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August 4th to 10th 2017
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CULTURE

Not your typical classical musician

James Rhodes speaks about how he hopes to change attitudes about mental illness, self-harm and classical music **P26&27**



Marbella, home to 24 of the province's 30 most expensive streets

Some apartments in the Puerto Banús area have a reported value of 5,262 euros per square metre

According to a study by the Precio-viviendas.com internet platform, Marbella leads the way when it comes to the concentration of high-value properties, occupying all of the top 17 spots on its survey. **P10**

New CCTV footage from Pizarra train station shows toddler walking down the tracks hours before she was found dead **P8**

More than 500 volunteers come together to ring flamingos at the famous Fuente de Piedra nature reserve **P6**

UP, UP AND AWAY!

Thousands turned out to see Torre del Mar's second international air show **P16**



Spectators lined up on the beach to catch a glimpse of the shows last weekend. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

Record tourist numbers see prices and employment shoot up

Staff numbers in hotels have increased 9.8 per cent compared to last summer

The latest numbers coming from the tourism industry have confirmed all predictions: record numbers of visitors are arriving on the Costa del Sol with an increase both in over-night stays (1.9%) and visitors (4%)

compared with the same peak period last year. As a result, inter-annual increases in hotel prices of up to 26% have been noted, as well as an increase of 9.8% in staff employed in the industry. **P5**

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The perennial problem of parking in the summer

In many places along the Costa del Sol it is impossible to find anywhere to park near the beach

Drivers resort to leaving their vehicles on pavements, on the sand or even in a dark tunnel, which could cause an accident or result in serious damage



IVÁN GELIBTER

Twitter: @IvanGelibter

angles on the banks at the side of the road to Cerrado de Calderón.

The situation is hardly any better further into Pedregalejo, and parking in Calle Bolivia is almost a heroic feat. The only solution to be found is to cross to the other side of Avenida Juan Sebastián Elcano, which irritates people who live in those streets every summer because

the cars are often left on the pavements or across private garage entrances.

Once past the Jaboneras stream, the situation becomes even more difficult. Apart from La Milagrosa where, like the Casa Pedro area, there is only space for about 15 cars, the principal 'hot spot' for parking is by the beach near El Tintero restaurant and Playa Virginia.

People using these beaches - and the one at El Candado - have to risk parking on the pavements or somewhere within the residential development itself, which means quite a walk to reach the sand.

The lack of space for parking in El Palo all year round - double and even triple parking is quite common in Calle Echeverría - is exacerbated at this time of year, and the municipal car park is often the only answer although it means paying more than 10 euros to spend part of the day soaking up the sun.

The Peñón del Cuervo beach is practically deserted in winter, but as soon as summer approaches the barbecue area becomes very popular. As well as the groups using these facilities, there are others who just want to spend time on the beach, so the parking area tends to fill up well before lunchtime. In that case, the only answer is to leave the car in the dark access tunnel, and when that is full the road that leads down to the beach



The beach at El Palo.

:: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ



A barrier has been erected at Maro beach to alleviate the problems. :: EUGENIO O



Cars parked in awkward positions near El Tintero. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

Some councils have attempted to resolve the problem but the measures do not go far enough

also becomes lined with vehicles.

In all these places, this has been the situation for years but in the past two years the number of vehicles has increased so it is becoming increasingly difficult. At present the authorities appear to have no plans to resolve the parking problem.

However, the eastern side of Malaga is by no means the only area affected. All along the Costa del Sol



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CABEZAS



Cars on the pavements in Marbella block the way for pedestrians. :: JOSELE-LANZA



The spaces at Peñón del Cuervo fill up early in the morning. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

local residents and visitors have become resigned to the difficulties in finding a parking space.

In La Cala de Mijas the town hall found a solution by letting people park in the fairground area, on the other side of the dual carriageway, in the summer months. However, the annual fair also takes place at this time of year and the area cannot be used for parking during that

time. The resulting chaos causes frustration and resentment among local people, who are calling for the council to build proper parking facilities to put an end to the problem.

In Rincón de la Victoria the worst parking problems are in the Avenida del Mediterráneo, the old N-340 highway, which runs through the municipality, and at weekends it is

almost impossible for people who want to visit the beach to find anywhere at all to leave their vehicle. Local business owners are asking for a free 'blue' parking zone to be created, such as the one which has proven successful in Torrox since 2014.

In Nerja, the problems are mainly in two specific areas: the Burriana beach and at Maro. In the former, al-

PARKING BLACK SPOTS

► **El Palo.** The area near Casa Pedro is the worst and often the only spaces available are in the public car park.

► **Pedregalejo.** The lack of spaces means people park in streets on the other side of Juan Sebastián Elcano, to the annoyance of local residents.

► **Peñón del Cuervo.** As soon as summer begins the parking spaces fill up early in the morning.

► **La Cala de Mijas.** The excessive traffic and lack of parking spaces when the fair is taking place can lead to chaos.

► **Playa del Bajondillo.** Although there is a problem with parking in Torremolinos in general, the area around El Bajondillo beach is especially difficult.

► **Playa del Padrón.** Drivers using this beach in Estepona often leave their cars parked on the pavements.

► **Cabopino.** On this beach, beachgoers often leave cars in the dunes.

► **Puerto Banús.** It is so expensive to use the car parks in Puerto Banús that many people can't afford to leave their car there all day.

► **Nerja.** Maro and Burriana are the beaches with the worst parking problems, even though the local authorities have been trying to find a solution.

The answer to the question: "Can I drive wearing my flip flops?"

Some people do it but an urban myth has it that it isn't really allowed. So, what is the correct answer. Can you drive wearing your flip flops? Despite claims it is illegal, it isn't. You can't be fined specifically for wearing flip flops or similar. But the rules of the road say that a driver can be fined if they cannot move freely when controlling the vehicle, which could be the case with flip flops. The same goes for driving barefoot. It isn't banned but you could still be fined.

ception to these problems, either. In Marbella there are two places where parking is especially difficult: Cabopino, where people even park on the sand dunes, and around Puerto Banús, where there is no free parking and using a car park for the day can be very expensive.

In Estepona, the worst parking problems occur at El Padrón beach, where drivers leave their cars on pavements, roundabouts and anywhere they can find a gap. The situation has become worse because the adjacent shopping centre, with permission from the town hall, has placed a barrier at the entrance to its car park.

It can also be difficult to park in Torremolinos, especially along the seafront between Los Álamos and El Bajondillo. In that case, people have to leave their cars in the town centre, making parking difficult even for those who aren't going to the beach.

Contributors to this report : Charo Márquez, Héctor Barbotta and Eugenio Cabezas

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Travel advice does little to reduce weekend motorway hold ups

Most drivers didn't stagger their journeys or use toll roads as asked and 24 kilometres of tailbacks still built up on Sunday evening

by JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The traffic tailbacks on local motorways at weekends don't appear to have got much better as most motorists failed to heed official advice on how to avoid them.

Last Sunday there were some 24 kilometres of hold ups on the Costa del Sol's motorway network during the busy evening rush.

Although this was down on the 30 kilometres of jams the previous weekend, the reduction made little real difference to the many motorists who found themselves trapped in tailbacks during the peak hours of 8pm to 10pm, as people headed back from day trips to the beaches and a weekend on the coast.

Last week the DGT national road traffic authority reacted to increasing jams at weekends by saying that it couldn't open extra relief lanes on hard shoulders, as it used to do, as space has been taken up at key bottlenecks by road widening over re-



The longest tailbacks were on the motorway east of Malaga. by F. GONZÁLEZ

cent years. In addition officials say that they want to keep the hard shoulders clear for accidents and emergencies.

Instead they recommend that drivers stagger their departure times and use the under-used toll roads as alternatives to the main motorways.

The worst affected areas last Sunday evening were the A-7 between Vélez-Málaga and Rincón de la Victoria, east of Malaga, where people were returning from the Torre del

Mar airshow; the A-7 towards Marbella in San Pedro de Alcántara; and the A-7 around Calahonda and the Fuengirola area.

There were also the usual build ups on the MA-20 near Plaza Mayor and Malaga airport and on the A-45 inland motorway towards Antequera on the Las Pedrizas pass.

Despite last week's advice, little looks likely to improve over the summer as the economy improves and weekend tourists flock to the coast.

Costa drivers have to cough up the most road fines in Spain

Malaga province heads the list of the most money collected from traffic penalties on the government-controlled road network

by IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol and the rest of Malaga province continue to head the list of the areas where most traffic fines are given out nationally, in value terms.

In the period 1 January to 21 June this year, the DGT national road traffic authority issued over 4.85 million euros in fines in the province. This is the highest amount in Spain, above Madrid, in second place (with 3.25 million euros), although the capital city has a much larger population.

The data is based on routes that are part of the national trunk road network, and includes fixed and mobile speed cameras on the local A-7 and A-45 motorways.

Data from Catalonia and the Basque Country is not included as all traffic management is devolved to the regional governments in

those areas.

Malaga is also the second highest province for the number of fines given out, just behind Madrid. Over the same period earlier this year, 137,527 fines were issued to motorists around Malaga and the Costa del Sol, the equivalent of 800 a day.

Local socialist party leader and MP, Miguel Ángel Heredia, requested the data from national government and was critical of what it showed.

Sixth province by population

"If Malaga province has the sixth largest population [in Spain], how is it possible that Malaga is the province where the government collects the most fines? [PM] Rajoy is making money at the expense of the people of Malaga," he claimed.

Heredia went on to argue that it is a paradox that the amount of money being collected doesn't actually go to increase safety on local roads or on planned road infrastructure.

After Malaga and Madrid, the provinces with the highest value of fines from 1 January to 21 June this year were Seville (3.2 million euros) and Cordoba (almost 3 million).



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The tourist season reaches its peak with record visitors, more employment and rising prices



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On the downside, fewer Spanish tourists appear to be visiting the Costa del Sol and unions are critical of the type of job contracts being given to temporary staff

MALAGA. The end of July and beginning of August are peak tourist season on the Costa del Sol and this year the usual avalanche of visitors arrived by land, sea and air. Over the five-day period from Friday there were 333,000 long-distance road trips, which was 17 per cent more than the same period last year; by train, 30,000 passengers took the high-speed AVE train from Madrid to Malaga city; and 399,114 passengers were scheduled to travel on 2,342 flights. These are record figures, and they confirm the expectations of tourism businesses in Malaga province.

Now that we have reached this point in the tourist season, we can take a look at the figures for the early part of the summer. Hotel occupancy figures in June showed an increase in the number of overnight stays (1.9 per cent) and visitors (4 per cent) compared with the same month last year, which was already a record.

Occupancy rose by three points to 71.9 per cent. In July, the Aehcos hotel association estimates that it was 81 per cent. However, there was a noticeable difference between the international and Spanish market: the first is generating all the growth, with



Malaga airport is having its busiest year ever. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

spectacular increases in specific nationalities such as German, Danish, Polish and Swedish. The number of Spanish visitors is dropping, and not just slightly: by 10 per cent in terms of visitors and 16 per cent in overnight stays. This is nothing new: the numbers were down last year as well, in low season as well as the summer.

What is happening with Spanish clientele? It seems several factors come into play. To start with, Arturo Bernal, the head of Turismo Costa del Sol, says there is traditionally less Spanish tourism when the economy is doing well, because many Spanish people prefer to travel abroad on holiday when they have the money to do so.

In addition, there has been a major increase in the number of holiday apartments and houses. "It may be true that there are fewer Spanish tourists in the hotels, but I'm not sure

that fewer Spanish people have come to the Costa del Sol," he says.

The general feeling in the sector is that many travellers who used to stay in hotels are now choosing self-catering accommodation instead, but there are no figures to confirm this. There are 66,000 beds on offer in rental properties on the Costa del Sol, which is about a quarter of the total.

Are price increases in hotels influencing the reduction in Spanish tourists? The sector doesn't think so, although Arturo admits that it is possible. "However, the prices haven't exactly shot up," he points out.

There are different opinions about hotel prices. The Trivago hotel search portal says some tourist resorts on the Costa del Sol have seen the greatest increases in hotel prices this year. It quotes inter-annual increases in July of 26 per cent in Estepo-

na, 19 per cent in Mijas and 14 per cent in Marbella, which is the third most expensive destination in Spain with an average price of 253 euros per double room.

The Hotel Price Index which is drawn up by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) only gives information about Andalucía as a whole, but in June it showed an increase of 5.9 per cent compared with the same month last year.

The NHS hotel group's 'Hotel price radar' says that Malaga is the city in which prices have risen most this year, by 38 per cent in the second quarter.

Arturo Bernal says prices have risen by between 10 and 15 per cent, which his organisation considers reasonable. "In fact, I think the price is still a little lower than it should be," he says, because "the price helps to improve quality for the clients."

THE FIGURES

6,000

more people are employed in hotels, bars and restaurants in the province this year, according to Social Security records. The total is now 73,000.

+1.9%

The increase in overnight stays in hotels in Malaga province in June.

-16%

The drop in the number of overnight stays in hotels by Spanish tourists in June.

Employment

Something which is clear is that tourism-related businesses have taken on more staff this year after several years in which the increased demand was not reflected by the employment figures.

According to the INE, 9.8 per cent more staff were employed in hotels in Malaga province in June, which means that nearly 1,500 people were employed in the industry than in that month last year.

The number of employees registered with Social Security in the hotel and restaurant sector grew by a similar percentage to around 73,000 (this is 6,000 more workers than a year previously).

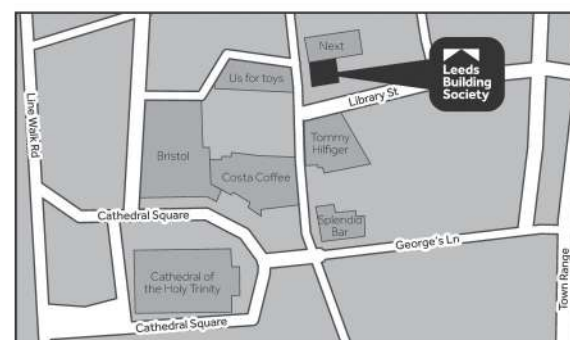
Unions welcome the increase in employment but still criticise those businesses which expect staff to work eight or ten hours a day but only give them contracts for four hours.

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Massive baby flamingo ringing on inland lake

More than 500 people took part in the census of the birds born this year at the famous Laguna de Fuente de Piedra nature reserve

by FERNANDO TORRES

FUENTE DE PIEDRA. A silent, overcast night. Dozens of people stealthily approach Laguna de Fuente de Piedra, the large natural lake in inland Malaga province famed for its flamingo colony. The aim is to gather up the chicks without frightening them.

This was the scene early last Saturday morning at one of the most important events in Europe for the monitoring and study of colonies of birds. The popular ringing of the flamingos, which didn't take place last summer as the drought had dried the lake and there were too few young to ring, went ahead as normal last weekend with its usual high degree of professionalism.

Around 500 people took part, mostly volunteers and experts from the Environment department of the Junta de Andalucía, plus those that run the well-known nature reserve. Of the 8,000 chicks born in the breeding season this year currently on the lake, some 600 were registered on the database last weekend.

Despite the ongoing drought, there was enough rain this year to allow the survey to go ahead, although park bosses couldn't confirm for sure until a few weeks ago, as in mid-spring the water level on the wetlands wasn't high enough to sustain young birds.



Two volunteers clean a baby flamingo after taking a blood sample. by FERNANDO TORRES

However recent rainfall "was enough for the colony to take up residence", explained Manuel Rendón, director of the nature reserve. Moreover, "the good conditions in the other wetlands of Andalucía have really favoured the reproduction cycle this year."

Referring to the importance of the annual study, Rendón said that it helps with many scientific and conservation issues. "Thanks to this procedure, which we've been doing since 1986, we can study every specimen from a distance and find out their movements, without having to capture them, using just their ring and a telescope". This species covers huge

distances, across north Africa to Europe.

The procedure kicks off by taking the chicks to a pen, which they then share with some adult birds, to avoid them becoming distressed. Although they capture as many as possible, only 600 are analysed as a representative sample of the population of young birds on the lake. Once they have the ring put on them, the volunteers take them to different study points.

Different samples taken

Firstly they are weighed and different parts of their bodies measured, such as the length of beak, legs and wings. Next, on other tables, they

take different samples, such as blood, or from the oil gland, which protects a bird's plumage from water, and, in the case of the flamingos, helps the males to sport their distinctive pink colours, more intense during the mating season. This data is stored and used by different scientific and research bodies.

It's striking how quickly the volunteers and experts work "so that the birds don't suffer". The scientists explain how to catch hold of them: "It's important to fold in the wings and legs, and point the neck downwards". Once the data has been collected, the team in charge of releasing them takes each

IN NUMBERS

600

chicks from a total of 8,000 babies on the lake are ringed, which is a representative sample from this year's breeding season.

500

is the number of volunteers who took part, 120 from Fuente de Piedra village.

one back to the lake, where the adult birds are waiting in the distance for the babies to be returned to them. "We have to put them down with them facing us so they see us and run off in the opposite direction," explained an expert to those taking part.

Importance of local wetlands

Due to the importance of the work carried out on this special ringing day, the deputy minister for the Environment of the Junta de Andalucía, José L. Hernández, was in attendance last weekend.

He drew attention to "the importance of looking after all Andalucía's wetlands" which form a network of different breeding grounds, so that the flamingo colonies keep growing and nature connects "without boundaries".

He also praised the work of the volunteers, "of which 120 are from neighbouring Fuente de Piedra village" and the success of this year's operation.



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CCTV footage shows toddler walking along train tracks hours before she was found dead

Three-year-old Lucía Viva Hidalgo's body was spotted by the side of the rail line last week, three kilometres from Pizarra station, after a frantic overnight search

:: SUR

PIZARRA. The investigation into the death of three-year-old Lucía Viva Hidalgo, whose body was found next to the tracks on the railway line from Malaga to Álora in the Guadalhorce valley last week, has new information.

According to sources, the toddler was recorded by cameras at the Cercanías railway station in Pizarra on the night of Wednesday, 26 July walking along the tracks in the direction that her body was eventually found the following morning.

This piece of evidence supports the Guardia Civil's initial hypothesis that Lucía wandered off while playing with family members, becoming tired in the darkness and falling asleep on the tracks before being hit by an early-morning train.

The autopsy, carried out in Malaga the day she was found, showed that she had died after a heavy blow to the head and had no other markings.

Lucía went missing from a bar in the old station building in Pizarra shortly after 11pm at night. Witnesses said she had been playing in and outside the building, which had two doors; one to the street and one to the railway platform, while her parents ate with family on the terrace outside. They had been celebrating Santa Ana's day, the name of her maternal grandmother, who lives in the



Tributes to Lucía on the platform at Pizarra station. :: FERNANDO TORRES

village.

Her disappearance prompted a huge overnight 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 tracks, some three kilometres further up the line towards Álora, the next morning.

It was not clear how Lucía had reached that point, however investigations suggested that she had managed to walk that far on her own.

Following the autopsy, Lucía was buried in Alhaurín el Grande on Friday, where her father was from and where she lived. They are a well-known family in both Alhaurín and Pizarra and three days of mourning were declared in those places as well as Álora, the municipality where the body was found.

Investigations, however, have

continued, including the analysis of the CCTV cameras, and further forensic tests have been carried out on the dead girl's clothing.

Locals' scepticism

Many residents in Pizarra have spoken out about how unlikely it is, in their view, that a small child would walk so far along an uneven, stoney surface by the track late at night, away from the lights of the village. "There's a bridge [on the track] that even I'm scared of crossing", said one local. Some also commented that it was strange that there had been no markings on the girl's feet and legs after walking so far.

While investigators continue to work, still supporting the theory that it was a tragic accident, the minister of the Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido, when asked about the case, urged caution and for people to wait for the full results of the analyses.

112 REPORTS



Police image of passports being seized. :: POLICIA NACIONAL

Gang smuggling people to UK is busted on Costa

MALAGA

EUROPA PRESS. Police gave further details this week of an operation that has successfully broken up a huge network centred on the Costa del Sol that was smuggling people into Britain.

The group was charging Iranian citizens 25,000 euros each for fake Spanish passports that allowed them to travel into the UK. Fourteen of the fifteen ringleaders were arrested in the Malaga area and the head of the gang was held at Lon-

don Heathrow as he was about to flee to Brazil.

The initial arrests have also helped officers detain a further 42 people in the Malaga area for selling their passports to the gang for between 500 and 3,000 euros. Another 44 people have been held at different European airports in the possession of false passports.

The investigation started a year ago when police in Germany discovered an Iranian travelling on a false passport. That person's trip had been reserved by a travel agent on the Costa del Sol. This enabled the pan-European team working on the case to trace the gang back to Spain.

Estonian drug gang leader arrested in Mijas

MALAGA

A. FRÍAS. Officers from the National Police and the Guardia Civil on the Costa del Sol have carried out an operation in cooperation with police in the Baltic state of Estonia and under orders from authorities there to make an arrest. Following their counterparts' instructions, police have detained a suspect in Mijas who is the supposed leader of a drug-trafficking organisation. The man was arrested after his home had been searched. Three more properties were also raided in Estonia, police say.

Caminito del Rey walk closed due to forest fire

MALAGA

SUR. A forest fire in the Sierra de Almorchón hills near Ardales in inland Malaga province forced the popular Caminito del Rey scenic walkway to close temporarily on Wednesday. The way into the high-level path through El Chorro gorge was blocked "as a precaution" for around an hour from 11.30am, according to sources working at the site. The blaze was extinguished by specialist forest-firefighting crews relatively quickly and the path was reopened to tourists once it was realised that it wasn't threatening the area.

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24 of the 30 most expensive streets in the province are in Marbella

Some of the apartments in the Puerto Banús area have an average market value of 5,262 euros per square metre

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Everyone has heard of the part of Marbella which is nicknamed ‘The Golden Mile’, and nowadays it seems more apt than ever. Of the 30 streets in Malaga province in which residential property costs around 3,000 euros per square metre, 24 are in this area. In fact, the street where the average cost of housing is at its highest is also there: Ramón Areces, where properties cost about 5,262 euros per square metre.

If the most sought-after apartment, which is also in Marbella,

in Calle Arturo Rubenstein, were for sale at present, a buyer could probably expect to pay 2,368,245 euros for it, according to a study by the Precioviviendas.com internet platform, which analyses the market values of all the apartments in municipalities with more than 25,000 inhabitants.

It is important to clarify that the report does not only look at properties which are for sale, but at all those which exist.

The top ten streets with the highest residential values in the province are all in Marbella: Ramón Areces, Vargas Llosa, Playas del Duque, Julio Iglesias, Ribera, José Banús, Arturo Rubinstein, Pepe Carleton, Lola Flores and Isabel de Valois are their names.

No other municipality is on the list until one scrolls down to number 18, and that is Calle Cedro, in Mijas. At 19th is Malaga city, with the Paseo de Sancha, where prop-

The most expensive streets in the main municipalities

Town	Street	Price m2
Marbella	Ramón Areces	5,262
Mijas	Cedro	3,219
Malaga	Ps de Sancha	3,212
Estepona	Av del Carmen	3,036
Benalmádena	Av Puerto Deportivo	2,863
Torremolinos	Obispo Juan Alonso	2,836
Fuengirola	Alberto Morgensten	2,762
Rincón V.	Cl del higueral	2,202
Vélez-Málaga	Cl Los Fenicios	1,989
Alhaurín T.	Cl Océano Pacífico	1,798
Antequera	Av José Mª Fdez.	1,400
Ronda	Cl Deportes	1,243

erties have an average value of 3,212 euros per square metre.

The most coveted apartments

With regard to the apartments with the highest market value, most of these are also in Marbella. In first place is the one mentioned above, in Calle Arturo Rubenstein, which has an area of 463 square metres. It is followed by others of a similar size in Calle Pepe Carleton and Calle Roy Boston, with a market value of over 2.2 and 1.9 million euros respectively.

The first one outside Marbella is at number 28 on the list: it is in Malaga city, in Calle Duque de la Victoria, is over 400 square metres in size and is valued at 1,209,000 euros.

The system which Precioviviendas.com uses to calculate the value of the properties is completely reliable and is certified as such. It is called the TasaValua system, and since January 2014 it has been officially certified by the Department of Statistics and Operational Research of the Mathematics Faculty at the Complutense University in Madrid.

Marbella town hall takes further steps towards working out a valid PGOU town plan

■ H. BARBOTTA /N. CASTRO

MARBELLA. Councillors in Marbella took a surprise step last week towards unblocking the planning stalemate that the town has faced.

In last Thursday’s council meeting, the ruling coalition managed to reach an agreement with the two CSSP-Podemos councillors and won a vote on a motion to allow the council to adapt the town’s 1986 PGOU master planning document to comply with current regional planning law, solving a dispute over where the border with neighbouring Benahavís really lies.

Councillors were forced to fall back on the outdated 1986 strategy document when a new 2010 plan was declared illegal in 2015. But they face a planning minefield to make the 1986 one work.

Meanwhile the committee of planning experts convened by the University of Malaga and contracted by the council to decide how it should go about replacing its PGOU from scratch is due to start work this month. They will analyse the planning situation in the town to make sure the long process of compiling a fresh plan goes more smoothly than in 2010.

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San Pedro party votes to continue support for Marbella's mayor

The three OSP councillors will not now support a PP party no-confidence vote which was proposed in return for political favours

■ HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. The three-party coalition that controls Marbella town hall has managed to survive - just.

By a slim margin of four votes, members of the governing body of Opción Sampedreña (OSP), the San Pedro separatist party and coalition partner, voted not to withdraw their support for PSOE mayor José Bernal.

It means the OSP has rejected the advances of the opposition PP party to switch sides. Its three councilors will carry on as part of the ruling coalition that also includes the PSOE Socialist party and Izquierda Unida (IU) until the 2019 local elections.

Last week's offer by PP councillors to OSP to support them in a vote of no confidence motion against the mayor in return for favourable treatment for the San Pedro area of the Marbella municipality, had threatened the stability of the council.

The OPS went into coalition with the PSOE and IU on a two-year agreement in 2015, which expired



The OSP's Manuel Osorio (left) and Rafael Piña speak to media. ■ J. REV

recently. The coalition only has 12 votes, versus the 13 PP councillors, and the mayor has to frequently rely on the two votes of Podemos councillors to get what he wants.

