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City fills with colour for its annual feria

The largest street party in southern Spain continues in Malaga until Saturday night **28&29**



Malaga taxi drivers call off strike after days of chaos

Politicians have promised to step up controls over private hire firms **P2&3**

PP set to return to power in Marbella after San Pedro politicians say they will support no confidence vote in current coalition **P10&11**

Inland town Teba prepares to welcome Scottish visitors for its annual Douglas celebrations next week **P26&27**

Malaga CF face first La Liga fixture on Monday after a poor preseason campaign with only one win in nine games **P50&51**



Ambulances at the scene of the attack in Barcelona. :: EFE

Worldwide outrage after attack on tourists on Barcelona's Ramblas

At least 13 people believed dead after white van mowed down crowds

Crowds fled in panic after a man driving a white van entered the top of Barcelona's famous Las Ramblas boulevard and drove along it, knocking down pedestrians for about 600 metres yesterday evening (Thursday). At least 13 people

are believed dead and many more injured. People in the area, mostly tourists, fled the scene or barricaded themselves in shops, hotels and restaurants. Police closed off much of the city centre in their search for the attackers. **P20**

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Malaga's taxi strike ends for now after four days of surprise chaos

Taxi drivers have given politicians until 15 September to begin to address their grievances over competition from Cabify

■ SUR

MALAGA. The striking Malaga taxi drivers went back to work on Thursday morning, ending a four-day surprise protest that caused unexpected mayhem to thousands of people's journeys at a peak time of year.

Following a meeting in Seville with the Junta de Andalucía, the drivers voted in a secret ballot late on Wednesday night to end their strike.

At the Junta meeting they were given assurances that the regional government would do more to regulate and control the private hire activities of companies like Cabify and Uber, who use new technology to capture clients, and compete unfairly, according to the drivers.

Totally unexpected action

The stoppage by the over 1,300 taxis in Malaga city, who also serve the region's main airport and other key transport hubs, began suddenly on Saturday night when the drivers noticed private hire cars from Cabify using a drop-off zone at Malaga's annual fair, which has been running this week. The zone is reserved for licensed taxis and local buses.

Anger quickly spread, with driv-

ers staging an impromptu vote, claiming that Cabify was illegally taking business from them and demanding a meeting with the city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre.

The taxi drivers had already been incensed by an email sent by Cabify to its independent private hire drivers in Madrid urging some of them to come to Malaga during the peak period of the fair to cope with demand. Cabify says that 30 to 35 extra cars took up the offer, doubling the number it already had in the city.

Expensive to buy a licence

Taxi drivers' unions claimed that this was a provocation, saying that while they are tightly regulated and often have to invest up to 200,000 euros when licences change hands privately, drivers of private hire cars, which customers reserve through online applications, pay hardly anything for licences and are less controlled.

They also allege that Cabify cars have been flouting the law and using taxi ranks to pick up passengers and also plying for business freely in the streets.

Cabify representatives denied the accusations and countered the taxi drivers' arguments, saying that they are totally legal, the number of their vehicles is tiny and that, during 'feria', there is more than enough demand for everyone.

They have also reported to police alleged intimidation and damage to cars during the strike and the assault of a Cabify drivers' representative at Malaga airport. Taxi drivers' un-



On Monday afternoon striking taxi drivers converged on the city centre during the third day of the



Taxi drivers surround a Cabify car in the city centre. ■ NITO SALAS

ions have condemned the violence.

Meeting with the taxi drivers on Sunday, Malaga's mayor said that he had managed to get Cabify to withdraw half the outside cars as goodwill, but drivers said this was not enough, wanting to see all removed.

Meanwhile the strike spread to other Costa towns, with some taxis stopping work or refusing to bring people into the airport or city.

A few drivers from other parts of Spain also travelled to Malaga to "show solidarity" with the strikers.

After the meeting with the Junta, drivers have given politicians until a follow-up meeting on 15 September to take steps to increase the monitoring of private hire cars before deciding the next stage of their protest.

