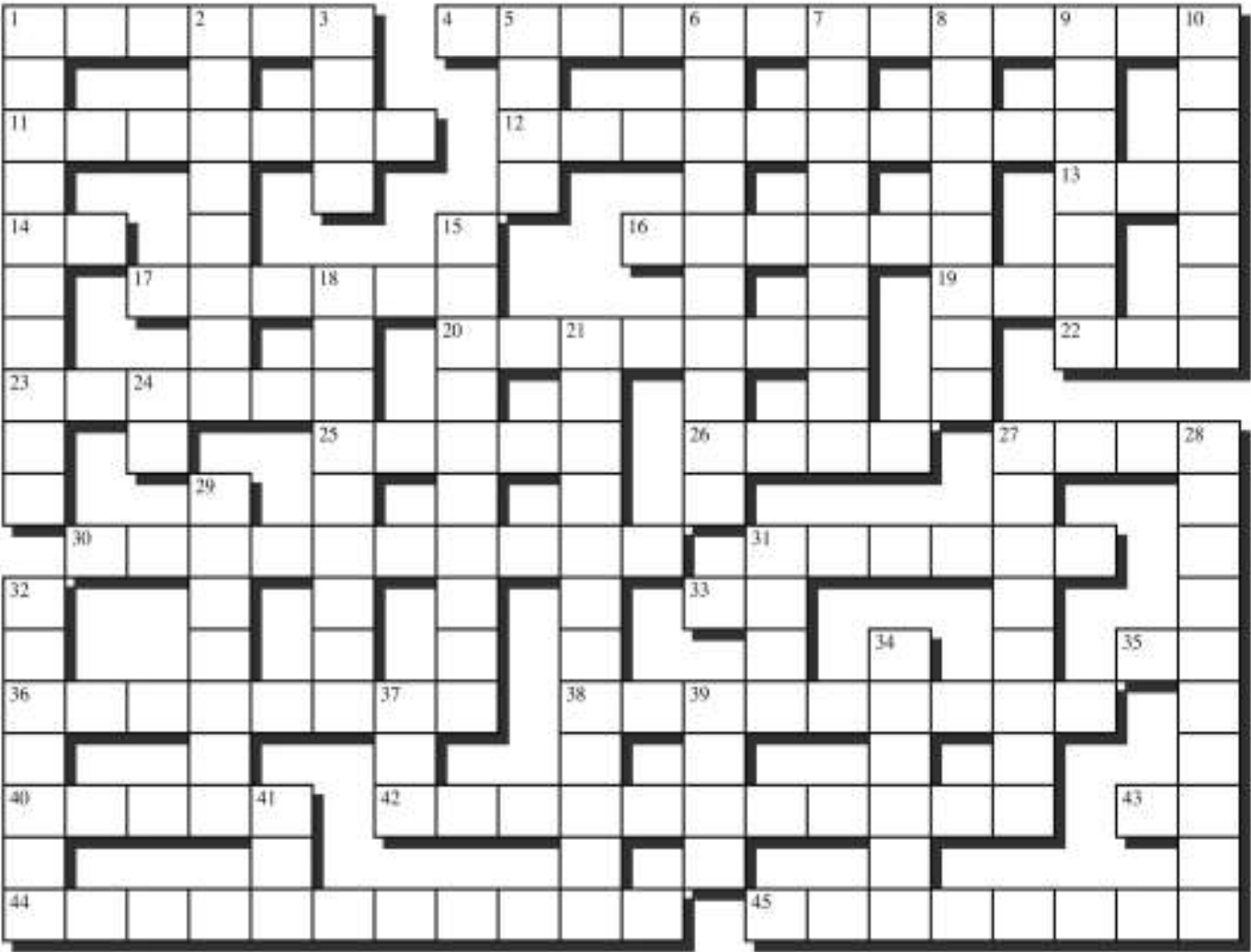
32. Stadium (7)

34. To twist (6)

37. It gnaws (3)

39. He guides (4)

41. Rum (3)

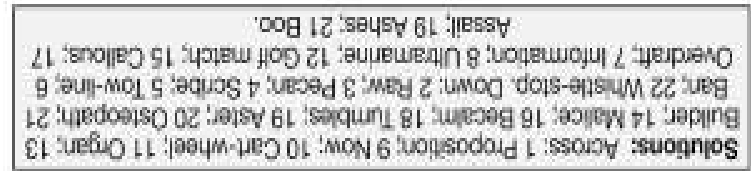


ANSWERS

Language Crossword



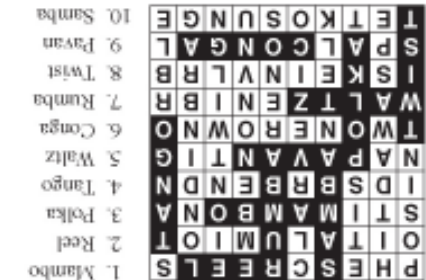
Cryptic Crossword



Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



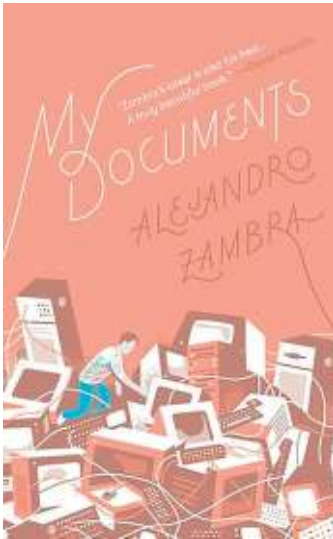
Sudoku solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 4 |