Autonomy for San Pedro

The San Pedro councillors, who are known for following an agenda that favours their town's status, whether it comes from the left or right on Marbella council, had threatened to desert José Bernal and allow

Ángeles Muñoz, PP leader, back in as mayor.

However the party voted down the PP offer in the utmost secrecy. José Bernal attend the party's meeting to lobby, promising more budget autonomy for San Pedro, where the OSP already runs the district town hall as part of the coalition deal.

Observers said the failure of the PP's Muñoz to attend in person to lobby her case may have swung votes in favour of the existing coalition.

IN BRIEF



The protected dunes at Real de Zaragoza. ■ J-L

Council to stop misuse of Real Zaragoza dunes

MARBELLA

■ **N.C.** Tired of beachgoers not respecting the protected status of the Real de Zaragoza dune system, Marbella councillors have decided to get tough. The dunes to the east

of the municipality, some of the last untouched ones, suffer as visitors break down barriers and take shortcuts to the water and ignore restrictions and park right on protected space. The council is to improve the fencing around the area, marking out a clear, authorised route and step up inspections that will fine users up to 3,000 euros.

Manilva mayor lets PP into power-sharing deal

MANILVA

■ **C. M.** Two PP party councillors are to join the ruling coalition in Manilva. Mayor Mario Jiménez of Compromiso Manilva and his Izquierda Unida partners have supported the idea as the PP voted with them in a no confidence motion against the PSOE last year. They also feel that, as the PP runs a lot of provincial institutions, their presence will open more doors for the town.

Councillor out over fake family wedding papers

RONDA

■ **V. M.** A PSOE councillor in Ronda has quit after it emerged that he had arranged for the wedding certificate of his daughter to be doctored to show she got married on a weekday, although the real town hall ceremony took place four days earlier at a weekend. The change allowed the bride to claim for a statutory day off work instead, which she used to add to her honeymoon.



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Asbestos removal begins on Torremolinos primary school

The education authority has ordered the removal of approximately 2,427 square meters of asbestos panelling

by TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Work has begun to remove dangerous asbestos panelling from the Centro de Educación Infantil y Primaria (CEIP) in Avenida Palma de Mallorca in Torremolinos.

The work is being carried out on the infant and primary school during July and August, while the students enjoy their summer holidays, and the town hall has promised it will be complete before they return for the new term in September.

Carlos del Alamo, the school's headteacher, welcomed the news and expressed his satisfaction that the work

was to be completed in just one phase and not in two, as originally planned.

"Our priority lies with the students and their families and we are very satisfied with the way the work is progressing," he said.

The town hall and the local education authority had been under pressure from the local parents' association, AMPAS (Las Asociaciones de Madres y Padres de Alumnos), who had organised several demonstrations, with the help of the Costa del Sol Si Puede (CSSP), to bring the matter to light and have the harmful asbestos removed from the school.

José Manuel Piña, a spokesman for CSSP said, "Thanks to the mobilisation of AMPAS, next term we will be able to take our children to school with the reassurance that the asbestos has been removed."

The mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, and the delegate of Education of the regional government, José Luis Ruiz Espejo, visited the school last

week in order to inspect the progress of the project.

The work involves the replacement of approximately 2,427 square meters of asbestos panels and the removal of old guttering and downpipes.

The programme to eradicate asbestos from public buildings was approved by the Junta de Andalucía in July 2016 and includes the removal of asbestos panelling from seven schools in Andalucía.

The mayor of Torremolinos pointed out the urgency to solve "such a sensitive issue", and showed his appreciation at the speed at which the department of Education has reacted.

Different countries have differing regulations concerning the use, and removal, of asbestos. In Spain, limitations concerning the use of asbestos came into force in 1984 and were adjusted in 1993, but its use was not banned until 2001.



The remaining employees outside the campus in La Cala de Mijas. by I.G.

Joy as CiOMijas workers can finally be paid after five years

by IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. The nightmare is almost over for five workers at a shuttered-up hospitality training college in La

Cala de Mijas who have been turning up for work for almost three years despite having little to do and not being paid.

Following the unblocking of a knot of red tape that has taken this long to unravel, the consortium that used to run the CiOMijas training campus has finally been wound up. This clears the way for money to be released to pay the five remaining staff. Other employees were paid off a long time ago.

The joint venture between the Junta de Andalucía and Mijas council has now ceased to exist and staff will move directly onto the payroll of the Junta.

A plan will now be worked out for the future use of the CiOMijas site that has been mothballed since 2014 and now falls directly under the Junta's control. Opposition politicians expressed their desire to see that the college is up and running again as soon as possible.

The last time the five staff, Elio, Virginia, Jani, Manuel and Inés were paid was in November 2014.

Mijas town hall highlights big rise in new housing plans after a La Cala Golf announcement

The council also gave more information last week on its scheme to introduce town hall services into many existing housing estates

by IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Improvements in housing stock in and around Mijas have been highlighted recently with a series of good news announcements.

British developers Taylor Wimpey gave details of their partnership with La Cala Golf Resort, which involves the construction of 600 apartments and townhouses over the next ten years and an investment of 125 million euros.

In the first part of the project, some 60 homes on the Horizon Golf development alongside La Cala Golf will soon be finished.

Speaking on Monday, council-

lor for Town Planning at Mijas town hall, Andrés Ruiz, drew attention to the "big increase" in the number of new housing projects planned in the area.

Help for older developments

Meanwhile Mijas council is finalising details of how it will incorporate 200 small and large urbanisations and take responsibility for their infrastructure and services.

Mayor Juan Carlos Maldonado has promised to take on all developments that have historically had to maintain their surroundings privately and where residents have campaigned to integrate them into Mijas council's services for years.

A plan will shortly be drawn up analysing the state of each urbanisation to be taken over and the town hall says it will then roll out the scheme in three parts, with the oldest housing developments getting council services first.

HERE & THERE

Mayor intervenes to try to stop rubbish strike

FUENGIROLA

by I. G. The mayor of Fuengirola has had to intervene to try to stop an indefinite strike by refuse collection teams starting on 7 August. Ana Mula was frustrated by the failure of Urbaser, the company responsible for running part of the area's street cleansing services, to sit down with workers in an ongoing dispute over conditions.

At last week's meeting the mayor attempted to bring the sides together to avoid a stoppage which many see as a disaster for the town in the height of the tourist season. As yet, any postponement or cancellation of the strike hasn't been announced.

Calls for airport passport readers to be fixed faster

MALAGA

by I. LILLO / Á. FRÍAS. Amid widespread reporting this week of long queues at European airports, including in Spain, for people arriving from and leaving to go to countries outside the EU Schengen common border area, local users of Malaga airport have been asking why automatic passport reading machines in arrivals never seem to be working, adding to the queues.

Border police and airport bosses have denied there is a problem, saying that any faults are repaired rapidly. They say they plan to roll them out to the departure gates where passports are also checked.

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Adrián Martín is preparing a new album and will travel to LA in October

The young singer from Vélez-Málaga has met and sung with a host of Spanish celebrities but still wants to meet his idol, Pablo Alborán

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Adrián Martín, the boy from Vélez-Málaga, who was born with hydrocephalus and deformities in both arms, and shot to fame when a video of him singing went viral, is set to start work on his second album.

Since the video, in which he sang Rosario Flores' 'Qué Bonito' with his sister at their home in Vélez-Málaga in October 2014, he has made countless television appearances and released an album, 'Lleno de Vida' which got him nominated for a Latin Grammy last December.

Adrián, who turned 12 in January this year, told SUR in an interview last week that he would like his new album to be "more rock and roll".

He spoke to SUR last Thursday ahead of his appearance at Madrid's Teatro Real alongside Rosario Flores, the eldest daughter of Lola Flores, who was celebrating the 25th anniversary of her first album. Adrián told SUR that he was "not at all nervous" about appearing on stage in Madrid.

Adrián and his family also revealed that they would be travelling to Los Angeles in October in order for the young singer to appear



Adrián Martín at home in Vélez-Málaga with his sister. :: ÑITO SALAS

in his fifth telethon, raising money for children with disabilities.

He will be singing alongside Spanish singer-songwriter Natalia Jiménez, who is most famous for being the former lead singer in Spanish pop band La 5ª Estación and is a coach on Telemundo's La Voz Kids.

While Adrián told SUR that he has met many celebrities, he still hasn't met Malaga-born singer, Pablo Alborán. "They have spoken on the phone," said Adrián's father who added that he wants the young star "to continue with his studies while learning about the world of music and always with a charitable vocation."

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Local police protest at town hall meeting and on the streets over pay and shortage of officers

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Local police officers took to the streets of Torre del Mar as well as attending a council meeting on Monday to protest over pay and police numbers in the towns.

Police union representatives said that mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, promised to consolidate bonuses related to night shifts and risk five months ago but that nothing more has been done on the matter. However, the unions argue that the town hall has approved bonuses for 14 civil servants in recent months.

The local police force also argues that it needs a further 50 officers to cover Vélez-Málaga and the towns and villages that fall under its jurisdiction.

Moreno Ferrer has said the town hall is looking for solutions but denies lying or not keeping promises.

Foreigners Department issues urgent reminder to check 'padrón' renewal

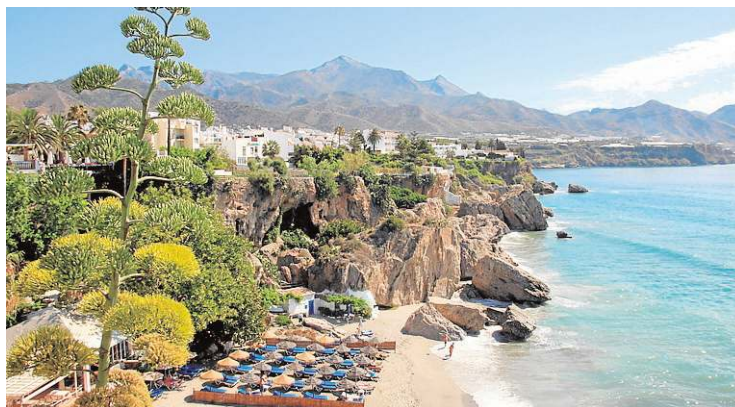
The town hall receives around 150 euros per person which goes towards services such as healthcare and policing

:: JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. Nerja town hall's Foreigners Department has issued an urgent reminder to its foreign residents to check that they are still registered with the town hall.

The 'padrón', or town hall census, means that the more people who are registered on it, the more money the town will receive from the government to fund services such as healthcare, policing and firefighting. It receives approximately 150 euros per person registered per year.

All foreign residents should renew their 'padrón' every two years;



Nerja is a popular destination for foreign residents. :: SUR

those holding a green resident card should do so every five years.

Residents are asked to go to the town hall to check whether they need to renew. They should take some form of identification (NIE certificate, passport, identity card, driv-

ing licence or medical card).

Alternatively residents can email extranjeros@nerja.es, stating name, NIE, address in Nerja and telephone number. The Foreigners Department will confirm whether renewal is necessary.

IN BRIEF

Town hall to promote ancient necropolis

ALGARROBO

:: E. C. Algarrobo town hall has joined the 'Carta de Jaén' initiative which aims to promote European culture through routes that take in Phoenician history and remains in Spain.

The town is hoping to demonstrate the value of its ancient burial sites and in particular the Trayamar necropolis, which is well preserved and said to be the oldest in Europe. The Algarrobo necropolis is located on private land belonging to the Bishopric of Malaga, to the right of the Algarrobo river.

The town hall says that it has reached an agreement with the religious office over the management of the historic site.

More shade for town centre streets

NERJA

:: E. C. Nerja town hall has secured a grant from the Junta de Andalucía to install more awnings in the town centre to provide extra shade in its town centre during the hot summer months.

Calle Diputación, Calle Málaga (only the pedestrianised section) and Calle El Barrio will offer more shade for shoppers and visitors once the new covers have been installed. The project is part of the Centro Comercial Abierto (open shopping centre) initiative, encouraging more people to shop in the town centre during the hot summer months.

The town hall says that they wanted to create a "sensation of feeling cooler". Calle Pintada and Calle Cristo have had awnings in place during summer for a number of years already.

39 bathers treated for jellyfish stings

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

:: E. C. 39 people were treated for jellyfish stings on Rincón de la Victoria's beaches in one day last week - four times more than average, according to town hall sources.

Although this summer, to date, has not seen the high numbers of jellyfish witnessed in previous years, the town reported 11 incidents in La Cala del Moral, 16 in Rincón de la Victoria itself and 12 in Torre de Benagalbón and Los Rubios. Marine biology experts said that a change in wind direction bringing the warmer, Levante winds, as well as higher saline levels in the water due to a lack of rainfall during spring had brought the rise in the number of jellyfish along the coast.

Although officials did not raise the flag to warn people of the danger, they were advising people to swim with "extreme caution".



Thousands congregated daily on the Torre del Mar seafront to witness the shows. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

More than 300,000 spectators look to the skies above Torre del Mar

The second international air show drew huge crowds who witnessed planes from Turkey, the UK, France, Belgium and Spain over the weekend

:: JENNIE RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. Thousands of enthusiasts crowded onto Torre del Mar's beach over the weekend to see the town's second international air show. During the course of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, spectators were treated to displays and acrobatics from more than 16 different aircraft from six different countries, some flying solo and others in formations.

During Friday afternoon and evening the different formations practised over the skies of Torre del Mar and neighbouring towns, while Saturday's Sunset Airshow and Sunday morning's finale saw, among others, the Turkish Stars, Aerosparx from the UK and Canadair CL-215, as well as both the French and Belgian airforce with the F16 and the Spanish F18 almost breaking the sound barrier, while helicopters pirouetted through the skies.

The main event

Sunday's main event started at around 11am when the Bücker and the Plus Ultra flew low over the coastline, followed by the Yakolev 52 launched by catapult, Aerosparx

and Canadair CL-215. Spectators then braced themselves and their eardrums as the F-16, F-18 and F-5 fighter jets dived and glided along the coast.

President of the Asociación de Comerciantes y Empresarios de Torre del Mar, Antonio Sebastián Pastor, said: "This event is excellent for the town as it puts Torre del Mar on the international map and generates a huge economic impact for local commerce."

The air show marked the end of a frenetic month for the coastal town, which started in July with the sellout Weekend Beach music festival, followed by the annual Virgin del Carmen processions in Torre del Mar and the town's fair.



The beach was packed with spectators. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA



The Turkish Stars fly over Torre del Mar. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA



The Canadair CL-215 firefighting flying boat. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA



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One in three workers doesn't manage to switch off on holiday, report says

People blame their work disturbing them or having nobody to pass on urgent tasks to for their failure to relax; over six per cent say they never disconnect at all

by D. VALERA

MADRID. Imagine being on an idyllic beach lying on a sunbed or admiring the beauty of the landscape on a holiday in the mountains and suddenly your work calls. Would you answer? Six in every ten people in Spain would, a recent survey has shown.

In fact one in three people admit that they don't manage to disconnect completely during their summer break, according to the report from Randstad. As many as 6.4% say they don't succeed in forgetting about work for a moment, while 28.4% do achieve a high degree of detachment, but not as much as they would like.

As well as those who answer calls or look at messages on WhatsApp on their phone, almost half of those surveyed (49.5%) say that they look at work emails while on holiday. Among those who admit to this



A woman checks her mobile while on a beach. :: EFE

habit, half do it once or twice a day and as many as 9.3% check them "continually".

However the study also shows that the ability to put work to one side over the summer depends on age. Almost all those over 55 surveyed said that they could switch off. This figure drops to 60% in the 36 to 45 age group. But it's the youngest who manage to switch off the least - half of under 25s say they can't do it.

Difference between the sexes There's even a difference between the sexes. Some 72% of women are

able to stop thinking about work, while only 58.6% of men manage it.

What are the reasons for people being unable to disconnect? According to the survey, 27.5% of workers say it's their workplace contacting them, while 16% attribute it to the inability to delegate tasks as there is nobody else there to do them. Almost 6% claim that they can't rely on a colleague to get it right.

Experts advise trying to finish all urgent tasks before we go away, and, if that isn't possible, to fully brief a colleague who can take charge of them.

Number of locals paying into social security reaches 2007 level

by NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Regular monthly data released by the central government's social security department has shown that the number of people in the province who pay in monthly contributions, whether directly or through their employer, is back to levels last seen in 2007.

In July, 600,211 people were mak-

ing the monthly payments, that support health care, unemployment cover, pensions and other benefits.

Of this total, 486,075 were paying contributions via a company payroll, 112,859 as self-employed and 1,277 on special conditions for maritime workers.

The data, showing the recovery of the local economy after the 2008

financial crisis, means that there are now 5.45% more people in Malaga and on the Costa del Sol paying in, an increase of 31,025, on July 2016. The numbers registered reached a low point locally of 500,557 in 2013.

On a national level the increase has been 3.61% over the last year and 4.05% in Andalucía.

The monthly data published also looks at the unemployment rate and placed the provincial level at 143,570 in July, although it is considered less reliable in measuring this than the quarterly EPA data, last published last week.



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Spain appears to be on a roll. Second quarter economic growth, it was confirmed last Friday, was 0.9% of GDP, meaning that the Spanish economy has now returned to pre-crisis health. Unemployment is at its lowest level (17.1%) since 2009, with joblessness claims falling by 26,000 last month and 98,000 in June. The country also looks set to enjoy a record-breaking tourist season: in the first six months of this year, the number of foreign visitors to Spain increased by 6.2% compared with the first half of 2016. Champagne all round at the governmental offices in Madrid, surely.

In fact, the last two weeks have seen the Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy too caught up in the Gürtel corruption case to celebrate this spate of good news. Sooner or later, though, he will make an announcement to the effect that the GDP growth and fall in unemployment show that the Popular Party is the only one fit to run the Spanish economy. But how much credit can Rajoy's government take for Spain's dazzling macroeconomic performance this year?

Not much, as it turns out. Constrained by its status as a minority administration in a hostile congress, Rajoy's party has barely been able to do anything since winning a second term last autumn. In fact, so far this year it has only passed four new laws: one of these allowed the belated 2017 budget to be approved, two consisted of small adjustments to the justice system and one stipu-

lated a procedure for returning stolen art. The economy, it seems, is growing despite the current government's inaction, rather than because of dynamic new policies or economic stimulants.

Whenever unemployment statistics drop - as they always do during summer months - Rajoy reminds Spaniards that the PP is sticking to its promise of creating 500,000 new jobs a year. But the joblessness statistics quoted above are misleading, because July and August are the busiest months for tourism and many workers sign temporary contracts just for the holiday season. Since regaining power last autumn, Rajoy has passed no laws that increase stability or wages for such employees, nor any that address unemployment among 15 to 24-year-olds, which is currently at 39.2%.

You can't help but feel, as the Spanish GDP carries on increasing of its own accord, that the country's government is not taking advantage of this expansion as much as it could. Instead of consolidating economic growth and addressing mounting concerns about the affect mass-tourism is having on Spanish towns and cities (as demonstrated by the attack on a tourist bus in Barcelona last week), it is passing laws on stolen art. Rajoy's administration needn't worry about the country's economy during the summer break, because it can run itself just fine. The same fact, though, disallows the PP from taking much credit for its recent expansion.

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Cork oaks which keep fire at bay

Casares uses the money from cork stripping on fire prevention measures

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

CASARES. Cork is a material with many properties. It provides natural acoustic isolation, is fireproof and non-flammable. It can protect from fire. In the village of Casares, however, the natural properties of cork are being expanded even further. Not only does the cork not transmit fire, it also prevents it, in the local mountains, at least. The council is using part of the money it obtains from stripping bark from the cork oaks to put extra fire prevention measures into place.

Every year, the town hall puts to tender the contract to strip the cork from the trees on public land in the mountains. The work is normally carried out between 15 June and 15 September, although this can vary depending on the development of the trees. Half of the fee paid by the company which is awarded the contract is now being invested in fire prevention tasks. This year, 6,000 euros will be spent on this project.

The works will consist of cleaning more than 2,800 metres of tracks and access lanes to the Monte de la Acedía, the creation of auxiliary ditches, five metres wide, on both sides of the roads and checking that all the fire-breaks are in adequate condition. In total, about 70 hectares of land will be protected.

Cristóbal García, the environmental technician at Casares town hall, says this area is "very sensitive because it is very close to the coast, separated by the road, and there are numerous access tracks."

In fact, in the past 30 years there have been two serious fires in this mountainous area. "It's used quite a lot because there are houses scattered around here, but it also means that unscrupulous people who intend to cause damage can also access it easily," he says.

The risk of fire is greater after the bark has been stripped from the cork oaks because they become more sensitive to fire and it takes two or three years for them to build up resistance again.

The cork stripping is carried out every eight or nine years once the tree is 25 years old and has reached a certain size, with a circumference of approximately 60 centimetres. Cork oaks, unlike other species, do not have a rest period in the winter; theirs takes place in the summer.

More resources

Cristóbal García says that other municipalities obtain much more money from their cork stripping because they have large expanses of cork oak forests. However, last year Casares council earned more money from this than the previous year, and the amount depends on various factors such as the weather, fires and fluctuations in the price of cork on the market.

In addition, the local authority has

written a Self-Protection Plan for the owners of properties and land in rural areas, to help them be prepared in case a fire breaks out. It is obligatory for every isolated pro-

perty to have such a plan, and the document includes information about what to do if there is a fire, how to prepare alternative exit routes in advance, and other preventive measures. Early this year the council carried out clearing and cleaning work on the road to La Acedía, to give local residents another way out in a fire.



Cork oaks stripped of their bark in the Monte La Acedía area. :: C.M.



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MIK
WOOLLEYBREXIT
VIEWTALKING TO
STRANGERS

Brexit negotiations restart later this month with just three sets of talks in the diary, before mid-October, to cover the priority issues of Northern Ireland, the financial settlement and citizen rights. There has to be sufficient progress on these in order to trigger separate discussions on the UK's future relationship. Given that is where the national interest really lies, then this urgency should focus the minds of the UK team.

After July's talks, many observers believed the two sides were too far apart for there to be convergence in time. Extra meetings will be added but otherwise the pressure is on Britain to close that gap (with the "no deal" threat never having been a real option). Conversely, the EU27 are operating as if the UK has already left and are entirely focused on, and capable of, defending the Single Market at all cost. That includes,

for them, having a European Court (the ECJ) of last resort to uphold EU laws.

In some Brexit areas, the UK Government could seek an ECJ alternative: perhaps a new court, or the existing EFTA Court, which applies Single Market and related law in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. In other areas, ECJ oversight is a given, for example, if the UK maintains involvement in the European Arrest Warrant. On citizen rights, the European Council's negotiation guidelines only referred to enforceable guarantees, so why does the EU position paper on that issue propose that the ECJ should police the agreement?

It could be because the EU believes that its citizens in Britain cannot rely on UK Courts alone to maintain their rights because Westminster can change the law in the future. They know that the UK is the only signatory to the European Convention on Human

Rights that has not ratified Protocol 7 and thus could theoretically expel even someone who is legally resident. This hard line extends to Britain's stance on restricting family reunion, which Britons with Commonwealth spouses are familiar with. If the UK conceded on this then EU migrants would continue to have better rights than UK citizens (whom the Government has discriminated against in practice).

To the layperson there seems an obvious way to fix that. It would expose UK policy as having been incoherent previously, however that's happening anyway. The recently announced study on the impact of ending free movement won't be published until the withdrawal agreement is being finalised, so the Government is discussing migrant rights before it has a migration strategy under which those future rights will apply. Essentially, in these negotiations, the problem is less the EU's position, or its distance from the UK's, and more that the UK is a stranger to its own position. Perhaps it needs to have a good talk with itself: on immigration and other Brexit issues, and should have done that before invoking Article 50.

The writer is a former EU policy advisor to the UK Government and also chaired the EU Employment Committee.

UK ambassador tells
hoteliers that sickness
bug law will change

Simon Manley, Britain's man in Madrid, seeks to reassure the Spanish tourism industry after the wave of false food poisoning claims

■ SUR

MADRID. The British ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, has written to bosses in the Spanish tourism industry to keep them up to date on the steps that the UK government is taking to tackle fraudulent sickness claims.

Britain's relations with Spanish hoteliers has become strained recently after a huge surge in the amount of Britons claiming in UK courts against their tour operator for food poisoning on holiday.

There has been universal criticism of the ease with which holidaymakers can take legal action, spurned on by 'no-win-no-fee' solicitors, with barely any evidence they have been sick. The claims, mainly relating to all-inclusive holidays, are mostly false, hoteliers say, protesting that the recharges

from the tour companies are costing them many millions a year.

Closing loopholes

In his letter to soothe local nerves, Manley said that recent measures to tighten up the law showed "how seriously [the UK] takes the issue". It laid out the recent announcement by Britain's justice ministry that it would close loopholes encouraging the claims.

The way legal costs are awarded at the end of a court case has been simplified for those cases arising outside the UK, limiting the money that is paid out and making the costs of defending a claim predictable for tour operators. Officials are also reviewing how low-value personal injury claims are handled, with the aim of reducing the incentive to bring claims that lack merit.

The UK package tour industry is also working with hoteliers more on tougher fraud screening, which has resulted in some high-profile prosecutions against fraudsters appearing in the British media.

The ambassador warned that "those submitting false claims could face legal action".

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Firefighter from Gibraltar becomes British champion

Competitors from all over the world took part in this gruelling competition, which took place at De Montfort University in Leicester

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The British Firefighter Challenge competition, which took place recently at De Montfort University in Leicester, has been won by Matthew Coulthard from Gibraltar.

Matt is part of the local Firefighter Combat Challenge team, who have recently been competing at different events all over the world. Participants in the British Challenge included firefighters from UK and other countries, including Australia, Germany, USA, Austria and France.

The race consisted of eight tasks which are related to firefighting duties; the competitors were really put through their paces as they had to run up a tower via internal stairs then haul a hose up externally, make their way down the stairs again to the next station and move a heavy weight with a heavy hammer (Keiser force), drag a hose along a



Matthew Coulthard, British Firefighter Champion. **SUR**

certain distance, roll the hose and carry it to a predetermined position, collect foam drums and then drag a 70kg dummy to the finish line.

The competition proved extremely tough, but Matthew finished first, winning the gold medal and well-deserved title of British Champion. He was also invited to join a team of firefighters from Humberside, UK, for the team relay, where again his contribution to the team earned them the silver

medal, narrowly missing out on becoming overall champion.

In total, he achieved three medals: British Champion (Gold), Overall (Silver) and Team Relay (Silver).

The Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service has congratulated Matthew for his fantastic effort and outstanding achievement at this international event. In a statement, they said "Matt is a true ambassador for the GFRS and has no doubt put Gibraltar on the map once again."

IN BRIEF



Tyrone (left) with Commodore Bob Sanguinetti. **SUR**

Port officer retires after almost 43 years' service

GIBRALTAR

D.B. The Gibraltar Port Authority has said farewell to Tyrone Ghio, who has just retired after almost 43 years of service. Tyrone joined

the Port Department, as it was then, as a very young man, initially serving as a Seaman, and worked his way up to the post of Port Officer. During his latter years in service he was Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Supervisor, a key role in the safe and efficient running of the busy port and waters.

Autumn concert in St Michael's Cave

GIBRALTAR

D.B. This year's autumn concert will take place on 10 October at 8pm, with the European Symphony Orchestra and conductor Howard Shelley. The programme will include works by Mozart, Weber and Beethoven. Tickets are £20 and available from Sacarello's coffee shop or www.buytickets.gi.

Referendum 50 Memorial Event

GIBRALTAR

D.B. Another date for the diary: 'Referendum 50', a memorial event to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum will take place at Casemates Square on Friday 8 September. This historic referendum was the first of its type, and asked whether Gibraltarians wished to be British or Spanish.

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Spain sacks one of its top diplomats in the US for insulting people from Andalucía

Enrique Sardà Valls wrote a post referring to the Queen and the region's president, but he says it was meant as a joke and claims that free speech isn't allowed any more

:: **MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA**

SEVILLE. Spain's consul general in the United States, one of the most senior diplomatic figures that the government has based in Washington DC, was removed from his post this week after apparently insulting the people of Andalucía.

The minister for Foreign Affairs, Alfonso Dastis, moved quickly to remove 64-year-old Enrique Sardà Valls from his role after he had published a private post on Facebook mocking the distinct regional accent of people in Andalucía. Dastis himself is from Andalucía.

In his post, the veteran diplomat mentioned the seeming misfortune the regional president of Andalucía, Susana Díaz, found herself in on choosing the same colour dress as Queen Letizia when she welcomed her on a visit to Malaga last week. Some observers on social media had seen this as a major fashion faux pas and had created funny memes.



The post referred to Queen Letizia and Susana Díaz in Malaga. :: **F. G.**

Commenting on the photograph of them together in Malaga, he typed a post full of spelling mistakes and a tone mocking the way he perceived that Andalusian people speak.

Although Sardà Valls is known for a colourful presence on Facebook by colleagues, the prestige of his diplomatic position in the US and his apparent disparaging attitude to the most heavily-populated region of his native country caused outrage, especially from people in Andalucía.

Vice president of the Andalucía region, Manuel Jiménez Barrios complained that "a public representa-

tive, whoever they are, should behave with due courtesy". Susana Díaz added via social media that she was "proud" to be Andalusian.

Despite Sardà Valls issuing an apology on Facebook it was too late and he was removed on Tuesday from his Washington role representing Spain.

Speaking on national daytime TV the next day he again apologised but said his sacking had been an over-reaction and his message had been taken out of context. "There's no freedom of expression in Spain any more," he lamented.

Politicians head off on holiday with one eye on events in Catalonia

Temperatures rise in the region over planned independence vote, as Spanish PM pledges to stop it going ahead

:: **NEIL HESKETH**

MALAGA. Politicians joined most of the rest of Spain and headed off on holiday this week. However this year the nation's leaders look set to be distracted from their relaxation by political events hotting up in Catalonia.

Moves by Catalonia's government to hold an illegal referendum on independence for the region on 1 October have been holding politicians' attention in Madrid right up to the start of their breaks.

On Monday Spain's constitutional court declared illegal a recent procedural vote in the Catalan parliament which allows a declaration of independence to be fast tracked in the event of a 'yes' vote in October.

Meanwhile, the region government has complained after Guardia Civil officers interviewed some of those involved in planning the banned referendum.

On 16 August, in the middle of most politicians' break, the law paving the way for the referendum is expected to be admitted for debate in the Catalan parliament.

Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, speaking at the start of his holiday, hasn't ruled out holding an emergency cabinet meeting if this happens, but he also urged "calm", saying that the vote wouldn't be allowed to go ahead.

Where do Spain's leaders go on holiday?

While King Felipe and family are spending some time at their official holiday residence on Mallorca, Mariano Rajoy will be flying there for a summer meeting on 7 August before returning to his native Galicia to continue his holiday. Pedro Sánchez, PSOE leader, will be staying in Mojácar (Almería) then move on to Cadiz. Two ministers will be at their Marbella homes; defence minister María Dolores de Cospedal and finance minister Luis de Guindos.

IN BRIEF

Rise in 'tourist phobia' scares business leaders

BARCELONA

:: **SUR.** An increase in isolated attacks against tourist businesses and street protests against visitors is worrying business leaders across Spain's Mediterranean resorts.

In the latest incident, an open-top tour bus was sprayed with graffiti outside FC Barcelona's stadium this week while full of passengers. The attacks are attributed to activist groups linked to Catalanian radical left-wing party CUP. The story was widely reported in foreign media, raising fears tourism, which represents a quarter of the local economy, may be affected negatively.

Frustration has increased recently in popular coastal cities as more tourists flock to them. An increase in unregulated holiday apartments has also been blamed for making homes unaffordable for locals.

A video also emerged this week of a protest in Palma's port against tourist restaurants. Business leaders want politicians to act more decisively.

Spain 'favourite' for EU medicines HQ after Brexit

BARCELONA

:: **SUR.** Barcelona has been confirmed as on the final candidate list to be the new seat of the EU Medicines Agency after Brexit. The Catalan city is competing with 18 other EU cities.

When Britain leaves the European Union as planned in 2019, London will stop being the base of the pan-European centre for the regulation of medicines and health care drugs. The Medicines Agency is currently located in Canary Wharf, London, and employs some 600 staff.

Barcelona is seen as favourite by many, due a long tradition in the pharmaceutical industry plus the availability of a building to move into immediately, a prerequisite of the bid. The former Torre Agbar, an iconic skyscraper on the city's skyline is currently available.

However it faces stiff competition from other cities including Dublin, Milan, Brussels and Amsterdam. The European Council is expected to decide in November.

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Running of the bulls

In your edition of 28 July-3 August we could read the story of Mark Nayler who went running with the bulls.

It is these idiots that keep the animal cruelty to bulls alive in Spain. Doesn't he know how many poor bulls get tortured and killed in the arena after the bull run? Or doesn't he care? What is his excuse?

I am sick and tired of all animal cruelty in Spain. Whether

it is a bullrun, a bullfight, hunting and many more acts of cruelty that are still going on.

I hope he will understand that loads of people are disgusted with this and absolutely do not enjoy it that even foreigners join in those acts of cruelty. Shame on him!

J W HAAK
MIJAS

Recycling

I read with interest the letter (by Dirk Vandendriessche, 21 July) about recycling. I live in the campo on the edge of Sierra Gorda and the bins for paper, plastics etc., glass and domestic waste were used by the residence for their rubbish.

One or two were a bit untidy but on the whole most of the correct rubbish went in the designated bins.

But four days ago all the bins disappeared without any notice. I was forced to drive around looking for a place to put my waste (I am disabled so it is not easy for me to do this). Where the bins were is now a pile of black bags and other rubbish. Is this the council's idea of recycling? The wind has dispersed a lot of the rubbish down the road.

Many of my neighbours have asked what has happened to the bins and you see people pulling up and scratching their heads. Can anyone give an answer to this conundrum?

MARION MORGAN
ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

Expat clubs

I have just read Tony Bryant's ex-

cellent article (21 July, page 26-27). It occurs to me that alongside the factors he lists for the decline of expat clubs there is a fundamental issue that cannot be affected by whatever changes the administrators of such organisations seek to make, and that is integration.

These clubs were founded on the need of non-Spanish speaking people to socialise and source information.

We are now seeing one, two, sometimes three generations of expats living here and that means that many children who moved here or were born here over the last fifty years are fluently bilingual, which almost always results in their total integration into Spanish society. This in turn makes the need for such clubs redundant. Also, during the thirteen years I have lived and run a business here, I have noticed a marked increase in the number of expats who are determined to learn Spanish and not to be restricted by language.

I imagine that not all expat club members conform to this stereotype but I'm convinced the integration factor represents the biggest challenge to their clubs' survival.

ALAN BOARDMAN
MIJAS

Set in stone

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

There's an old adage in show business that says that when it comes to making a set list of songs for a gig, you should open with tons of energy and close with a crowd pleaser. It's much more prosaic than that in its original form, but that's about the gist of it.

Except, of course, like many old adages, it's completely wrong. In my humble experience, flexibility is what really counts. There's no point in drawing up a rigid list of songs that you're going to stick to come hell or high water when the very nature of most concerts - certainly at the level I'm used to playing at - is that they are totally unpredictable.

In your bedroom the night before, you're visualising hitting

'em hard with one of your best numbers right from the start. The packed crowd goes wild and you've got them in the palm of your hand for the rest of the evening. Except, in reality, by the time you get there to set up, because it's been raining all day, the 'crowd' consists of three people playing cards on the front table, an elderly couple at the back sharing a diet coke and complaining about the noise and a gang of lads who've had one over the eight watching the football earlier on, ordering Jaeger bombs by the shedload and planning on mooning the night away.

Whatever song you thought you'd have them singing along to from the off, gets relegated to the middle order and you open with an inconspicuous number to ease

yourself - and them - in gently. Actually, you're saving your best songs for late arrivals who, with any luck, will have come to listen to some music.

On the other hand, if you're Bon Jovi or someone, I suppose you could have a completely inflexible set list, knowing that every concert you do will be more or less the same, playing to adoring fans. Pubs and clubs are an entirely different kettle of fish - no gig is anything like the same; each one is entirely unpredictable which is, of course, what makes them such fun.

I've just been called to play at a songwriter festival here in Malaga at the end of the month - nine or ten songs they've asked for, so I'll prepare twenty. Just to be on the safe side.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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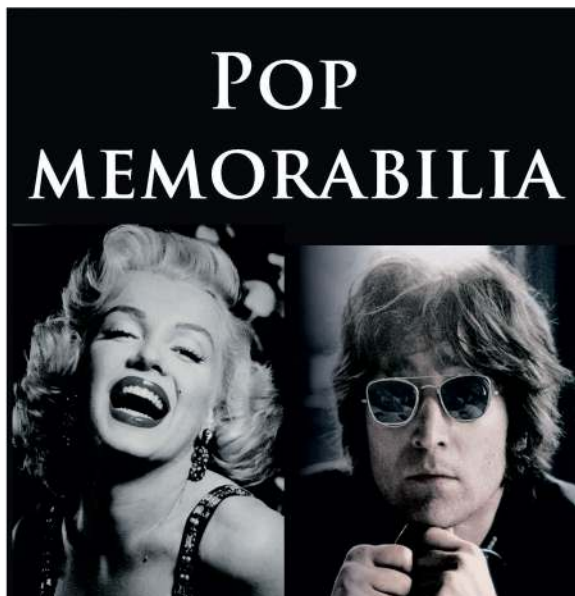


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EASY PARKING



The British pianist will be playing pieces by Bach and Chopin at the Teatro Cervantes in Malaga on Monday night. :: RICHARD ANSETT

"Classical music has been like a best friend; it has never let me down"

James Rhodes Pianist

The musician spoke unreservedly about his desire to remove stigmas around both classical music and mental illness

MALAGA. He doesn't look like he's the sort of person to play classical music. Not the way he dresses with T-shirt, trainers and messy hair, nor by the way he talks, with one popular swear word repeated several times throughout the interview. He has recently published a book in which he

talks about the rapes he suffered from the age of six at the hands of his boxing teacher and the destructive spiral of drugs, alcohol and five suicide attempts that followed as a result.

-At 42, you're still alive despite everything and you seem happy, despite everything. Do you consider yourself a survivor?

-I think we're all survivors, aren't we? I've never met anybody who hasn't been through difficulty. I'm not sure I'm happy; I have moments when I think I'm kind of all right, but I think most people I know do struggle and one of the reasons why



REGINA SOTORRIO

RACHEL HAYNES

something creative is so important, whether it's writing music, or painting or photography, [is because] we live in a world that's so fast and full of angst and stress and having something to counterbalance that really helps. So yes, I guess I'm a survivor but I don't think anymore than anyone else is.

-What role does classical music play

in forming the person you are today?

-It's been everything. It's been like a best friend. It's never let me down. It's something that's universal, maybe not just classical music but all music. I can't think of anyone who could conceive of a life without it. It's one of those things that works for all of us, whether in childhood or those awkward teenage years, it's like it provides everything we need, it's like a miracle drug that has no horrible side effects. And of course the best thing is that we live in an age where we can hold a piece of metal in our hand and listen to any style of music and piece of music ever composed in the history of music - I find that unbelievably exciting. So yeah mu-

sic has been and still is to this day the most important thing.

-After writing and publishing Instrumental: A Memoir of Madness, Medication and Music, have you managed to get over your past or will that never happen?

-I don't think it will happen. It's like if you have a bucket of water and sand and you stir up the sand and it's all swirling around and it takes a long time for it to settle back down and I guess that's what happened with the book. And then there was the legal case around it, that cost two million euros and it took 18 months to be allowed to publish it. So it wasn't as cathartic as you might think but it wasn't unhelpful and it's been very good to spread the word a bit and to allow things like this to be discussed more openly because it's really important for people to talk more about this.

-How have you changed since the court allowed you to publish your book?

-I don't think I've changed any more than if the book hadn't been written, I'm always trying to change for the better and sometimes it's more successful than other times. I enjoy writing, writing any book to me is really exciting and something I love. It helps me to be creative and it's also a great thing to do when you're on a plane which I'm on a lot at the moment. It's creative so I guess it's changed me in that regard as it requires discipline and thought and I want to be better at it so the only way to do that is to write more and more. The way it's really helped me is that it's perhaps lessened the stigma around rape and it's got people talking more about things like rape and mental illness, suicide, self-harm. But I don't think it's a miserable book, it's kind of a love story about music, fatherhood.

-You're working on another book, What's it about?

-It's weird - it's about 80,000 words and I still don't really know what it's about! It's nonfiction again but it's not a memoir. It's about me being on

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tour and trying to deal with the noise we all have in our heads. You know when you're anxious or depressed, even slightly, sometimes it just seems like it's such a heroic path just to get out of bed, let alone put your clothes on and feed yourself and get the kids to school and show up to work. It's a bit about how we function in this world today, how our heads are so fucked up and we're swimming in a sea of craziness. You only have to open the paper and look at the world we live in and you think we're just going to implode. So it's a book about survival, I guess, but it's not a self-help book. It's about me on tour and about music and lot about Spain. It's a bit like a tour diary but hopefully not as self-involved as that.

–Your book's title, *A Memoir of Madness, Medication and Music sounds like a new version of Sex Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll* don't you think?

–I'd prefer the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll to be honest with you. I tried the sex and drugs and I wasn't very good at it.

–This week we heard that 500 children at the Regensburger choir school in Germany had been victims of abuse over five decades. How do you feel hearing this? Does it bring all your pain back?

–Yes, It always does. It doesn't take much. I only have to watch a commercial on the TV with a kid in it and that's enough to set me off, let alone

a graphic rape scene in a movie. The truth is it's an epidemic, it's everywhere - the only thing that surprises me is that people appear surprised and say 'how could this have happened?' Even the language we use around it is so soft and weak - we 'molest' people, or 'interfere' with them or 'abuse' them. Abuse is the wrong word. I understand the reasons why because we don't want to confront what we're capable of doing but we do need to open our eyes and sadly this is just the tip of the iceberg.

–You know you don't look like a conventional concert pianist. You look more like an indie musician. Are you tired of seeing so many suits on stage in the classical music world?

–I've never understood it. Can you imagine calling Matt Bellamy of Muse and saying we want you to play five nights at the O2 in London but you'll have to wear a tuxedo? He'd just laugh. There's no reason for it other than to try and make it some sort of elevated art form and it's bullshit. The music is the only thing that can never change and that has stood on its own for hundreds of years and will continue to for hundreds of years. We're probably not going to be listening to Harry Styles in 300 years but we're sure as shit going to be listening to Chopin and Bach. I've always played in what I'm comfortable in, not to make statements but just

CONCERT DETAILS

► **The concert.** James Rhodes will play Partita n°. 1 in B flat major by Bach, Ballade N° 4 in F minor by Chopin and Chaconne in D minor by Bach and Busoni.

► **Venue** Teatro Cervantes.

► **Date.** Monday 7 August, 8.30pm.

► **Tickets.** Between 12 and 36 euros.

"Classical music doesn't need a change of image but a change of the people involved"

because I don't see why you have to be trapped in a suit that makes you sweat like a motherfucker while you're playing.

–Why don't more pianists do that?

–It's much safer to stick with the crowd, and just feel like you're kind of special and superior to everyone else because you're wearing a very smart outfit and don't acknowledge the audience and you scowl at them and then you play and then you scowl at them again and go home. I would feel short-changed - you pay 40 euros for a ticket - I want to know more.

–Is changing an image the first step towards ending the idea of elitism in classical music?

–It doesn't need a change of image but a change of the people involved, not the audience, but the promoters and the critics, the gatekeepers to the classical music world. They talk about wanting a younger audience but they do fuck all about it - they like the idea of encouraging people who wear a suit and tie and can pronounce the names of the composers and it just makes me so enraged. If Mozart or Beethoven came to a concert today they'd just piss themselves laughing. There'll always be a very cultured, very wealthy audience sponsored by big corporate institutions and banks and that's fine, but I'm much more interested in the 99.8%, the rest of the population who don't really know about classical music but would like to know a bit more, but before you even get through the door to a concert there are already fucking hurdles - when should I clap? What should I wear? What's a movement? How many movements are there in a sonata? A lot of people just say 'fuck it' and buy the 50 best chill out classics ever and that breaks my heart. The Proms does it well, it provides a forum for classical music that's so open and doesn't have all of these rules attached to it.

–Do you think that any pop or rock music will be listened to in the fu-

ture with as much reverence as the great classical classics are today?

–There's always going to be Bowie and The Beatles, Freddie Mercury, Jimmy Hendrix, but I think it's too early to tell about the current lot. I'd love to think that Lana del Rey would be up there, or Amy Winehouse, but who knows? It's one of those weird things while people are alive - you're not really sure. Schubert was a disaster, hardly anything he wrote was published while he was alive but now he's up there alongside Beethoven and Bach.

–You say Bach saved your life but you've got Rachmaninov tattooed on your arm in Russian Cyrillic script. Why is that?

–Bach for me is like the grandfather of music. There's a direct link from him right the way through to the music we listen to today. Without him we wouldn't have Beethoven or Rachmaninov, or Justin Bieber for that matter. Rachmaninov I love because at a time when all the other composers were really pushing harmonic boundaries, he just decided to stick to his guns and write these lush incredibly romantic melodies. People really looked down on him at the time but his music now is just electrifying, I'm impressed that he did that, it would have been so easy to change the way he wanted to compose to try and fit in but he didn't do that.

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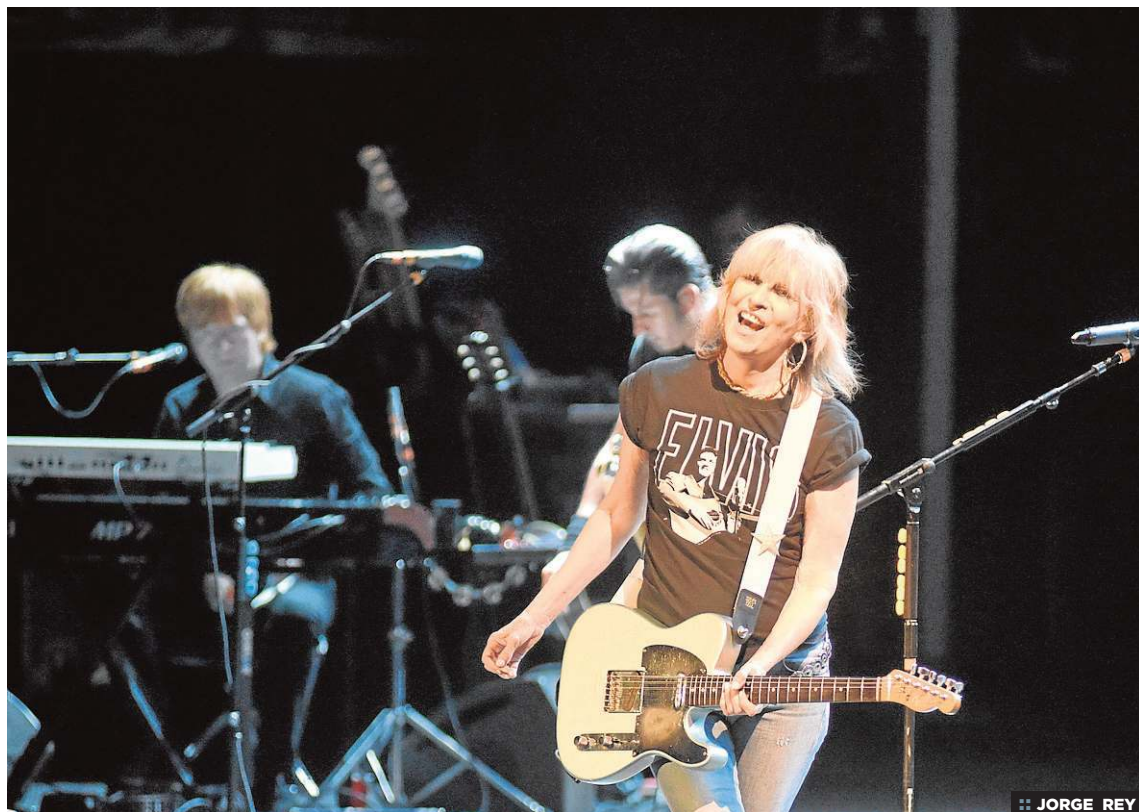
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SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE COSTA



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Last Wednesday was the turn of 70s and 80s rock band The Pretenders on the Starlite stage. Headed by 65-year-old Chrissie Hynde, the band played their greatest hits including Don't Get Me Wrong, and Message of Love.

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SUMMER'S
BIGGEST STAR

Despacito by Luis Fonsi is fast becoming the most popular single this summer and has been played in just about every bar and club across Spain and much of the world. The Puerto Rican singer filled the auditorium of Starlite Marbella on Wednesday night with the audience visibly thrilled to hear the song live.



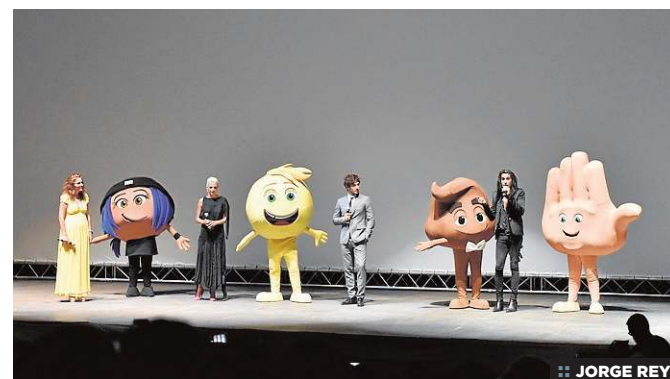
JORG REY



I. GELIBTER

WONDER BEACH,
EVEN BIGGER
THAN LAST YEAR

The second edition of the Wonder Beach festival filled El Bajondillo and La Nogalera (pictured) in Torremolinos throughout last week.



JORG REY

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Starlite Marbella hosted the premier of the new Emoji animated film. The voice actors for the Spanish version attended the event.



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BBVA BECOMES THE WORLD LEADER IN MOBILE BANKING

The prestigious firm Forrester Research has defined the bank's mobile phone app as the best in the world, thanks to its practicality and the type of relationship it establishes with the client

For years, BBVA has been committed to the new technologies and using them to improve the everyday life of its clients. This work and dedication has made it the world number one in mobile banking services, as confirmed by the latest study '2017 Global Mobile Banking Benchmark' by the prestigious firm Forrester Research.

In its analysis, which looked at the apps of 53 of the principal retail banks in 18 countries, BBVA's mobile services stood out in categories such as the interaction between different channels, for which it obtained top marks (100 points) and the number of functions for carrying out transactions, which is the best on a global level. The report also highlighted the services which the bank makes available to its clients, such as BBVA Valora – through which people can find the most suitable price to buy or rent a property – or Alta Inmediata, a new-generation function which enables clients to set up an account via their mobile.

The overall score obtained by the bank was 87 out of 100, the highest since Forrester began drawing up this global ranking in 2013. This reflects the excellent work carried out by the team of over 1,500 professionals in the engineering and digital transformation section in Spain, who are dedicated to finding technological solutions for their users.

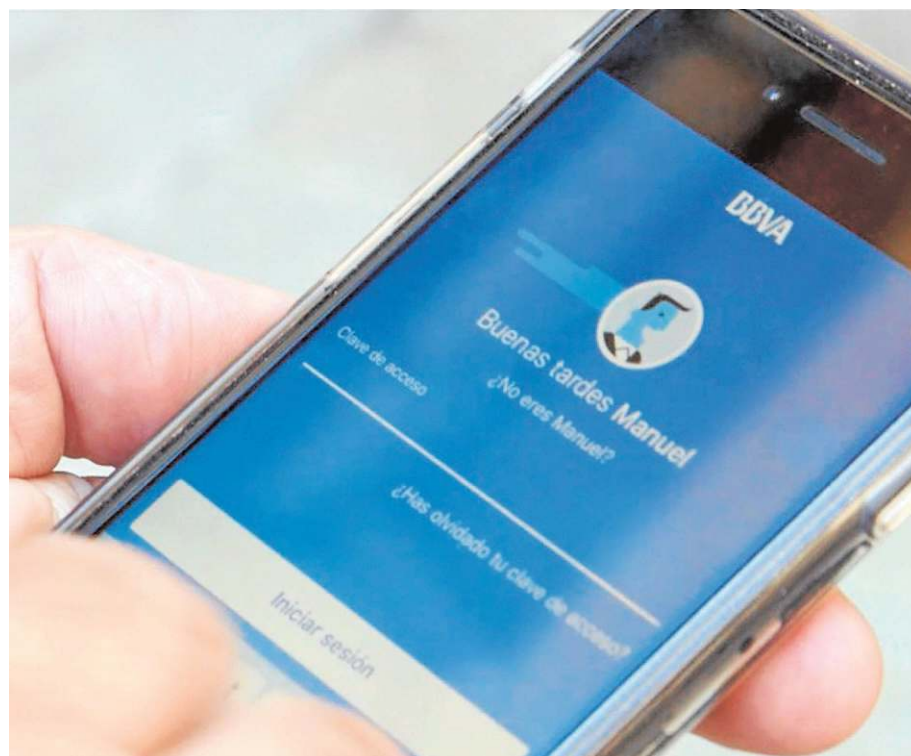
In Andalucía alone, the number of digital clients is around 45 per cent of the total, while digital sales in the region are also continuing to rise and were over 24 per cent in the first six months of the year.