Quiz answers

**Answer 1:** Atlanta.  
**Of interest:** The stake marking the end of the railroad line to the US Midwest, the Terminus, was driven into the ground in 1837. In 1842 Governor Wilson Lumpkin changed the name to Marthasville. Then in 1845, the chief engineer of the railroad, suggested it be renamed 'Atlantica-Pacific', which was quickly shortened to 'Atlanta'.  
**Answer 2 :** Argentina.  
**Of interest:** Los Glaciares National Park is in the Austral Andes of southwest Argentina. Its many glaciers include Perito Moreno, best known for the dramatic icefalls.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



My Documents  
Alejandro Zambra

My Documents is by the award-winning Chilean writer Alejandro Zambra. Whether chronicling the attempts of a migraine-afflicted writer to quit smoking or the loneliness of the call-centre worker, the life of a personal computer or the return of a mercurial godson, this collection of stories evokes the disenchantments of youth and the disillusion of maturity in a Chilean society still troubled by its recent past. Written with the author's trademark irony and precision, humour and melancholy.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability

SAM KEEN

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

| CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY) |       |           |           |       |       |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Ship  | Date  | From      | Next port | Docks | Sails |
| Panorama II   | 29/07 | Motril    | Motril    | 07.00 | 04.00 |
| Tui Discovery 2                                       | 30/07 | Gibraltar | Barcelona | 06.00 | 22.00 |
| Aidastella  | 01/08 | -         | -         | 08.00 | 18.00 |
| Navigator of Seas                                     | 01/08 | Genoa     | Lisbon    | 09.00 | 16.00 |
| Tui Discovery   | 03/08 | Cadiz     | Cartagena | 08.00 | 18.00 |
| Tui Discovery 2                                       | 06/08 | Ceuta     | Vigo      | 06.00 | 22.00 |







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[www.kempinski.com/estepona](http://www.kempinski.com/estepona)

# Elton John touches hearts at Starlite

The British pop legend brought a message of love to this month-long festival of music and culture last week

by **TXEMA MARTÍN**

**MARBELLA.** The world-famous Starlite festival in Marbella could never disappoint in any way, but for Elton John fans the highlight was always going to be the concert he performed there last Thursday evening.

The sun was still shining over the Nagüeles quarry when the excited audience, who had paid from 180 to 1,300 euros for their tickets, watched this iconic musician step onto the Starlite stage.

Sir Elton's big smile was the first clue that the star was in good spirits and pleased to be in Marbella, performing songs from his Wonderful Crazy Night tour, which aims to promote love and peace in the world.

As expected, the legendary singer looked as spectacular as always, taking to the stage in sunglasses and sequins, a fuchsia shirt and matching shoes.

He sat at his grand piano in the centre of the stage, surrounded by



Sir Elton John, spreading some love with his concert at the festival in Marbella. **sur**

five impeccably dressed musicians.

He opened the show with The Bitch is Back and then a long piano solo, after which he greeted his audience, telling them that this was his last gig in Spain, "so we're going to do something special!"

Elton didn't let down the fans who were hoping to hear some of

his classic favourites, running through a playlist that included I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues, Sorry Seems to Be The Hardest Word and Tiny Dancer.

The most emotional moment of the night came with a beautiful rendition of I Want Love, which he dedicated to the victims of the re-

cent terrorist attacks, following a speech in which he confirmed his faith in love triumphing over evil. Giant screens displayed the words 'We Love You', followed by the initials of the cities that have suffered recent terrorist attacks.

Elton John also remembered one of his old friends, the late George

## A SELECTION FROM STARLITE NEXT WEEK

► **Saturday 29 July.** Antonio José, winner of 'The Voice' 2015.

► **Sunday 30 July.** Disney in Concert. Magical music from the movies to delight youngsters and adults alike.

► **Monday 31 July.** Carlos Vives, star of Latin music.

► **Tuesday 1 August.** Joaquín Sabina, Spanish Rock 'n' roll poet.

► **Thursday 3 August.** The world-famous Gipsy Kings in concert.

Michael, by performing Don't Let The Sun Go Down on Me.

Other favourites such as Your Song, Rocket Man and Crocodile Rock all rang out at Starlite on Thursday, as well as Sad Song. The show ended to massive applause with an emotional rendering of Candle In The Wind.

The Starlite Festival is a rare chance to see some superb musicians in a truly unique setting. It began on 13 July and continues until 26 August.

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