A DIGITAL ENTITY

Among the features which Forrester praised about this app is the way it responds to the needs of the client, as the head of Technology at BBVA España's Digital Banking section, Javier García Mauleón, explains:

«The clients are permanently connected and want to be able to operate at any time, anywhere, but still retain the advantages and personal service of traditional banking. We combine the best of the digital world with the personal assistance which clients require».

According to Forrester, most banks with a high digital profile are outstanding in the way they enable people to search for and acquire additional products in their apps. They all use the clients' portfolio of products, as well as their geographical location and other factors, to personalise their marketing offers. However, BBVA goes one step further be-



cause its catalogue only shows the products which are relevant to the client's financial situation. Among all the functions of this app, Mauleón points out that some allow users to manage their personal finance better and make it easier for them to save, such as Mi día a día, Mis Presupuestos and Mis Metas. However, he also emphasises the assistance factor: «The users have visual content (tutorial images and videos) and an FAQ search, which are contextualised depending on the user's screen. In addition, there is also the option to phone BBVA without identifying oneself», he explains.

ANDROID PAY

In addition to this, as part of its aim of adapting to the needs of the client, BBVA has joined forces with Google to launch Android Pay in Spain, a payment system which allows Visa and Mastercard to be used to pay by mobile phone in more than one million businesses (those with contactless technology). Similarly, over three years ago, it created BBVA Wallet

Antonio Macías

**Director
Director of
Strategy
and Transfor-
mation of Consumer
Payment Meth**



Antonio Macías highlights the importance of incorporating Android Pay into the bank's mobile payment system: «It means that BBVA clients have another way of paying, via their mobile phone, and they can use whichever version they find most convenient, either Android Pay or BBVA Wallet. We will continue to use both systems because BBVA Wallet has numerous functions such as turning cards on and off, blocking them in case of theft, financing purchases, transferring funds from an account to a card, etc.»

He also explains the security system incorporated into Android Pay: «The telephone uses the Host Card Emulation system. When you pay for something, it creates the number of a virtual account which replaces the card number with 16 digits. This makes the system completely safe».

Javier García

**Head
of
Technology
at BBVA
España Digital
Banking**



Javier García joined the BBVA Innovation Department in 2012. For the first few years he was involved in the defining of bbva.es and the birth of mobile banking. He says the bank's app has numerous advantages compared with those of its competitors. «It offers differential solutions which combine the possibilities offered by the technology with the advantages of personal assistance. These solutions include the convenience of being able to do everything from your mobile phone and personalised advice».

With regard to the future, he says it is difficult to know what changes will occur: «The new technologies, the exponential growth in use of data and the digital experience of consumers is going to mean that the digital banking system evolves, and it will bring surprises».

THE FIRST BANK TO ENABLE ITS CLIENTS TO PAY BY MOBILE PHONE VIA ANDROID

and became the first bank in the country to provide its users with a mobile payment system via Android Pay.

The system is very simple and secure. To use it, the client has to download the app free of charge from Google Play Store, and list the credit and debit cards he or she will want to use. To make the payment, they only need to put the mobile close to the sale terminal with the screen illuminated, without having to open the app. After paying, the user will receive a message giving information about the transaction.

BBVA Spain's Director of Strategy, Payment and Consumer Transaction Methods, Antonio Macías, says this new system has numerous advantages: «It's totally secure, because the system doesn't send the real number of the credit or debit card when you make a payment. Instead, it creates a virtual account number».

A 'mini Normandy' on Gibraltar's doorstep



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A new tour run by the San Roque tourism office takes visitors inside German bunkers and a military tunnel overlooking the Rock

SAN ROQUE. While Gibraltar is well known for its World War II heritage, it's a little known fact that La Línea also boasts its fair share of bunkers, military tunnels and pillboxes.

Although there are several well-preserved bunkers just a short walk from the border between Spain and Gibraltar in Princess Sofia Park and along the beaches of the isthmus, the largest concentration can actually be found nestled atop the Sierra Carbonera, behind La Línea.

In fact more than 100 German World War II bunkers, countless pillboxes and a 500 metre-long military tunnel connecting both sides of the peak can be found on 'Charcoal Mountain'.



This 500-metre tunnel connects both sides of the peak at Sierra Carbonera. :: A. BOLTON

And unlike the structures in La Línea town centre which are sealed to keep the public out, the bunkers and tunnels on Sierra Carbonera have been left as they were, complete with 1940s graffiti that is still readable on the walls.

To highlight these fascinating historical remnants of the 1940s, the tourism department of San Roque

has launched three new guided tours of the area.

Carlos Jordan, San Roque tourism coordinator, who helped design the tours, takes visitors inside several of the better preserved bunkers, before walking them through the military tunnel that connects the eastern and western sides of the Sierra Carbonera mountain.

He told SUR in English: "We are privileged to have a lot of singular historical sites and noticed a growing interest in the Second World War all over the world and particularly in Europe. People may not know that the Campo de Gibraltar area has the highest concentration of World War II fortifications and installations in Spain [over 500 bunkers]; the other

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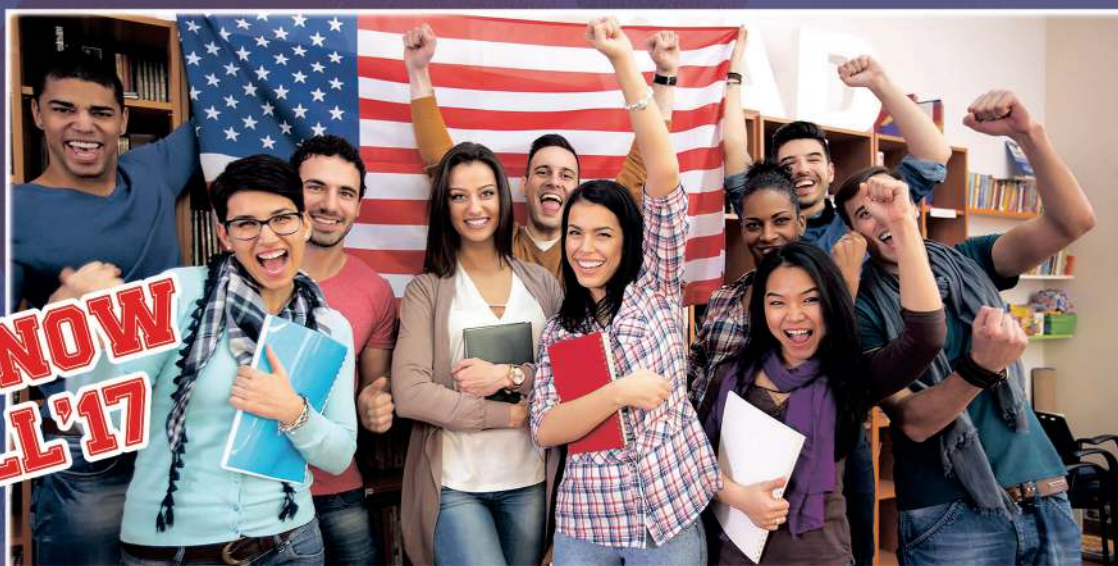
main area fortified was the Pyrenees.

"Over the last few years local historians Alfonso Escudra, Ángel Sáez and César Sánchez de Alcazar had written books about the bunkers in the Gibraltar area and the Strait. We thought it was time to set up sight-seeing tours as a lot of local bunker enthusiasts go out into countryside on walks and taking pictures of the bunkers and there are several Facebook pages in the area about these military installations."

Carlos added that the most interesting part of the tour is crossing the 500-metre tunnel connecting the San Roque side of Sierra Carbonera and the La Línea side, as well as the views of Gibraltar, the Bay of Gibraltar, Ceuta and Morocco.

He explained: "If you use your imagination a bit, it can take you back to 1940-1945 and [you can] imagine what it would like to be one of thousands of Republican prisoners of war working around the clock to prepare

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The view of La Línea de la Concepción and Gibraltar from the bunker. :: A. BOLTON

Spain for a potential Allied attack or Spanish involvement in the war if the Germans had succeeded in capturing the Suez Canal.”

History

The origin of the bunkers stems from when France fell in 1940, leaving Gibraltar as the only place on Continental Europe opposing the Axis Forces. Franco, who was sympathetic to the Axis powers of Germany and Italy, feared that Britain and France

The bunkers and tunnels on Sierra Carbonera have been left as they were, complete with 1940s graffiti

might try to invade Spanish soil via Gibraltar or Morocco. This led to the German and Spanish intelligence services joining forces to spy on the military and naval facilities in Gibraltar, which they saw as important strategic targets for sabotage. The Spanish dictator, with the help of the Germans, built roughly 650 bunkers between 1940 and 1944 between Conil de la Frontera and San Enrique de Guadiaro.

This was done using up to 15,000 Republican prisoners of war, and although the highest concentration are on or under the Sierra Carbonera mountain, many more bunkers can be seen in towns like Tarifa and Algeciras or resorts such as Alcaidesa, Sotogrande or San Roque Club. This is why the Strait of Gibraltar is the only place in Spain to feature World War II period bunkers, apart from the Pyrenees and the Canary Islands.

Volunteers and supplies needed at popular Marbella animal shelter

SUR IN ENGLISH
MARBELLA. The Triple A an animal shelter in Marbella looks after over 400 dogs and puppies and over 200 cats and desperately needs volunteers to help out in any way they can. The registered animal shelter needs volunteers who will be prepared to take dogs for a walk, care for the cats, train puppies or perhaps carry out tasks such as painting, general repairs and gardening. They are also always grateful for donations of things such as cat and dog food, blankets, towels, pharmaceuticals, disinfectants and cleaning solutions, rubbish bags, animal transport crates, dog and cat beds, etc. Call Barbara (670 858 366) or Lesley (642 731 068) for more information.



Help needed at the shelter. :: SUR

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If you're involved in a road traffic accident in a country requiring a Green Card, make sure the police are called to the scene of the accident. You will need a copy of the police report. If you don't understand what you're being told, request an interpreter. We also advise that you contact your insurance company as soon as possible, whether you want to make a claim or not. Make notes of what happened. Take photographs of the accident, including plates of vehicles involved. Exchange insurance details as you would in Spain. Take down the names and addresses of any witnesses. Never admit liability or apologise.

ADANA gets unexpected publicity in Denmark thanks to reality TV star

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. ADANA's work in helping many lucky dogs find new homes elsewhere in Europe has now reached a new audience in

Denmark.

This is thanks to popular reality TV star, Linsse, who has a holiday home in Marbella and is a great animal lover. Aware that ADANA is always looking for 'flight buddies' to accompany its dogs, Linsse volunteered to help out and a lucky ADANA dog travelled to his adopters in Copenhagen thanks to her.

Because Linsse is so well-known in Denmark, her involvement generated a great deal of publicity that is already helping dogs find new homes in Denmark and elsewhere in Scandinavia.



Linsse, left. :: SUR

THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



Seeing double

Most double stars are only apparent with binoculars or a telescope

Our star, the Sun, is a lonely star; the next closest star is almost 4 ½ light years away.

Many stars come in pairs or even groups of stars; in fact there are so many double and even triple star groups it may seem that our star is the odd one out. Even the closest star to the Sun is actually a trio of stars that are all tied together by a common gravity. Collectively we call the group Alpha Centauri as, to the naked eye, they appear as one single star; it is only when viewed with a telescope that the individual stars can be separated.

Some stars appear as double stars simply by a line of sight effect; they just happen to lie in line with each other although they are actually millions, even billions, of miles apart. As there are no 3D effects with the stars, it is hard to know whether double stars are really gravitationally tied or simply two stars that appear close together.

It was in 1802 that the British astronomer and composer William Herschel discovered a method for determining whether stars were true doubles or just line of sight doubles. By using basic parallax he was able to measure the distance to some nearby stars. If you measure the angle to a nearby star and then wait six months until the Earth is on the other side of the Sun then your base line will be twice

the distance from the Earth to the Sun - 2 X 93 million miles forming a triangle to the star.

Most double stars are only apparent with binoculars or a telescope but there are one or two that can be seen with the naked eye. The most famous of these are Alcor and Mizar in the constellation of the Plough or Big Dipper. The Plough looks like a saucepan with three stars forming the 'handle' and four stars forming the square 'bowl' of the saucepan. Look very carefully at the middle star in the 'handle' and if you have reasonably good eyesight and a dark sky you should be able to make out a fainter star very close by. Oddly enough, children usually have no difficulty in spotting them.

One of the most stunning double stars is Albireo that marks the head of Cygnus the swan. Cygnus can be seen high up in the eastern sky at this time of year and forms a large cross running left to right across the sky. Albireo is the fairly bright star at the base of the cross, but with a small telescope it is revealed as a double star with two very distinct colours, the brighter star is a beautiful yellow while the fainter companion star is clearly blue in colour.

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REF. E.V.I.

I intend to divorce my wife. The only asset that we have is a quite big plot, and we have decided to divide it, so that I get a half and she gets the other half. However, the Town Hall has told us that the plot cannot be divided. What do they mean?

It would be necessary to know

the area where the plot is located, as there is every indication that the problem is the minimum size that a plot has to have so that it can be divided, and which is established by the Town Hall. If your plot was to be divided, and the two resultant plots did not reach the minimum area, from a legal point of view it cannot be divided, irrespective of whether it would be physically possible to do it.

REF. C.O.A.

A resident in the community where I live has decided on his own account to install some sheds on his plot, in order to keep his garden tools, according to what he says. The problem is that those sheds have a considerable height, and they block the view of the sea that I enjoyed. For this reason, we argue frequently, and in our last dispute, he insulted me in front of some other residents. I

reported these facts at Court, but shortly after, he decided to write a letter which he sent to all the owners, apologising for his behaviour, and promising to remove the sheds from his garden. Due to this, and to the fact that I do not want to have a bad relationship with a neighbour, I would like to know if it is possible to withdraw the case that I filed.

Yes, it is. In most of criminal cases, the prosecutor continues with the proceeding, as it is considered that the public interest must be protected, and that once a criminal offence has been committed, the victim has no longer the authority to decide whether the offender has to be sentenced or not. However, in the kind of offence that you are describing, where the public interest is not affected, but someone's reputation is, the victim is free to decide if he wants to continue with the court proceeding or not.

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FACTS & FACES

José Soto concert for Cudeca

TORREMOLINOS. A cheque for 6,283 euros was presented to Aurea Peralta, coordinator for Cudeca Cancer Hospice, by the director of Aguas Torremolinos Pedro Peña, and the councillor for Social Services Pedro Pérez at a ceremony last week.

The money was raised at a concert by singer José Manuel Soto organised by the town hall and sponsored by the water company. The singer celebrated thirty years in the music business with various concerts across the province.



The presentation of the cheque to Cudeca representative Aurea Peralta.

Another successful Sunflower campaign raises awareness

MALAGA

Volunteers offered sunflowers, the symbol of international hospice care, in exchange for a donation in all the major towns of Malaga province during June and July.

The funds raised will go to Cudeca cancer hospice who care for patients and their families suffering from cancer and other advanced illnesses. With the help of Dinergia, the official sponsor of the Sunflower Campaign, as well as the support of



Sunflowers for donations.

other companies and the Cudeca volunteers, 7,733.43 euros was raised.



A cheque for 4,526 euros was handed to the charity. :: SUR

Diabetes Cero charity receives donation

TORREMOLINOS

The president of the Asociación Cultural Arte Molinos, Juan Serano and vice president, Ricardo

Beneroso, organised the Rock Solidario concert which took place on 22 July to raise funds for Diabetes Cero charity. A cheque for 4,526 euros was presented to the president Manolo Castro, by the councillor for Social Services, Pedro Pérez, on Wednesday.

Age Concern needs more stock for summer

FUENGIROLA / MIJAS

The Age Concern shop in Calle Francisco Cano is in need of more second-hand clothes, especially summer items, to sell. They also need more volunteers to sell them. The money raised from the shop goes to fund the three drop-in centres and Age Concern's Welfare programmes.

If you can help out in the shop or have clothing, pop in and talk to the staff. You can also ring 952 191 544. The shop is open between the hours of 10.30am and 2pm weekdays or Wednesday evening from 5 to 7pm.

Age Concern also offer full or part house clearances.



The concert was held in the gardens of the clinic.

Charity event celebrates two anniversaries

MARBELLA

The Buchinger Wilhelmi Clinic Marbella recently held a jazz concert with the Juan Galiardo Quartet in aid of Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice.

The concert raised more than 2,600 euros for the charity.

Cudeca's Financial and Services manager Assumpta Eceiza Nebreda, said that the Buchinger Clinic was celebrating ten years of collaboration with the hospice, which also coincides with the 25th anniversary of Cudeca.

Age Concern volunteers enjoy well-deserved lunch

ESTEPONA

Volunteers working for Age Concern went to the Mumbai Masala in Estepona port for a lunch meeting to discuss activities in August.

Normally a time of year when activity slows down, these community volunteers continue working during the holidays to look after clients and take on new ones.



The volunteers met to discuss activities for August. :: SUR

St Andrews celebrates group first communion

BENALMÁDENA

Members of the Anglican chaplaincy of St Andrew (Costa del Sol, East) gathered in the Capilla San José, Benalmádena to celebrate a group first communion.

The children, Evan, Divine, and Shekinah, were welcomed to the Eucharist table by the chaplain of St Andrew's, Father Alaric Lewis.



First communion. :: SUR



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IN THE FRAME

JENNIE RHODES
✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

A charitable way to do business locally

Scott Huston Founder of the ¡Give Me Five! animal charity

The animal-lover decided to set up a charity rather than buy a vintage Jaguar to celebrate his 50th

Scott Huston, originally from the USA, and his Danish wife Nete have come up with an innovative way of raising money for animal charities in the Axarquía and also helping local businesses to attract customers. They have established the ¡Give Me Five! charity.

The couple have lived in Spain for nearly 12 years and Scott says that his wife "is the clever one, a dentist", while he was "a meat head golf pro, teaching not touring".

He says: "It took me 29 years to find a way to escape from the United States. As it turned out I discovered I was good with a stick and ball." After passing the tournament qualifying process, Scott became a member of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) and a couple of years later he decided to look for a job in Europe and ended up in Denmark.

"If your workspace is outdoors, you should research the local climate before applying for a job. As it turns out Denmark is about the last place you'd choose in this regard. For four long years I stood on the driving range giving lessons in the cold, the dark, the wind, and the rain," Scott jokes.

In 2005, he and his wife moved to Spain, which he says came as a bit of a shock after the "predictability" of Denmark; "the thrill of faulty wiring, unpredictable plumbing, diabolical ITV tests, and a whole raft of other issues that Danes would call 'ass irritations'".

¡Give Me Five! began in 2016, coinciding with Scott's 50th birthday. "I thought it would be a bit too



Scott Huston with his pet cockatiel, Becky. :: SUR

"I fully encourage people to steal this idea!"

JENNIE RHODES

TORROX. Scott Huston says that he is more than happy for others to copy the idea for ¡Give Me Five!

He says: "As a lifelong anarcho-communist I fully encourage people to steal this idea and run with it."

"A great deal of good can be

done while avoiding personal humiliation," he adds.

The charity is in the process of building a website, but for now more information about becoming a member can be found on the charity's Facebook page: givemefiveanimalcharityspain or by calling Scott on 603 416 632.

cliché to buy a vintage Jaguar, I have a functional 11-year-old Peugeot 206, or to take on a mistress, I have a functional 42-year-old wife, so why not start an animal charity?" he laughs.

Scott says of working for an animal charity: "There are many difficult tasks involved in animal rescue. Some are tedious, for example

trapping cats for sterilising. Others are demanding but rewarding. Others are heartbreaking but only one is truly odious: fundraising. Friends stop returning your calls, shop owners lock their doors and turn off the lights if they see you coming; eventually even your immediate family 'defriends' you on Facebook!"

With this challenge ahead the

"One thing is truly odious and that is fundraising. Friends stop returning your calls and shop owners lock their doors!"

animal lover says that the mission then was to find a way where people received more in than they gave and after much thought he came up with the idea of ¡Give Me Five!

Scott explains that ¡Give Me Five! members get a five per cent dis-

count on all transactions with the businesses who are associated with the scheme. Each member pays 50 euros for six months during which the membership fees are distributed to the various animal charities in the area. They are given a membership card to show when they use the businesses featured in a booklet which is printed four times a year.

"Businesses which participate do so at no cost, and simply have to guarantee that they will offer the five per cent discount to any ¡Give Me Five! member who produces a valid membership card. In addition, each business partner gets a free advertisement in the quarterly discount booklet which is distributed to members," Scott explains.

The charities that ¡Give Me Five! supports are Axarquía Animal Rescue (AAR), Asociación Protectora de Animales Rincón de la Victoria (APARiV), A.P.A Nerja Estación Esperanza, Costa Animal Society (CAS), Torrox Animal International League (TAIL), Galgo Freedom, Valle Verde Animal Rescue and Give A Dog A Home Rescue Malaga.

A year in and Scott is frank but hopeful about ¡Give Me Five!'s success rate. "To be honest, the concept has not quite caught on the way I imagined. People seem to be confounded by where the five per cent goes. Also, the 50 euro upfront fee seems to be a much higher hurdle than I thought it would be."

Nevertheless ¡Give Me Five! has been able to donate several thousands of euros to the animal rescue groups it works with and Scott is confident that as the idea catches on, the charity will be able to donate more and more in the coming years.

The other, perhaps inevitable, outcome of running an animal charity is the number of pets the couple has; six parrots (four cockatiels and two African greys), five cats, four dogs, three turtles and a pond with, at last count, says Scott, 92 fish.

"We spend a lot of time picking up poop," he laughs.



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GARDENING

A 'cracker' of a plant

In its native countries, *Crossandra* flowers are strung together with fragrant jasmine to make beautiful garlands

Cassandra infundibuliformis, commonly called the Firecracker flower, is a stunning evergreen shrub which unfortunately is not the easiest to grow. Besides not liking the cold, it won't withstand drought either and the soil must be kept moist and never allowed to dry out. It also will

not survive long in direct sunlight. However, the glossy, wavy-edged leaves and beautiful, brightly-coloured flowers make it well worth the effort.

The flowers are not scented but grow in loose spikes in glowing shades of

orange, salmon, coral, yellow and even turquoise-green (*C. infundibuliformis* 'Green ice'). In its native country, the flowers of the *Crossandra* are strung together with jasmine blooms to make garlands and extracts of the flowers are also used medicinally to treat fevers, healing wounds and headaches. Extracts of the leaves are said to have antibacterial and antifungal properties.

The flowers will appear all year round in ideal climates and last for several days before fading. Once dry, the seed pods explode open, scattering their seeds several feet. This usually happens when the humidity levels peak or there is rain, an effective method of making sure the seeds germinate quickly when they land on the moist soil.

Crossandra can also be propagated by taking cuttings from the new growth in spring.

Tropical *Crossandra* is native to Africa, south India and Sri Lanka and because of its susceptibility to the cold, it is often grown as a houseplant. Regardless of where you live in southern Spain, it is probably advisable to grow it in a container so that it can be moved indoors to a location with plenty of natural light during the winter.

Crossandra will enjoy being misted once a week during the hottest months. It will also benefit from being re-potted every spring in fresh compost and can be lightly pruned at the same time to keep it compact.



C. infundibuliformis and a yellow cultivar (inset). :: WIKIPEDIA

READER'S PHOTO



:: PATRICIA AND MICHAEL HARRIS

MOONFLOWER OR BINDWEED?

Identifying plants accurately is a tricky business and Patricia and Michael Harris hope that someone can identify this plant in the photo. The large blooms on this perennial vine open in the evening and then die. At SUR in English we think it could be *Ipomea alba*, the Moonflower.

GARDENING HINTS FOR AUGUST

A - Z of plant terms, part 2

A continuation of the list of plant terms from last week:
Culm - a term used mainly when talking about grasses to describe the aerial stem bearing the flowers. Cultivar - a variant of a species of horticultural interest or value. Deflexed - bent downwards, opposite of inflexed. Dentate - toothed. Diurnal - opening during the day. Drupe - a fruit with just one seed usually enclosed by a kernel e.g. peach. Epiphyte - A plant growing on another but not feeding off it.

F1 hybrid - a single cross between two pure-bred lines. F2 hybrid - a plant arising from the cross of two F1 hybrids. Genus - a group of one or more species with features and/or ancestry in common. Glabrous - having no surface hairs or scales. Glauous - with a whitish bloom. Graft - a plant shoot used to make a union with another plant, e.g. many fruit trees are grown on grafted rootstocks to improve strength or even to reduce the size when fully grown.

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?

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

4 AUGUST 1704

Anglo-Dutch alliance
bombards and
captures Gibraltar

JENNIE RHODES

On 4 August 1704 British and Dutch marines, known as the Grand Alliance, along with Austria (whose king, Leopold I, had left the whole of Spain to his second son, Archduke Charles), landed to the north of Gibraltar. Troops, led by British Admiral, George Rooke, bombarded Gibraltar with cannons from its fleet, before coming ashore and taking the Rock. Gibraltar and its small Spanish garrison, under governor Diego Salinas, surrendered.

The siege took place during Spain's War of Succession, which

started in 1702, following the death of Carlos II, the last Hapsburg monarch in the country. The king's death resulted in a pan-European feud over who would replace him. Before he died, Carlos himself had nominated Philip of Anjou, grandson of French King Louis XIV. But that would have meant that France, Europe's dominant power at the time, would be united with Spain, owner of the world's largest empire.

Not wanting France to have such power, the British and Dutch formed a pact with the King of Austria to declare Archduke Charles as the new Spanish sovereign.

The Grand Alliance failed to



The British-Dutch alliance captured the rock on 4 Aug 1704. :: sur

replace Philip of Anjou with Archduke Charles as king, but Gibraltar was eventually handed over to Britain. The War of Succession continued until 1715 and it was in 1713 that Gibraltar was officially ceded to Britain 'in perpetuity' under the Treaty of Utrecht.

The events of 1704 are not to be confused with the Great Siege of 1779 of which Gibraltar's many tunnels are a legacy.

On 3 August 2004, to mark the 300th anniversary of the capture, then UK Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon, visited Gibraltar and the Royal Navy marched through the town as a sign of exercising "their right to freedom of the city". A 21-gun salute was fired from HMS Grafton which had been sent to Gibraltar especially for the anniversary celebrations.

However, the event marked a

blow to Anglo-Spanish relations, with the latter describing it as "unfriendly" and the then Spanish Foreign minister, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, was quoted in Spain's El País newspaper as saying, "This commemoration of a military event in the past does no favours for relations with Spain."

Bilingual crossword
inside back page

LANGUAGE
FOOTNOTE

Alianza	Alliance
Heredar	To inherit
Bombardear	To bomb
Flota	Fleet
Guarnición	Garrison
Gobernador	Governor
Asedio	Siege
Rendirse	To surrender
Contienda	Feud
Ceder	To hand over
Dominante	Dominant
Poder	Power
Almirante	Admiral
Imperio	Empire
Soberano	Sovereign
Confundir	To confuse
Capturar	To capture
Reemplazar	To replace
Libertad	Freedom
Desfilas	To march/parade
Aniversario	Anniversary

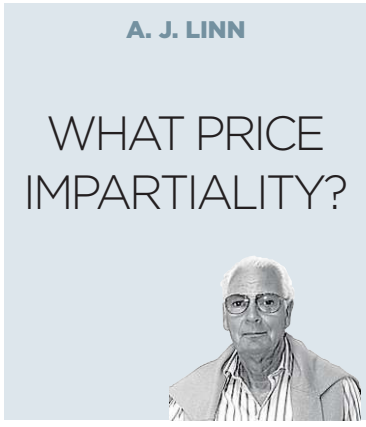
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The world's two most important gastronomic guides have just announced their marriage. The Michelin Guide has acquired 40% of The Wine Advocate and robertparker.com. Neither party has announced the price nor the reason for the merger, but it is a matter of record that these two emblematic publications have been working together in the Far East since 2016, promoting gourmet dinners with wines that have achieved high scores. The dinners



can cost around 650 euros. Parker launched The Wine Advocate in 1970, subtitled 'The Independent Guide for Lovers of Fine Wines.' The publication has always claimed its reviews are objective, in the same manner that Michelin is allegedly never influenced by outside factors. In 2012 Parker sold control of his journal to a group of Asian investors who own a wine distribution business. For the first time doubts started to emerge about whether the previous neutrality and fairness could be upheld.

Now, with the Michelin deal, the situation has become even more problematic, to the point where a question mark must be hanging over the credibility of both parties. It is no secret that publications I contribute to have had their confrontations with Parker's lawyers as a consequence of what I have written, and at least one has had to undertake not to mention Parker's name again. Nevertheless the reality will always come out eventually... Assuming the Michelin-Wine Advocate merger is aimed at spreading

the de-lux dinner programme, could there be a conflict of interests between those Michelin-starred restaurants that do not wish to participate in the little red guide? And what about bodegas that do not require their wines to be showcased at these over-the-top occasions? As the robertparker website makes clear, "When a critic bases his or her judgment on what others think, or on the wine's pedigree, price, or perceived potential, then wine criticism is nothing more than a sham."



The workshop was held in the Hard Rock Cafe in Puerto Banús. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Pensioners attend a workshop to mix their own cocktails

The Hard Rock Cafe organised a special cocktail workshop for the residents of the El Carmen retirement home

:: **PABLO COLLANTES**

MARBELLA. Thanks to the efforts of Tania Lizeth, manager at the Hard Rock Cafe in Puerto Banús, some residents from the El Carmen care home on the peaceful La Cantera urbanisation in Marbella have discovered a new world.

The retirees were recently given an hour's tuition on how to mix some fashionable combinations of drinks at the restaurant.

On this occasion they were all alcohol free although pensioner Gloria whispered impatiently that she would like to add some rum.

The unusual initiative was part of the Día de Abuelo (Grandparent Day) celebrations, an event aimed at commemorating the many years of hard work by retired people.

With the mojito, the lifelong classic, Tania suggested experimenting with strawberry to cre-

ate an alternative combination.

They came with the carers from the home who took photos of them enjoying themselves and having a drink.

Tania then demonstrated a new combination of strawberry and basil, the result, in spite of the disbelief reflected in some of the faces, was better than expected.

They then practised making their own combinations and giving each other a taste of their cocktail creations which invoked lots of talking, laughter and even a little flirting.



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In just four years, the 'Huevo del Toro' tomato from the Guadalhorce has become the star fruit of the summer. The large, heart-shaped tomato has a smooth, buttery texture, an excellent flavour and few seeds. However its delicate skin makes it difficult to package, hence it is not suitable for large chains of supermarkets. For this reason it gradually disappeared from the region but is now making a come back and production numbers are increasing. Small shops and market stalls are the best places to find it.



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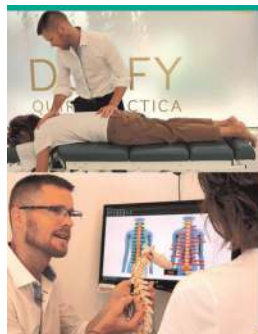
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PILAR MANZANARES

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently issued a warning that eating meat can be bad for health, and as a result people are worried. Doubts are beginning to arise. Questions are being asked: "They say processed meats cause cancer, but what about beef?" for example. It won't last long, though. Everyone will have forgotten about it soon.

Even though more and more people are becoming aware of the importance of eating a healthier diet, it takes effort to make the change, although we don't need to look very far back in time to realise that people didn't used to eat meat every day.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, in 2014 the average consumption of meat per head in Spain was 51 kilos a year, but it wasn't all red meat (which is the meat from the muscles of the animal, including beef, pork, lamb, horse and goat) which is the type that is causing most concern. In general, people eat chicken most (14.17 kilos a year), followed by pork (10.7 kilos), and beef (5.89 kilos).

It appears that in general terms people in Spain are within the limits advised by the WHO for the consumption of red meat. "In principle, we shouldn't eat more than about 70 grammes of meat a day, and we shouldn't eat it more than once or twice a week," says Gregorio Varela, the president of the Spanish Nutrition Foundation (FEN) and the head of Nutrition and Bromatology at the San Pablo University.

The carnal sin in terms of health

Eating too much meat can lead to cardiovascular problems and possibly certain types of cancer. However, many people still eat it almost every day. Experts recommend making it an occasional treat and say people should learn how to choose the best quality and protect their health

According to new food guidelines for the Spanish population, published by the Spanish society of community nutrition (SENC), and written by Gregorio Varela and the president of the SENC, Javier Aranceta, people should moderate their consumption of red and processed meats and should ensure that the ones they do eat are always of good quality. They should be cooked without direct contact with flame wherever possible, and should always be accompanied by fresh vegetables.

One of the questions asked when the WHO raised its doubts about the consumption of these meats was: "What are processed meats, exactly?" They are meats which are minced to make burgers, Russian fillets, sausages and hams in general.

sages and hams in general.

"Obviously, not all this sub-group of foods can be put in the same category in terms of nutritional composition and their relation to health. A piece of turkey breast is not the same as a slice of pork. And when it comes to ham, the quality of the fat of acorn-fed pigs is much better, it isn't as saturated. The important thing is to choose the best quality food possible, and eat a variety of it," says Gregorio Varela.

This is why it is important to read the labels when buying packed meats instead of those sliced fresh. We should look at the calorie content per 100g, the total fat content and whether it is saturated or unsaturated, and also the sodium (salt) content. With regard to cured meats, it is best

to choose those with the lowest salt content.

Risks and benefits

According to the latest scientific report from the American Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, a diet with a low consumption of meat is associated with a lower risk of obesity (limited degree of evidence), cardiovascular illness (strong evidence) and type 2 diabetes (moderate evidence). Also, controversially, the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has evaluated the carcinogenic risk of red and processed meats in one of its reports.

"The IARC said that excessive consumption of red meat is probably carcinogenic in humans; in other words,

there is limited evidence from epidemiological studies to suggest an association between a high consumption of red meat and colorectal cancer (there is less evidence about the risk of prostate and pancreas cancer). The WHO takes this to mean that there could be other factors to explain the link between this type of diet and cancer," says Dr Aitana Calvo, scientific secretary of the Spanish society of medical oncology (SEOM) and an oncologist at the Gregorio Marañón hospital in Madrid.

The IARC also reported that excessive consumption of processed meats is carcinogenic for humans. In this case, excessive consumption of these meats has been associated with colorectal cancer, and, with less evidence, stomach cancer.

"In general, these types of study which compare the diets of people with and without cancer show that everyone, whether they have cancer or not, is different in terms of the ingestion of a particular component. However, these results only show that the component is associated with a change in the risk of cancer, not that the component is responsible for the modification of the risk," explains Dr Calvo. "In any case, the risk would be much lower than that of other factors. According to WHO figures, 34,000 deaths a year could be attributed to a high content of processed meat, compared with one million deaths a year from tobacco, 600,000 from alcohol and over 200,000 from pollution."

However, some studies suggest







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that a diet which is high in fat can increase the risk of colon, lung and breast cancer, as well as cardiovascular illnesses. It is therefore recommended that fat should make up between 20 and 35 per cent of an adult's diet, saturated and trans fats should be avoided altogether and people should consume unsaturated fats such as olive oil, oily fish and dried fruits.

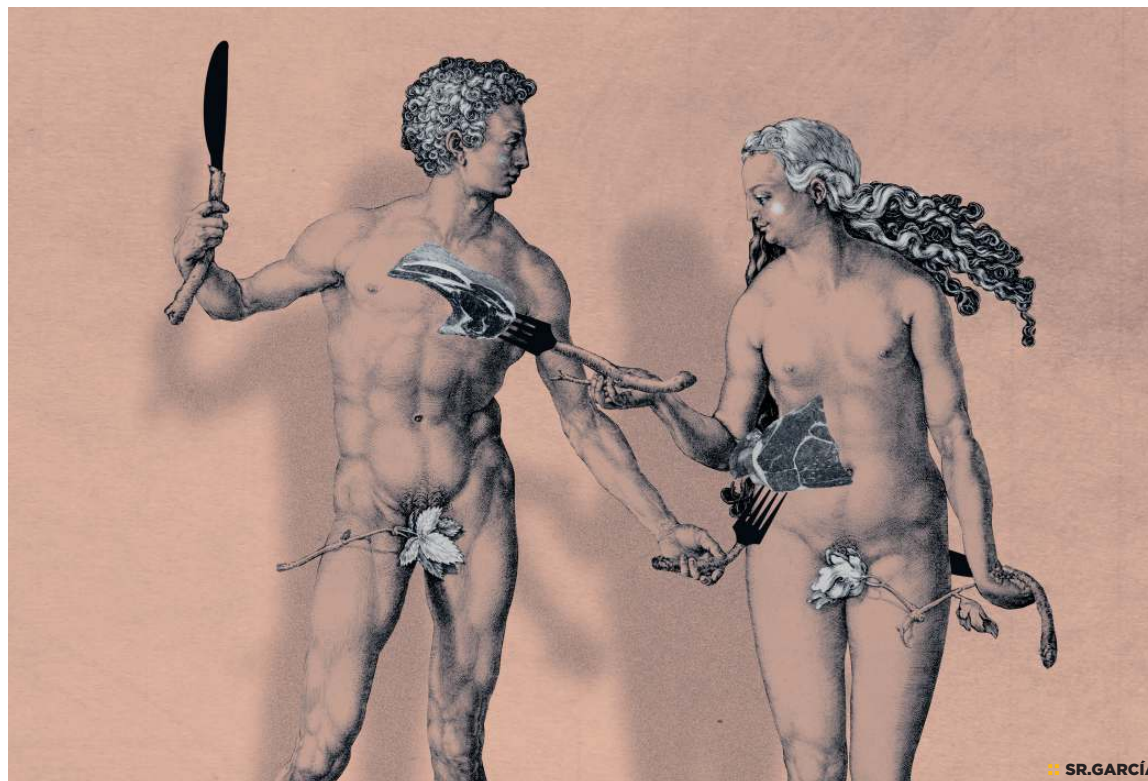
In the case of red meats, apart from moral beliefs, there is no need to demonise a taste for them. In fact, they can also have some benefits.

"They are high in good quality proteins which help to increase and maintain muscle mass and keep bones in normal condition. They are also sources of group B vitamins such as potassium, phosphorous, zinc and iron, which are essential for maintaining the bones, cognitive development, heart function and the immune system, among others," says Gregorio Varela.

Another question is whether these nutritional needs are the same in all stages of life, bearing in mind that there is a major difference between growing children and adults, for example.

Choose the best

Gregorio Varela says that when people are choosing meat they should make sure it is fresh and lean (chicken, turkey and rabbit), and in the case of processed and cured meats, look at the energy content, quality of fat and amount of sodium. They should also look out for possible additives (for example lactose), which could cause



a problem in cases of intolerance or food allergy.

In the case of hamburgers, it is best to avoid pre-prepared 'burger meat'. Home-made burgers can be made with whichever type of meat we prefer, spices and egg, while ready-prepared ones often contain low quality meat, preservatives and additives to make them last longer. Also, as David Ruipérez and Carmen Cardoso mention in their excellent book 'El

The 'designations of origin' carry out much stricter controls on their products and this is reflected by their quality

carnívoro feliz' (The happy carnivore), meat can be enjoyed as part of a healthy diet. For example, the meat which can be used to make home-made burgers has less fat and only 130 calories, compared with an average of 205 in manufactured burgers.

To be sure of the quality, is it best to choose meats with a 'designation of origin'? Isabel Revilla, a doctor in Science and Food Technology at the University of Salamanca and lecturer

in Ecological Agriculture at Barcelona University, says red meat should be bought from a trustworthy producer, because "any system which controls the quality of origin and distribution helps to ensure that quality for the consumer. Those with a 'designation of origin' have stricter controls over their products, and that has a favourable effect on the quality," she says. "In general, the more an animal has been pasture-fed, the healthier its meat will be."

That is an important point: the animal's diet will affect not only the taste of its meat, but also its health benefits. Juan José Badiola, the head of Animal Health at the veterinary faculty of Zaragoza University and president of the general board of veterinary colleges, says that "nowadays, people are working on feeding the animals in such a way that the end product is healthier. It means meat with less saturated fat, which is the type that raises cholesterol levels. Changing the animals' diet changes the lipidic and glucidic profile of the meat. In fact, this is already being done with beef, sheep and pigs."

The new Dietary Guidelines now stress the need for a diet which is not only healthy but also sustainable from a social and environmental point of view, with a focus on seasonable, locally-produced products.

"With regard to meats, in general you have to bear in mind that mass production is having a worrying effect on the environment. The interest in organic cattle farming is very good news, and if that



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> type of meat (for example free-range chicken, ecological beef etc) is available and people can afford it, it is a good option. In terms of general recommendations, though, there is still a long way to go before that will be the case for most people," says Gregorio Varela.

Organic or not?

"Studies have shown that in general organic red meats are higher in unsaturated fatty acids, especially one which is very good for the health and is called conjugated linoleic acid. It has a lower tendency to oxidise. Some studies have also found a higher vitamin A and E content," says Isabel Revilla.

Does that also apply to pork and chicken? "If the food is identical in composition and the only difference is whether it is certified as organic or not, the differences are minimal. What happens is that the pigs and chickens which are reared ecologically have to have space to move around and eat or graze in meadows and fields, so in the end their diet is different. That again means that the fat is more unsaturated, their development is slower and the meat has more flavour," she explains.

For Juan José Badiola, it is a "personal choice" about whether to choose organic meat. "Whether it is better or not also depends on the production process. Organic and conventional production are both subject to very strict regulations which have to be complied with in all cases," he says.

Spain is a major producer of organic products, in agriculture as well as ani-



The lipidic and glucidic profile of the meats can be changed by altering the diets of the animals, and in some cases this is already being done

mal farming, but a large part of these products are exported, especially to countries in northern Europe, where organic produce is very popular. In

Nowadays many farmers are trying to find alternatives to antibiotics, including vaccinations and the use of phytotherapy

Spain, far less is sold. There are several reasons for this, says Juan José. "There is no tradition here of buying organic produce, and consumers

tend to think they are comparatively expensive, although that isn't always the case. Sometimes people worry about whether they are safe, but there is absolutely no need to do so because here in Spain every product which is sold is safe. In fact, this country, like others in the European Union, has one of the highest food safety levels in the world. Some of the historic illnesses of animals which can be transmitted to humans such as tuberculosis, brucellosis and salmonellosis are at minimum levels now and are close to being eradicated. That is even

the case with a more recent illness, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and that has really been achieved in really record time," he says.

There is also some debate over extensive and intensive means of animal production, but Juan José says this is unnecessary because both are safe. "People need to be aware that the levels of animal well-being, on the farms and in transport, have improved extraordinarily in recent years thanks to European legislation, which is very demanding in that respect," he explains. This is important for compassionate reasons, but there is another benefit as Dr Revilla says, because "when an animal suffers less stress, the quality of its meat is better."

How to cook it

Of course, attention has to be paid to cooking techniques and the utensils used in the preparation and preservation of foods because they can affect the nutritional quality, organoleptic qualities and contribute to the possible transfer of undesirable substances. As a general rule, says Gregorio Varela, foods which are steamed, raw (but prepared safely) such as carpaccio, and subjected to the least processing possible provide the best nutritional and even organoleptic value.

"It is important to remember that steaming is a very good method of cooking because, as the temperature doesn't rise above 100°C, the foods retain many of their vitamins and minerals. Stir-frying is also good, and cooking lean meat in a wok with vegetables is a fantastic option," he says.



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THE CUT IS IMPORTANT

If you like red meat there is no reason not to eat it occasionally, but it is best to choose one which is good quality and the leanest cut possible. The additional fat should also be removed, either by the butcher or at home. The best cuts of red meat for the health are those with the least fat:

Beef

Tenderloin. This is the best quality part of the animal and is usually grilled or cooked in the oven.

Topside or silverside. Serve grilled, roasted or barbecued.

Rump. A cut with little fat, for roasting.

Contra. The consistency is quite hard but children usually like fil-

lets braised in sauce or cooked in breadcrumbs. It can also be minced or cut into chunks and stewed.

Round. Very popular cut for roasting whole.

Babilla. Quite dry, usually used in stews.

Tapilla. A small-sized piece which can be used for cutlets.

Pork

Loin and sirloin. These are the leanest cuts. In fact, they could almost be considered white meat. If we compare the total fat content per 100g, the loin has no more than three grammes and the sirloin five, compared with nearly 50 for bacon or 25 in a chop. With regard to marinated loin fillets,

which are very popular with children, it is best to make these at home. If you choose one of the 'industrial' versions, remember that new regulations in 2014 made them more healthy in terms of nitrates/nitrites, which was a cause for concern. However, it is best not to eat them too regularly.

Lamb and goat

The disadvantage of this meat is its fat content, but it is especially high in good quality proteins, group B vitamins and minerals. It is best to choose the suckling variety, because the fat of the youngest animals is mainly concentrated around the entrails and below the skin so it is not difficult to remove.

Although the WHO is cautious in this sense, the method of cooking certain foods can also have an influence on the risk of cancer.

"Certain chemical compounds are found in beef, pork, fish and poultry, when cooked at high temperatures (barbecued, grilled or fried). Exposure to high concentrations of heterocyclic amines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons can cause cancer in animals, and it is suspected that that is also the case with humans. The risk can be reduced by avoiding the burnt parts, maintaining the meats at high temperature for only a short time and avoiding the juices released during the frying, grilling or barbecuing," says Dr Calvo.

Resistance to antibiotics

The concern there is today about bacterial resistance to antibiotics has led to a campaign in favour of reducing the use of antibiotics in animals.

"We mustn't forget that antibiot-

ics are extremely beneficial for animals and humans and have saved a great many lives, but when they have been used for so many years the bacteria defend themselves and avoid the attack, by mutating and making themselves immune to the 'weapon' which is being used against them. Nobody doubts that the continued use of antibiotics in animals and humans has contributed to this resistance, and that is why many of them don't work any more," says Juan José Badiola.

In the case of cattle farming, this is because antibiotics have been used not only to cure illnesses but also as a way of encouraging the animals' growth, because it was a means of regulating the intestinal flora and producing very favourable circumstances for the animal to become fatter.

The veterinary sector in Spain is currently joining the fight against this resistance. It is trying to com-

ply with the EU's strategy of reducing the use of antibiotics, but also sees this as a way of becoming more competitive, because some countries which are Spain's rivals in the export of animal origin are using it as a commercial argument in their favour.

"We are trying to find alternative strategies to the use of antibiotics. These include improving the ways the animals are handled and accommodated, intensifying the levels of biosafety on the farms, carrying out diagnoses which are as precise as possible, using vaccines when they are available and trying to produce new ones where they don't yet exist. In addition, we are using alternative treatment tools such as probiotics and the manipulation of intestinal flora, the use of non-pathogenic bacteria which stop pathogenic bacteria working, and phytotherapy as a way of treating illnesses instead of antibiotics," he says.

Health tourists spend ten times more than normal holidaymakers

SUR

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol is keen to provide specialist tourist facilities for every market and one of the segments which is becoming more popular with international visitors is related to health and well-being, especially tailor-made trips. The profile of these so-called 'health tourists' is somebody over the age of 50, with medium-high purchasing power, who spends up to ten times as much as holidaymakers.

This week Jacobo Florido, the CEO of the 'Turismo y Planificación Costa del Sol' organisation, spoke about this type of tourism at a ceremony during which he presented the TUV Rheinland award to the Clínica Santa Elena in Torremolinos.

"Every step we take in this sense is fundamental to maintain our leading positions. This award is another major step," he said. He explained that Malaga province has become a benchmark for health tourism, because it has top-quality facilities.

The hospitals and clinics, with their highly qualified professionals, are a "guarantee of stability for this segment of tourism," he said, but in addition to those there are also luxury hotels and spas, both modern and historic, such as those in Tolox and Carratraca.

"We are continuing to work to present the Costa del Sol as the perfect destination for people to look after their health needs," he said. He explained that from the statistics which are known so far, this promises to be an excellent year.



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Sanlúcar de Barrameda

JAVIER ALMELLONES



The first stage of the race started yesterday and continues this weekend. :: SUR

Las Marismas del Guadalquivir becomes the stage for this equestrian event every August



How to get there Sanlúcar de Barrameda.

From Malaga it is possible to get there by taking the motorway to Jerez - Los Barrios or from inland, via the A-384 (Jerez-Campillos).

The horses return to the province of Cadiz this August. Sotogrande has the International Polo tournament while this weekend, and also the penultimate weekend of the month, the Cadiz coast is holding one of the most spectacular horse races in Europe.

The 'Carreras de Caballos' race is situated in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, a town that looks across the coast to the Doñana National Park.

It is on the town's Atlantic beach that this hugely popular sporting event unfurls. Every year, thousands of visitors descend on the town to watch the equestrian competition.

The race has been declared a Fiesta de Singularidad Turística Nacional by the provincial government and is celebrated every year in two stages. The first stage started yesterday and continues until Saturday. The second stage takes place from Thursday 17 until Saturday 19 August.

The dates of the races are not chosen randomly - they are aimed to coincide with a low tide at dusk. The main beach is then transformed into a natural race track, with a wide expanse of shoreline big enough to accommodate not only the horses but also the stands for the thousands of racegoers.

The actual start times are not confirmed until the actual day of the race as it depends on the number of horses running and the tide. The riders and their steeds usually start lining up for the race after 6.30pm.

After the race there is no better place to watch the sun set over the Atlantic.

The beach here is huge, at low tide it measures approximately 20,000 square metres. The event has plenty of room for the race track, spectators stands, ticket of-

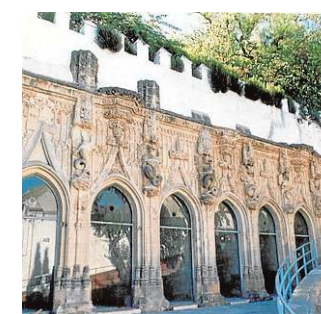
WHAT TO SEE



Castillo de Santiago. Also known as the Cava del Castillo, this ancient fortress is in the upper part of Sanlúcar.

The Manzanilla museum. This emblematic museum owned by Barbadillo is dedicated to the local wine.

Las Covachas. Gothic arches that form part of the ancient façade of the Palacio Ducal de Medina Sidonia.



Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O. This is the main church in the area and was built in 1360 with funds provided by the first countess of Medinaceli.

fice and also changing rooms and shelters for riders and horses.

The Sotogrande International Polo tournament is a very different spectacle. It is held at the Santa María Polo Club until the 27 August and some of the greatest polo players in the world will be taking part in the different categories.

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Flamenco nights

■ JENNIE RHODES

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez-Málaga is attracting some of the biggest names in flamenco this August with its programme of Flamenco Fusion nights, all of which are free, in the open-air auditorium in Cerro de San Cristobal.

Tonight, Friday 4 August sees a performance by Diego Carrasco and family, who are best known for being 'flamenco bohemio' artists and TV regulars.

On 11 August, Sanlúcar de Barrameda-based artist Naike Ponce will be joined by highly-respected guitarist, Paquete.

Jorge Pardo, who is one of Spain's all-time best-selling flamenco recording artists, will be closing the season of flamenco on 18 August.

Helping to promote the flamenco nights is British resident, Ben Cooper, who is a self-confessed "total nut and proud, card-carrying member" of his local flamenco club. He says that when Flamenco Abierto Axarquía, the organisation behind Flamenco Fusion, started, he "did everything" he could "to publicise the events to non-Spanish audiences".



Jorge Pardo. ■ SUR

INFORMATION

► **When.** Friday 4, Friday 11, Friday 18 August, 10.30pm.

► **Where.** Cerro de San Cristobál, Vélez-Málaga.

► **More information.** www.mivelezmalaga.com/whats-on/open-air-flamenco-concerts/
Facebook: Flamenco Abierto Axarquía

EXHIBITIONS

Benezra Gallery

Marbella. Until end of September. La Quinta, between Marbella and San Pedro.

An exhibition of unique sculptures by six, internationally acclaimed artists. info@art-investments.com or benezragallery.com

Magpie International Gallery.

Marbella. Until 14 September. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.

A collection of works by the late Julio Cenrián 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.

Carlos Barrera Wolff

Estepona. Until 30 August. Patio Top Garden, crta A7, km 163, Urb. El Pirata.

An exhibition of art work compiled over forty years by this artist from Jaén. www.patio-topgarden.es

'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.

Roberto Matta

Marbella. Until 26 May 2018.

Museo Ralli, Urb Coral beach.

Temporary exhibition of the Chilean artist Roberto Matta of surrealist abstract art. His works represent his own vision of the world and art through the invisible, the psyche, the cosmos, without losing reference to his origins or nature. Tel. 952 85 79 23 / marbella@rallimuseums.org



Jawlensky, Malaga

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 po-

etry and musical events.

The Russian museum

Malaga. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. Tues-Sun 9.30am - 10pm.

The new seasonal exhibition 'La aventura del color' which is running from 10 August until 4 February next year, will feature Alexei Jawlensky (1864-1941). A contemporary and friend of Vasily Kandinsky, Gabriele Münter and Paul Klee among other famous artists of the early twentieth century. Jawlensky started his career in Russia working alongside Iliá Repin and admired the canvases of Valentin Serov, Konstantín Korovin and other masters of realism and impressionism. The museum is also holding an exhibition of political posters 'Carteles de la Revolución' consisting of simple but effective images deemed suitable for the masses. The posters featured workers, soldiers in the Red army and country labourers personifying the power of the people.

The annual exhibition is entitled La Dinastía Románov and includes many portraits of Russian royalty before the last Tsar and his family were assassinated in 1918.

Ruiz de Luna

Malaga. Museo Municipal del Patrimonio (MUPAM), Paseo de Reding.

An exhibition dedicated to the Ruiz de Luna ceramic dynasty. Around 300 pieces are on display including ceramics, watercolours and sculptures.



PROGRAMMING

From Friday 4th to Thursday 10th August

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ACTION · 133 min.



From Friday 4 to Wednesday 9: 15:45, 18:00, 22:30
Thursday 10: 15:45, 19:45, 22:30



ATOMIC BLONDE

Starring Charlize Theron and James McAvoy
ACTION · 115 min.



From Friday 4 to Thursday 10: 15:50, 18:15



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ATLANTIS

Ramazzotti at Starlite

TONY BRYANT

MARBELLA. The Starlite Festival continues with a concert by internationally-famous musician Eros Ramazzotti on Thursday 10 August.

The Italian singer and composer is one of the most important pop musicians on the Mediterranean music scene, selling more than 65 million albums in his long career.

Since 1987, he has released 17 albums and 37 singles and has performed duets with artists such as Cher, Tina Turner, Anastacia, Joe Cocker and Luciano Pavarotti.

He is popular in many European countries, and throughout the Spanish-speaking world, as he has released most of his albums in both Italian and Spanish.

His audience appeal comes from several factors, including his unique voice and his energetic delivery of catchy, melodic tunes, which are often passionate, mid-tempo, autobiographical ballads.

Ramazzotti will be performing songs from his latest recording, *Perfetto*, which was released to celebrate his 30 years in the



Eros Ramazzotti will be at the Starlite next Thursday. :: WIKIMEDIA

music business.

Tickets cost between 83 and 190 euros. Tickets for one of the Starlite's platinum boxes cost 331.80 euros. Doors open at 8pm and the concert starts at 10.30pm.

The Starlite Festival continues until the end of August and future concerts include Andrea Bocelli, Niña Pastori and El Arrebato.

DETAILS

► **When.** 10 August, doors 8pm.

► **Where.** Calle Albioni, Marbella.

► **Tickets.** 83 to 190 euros

► **Info.** www.starlitemarbella.com

EXHIBITIONS

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.

grupoigneo.jimdo.com

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.

The Way Things Go

Malaga. Until 3 September. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania.

Swiss artists David Weiss and Peter Fischli made this video in 1987. It is just 29 minutes long and documents a causal chain assembling everyday objects, similar to a Rube Goldberg machine. This work hints at the influence of Marcel Duchamp and Dadaism.

'Málaga, Ciudad del Saber'

Malaga. Until 24 September.

Museo de Patrimonio Municipal. Paseo de Reding.

An exhibition of rarely seen arte-

facts from Malaga such as documents, utensils, and archeological finds that illustrate the Islamic period in the city's history. www.museodelpatrimoniomunicipal.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.



Weiss/Fischli, Malaga

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.

'Lo Aparencia de lo real'

Malaga. Until 10 September.

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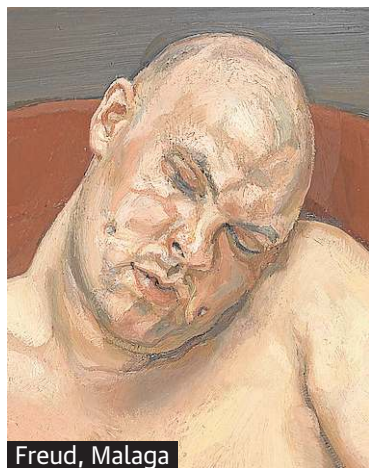
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Nº4 El Pirata, Between Cancelada-Estepona
Tel: 952801900 Grados (d.d') 36.453364, -5.073027

pañia, 10
Three generations of Spanish artists are represented in this exhibition which reveals the artists' attempts to create illusions of reality.

Bacon, Freud and the London School
Malaga. Until 17 September. *Picasso Museum*
This exhibition is the result of an agreement between the Tate in London and the Picasso museum in Malaga. It features 90 works covering eighty years by renowned artists such as Freud, Bacon, Kossof, Ronald B. Kitaj, Michael Andrews, Euan Uglow and Paula Rego.
www.museopicassomalaga.org



Freud, Malaga

Santiago Ydáñez
Malaga. Until 24 September, *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo*.
The exhibition 'El Corazón Manda', unites 50 works by Jaén artist, Santiago Ydáñez. They include paintings, objects and a taxidermy sculpture of a bull.

Incendiar el Velo
Malaga. Until 30 September, August by appt. *JM Galería*.
A collective exhibition by Ana Teresa Ortega, Chema Cobo, Mario

Mad Bear Beach Festival

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos is gearing up for the next major LGBTI event of the year: the Mad Bear Beach Festival 2017.

This popular festival is one of the biggest gatherings of 'bears' in Spain and the event is attended by people from all over Europe. Last year's festival attracted more than 6,000 visitors and organisers are expecting this year's event to be even bigger.

The festival takes place from 9 until 16 August and is organised by the Madrid-based group, Mad.Bear, and Torremolinos town hall. The event is sponsored by the Hotel Ritual - the first hotel aimed solely at the gay community - who will also be hosting special events during the proceedings. The inauguration party will be held at the hotel on Wednesday 9 August at 8pm.

The seven-day festival will welcome some of the most celebrated national and international DJs, who will perform at organised beach parties during the day, and nightly 'anything goes' events at the town's



Visitors enjoy last year's festival in Torremolinos. :: SUR

gay clubs in La Nogalera.

The festival will also include the Mr Mad Bear 2017 competition, which will be held in the Eden Bar on Bajondillo beach on Saturday.

A list of all participating venues, programme of events and ticket prices are available from the Mad Bear Facebook page, or the website of the Hotel Ritual.

DETAILS

► **When.** 9 - 16 August

► **Where.** Various locations in Torremolinos.

► **For more information.** www.mad.bear.org

Torremolinos Chic

Torremolinos. Permanent exhibition, *Casa de los Navajas*.

A permanent exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. It features around twenty photos including one of the legendary Bridget Bardot posing on Carhuela beach in a Cordobés hat.

Spain for you

Torremolinos. Until 22 September. *Palacio de Congresos*.

The exhibition documents how Spain and the Costa del Sol were first promoted as a tourist destination. It includes artifacts and posters etc dating back to the 1930s up to present day.

Art Gallery Costa del Sol
Mijas. A permanent exhibition at the new art gallery in the Club

House 'Cerrado del Águila'
Paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics by Pedro Bueno, Teresa M. Martín and José B. Angulo.

Economistas en el arte

Torremolinos. Until 22 September. *Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso*.
Oils, watercolours, drawings, photographs and sculptures created by ten students at the Economics Faculty of Malaga University.

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.art-group.com



Bardot, Torremolinos chic

La Belleza del Sur

Benalmádena. Until 22 September. *Centro de Exposiciones*.
An exhibition of paintings, sculpture, video art, art installations and illustrations by around 30 international artists.

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LIMITED PLACES

EXHIBITIONS

Marlou Smits and Meta Wolters 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'.

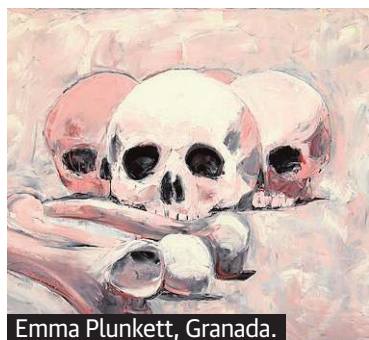
Juan Manuel Hurtado González Torrox-Costa. *Until 31 August. Tourist office.*

Juan Manuel Hurtado is exhibiting a selection of his work.

Arja Linteri Alhama de Granada *Until 15 September. Patio del Carmen.*
An exhibition of art work by Finnish artist Arja Linteri.

Contemporary artists Nerja. *Until 3 September, Museo de Nerja.*

Works by thirty five female artists in the collection owned by the Diputación de Málaga.



Emma Plunkett, Granada.

Galería Krabbe Frigiliana. *Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín.*
Until 2 September.

Works by a selection of artists including Fernando de la Rosa, Pamela Smillow, Yaiza García, Luise Haugen and Camilla West.

Emma Plunkett and Manuel Morego

Granada. *Until 6 August. Jardín Nazarí, C/Blas Infante.*
A joint exhibition.

CHARITY

Moonlight Gala dinner Marbella. *4 August, from 7pm.*



iPop will headline the festival this weekend in Torremolinos. :: SUR

Gastronomy and music at 'Gran Sardina'

by TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The first edition of the Gran Sardinada de Torremolinos will take place in the bullring on Saturday 5 August.

This new gastronomic and musical event will begin at 1pm and continue until 4.30pm after which a massive foam party will be held on the fairground from 5pm.

Visitors will enjoy 'espetos', sardines grilled on a cane skewer over a wood burning fire, at a special price of just one euro. There will also be a bar selling food and drinks at standard bar prices.

The afternoon will get going with live music supplied by several local artists, as well as performances by some of Málaga's most respected DJs, including Bruno Dass, Javi Carrera and

Adolfo Arjona.

The highlight of the afternoon will be a performance by Málaga-based band, iPop, a four-piece group whose repertoire includes everything from rock to contemporary pop music.

Entry to the bullring is free, but an admission price of 12 euros will be charged for the foam party. Tickets for the VIP area cost 16 euros and include a souvenir T-shirt. A Premium ticket costs 24 euros and this includes a T-shirt and access to the backstage area, where drinks and a buffet will be available.

Tickets are available online or from the ticket office on the day of the festival.

For more information see the Facebook page for Torremolinos Me Gusta.

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@lewhoad.com or tel: 663083249 / 952 47 48 58.

Flamenco for Acompalia

Almuñécar. *6 August, 10pm. 15€ in advance, 20€ on the door.*

A flamenco evening to raise funds for the Acompalia charity which supports terminally ill patients and their families providing free of charge services.

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 or tel 654513380 or ring the hotel: 952585988 email: 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

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.

The Wall Bar

Malaga. *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.*

4 August. Trinti. Jazz and blues with Dana Andrews vocals, Jesús Aranda vocals and guitar and Gianni Piras guitar and bass
5 August. Eva Jimenez classic jazz.

Ocean Bar

Malaga. *5 August, 10.30pm. Hotel Vincci. C/Pacífico.*

Rosa Ruíz y Foky.

Marina opera

Torremolinos. *5 August, 10pm.*

Auditorio Principe de Asturias. 17€ in advance, 20€ on the door.

The Teatro Lírico Andaluz company will be performing the opera Marina. Tickets www.unientradas.es

Cervantes Summer concerts

Malaga. *Teatro Cervantes.*

7 August, 8.30pm. James Rhodes.

Canela Party

Malaga. *Until 5 August. Sala Velvet, Calle Comedias.*

Hardcore grunge and punk bands are performing at the Canela party in Sala Velvet and Sal Paris 15 (C/La Orotava, 25). More information: www.canelaparty.com

Jazz, blues and swing

Torre del Mar. *Mondays 10pm, Pase Marítimo de Poniente.*

7 August Dana Andrews Project.

14 August. Befunkbop.

21 August. Peet Rothwell's tribute to Michael Bublé.

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.

Saturday concerts

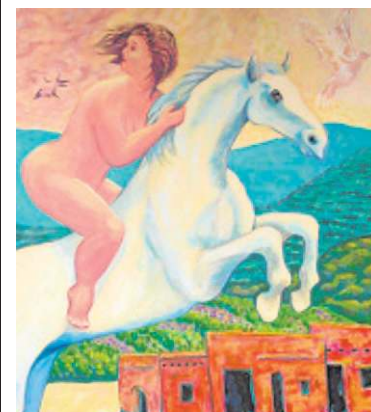
Malaga. *Noon. Museo Unicaja de Artes y Costumbres Populares (MUACP). Plaza Enrique Garcia*

Herrera
Saturday morning concerts.

David Gómez

Torremolinos. *9, 10 August, 10pm. Casa de los Navajas.*

David Gómez is a recognised concert pianist and composer. He will be presenting his new album Pianographie. Tickets from the box office or www.ly200.com



Arja Linteri, Alhama de Granada

Noches de Encanto

Almáchar. *Until 11 August.*

Every Friday at 11pm until the 11 August there will be concerts at various venues in the town. www.almachar.es

Starlite

Marbella. *Until 26 August, 10.30pm. La Cantera de Marbella. <https://www.ticketea.com>*

4 August. Miguel Bosé will present his latest album "MTV Unplugged", an audiovisual document that shows the artist as never seen and listened on a stage.

6 August. Malú. With more than 2 million copies sold, two Latin Grammy nominations, the Ondas Artist of the Year Award among others, Malú is now one of the most popular Spanish artists.

8 August. Soprano Ainhua Arteta and baritone Dwayne Croft will perform classics from cinema and Broadway.

9 August. Ana Torroja will perform songs from her latest album Conexión.

10 August. Eros Ramazzotti, the Italian composer and singer presents his latest album Perfetto.

11 August. Dani Martín will be performing songs from his latest album La Montaña Rusa.

Festival of Jazz and Blues

Alpujarras. *Until 5 August,*

Busquistar. 7€ per concert.

The Jonathan Kreisberg Quintet



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are performing on 4 August and King Solomon Hicks on 5 August. Tickets from Busquístar town hall and www.ticketmaster.com

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.

10 August. Arte Azabache, Traditional Flamenco show.

Festival of Sound Fuengirola.

4 August. Castillo Sohail. Diego La Cigala.

6 August. Castillo Sohail. Richard Clayderman.

More information:

<http://marenostrumcastlepark.com/festival-ciudad-de-fuengirola/>



Jazz Wednesdays in the CAC Vélez-Málaga. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. 8.30pm. Free.
9 August. Arturo Cid Quintet.
16 August. Eva and the Calypsos.
23 August. Carlos Cortés Cuarteto.
30 August. Garum Trio.

Música en el Mar

Mijas. 4 August, 9pm. Plaza del Torreón
Flamenco fusion with a touch of Cuban rythm and copla with Adriana La Pimienta.

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

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/programacion-del-festival-terral-2017/> or <http://www.teatrocervantes.com>

Zarzuela and opera

La Cala de Mijas. 11 August, 9pm.

Plaza del Torreón.

Soprano Carmen Serrano and tenor Adolfo Nieto accompanied by pianist Francisco Soriano.

The Animals III, Songs of Smokie, Echoes of the 60s

Mijas. 19 August, 9pm. Mijas Municipal Auditorium. 15€.

The Animals II are coming direct from Newcastle, Songs Of Smokie and Echoes of the 60s tribute acts. Tickets tel: 609 488 572

Pink Purple Zep Fest

Estepona. 26 August, Plaza del Toros. 25€ or 70€ VIP.

The Pink Purple Zep Fest celebrates the music of Pink Floyd, Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin performed by three of the leading tribute bands from the UK: Think Floyd, Deeper Purple and Whole Lotta Led. www.pinkpurplezefest.com



Deeper Purple, Estepona

FLAMENCO

Weekly flamenco shows

Malaga. Kelipe Flamenco, C/Muro de Puerta Nueva 10.

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.30pm. For private workshops and more information tel: 34 665 09 73 59 or email: kelipe.manzano@gmail.com

Museo de Arte Flamenca Peña Juan Breva

Malaga.

4 August. Muelle Uno. 7.45pm. Crucero Flamenco.

5 August. In the museum. 9.30pm. Flamenco with Bastián Jimenez info@flamenka.com

FESTIVALS

Feria de Zapata

Alhaurín de la Torre. 4 - 6 August. 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 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 is recognised as a Fiesta de Singularidad Turística Provincial and attracts thousands of visitors every year. Besides stalls selling local products there will be music, dancing and tastings.



COLECCIÓN DEL MUSEO RUSO Annual exhibition: The Romanov dynasty Until 21 Jan 2018 Temporary exhibition: Kandinsky and Russia 10 August 2017 - Jan 2018	museoPICASSO Málaga Temporary exhibition: Bacón, Freud and the London School Until 17 Sept 2017 Temporary exhibition: We are completely free. Female artists and realism 10 Oct 2017 - 28 Jan 2018	Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga
Temporary exhibition: Santiago Ydáñez The heart rules 23 Jun 2017 - 24 Sep 2017 Temporary exhibition: Danielle van Zadelhoff Tales of the soul 30 Jun 2017 - 15 Oct 2017	cac Málaga Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga Temporary exhibition: MÁLAGA, City of Knowledge Until 24 Sep 2017 - 15 Oct 2017	museo del patrimonio municipal 2007-2017 X ANIVERSARIO Temporary exhibition: The appearance of what is real Fifty years of realist art in Spain (1960-2010) Until 10 Sep 2017
FUNDACIÓN PICASSO MUSEO CASA NATAL AYUNTAMIENTO DE MÁLAGA Temporary exhibition: Palau looks at Picasso 21 Jun 2017 - 08 Oct 2017	Centre Pompidou Málaga Temporary exhibition: Starck, Secret drawings Until 17 Sep 2017 Exhibition workshop with Alexander Calder: Wow! Circus! Until 15 Sep 2018	MUSEO REVELLO DE TORO
New permanent fashion exhibition: Too much is never Enough	Museo Automovilístico Y. de la Noda Temporary exhibition: The birth of the colour of Jorge Rando Until 30 Sep 2017	Museum Jorge Rando Permanent exhibition: 104 works by Malaga artist Félix Revello de Toro. Pedro de Mena house and workshop

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...

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Ayuntamiento de Málaga

FESTIVALS

Fairs and festivals

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 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.

Festival de la India

Churriana. 15 August, 8pm-

12.30am. Hare Krishna Cultural centre. Free.

Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the India's Independence Day the festival will include Bharat Natyam and kathak dance, drama, sitar and tabla music, henna tattoos, Indian costume photo stand and a wide variety of Indian vegetarian delicacies.

www.harekrishna.es



India Festival, Churriana

EVENTS

'Espuma land' festival

Torremolinos. 5 August, from 5pm. Recinto Ferial. 12€ general, 16€ VIP (includes T-shirt), 24€ premium (T-shirt, buffet with pizza and hotdogs). Foam party, live music and DJs. www.entradasatualacance.com

Malaga's Roman Theatre Festival

Malaga. The Roman theatre. 10pm. 20-25€
Until 5 August. Amazonas. Tickets and information: www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/teatrosromanos/ and www.elcorteingles.es

Craft fair

Michael Bolton concert

BY TONY BRYANT

MARBELLA. As part of his current world tour, Michael Bolton, one of the most popular power ballad singers of the 1980s, will perform at the Puente Romano Tennis Club in Marbella next week.

Michael Bolton achieved huge success in the mid-1980s and early 1990s with covers of classic pop songs like (Sittin' On) the Dock of the Bay and When a Man Loves a Woman. His achievements include 53 million album sales, eight top-ten albums, two number one singles and a Grammy.

With a keen interest in soul and Motown, for which his gravel-edged rock voice is perfectly suited, Bolton recorded numerous classic soul hits, making him one of the most popular ballad singers of his era.

Bolton is sure to perform many of his greatest hits next week in Marbella, along with other classics like Steel Bars, which he co-wrote with Bob Dylan and the chart-topper, How Can We Be Lovers.

The concert, which is organised by Crazy Music Productions SL, will take place on Thursday



Michael Bolton in concert . :: WIKIMEDIA

10 August. Doors open at 8pm and the show will begin at 10.30pm.

Tickets for the show, which is expected to last for approximately three hours, are available from El Corte Inglés. Prices vary from 73 to 308 euros and a 'Gold Ticket' will enable fans to enjoy cocktails and a chance to meet the musician at the after-gig party.

DETAILS

► **When.** 10 August, from 8pm.

► **Where.** Puente Romano, Marbella.

► **Tickets.** 73 to 308 euros

► **Further information.** www.crazymusicproductions.com

Puerto Banús. Until 31 August.

Plaza Antonio Banderas. Over 50 stalls with crafts from all over the world.

'Me Vuelves Lorca'

Alpujarras. Until 12 August.

Laroles.

The festival includes live music, a theatre production and flamenco. More information <http://web2.mevuelveslorca.com>

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

Trip to Almuñécar for fiesta

Torre del Mar. 15 August. Various departure points. 12€

Lux Mundi Torre have organised a

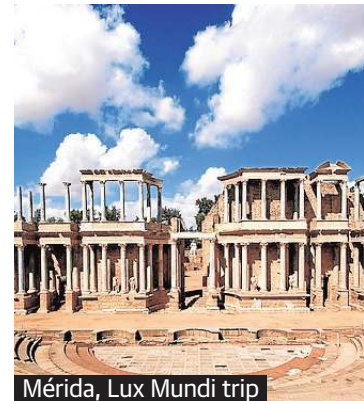
trip to Almuñécar to see the festivities in honour of the Virgen de la Antigua. Procession to the beach followed by firework display. Tel.952543334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Coach trip to Cáceres, Mérida and Badajoz

Torre del Mar. 25 - 29 September. Various departure points. 348€ pp, double room, 398€ single room. Lux Mundi Torre have organised a trip with guided tours of Mérida Badajoz, the monastery at Guadalupe 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.



Mérida, Lux Mundi trip

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
Their Finest: 18.45

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Spiderman: Homecoming:

20.30, 23.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)
Atomic Blonde: 12.30 (every day), 18.15, 20.45, 23.15 (Tues)
Transformers: The Last Knight: 18.15, 21.15, 0.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)
Dunkirk: 17.30 (Tues)
Inside: 19.15 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

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

Despicable Me 3: 15.50 (every day)

Atomic Blonde: 21.00, 23.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Inside: 22.15 (Tues)

Spiderman, Homecoming: 12.20, 17.00, 16.45 (every day); 19.45, 22.35 (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: 20.30 (Tues).
Man From Uncle: 21.00 (Thurs).

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Spider man: Home Coming: 12.20, 16.45 (every day); 19.45, 22.35 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Wonder Woman: 20.15 (Fri-Thurs)

Inside: 22.15 (Tues only)

Dunkirk: 12.00, 16.00, 20.40, 23.00 (every day)

Transformers: The last Knight 11.50, 17.40 (every day); 18.15, 23.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Despicable Me 3: 15.50 (every day)

47 Metres Down : 20.30 (Tues)

Atomic Blonde : 21.00, 23.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

The Man From Uncle Down : 21.00 (Thurs)

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Dunkirk: 13.10, 21.40 (every day except Fri); 00.15, 13.10, 21.40

Atomic Blonde: 12.50, 15.40, 18.10

Transformers: The Last Knight: 15.00, 21.00 (every day)

Spider man: The Homecoming : 12.30, 15.15, 18.00, 20.45, 23.30 (every day)

Starlite Festival

Marbella Auditorium.

Hunger Games. 5 August, 10.30pm.

<http://starlitemarbella.com>

The Pink Purple Zep Fest

Live concert celebrating music of Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and Deep Purple.

The Pink Purple Zep Fest Plaza de Toros de Estepona.

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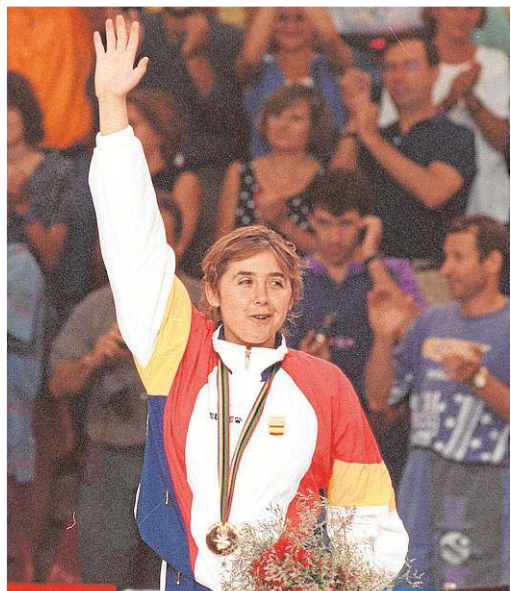


HOW TO GET HERE

Barcelona, 25 years after the dream

The six Olympic athletes from Malaga, three of them gold medallists, tell us how competing in the Games changed their lives

ELENA BENÍTEZ TAEKWONDO



►▲ **Gold.** Taekwondo began as an exhibition sport. :: SUR/SALVADOR SALAS



THERESA ZABELL SAILING



►▲ **Good result.** Theresa Zabell got two out of two at the Games. :: SUR



MARINA RIVAS

Twitter: @MarinaRivasG



Businesswoman, sports coach, trainers and tour operator, just some of the jobs these athletes are doing now

MALAGA. As night fell in Barcelona on 25 July 1992, archer Antonio Rebollo released the flaming arrow which would illuminate the immense Montjuïc hill as 55,000 people watched nervously and with close attention. The Olympic Games in Barcelona had begun, the most important sporting event to have been celebrated in Spain so far, with 9,356 athletes of 169 nationalities who were aware that their lives could be about to change forever. Six of those athletes were from Malaga and now, 25 years later, they tell us about their experience.

Esther Sanz Badminton

"People told me to give up, but I was too determined"

Esther Sanz was the first Spanish woman to compete in badminton in the Olympics. She was only 13 when she first set her heart on becoming a professional, and when she was 14 she left the family home in order to train in Granada.

At that time badminton was a little-known sport in Spain and few people took it seriously. "People used to tell me to give up because I wasn't going to get anywhere, but that just made me more determined, she says." She couldn't compete in Atlanta in 1996 due to injury, and when she was 21 she went with her husband to work in the USA as a tour operator. After 16 years she recently returned home to Benalmádena.

Ángel Alonso Taekwondo

"Taking part in the parade was just incredible"

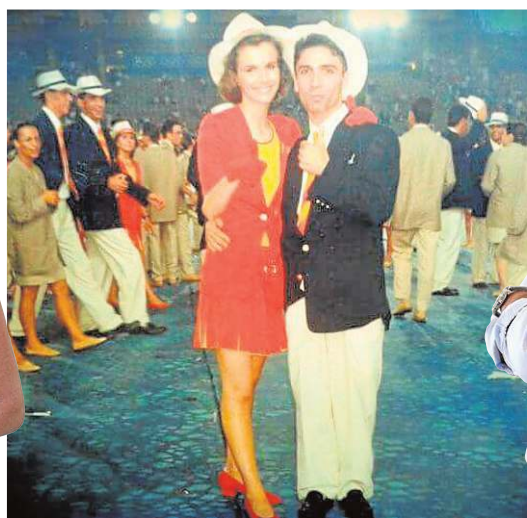
MARÍA DEL CARMEN BAREA FIELD HOCKEY



►▲ **Gold.** Barea (with the blue headband) scored a goal in the final. :: SUR



ÁNGEL ALONSO TAEKWONDO



►▲ **The only one from Malaga.** Alonso, who was world champion a year earlier (1991), came fourth in Barcelona. :: SUR/SALVADOR SALAS



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Ángel Alonso competed in taekwondo in Barcelona, where it was included as an exhibition sport. He came fourth, and was the only male athlete from Malaga to take part. "Ever since I was 17 my aim was to get to the Olympics. I trained with that in mind," he says. A few years later, he fulfilled his dream.

"Going into the stadium and taking part in the parade was incredible. Nothing will ever beat that," he says. After moving to Guatemala, he returned to the Olympics but this time as a trainer, in Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and London 2012. When he returned to Malaga he studied sports psychology, and now works with a local company.

Elena Benítez Taekwondo
"The Games opened doors to me"

Elena Benítez, from San Pedro Alcántara, won a gold medal in taekwondo. These were her second Olympics, after Seoul in 1988, where she was the first female athlete from Malaga to compete. "When I walked towards the podium I realised that was the most important moment of my life," she says.

For her Barcelona marked a before and after, although she still works professionally in taekwondo. "The Games changed my life and opened doors to me," she says. She went to Athens, Beijing and London as a trainer, and now works for the Spanish Taekwondo Federation.

María Peláez Swimming
"I had no idea what it would

MARÍA PELÁEZ
SWIMMING



▲▲ **The baby of the team.** Aged just 14, Peláez (left) was one of the youngest athletes to compete in Barcelona 1992. :: SALVADOR SALAS/SUR

be like; it was so exciting"

María was the baby of the Spanish swimming team, aged just 14. She competed in the 100 and 200 metre butterfly and 4x100 freestyle. "I had no idea what it would be like, but it was so exciting" she says now. "After Barcelona, my life was based on four-year cycles. It changed everything."

However, she says she has found it difficult to find work in the past, even after competing in the Olympics five times. Now living in Ma-

drid, she has recently been offered a job by Majadahonda council, as a sports technician.

Theresa Zabell Sailing
"It was unforgettable. Nothing can compare with that"

Five times world sailing champion, twice European champion, twelve times Spanish champion and two Olympic medals, in Barcelona and Atlanta. Theresa, from Fuengirola, has won more awards than any other

ESTHER SANZ
BADMINTON



▲▲ **Pioneer.** Sanz was the first Spanish female badminton player to compete in the Olympics. She did so in Barcelona, where her sport was included for the first time ever. :: SUR

Spanish athlete. "It was very stressful because we were the favourites and the pressure was enormous," she says, "but it was unforgettable. Nothing can compare with that."

Apart from her sport, she is qualified in marketing and IT, speaks four languages and has been an MEP. She now works for a multinational which organises events.

Mari Carmen Barea Grass hockey
A gold medal and a goal in the

final of the tournament

Mari Carmen was unable to talk to us for this article, but we couldn't leave her out. Her hockey team won a gold at Barcelona 1992, and she scored one of the goals in the final, beating Germany 2-1.

The team has thousands of memories of the event, and went home with a feeling of pride after competing for their country, and the satisfaction of making a longstanding dream come true.

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Malaga snap up Sevilla youngster to bolster defensive ranks

Diego González joins after his performances with Sevilla's B team earned him a call-up for the under-21s

|| SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. After losing out on Jorge Meré in the transfer saga of the summer, Malaga have finally strengthened their backline with the signing of Diego González from arch rivals Sevilla.

The central defender, who shone with the Andalusian side's B team, Sevilla Atlético, last season, will play back-up to the club's established central defensive pairing of Luis Hernández and Paul Bayse.

Despite a lack of experience at the top level, the 22-year-old's performances were enough to attract the attention of Spain under-21 coach Albert Celades who gave him a call-up last year, earning four caps since then.

His arrival could signal the departures of both Bakary Koné and Mikel Villanueva. The latter has attracted interest from Cádiz, while the former was excluded entirely from the



González (left). || V. VICENS

club's recent training camp in the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, head coach Michel has admitted that he is looking for a loan move for Luis, who he feels at this stage of his career "needs to be playing regularly". He has ruled out a move to Atlético Malagueño as they play at an "inferior" level to that of the player.

Full-back Cifu has been given an opportunity this summer, but he remains available after youngster Álex Robles impressed the coaching staff when given the opportunity.



|| ÁLVARO CABRERA

A NEW ERA FOR MALAGA, WITH NEW CAPTAINS

With the old guard moving on, there were new faces on Tuesday when Malaga's new first team captains, Roberto Rosales, Recio and Miguel Torres, presented this year's edition of the Costa del Sol Trophy. Malaga take on Lazio this Saturday at La Rosaleda at 8.30pm in a bid to claim the trophy for an eleventh time.

IN BRIEF



Mula finishes under pressure. || SANTIESTEBAN

Mula takes his chance in Malaga loss (2-1)

DUISBURG

|| S. CORTÉS. Malaga brought an end to their preseason training tour of the Netherlands and Germany with a defeat on Saturday after-

noon against Borussia Moenchengladbach. Despite a well-taken first half goal from youngster Mula who started up front with Borja Bastón in a close to full-strength side, a header from Reece Oxford and a late penalty by Raffael gave the Germans victory.

Eibar fixture set for 21 August at 10pm

MALAGA

|| D. FINCH. A date has been set for Malaga's opening fixture: the Blue and Whites face Eibar at La Rosaleda on Monday 21 August at 10pm, the last of the opening weekend's fixtures.

The date has been specifically chosen to avoid the city's 'feria' which takes place the week before, and also the basketball clash between Spain and Venezuela at the Martin Carpena on the Sunday.

The 2017/18 season opener will take place in the suburbs of Madrid as Leganés host Alavés on Friday 18 at 8.15pm.

Malaga's second fixture of the campaign sees them travel to Girona on Saturday 26. Kick off is at 8.15pm.

Search intensifies for a holding midfielder

MALAGA

|| S. C. Malaga's work in the transfer window is far from done. The management has identified a holding midfielder as the next priority after a change of heart over Zdravko Kuzmanovic. It was hoped that he could play that position, but performances in preseason have shown he is much more adept at playing higher up the pitch.

Michel's primary target was Zenit midfielder Javi García but his inflated wages have made this deal almost "impossible".

Tentative enquiries have been made for Inter Milan man Geoffrey Kondogbia, formerly of Sevilla, but the club is assessing a number of options, including players who can play numerous positions across the midfield.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
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Cirque du Neymar

The Brazilian forward's expected world-record move to PSG is the ultimate vanity project

A significant part of the audience was aghast when I countered my esteemed colleague's gushing description of Neymar with "...he's just not quite a legend in the making."

This was back in the summer of 2013 when the young Brazilian was about to join Barcelona accompanied by a large fanfare.

"World class" reckoned my informed pal Guillem Balague. "But he's not in the league of Messi and Ronaldo" was my assertion to a gathering of Spanish football fans.

Some mocked, and the fact that

Paris Saint Germain have found 222 million euros to take transfer deals into another sphere suggests they may have been right to mock.

But having commented on his talents for four years I stick with my original statement that he's incredibly talented but just short of being considered one of the best in the world.

If he remained in La Liga he'd still be competing for the spotlight with Lionel Messi, Cristiano

Ronaldo, Luis Suárez, a fit-again Gareth Bale, Antoine Griezmann and emerging talents like Marco Asensio and Isco. In Ligue 1 he has the whole top billing to himself!

This is the ultimate vanity project and making Cristiano seem quite modest in comparison.

It can't be about money as he's already wealthy beyond comprehension. It can't be about winning

titles as he has a Champions League, and Fifa World Club title to add to three Liga and cup medals.

Talk about marquee signing - he has the whole circus tent to himself! He thrives the attention and is certainly getting it this summer but come autumn this will draw in like the nights.

The big winners may yet be his new club PSG. Alright they'll pay a sickeningly ridiculous amount of money but then again they have a well of cash.

This is a statement that means their planet is recognised in the football galaxy.

Blackburn did it with Alan Shearer, Real Betis broke a world record for Denilson in 1999, Real Madrid do it most summers and Manchester United paid over the odds to reestablish their world order with Paul Pogba last summer.

For me it smacks of Robinho joining Manchester City almost a decade ago. He wasn't quite sure which club he was signing for but he knew he was top of the bill and made for life.



Workers outside the Camp Nou remove Neymar from a poster. :: AFP

The club benefitted by signing a recognised talent that established them among the order.

I'd rate Neymar's as a similar talent to Robinho too, not quite World Player of the Year contender, but he will ensure sell-out stadia.

I've often visited Paris and wondered why such a major city didn't have a worthy football team. Now it's the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Moulin Rouge, Euro Disney and PSG.

It may all be to Barcelona's advantage too if they entice Kylian

Mbappé from Monaco. He'd liven up the team and be an exciting replacement for Neymar without the baggage.

There's one aside that Neymar's new club should watch out for too. It's traditional that he serves a suspension or recovers from a knock around March 11, the date of his sister's birthday and he recuperates with her.

He's just a family man at heart, he's just weighed his dad into the deal with a 40-million-euro cut.



Neymar. :: EFE

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"I have never hidden anything," says Ronaldo as he appears in Madrid court

"Nor have I tried to avoid paying taxes," the Portuguese player also told the judge, after being accused of tax fraud over his image rights

AMADOR GÓMEZ

MADRID. "The Spanish tax authority knows all about my income because I have given them all the details; I have never hidden anything, nor have I ever intended to avoid paying taxes," said Cristiano Ronaldo this week.

He made the statement issued after he was questioned by a judge for an hour and a half as part of an investigation into an alleged 14.7 million euro tax fraud. "I always voluntarily file my tax returns, because I believe we all have to pay the tax which is due on what we earn.

"I don't want problems"

Those who know me know that I always ask my advisers to make sure everything is up to date and properly paid, because I don't want any problems," added the Portuguese player for Real Madrid. Ronaldo insisted to the judge that he was inno-



About 200 journalists waited outside the court for Cristiano Ronaldo. :: PACO CAMPOS. EFE

cent, and places full responsibility for any wrongdoing on his tax advisers.

"I have always trusted my advisers," said the most famous footballer in the world, last year. He is represented by Jorge Mendes - who has already been questioned by the same

court about alleged fraud by Falcao, another of his clients - and is advised about tax by the Julio Senn legal firm. However, he has asked the Baker & McKenzie firm to defend him. "If my name wasn't Cristiano Ronaldo I wouldn't be here," he said when he appeared before judge Mónica Gómez Ferrer.

Ronaldo, who is accused of four tax offences between 2011 and 2014, told the court in Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid that he had never had any tax problems in any of the countries in which he has lived (Portugal and the UK before being signed by Real Madrid in 2009), and insisted that

"contrary to the prosecution's argument, the image rights were not ceded to a company which he owns when he arrived in Spain in 2010, but in 2004, on the advice of British lawyers," according to Gestifute, the agency which represents him and is headed by Mendes.

British system

"The structure was normal in England, it was checked by the British tax authorities and they confirmed that it was legal and legitimate," said Ronaldo, who if found guilty could face between two and seven years in jail.

Although he didn't address waiting media when he left the court from an underground car park, his agent insists that he is perfectly calm and pleased to have been able to collaborate with the authorities. Ronaldo has reportedly threatened to leave Spain because he feels persecuted.

The footballer insisted he has never had any tax problems in any country in which he has lived

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Villar (r) and son Gorka. :: EFE

Accused football boss, Ángel María Villar, released from prison on bail after 12 days

AMADOR GÓMEZ

MADRID. Ángel María Villar, the suspended president of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), who is accused of corruption and misappropriation of funds, was released from custody this week with his son Gorka after 12 days.

They were jailed on 20 July, together with Juan Padrón, the financial vice-president of the Federation. They were released from the Soto del Real prison after paying bail which had been set by judge Santiago Pedraz.

Ángel María Villar paid 300,000 euros and his son 150,000. Juan Padrón also had to pay 300,000 euros, and the secretary of the Tenerife football association, Ramón Hernández Baussao, was released the following day after lodging the 100,000 euros he had been ordered to pay.

"I want to thank everybody who, privately and publicly, have trusted in me, in Juan Padrón and in my son, and who have stood up for us. And thank you, too, to the prisoners in Module 1 for the affection and kindness you have shown us. I wish you all good luck with your cases and hope we will see you in the street soon. And many thanks to all of you for being here," said Villar to journalists when he left the prison in Madrid.

Former national trainers Vicente del Bosque and Javier Clemente are two of those who have worked for Villar and have come out in defence of the long-standing president of the RFEF. "I would put my hand in the fire for Villar," said Vicente Del Bosque recently.

Ángel Villar and his son left Soto del Real at 7pm, 27 hours after judge Pedraz agreed on Monday to their provisional release on bail. He, his son and Padrón have also been told to present themselves to the court every week, are banned from leaving Spain and their passports have been confiscated. They have also had to provide a mobile phone number so they can be contacted at any time to prove their whereabouts.

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Mireia Belmonte gets the world swimming gold she was craving

The best Spanish female swimmer ever completes the triple crown in the 200-metre butterfly and adds two more medals to her Budapest tally

COLPISA, R. C.

BUDAPEST. Mireia Belmonte finished off the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest last Sunday with the 400-metre medley silver medal.

This was her third time on the podium at the event after taking gold in the 200-metre butterfly and silver in the 1,500-metre freestyle.

Mireia Belmonte matches her personal best in a World Championships with these three medals, just as she did in Barcelona in 2013, and, above all, went away with the title that she was missing; the 200-metre gold in her favourite race to complete the triple crown of World, Olympic and European title holder.

The champion swimmer, rated the best Spanish female ever, was only beaten by the Hungarian Katinka Hosszu, favourite to make it to the top of the podium, in the



The Catalan swimmer celebrates her win in Budapest. :: AFP

400-metre medley, taking silver before heading home.

Suffering from a cold

"I think it was a good 400 metres to finish off the Championships, I've finished much better than I started last Sunday," commented Mireia, who had been suffering with a cold during the week, although not so much as to stop herself being crowned world champion in the 200m butterfly, which had been her aim at the meeting.

"I got a gold that I thought I'd

never get and it was nice to swim with Katie Ledecky in the 1,500m," said the Catalan swimmer, who confirmed that she had no plans to change her training programme.

Thanks to Mireia Belmonte's final silver, the Spanish team finished the World Aquatic Championships in Budapest with six medals.

Three from the best female swimmer in Spanish history, two from Ona Carbonell (both silver) in synchronised events and silver for the women's water polo team, which was beaten in the final by the US.

Charity golf day in aid of Cudeca to be held at Magna Marbella

SUR

MARBELLA. On 12 August Magna Marbella Golf will be holding their charity golf tournament in aid of Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice.

The registration fee is 25 euros and it starts at 9am. Two rounds of the magnificent nine-hole course at Magna Marbella Golf will be played, 18 holes in total. There will be prizes for the first three in the single category, and results will officially count towards the handicap ratings of the Royal Spanish Golf Federation.

The prize-giving and raffle will take place at Magna Café, the golf

course restaurant.

The aim is to raise funds to help Cudeca through the registration fee, as well as other fundraising activities throughout the morning.

Cudeca Hospice is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to offer specialised care and attention to patients with cancer or other advanced terminal illnesses and to provide support to their families.

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The Magna Marbella course. :: SUR



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LOVEMASSAGE Mature perfect hands, curves, breast unforgettable, All services. Benalmadena. 617695685

ENGLISH Stephanie 34: Fuengirola (next to bus station). Size 8, 32GG very busty, long dark hair. No hidden extras, no upper age limit. Oral w/o, cim, passionate sex, massage. I love wearing heels and suspenders. Toys, shower. 30 mins 40E, 45 mins 50E, 1hr 70E. Avail every day 10.30am - 6pm. Call, text, whatsapp 602636606. www.es-cortinmarbella.com

TORROX. New. 2 beautiful, passionate ladies. Compliant. Luscious. Games. Visits. 689057398

SPECIAL anal. Marbella explosive blonde, 120 breast. Couples. French without. Squirting. Photos available. Visa/Amex. Visits 24hrs. 680554614

MARBELLA Gan-Ghin Asian, special tantric/ Thai massages. 617791644

PUERTO Banus: Lesbian show. Gina and Lorena 18 years, French without, Greek. Photos available. 672420027

PUERTO Banus: Janina mulata and Debora black, horny. All services. Visits. 24hrs. 617791644

Marbella Gabrielle Dominatrix I enjoy torturing, humiliation, Golden rain. Black kiss. Anal. Latex. Leather. Tongue kisses. I send photos. 24 hours. Visa/Amex. 672420027

MARBELLA: Delux villa, 8 high standing señoritas. Complete massage. Pool, Jacuzzi and Spa. Bar. 24hrs. www.casamasamarbella.es 680554614

PUERTO Banus: Mónica. Brazilian Porno actress, explosive blonde, 140 breast, full Service, bondage, toys, couples. 24hrs. Send photos. 672420027

DIRTY old lady speaks English. In/ outcalls hotels. Fuengirola 632868590

ENGLISH ROSE privately educated, well spoken, attractive, elegant and slim, looking to accompany business men. Lunch/ dinner optional. Discretion assured. 699859054

DANIELA Mature busty, thin Brazilian. The best French and anal. Fantastic black, crazy delicious tongue kisses, you'll enjoy so much pleasure. Private/discreet apartment. Appointments only by Whatsapp. Nva. Andalucía. 634817450

CANCELADA: 2 beautiful hot girlfriends, playful. All services. 604109768

LAURA 24, busty, slim, juicy French. All services. Nva. Andalucía. 697219468

FUENGIROLA: Oriental young beautiful Japanese. Complete services. Outcalls. 24hrs. 693988340

JAPANESE Stunning goddess. Tantric and sexual body/to/body massage. Very good sexual services. Hotel and home visiting. Luxury private discreet apartment. Fuengirola. 673253870

THAI beautiful sexy lady to provide you with the latest erotic services. Enjoy comfort Body/to/body massage, Tantric massage, chest massage, happy end. Private apartment. Opposite Hotel Las Palmeras Fuengirola. Visits. 602382363

BENALMADENA Costa: Nice couple available for guys, ladies and couples. Private apartment. Outcalls. 631146803

BENALMADENA: Bianca sexy blonde, big tits. Private discreet apartment. Hotel visits. 631146080

www.casakinkspain.com Dungeon-studio. Massage. Fantasies. Squirting. Role play. All services. 662913428

44.YEAR old blonde. Natural French. Toys. No limits. Secluded facilities. Call 663265150 sashaspassion.com

BENALMADENA: Sexy Vicky, petite European. Fluent English. In/ Outcalls. 605382376

NEW ROSI 18, naughty student. Natural French. Kisses. 604102981 Nva. Andalucía

PRO-DOMINATRIX. Satyricon meets Lara Croft. Multi-Fetish & Kink. Sado-Maternal tendencies. No intimate worship. (Dungeon hire per hr & overnight also available.) 604293518

BUTTERFLYGIRLS. We organise your parties to the last detail! Place yourself in our hands. Dreaming of a crazy night of partying? Whatever you want! 24 h. VISA. 650237102, 951274723 www.butterflygirls.es http://www.butterflygirls.es

CALAHONDA. Larisa, blonde, blue eyes, Russian with amazing body. Passionate lover, affectionate and compliant. 608949543

RIVIERA. Hello, lover! I'm Daniela, Latin American with fire in my veins. My long legs and big tits will drive you crazy. 616368985

NEAR Elviria, Amanda, Brazilian, 25, with a beautiful body, slim with natural tits. Nymphomaniac and perverted. Really wild. 616368985

RIVIERA, Mariana, Polish brunette with green eyes. Pretty, sensual, very hot. A stylish lady who'll give you more pleasure than anybody. 648814653

VICKY, spectacular blonde Brazilian. Affectionate and compliant. Sensual, nymphomaniac. Incalls and outcalls. 24 hours. VISA. 608949543

CALAHONDA. 650237145. 24 h. I'm naked, horny, watching a porno film. Are you coming? I'm a mature Brazilian blonde nymphomaniac with big tits. From 50 €

MULTIORGASMIC Danish sexpot, enables you to fulfill all your fantasies. Benajarafe. Xena 637168101

NVA ANDALUCIA: Mature Brazilian, huge tits, deep anal and complete French. Independent. Private apartment. 632140190

FORCED exercise: Flabby & out of shape? Need some unique motivation? Domination/ submission & BDSM inspired fitness programs. The most thrilling transformational workouts of your life! Men, women & couples welcome. 1-1 & group available! 604293518

TORRE Mar: New! Japanese ladies. Beautiful, pleasing. Services 24H. 693996352

FUENGIROLA: Luana 30 Euros: Beautiful Brazilian, affectionate, elegant, French without, complete sex. Relaxing, prostatic massages. Discreet apartment. Pº Marítimo. Outcalls. 602419749

NVA ANDALUCIA: New sexy black woman, tall, sensational body. I live alone. Luxury apartment. Malu 677680928

FUENGIROLA: Explosive blond, pleasing, kisses, 69, massage, sex. In/outcalls. 645131273

RAQUEL Young Brazilian brunette, sexy. Pº Marítimo, Nº23 Fuengirola 626039574

NEW 3 ORIENTAL girlfriends, sexy, charming. Massages. All complete. 24hrs. Free drink. Vélez Malaga center. 642439718

MARBELLA. Madurita, fiestera, Argentina, cariñosa, completa, fetichismo, dominante. Salidas. 699175369

HUGE bust, Lina XL 38, relaxing massage, all services. Fluent English. Aircond. Fuengirola. 634163056

ESTEPONA: Pretty young charming girl. Special Tantra massage. 602891749

NEW BRAZILIAN: Victoria brunette 33 years, rich kisses and relaxing massages. Appointments only Whatsapp 612447547 Nva. Andalucía

Japanese Beautiful, vicious, spectacular bodies. Total satisfaction. Calle Muro. Marbella center. 657448181

FUENGIROLA: Charming lady. Sculptural body, beautiful face. Alone. In/outcalls. 625912315

NEW EXOTIC Indian amazon, very luscious and attractive. Nueva Andalucía 632515032 Luana

STUNNING girl(+18). Tantra massage. Skandinavisk velkommen. Marbella centre. www.annatantra.com 633060678

ESTEPONA. SARA MATURE, 150 BREAST, SLIM, SUPERLUSCIOUS. NO LIMITS. APPOINTMENTS. 603317023

NAIGHTY nympho wife 26 stunning blonde with husband loves anal, threesomes, gangbangs, water sports also has lesbian girlfriend for four-somes 603281752

TRY something different, Asian, European, all service, multiorgasmic pleasure, no rushing, luxury place. San Pedro/ Banús. 618448131

POLISH, Thai, Russian, busty, slim, blondy, kissing, anal, lesbic, hot horny, best servivel affordable, San Pedro/ Banús. 618448131

YOUNG, Thai lady, friendly blowjob, anal, kissing, kinky massage amazing. 600206549

SPANISH, Russian, stunning beauties, slim, blueeyes, long legged, hot wild horny lovers. Discreet, private apartment. Marbella. 679126231

THAI Balines, hilot proffessional massage by oriental lady, erotic, horny, bodybody touch, slim, beautiful european, new luxury Marbella. 660898501

LOVE lady, blonde, brunette, slim, sexy, sweet, horny scort. All service offer. Good atmosphere. New Marbella. 672568602

CARTAMA/ Coin. New house offering full service with ladies and/or transvestites. 50E half hour, 80E/hour. Parties arranged. 611336214

ESTEPONA: Pretty woman, big breast. Honey mouth. Fantastic massage. Complete. Elisabeth. 632833434

10 SPECTACULAR ladies, luxury villa. Swimming pool, visits, 24h. Visa. 615585871

PUERTO Banus, next to Casino. Unforgettable experience for nice gentlemen. Beautiful lady from Poland. 617700999

HELEN, BLONDE, BIG BOOBS, SEXY, MASSAGE, DISCREET. PAsION.COM 602497429

SAN PEDRO beach. Patricia 22, Spanish, erotic masseuse, discreet location, happy end. 674679757

SAN PEDRO beach, Andrea, 24, Spanish, erotic masseuse, happy end. Discreet. Easy parking. Whatsap. 666194079

BENALMADENA: Lucy 28, nice curvy body, will give you incredible pleasure. Only outcalls. 685266861

OFFER BENALMADENA: Attractive friendly lady (35), erotic massage with happy ending 20 Euros. 634209427

ESTEPONA: Sandra beautiful, luscious, hot. If you want to have an unforgettable moment, call me! 664582849

MARBELLA center, Lisa, 27, high standing gorgeous, exotic, very horny charming smile and fit athletic body, 1.67 - 52 kg, long brown, curly hair, sexy, erotic, full massage, body to body, blowjob, kisses, deep troat and more, outcalls, incalls, speak English et parle francais. 602368719

GIOVANNA Brazilian brunette, natural breast. Private. Outcalls. 24hrs. 604143404 Malaga

MARBELLA Carmen, massage, 602475138, big ass, Greek, French till end. Avenida Arias Maldonado 1, Iberest 1, apt 3-G

Male

ALEJANDRO 24 years, sexual massage with happy ending. Own apartment. Outcalls. 24 hrs. 665344158

LAS CHAPAS: Attractive boy, superendowed. Perfect lover, that will make you enjoy sex. 603202758

MALE to male, full body massage, Mijas Pueblo. 609321958

AFRO British muscular guy. Erotic massages, depilation, fantasies, SM. In/Out. Auric 604192852

LEONARDO: 35. Brazilian body builder. 23cms. Also couples. 602357175 Malaga

MARK Nueva Andalucía, erotic massage, both naked body to body, train body, 30 years, in call/out call. Dare yourself. 631251326

MARBELLA center, bisexual big size for everything. 657328140

SENSATIONAL Golfers massage and more by Jayli Singaporean. Nueva Andalucía. 662576394

Transvestites

TRANSSEXUAL Sophia, beautiful brunette, active/ passive, great bust, well hung. 662045252. Fuengirola. www.escortswow.es/sofiabiagg

ESTEPONA. BEAUTIFUL TRANSVESTITE, BLONDE ENDOWED, 140 BUST. OUTCALLS, 24H. VISA 660874904

1 HOUR 50E! Transvestite Fany, Spanish, beautiful, superendowed. 691762717 Torremolinos

NERJA: Transvestite Karina 26, beautiful blonde, feminine, endowed. Whatsapp 667846464

TRANSVESTITE masseuse, body fitness, big bust. Marbella centre. Whatsapp 603100027

NEW PANDORA Trans. Exclusive. Top and bottom service. 600262695 Marbella



NEW TRANSVETITE Claudia Moura brunette, active/ passive. Complete in all services. Private. 679233401 Fuengirola

THAI ladyboy pretty, slim, kissable lips, top/ bottom, in/ outcalls. Marbella center. 602493030

PORN star tans Mila Viasotti. +34649421035

VANESSA Trans. Lingerie, stiletto, stockings, satisfaction guaranteed. Great kisser. Puerto Banus 642182668

Massage

WWW.TANTRACENTER.ES PLEASURE WITHOUT LIMITS, SPECTACULAR MASSEUSE. MESSAGE EROTIC... WITH!!!SHOCKING END! 952216145/ 644452369

SAYAN. Tantra massage for ladies, gentlemen & couples. Ultimate bliss at a very nice place. Fuengirola. 952586339 /608977260 www.masajessayan.es

DISCOVER the benefits of tantric massages! Feel the pleasure in your skin...635290724

PURE ecstasy in Nueva Andalucía with young pretty independent masseuse. Erotic body, tantric and other completely relaxing massages in private apartment. 656350401

ESTEPONA. Funny young latina, sex, massage. I speak English. 604231626

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 Carolina, blonde, elegant, relaxing massage, full erotic massage. Whatsapp. Message: 634797230

MASSAGE and fun! Genuine trained exotic male tantric masseur. 645291083

FUENGIROLA: Madonna, Hot oil/horny massage with my boobs! Happy ending. 632157758

MATURE man, qualified masseur. Excellent massages for men. Torremolinos, Carhuela. 639040128

MAIH, 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. 951482585/ 604393547

PROFESSIONAL masseuse: Massages till end with optional end. 666770405 Estepona

MARBELLA centre. New. Luxury center with wide selection of expert masseuse... Sensual, erotic. Nuru erotic tantra, body to body lingam and prostatic. Unique experience 4 hands, pleasant and exciting, double stimulation. Massage for couples. Open: 9:00am/9:00pm. Appointment: 952867663/ 690046233

FUENGIROLA: Tantra body2body massage by beautiful lady. Aircon. In/outcalls. 603455786

UNWIND and relax. Professional Tantra masseur for ladies/ couples. 602098606

BEAUTIFUL sexy sculptural body. Massages high voltage. Torremolinos. 611326731

GORGEOUS Filipina masseur offers relaxing Thai/French massage for discerning English speaking gentlemen. Out calls only. 602 483864

ATTRACTIVE Asian Expert oriental massage, relieve pain and stress, unique service qualified. Discreet atmosphere, easy to find. Marbella. 604143788

MARBELLA center, young ex-model filipina offers best massage and more. In/outcalls. 602572579

ESTEPONA Cancelada, Sandra, wonderful massages, unforgettable, tantric, young, pretty, discreet. 645334459

FANTASTIC Massage by Beautiful Shemale. Relax, release. Nueva Andalucía 642182668

MALE to male massage for golfers and busy gentlemen Puerto Banus. JayLi (Singaporean) 662576394

Various

MALE/ female Viagra, kamagra jellys, cialis, delivered or mail order viagra4you19@gmail.com. 672883025

VIAGRA Kamagra 100mm for sale. Delivery/ postal Email be-met1@hotmail.com 634029878

VIAGRA (Kamagra) 100 mg, Cialis (Tadalafil) 20 mg, Jellies 100 mg. Wholesale & retail. Free delivery all areas. For the best products & service. 617740250.24 hrs.

CLOSER TO YOU

We have an agent in your area

MALAGA. HEAD OFFICE. Emma 952 649 669

MARBELLA. Leandro 952 776 040. Jules Franken 629 589 964

SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTARA. Traducciones San Pedro 952 789 204 / 654 613 094

FUENGIROLA. Diana 952 580 142 / 635 716 285

BENALMÁDENA. Publi Ocio del Sur 670 886 299. Graham 605 022 121

MJAS. Carrefour Mijas 952 580 726 / 670 643 488

MJAS COSTA. Sonja Bryce 626 539 298

ESTEPONA. Carmen 609 569 878

SOTOGRADE/GIBRALTAR 683 298 897

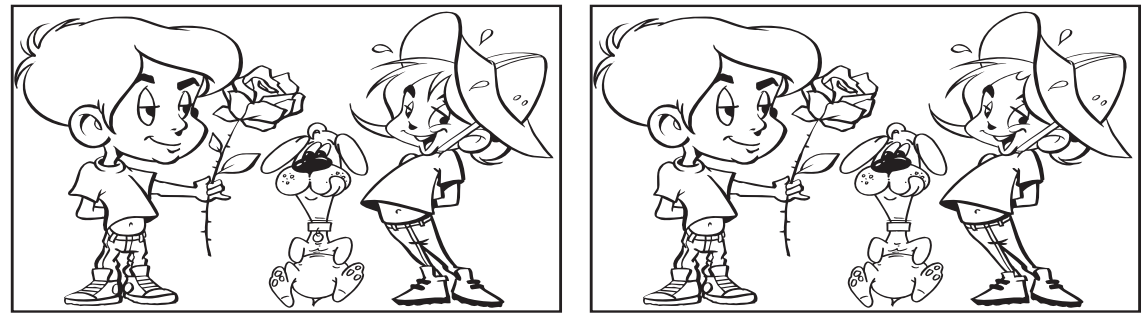
COIN. Rocío 951 315 113 / 600 513 343

NERJA. Debbie 952 649 674

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Virginia 952 403 611

SUR
in English

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Keep humour in the mix when dragged into a premature discussion. Be fair but avoid a strong commitment.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Aim to be in the right place at the right time to bump into someone who you admire.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Think about where you would like to be and what you would like to be doing in, say, five years' time.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
There are moments when you feel a bit lost. Using some of your talents to show others the way ahead brings the kind of satisfaction that you currently crave.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Looking to showcase your talents and abilities? This is a great time as people are more receptive to new thoughts.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
The chances are that if you ask someone's opinion, you won't like what they have to say.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Rather than look at something as being impossible, see it as being a challenge. Sometimes we have to test our abilities in order to gain confidence in them.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
A fresh start takes the weight from your shoulders. Having got out of a tricky situation, stay out of it!

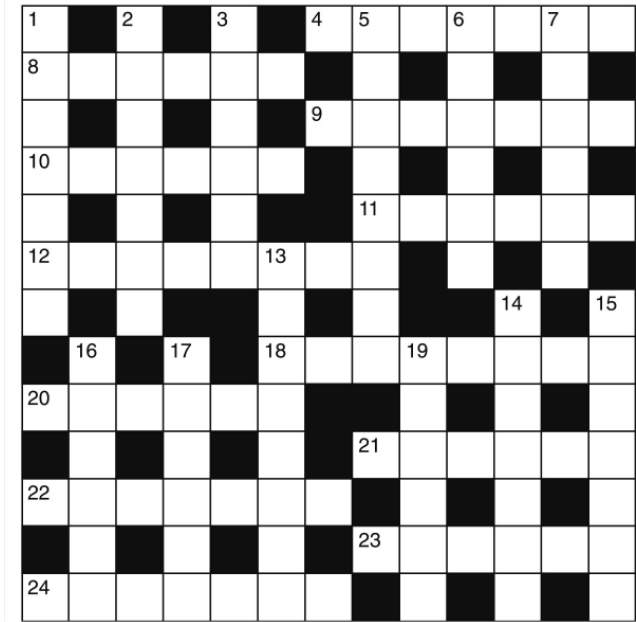
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
With lots of energy around it should not be wasted on old battles and failed plans.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
In taking charge and asking for what you want there is the sense of self-confidence that was lacking of late.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A subtle approach is needed and, if you cannot do this, get someone to do it for you. Be prepared to accept some changes with grace.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
A bit of bartering at the weekend sees you getting a real deal. Spend only what you can afford.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11253



- Across
- 4 Put on a dressing - what's damaged the editor? (7)

8 Sufficient to make one return with a cry of disgust (6)

9 An opening by the French is to surprise somebody (7)

10 Where you'll find sportsmen putting the vegetables (6)

11 Decline the first person plural in free translation! (6)

12 Change sides and strafe R.N. shockingly (8)

18 The position of the last to finish when everything has been considered (5,3)

20 & 14Dn It sounds like an automatic device for broadcasting on the farm! (6-7)

21 One chest disorder causes irritation (6)

22 Food content enough for one trip? (7)

23 A particular position in this would provide an example (4)

24 They eventually provide reliable support when one is on board (3-4)
- Down
- 1 Scale equipment for western rowing crews (7)

2 In favour of changing the name of the manager (7)

3 See 19 Down

5 Deserter from the ship? (5-3)

6 List of charges producing endless traffic chaos (6)

7 To join in a private capacity? (6)

13 Becoming weary when giving a set of signals (8)

14 See 20 Across

15 Forms of a hundred girls (7)

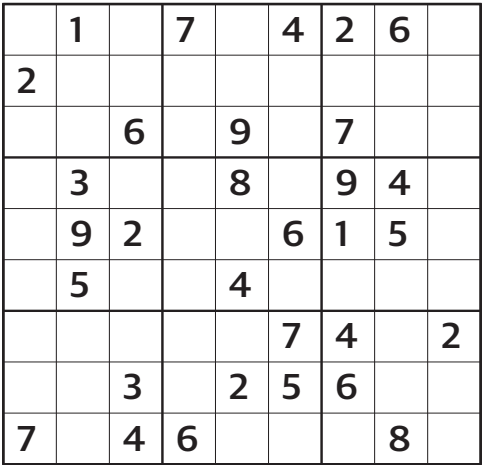
16 Transport for somebody already late (6)

17 Plot is changed by Shakespearian character (6)

19 & 3Dn Eastern country spies are experts in assessing the land (6,6)

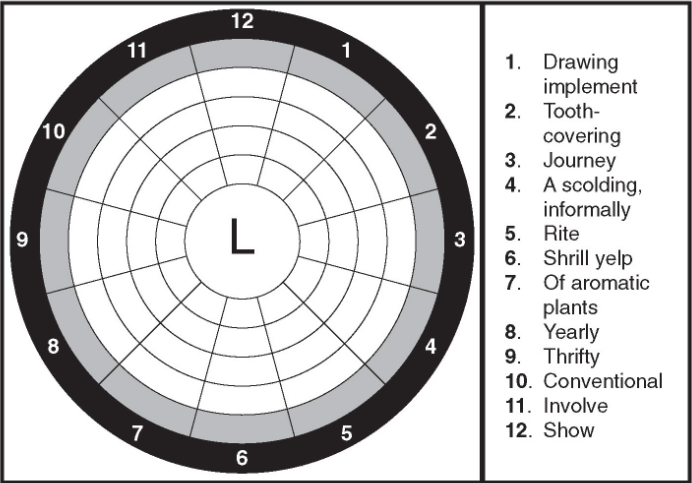
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter L in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of an Oscar-winning British playwright.



1. Drawing implement
2. Tooth-covering
3. Journey
4. A scolding, informally
5. Rite
6. Shrill yelp
7. Of aromatic plants
8. Yearly
9. Thrifty
10. Conventional
11. Involve
12. Show

THE WORDPUZZLER



- CAN you identify the first names of the snooker players listed below?
1. White
 2. Higgins
 3. Thorburn
 4. Meo
 5. Parrot
 6. Wilkinson
 7. Mountjoy
 8. Griffiths
 9. Johnson
 10. Reardon

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.
- 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

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 Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

What type of pastry is used in a chocolate éclair?

1. rough puff
2. flaky
3. choux
4. shortcrust

QUESTION 2

Which cocktail is made with cognac, orange liqueur and lemon juice?

1. Sidecar
2. Highball
3. Old Fashioned
4. Manhattan

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
1. Governor (10)

5. Dominant (9)

10. I loved (3)

11. She puts pressure on (8)

14. To inherit (7)

17. Walnut (4)

18. You will survive (pl) (13)

20. To capture (8)

22. Three (4)

23. I say (4)

26. Order (5)

27. To send (6)

28. Back tooth (5)

31. He laughs (3)

32. Groups (6)

34. To hand over (5)

36. Everything (4)

39. To guide (8)

41. To keep an eye on (7)

42. (The) Strait (8)

44. Test (6)

45. Portion (6)

46. Admiral (9)

47. To bombard (10)
1. Garrison (10)

2. Brief (5)

3. I tied up (3)

4. I smelled (3)

6. I heard (2)

7. North (5)

8. European (7)

9. Anniversary (11)

12. Face (6)

13. Sovereign (8)

15. To parade (8)

16. Birds (4)

19. King (3)

21. Power (5)

24. Empire (7)

25. To land (11)

29. To replace (10)

30. Feud (9)

33. I (2)

35. Monarch (7)

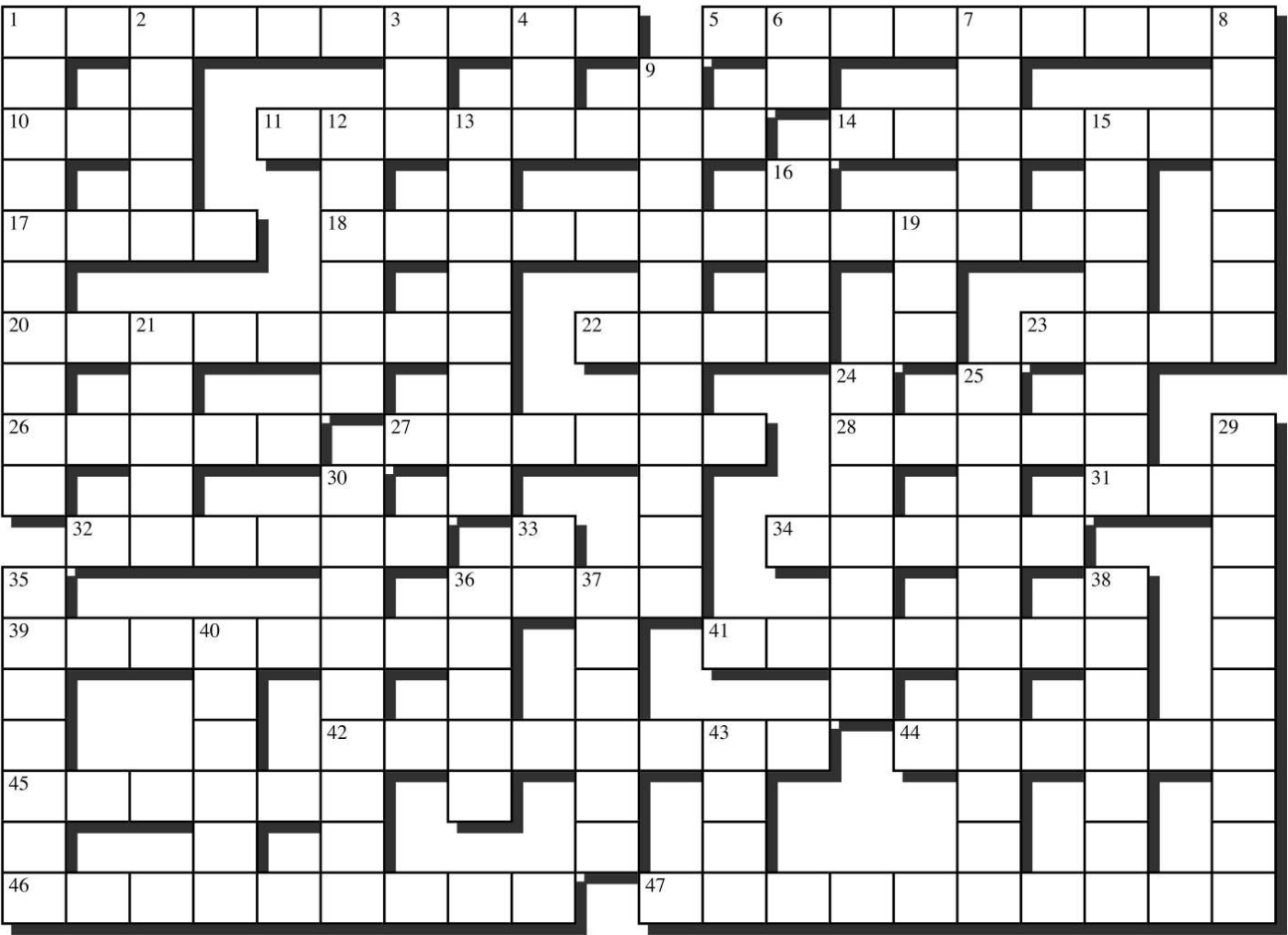
36. Deal (5)

37. Meadow (6)

38. Barter (7)

40. I displayed (6)

43. Son (4)



ANSWERS

Language Crossword

ACROSS: 1. GOBERNADOR 5. DOMINANTE 10. AME 11. PRESONA 14. HEREDAR 17. NUZ 18. SOBREVIVIERES 20. CAPTURAR 22. TRES 23. DIGO 26. ORDEN 27. ENVIAR 28. MUELA 31. RIE 32. GRUPOS 34. CEDER 36. TODO 39. ORIENTAR 41. ATSBAR 42. ESTRECHO 44. PRUBA 45. RACION 46. ALMIRANTE 47. BOMBARDEAR
DOWN: 1. GUARNICION 2. BREVE 3. ATE 4. OLI 6. OI 7. NORTE 8. EUROPEO 9. ANIVERSARIO 12. ROSTRO 13. SOBERANO 15. DESFILAR 16. AVES 19. REY 21. PODER 24. IMPERIO 25. DESEMBARCAR 29. REMPLAZAR 30. CONTIENDA 33. YO 35. MONARCA 36. TRATO 37. DEHESA 38. TRUQUE 40. EXHIBIR 43. HUO

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 4 Swathed; 8 Enough; 9 Startle; 10 Greens; 11 Refuse; 12 Transfer; 18 After all; 20 Sewing; 21 Itches; 22 Protein; 23 Stance; 24 Sea-legs. Down: 1 Weights; 2 Foreman; 3 Agents; 5 Water-rat; 6 Tariff; 7 Enlist; 13 Flagging; 14 Machine; 15 Classes; 16 Hearse; 17 Pistol; 19 Estate.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Pencil, 2 Enamel, 3 Travel, 4 Earful, 5 Ritual, 6 Squeal, 7 Herbal, 8 Annual, 9 Frugal, 10 Formal, 11 Entail, 12 Reveal.
WRITER: Peter Shaffer.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Jimmy
2. Alex
3. Cliff
4. Tony
5. John
6. Gary
7. Doug
8. Terry
9. Joe
10. Ray

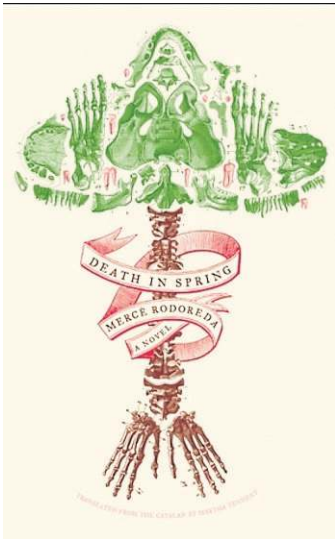
Sudoku solution

9	1	8	7	5	4	2	6	3
2	7	5	1	6	3	8	9	4
3	4	6	2	9	8	7	1	5
6	3	1	5	8	2	9	4	7
4	9	2	3	7	6	1	5	8
8	5	7	9	4	1	3	2	6
5	6	9	8	1	7	4	3	2
1	8	3	4	2	5	6	7	9
7	2	4	6	3	9	5	8	1

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Choux.
Of interest: Choux pastry is made from a soft dough that can be piped into an oblong shape and baked until it is crisp and hollow inside. The éclair originated in France where it was called 'pain à la Duchesse' until the 1850s when the name was changed to éclair.
Answer 2: Sidcar.
Of interest: The exact origin of the sidcar is unclear, but it is thought to have been invented around the end of World War I in either London or Paris.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Death in Spring
Mercè Rodoreda

Death in Spring can be read as a metaphor for Franco's Spain (or any oppressed society), or as a mythological quest novel. It tells the story of the bizarre and destructive customs of a nameless town—burying the dead in trees after filling their mouths with cement to prevent their soul from escaping, or sending a man to swim in the river that courses underneath the town to discover if they will be washed away by a flood—all through the eyes of a fourteen-year-old boy who must come to terms with the violence.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow

HELEN KELLER

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Tui Discovery 2	06/08	Ceuta	Vigo	06.00	22.00
Celebrity Reflection	06/08	Barcelona	Gibraltar	07.00	19.00
Westerdam	07/08	-	-	08.00	-
Independence of Seas	08/08	Toulon	Lisbon	08.00	15.00
Panorama II	12/08	Motril	Motril	07.00	04.00



A big, cuddly thank you for saving my life

A 57-year-old Briton will donate the spare toys of his granddaughter to Malaga's maternity hospital in gratitude for the care he received after a near-fatal heart attack

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. A British visitor has offered to make a kind donation to sick children in Malaga after he praised the efficiency of the Spanish health system and the excellent treatment he received following a near-fatal heart attack in Torremolinos last week.

Billy Masters, a 57-year-old east Londoner, was visiting his four-year-old granddaughter in Torremolinos when the emergency occurred.

Billy began experiencing chest pains following a morning coffee with friends - which he assumed was indigestion - but his wife, Michelle, realised that he needed medical assistance and immediately phoned for an ambulance.

Rushed to hospital

When the paramedics arrived they saw that Billy had had a heart attack and he was rushed to the Hospital Virgen de la Victoria in Malaga.



Billy's granddaughter, Lilly, with some of the soft toys her family will donate. **T. BRYANT**

Billy's distraught wife was amazed at the way the hospital staff looked after her husband and was impressed that a doctor took the time to explain everything in English. She was told that his heart rate had dropped and his kidneys had swollen, so he would need to spend 48 hours in intensive care.

"The doctor spoke good English and he went out of his way to explain everything to me. My body was shaking and I was obviously nervous, but the doctor

kept telling me to relax, which is easier said than done when you've just been told that you have had a heart attack," Billy told SUR in English.

However, the doctor praised Michelle for her quick response, because, as he pointed out, if she'd waited another 15 minutes before calling an ambulance, her husband would probably have died.

"We had heard stories of how bad the Spanish hospitals were and we were also unsure if we could receive help, as we only have the standard EHIC card, but everyone involved has been wonderful. Words cannot really express our gratitude and we will never forget the wonderful help

and assistance of the nurses. Our only regret is that we did not get the names of the nurses who were on duty the night Billy was admitted," Michelle explained.

After having a stent fitted to restore the blood flow through a blocked artery,

Billy actually spent the next four days in intensive care, but thankfully, he was eventually able to return to his family, although he now has to undergo further tests when he returns to the UK.

A donation of many toys

To show their gratitude to the hospital and the staff, Michelle, Billy and their family have decided to make a generous donation of cuddly toys and games to the Málaga Materno children's hospital.

"Our granddaughter has a room full of toys that she has hardly ever used, so we have decided to donate them to the hospital. It is a small gesture considering the fact that they saved my husband's life, but we just feel that we want to do something in return," Michelle said passionately.

The couple also wished to show their gratitude to the staff at the foreign residents department of Torremolinos town hall, as they also assisted the couple when Billy was discharged from hospital.

"I went to the foreign residents office and they kindly offered to translate the documents so that my doctor, and more importantly, me and Michelle, could understand them. We would like to thank everyone involved, they have all been absolutely wonderful," the Londoner explained.



Billy in intensive care. **SUR**

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