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feria, aiming to block key avenues for a while. :: NITO SALAS

New ways to book a ride: the challenge to the 'monopoly' of traditional taxis

The taxi drivers' strike this week is the latest in a long line of protests from the taxi industry worldwide against young start-up companies like Cabify (a Spanish brand) and Uber. Their private hire vehicles make use of downloadable apps so customers can reserve trips, normally at cheaper rates than traditional taxis. However drivers in the long-established private hire sector (known as VTCs in Spain) cannot pick up in the street nor use taxi ranks.

Taxi drivers feel the added competitive pressure from new start-up VTCs is unfair, while others accuse the taxi drivers of trying to preserve a virtual monopoly in the face of changing consumer habits.

VTC drivers in Spain, whether veteran or startup, can currently only spend 20 per cent of their time working outside of their home region and, in theory at least, national law still says that there can only be one VTC for every 30 taxis in an area. However on the Costa del Sol there is already one for every 5.9 taxis. The national government says it can do nothing to stop this as the Spanish courts keep finding in the VTCs' favour.

Tourist industry counts the cost of taxi stoppage and warns over future

Hoteliers have labelled the strike as "totally out of proportion" after many visitors to the Costa del Sol were left stranded this week

:: SUR

MALAGA. The surprise industrial action by taxi drivers at the height of the summer season and the start of Malaga's massive annual fair did not go down well with the Costa del Sol tourist industry, which is enjoying a record year.

The head of the Costa hoteliers' association, Luis Callejón Suñe, stated that the protest was "totally out of proportion" and "unjustified", adding that it had done neither Malaga nor the taxi drivers any favours.

He said: "It's as if we [the hoteliers] went on strike over the rise in illegal holiday apartments and told our guests we couldn't take care of them. We've got to adapt to the new reality and that's what they've got to do."

The Malaga business association (CEM) criticised the violence but also urged the authorities to take a long-term view. "We need rules to regulate [the private hire sector] nationally so there's equal competition," a spokesperson said.

Passengers' outrage

The industry's fears over the effect on tourism was best exemplified by the reaction of passengers arriving at Malaga airport, the main airport for southern Spain. Initially taxi drivers agreed to keep serving the terminal, but this policy was quickly dropped. On Sunday, the first day without taxis waiting at the terminal, travellers arriving off late-night flights, when public transport had finished, were faced with a taxi rank with just a few



Queues for taxis at Malaga airport this week. :: N. SALAS

"It's as if we went on strike... and told our guests we couldn't take care of them," said hoteliers' spokesman

"There are children here, please take us to our hotel," said one passenger

taxis which were maintaining agreed minimum services, such as taking the elderly and babies and giving rides to hospitals. There was no written information and only one airport staff member on duty, who

didn't speak English.

Dozens of passengers pleaded with the drivers to take them. "There are children here, please take us to our hotel," said one woman.

A passenger from Manchester explained how everyone was trying to contact friends and family to come and get them. "We're defending our rights," said one of the drivers. "And where are mine?" replied one newly arrived visitor.

By the next morning things were calmer with waits of around 30 minutes for the 40 taxis on duty

By now recent arrivals were making other arrangements, although many were nervous about what would happen at the end of their holiday. Upstairs there were long hold-ups in the drop-off zone for private cars. "This is a disaster for tourism," said Michael, a Briton about to catch his bus to Marbella.



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Russian girl in critical condition after fall from Marbella play park

The council has said that the climbing frame in the Puerto Deportivo area of the resort, where the child dropped six metres, is safe

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. A six-year-old Russian girl was seriously injured on Tuesday night after falling from a children's climbing frame in Marbella's Puerto Deportivo marina, police sources said.

The accident happened about 10.30pm when the youngster was playing with her mother and sister in the area of the marina known as Terrazas del Puerto, where there is a play area on top of restaurants.

Sources added that, for reasons that were as yet unclear, the girl fell to the ground from the highest point of the climbing frame, a height of about six metres.

Emergency services rushed the injured girl to Hospital Costa del Sol near Marbella and from there she was taken to Malaga's Hospital Materno children's hospital,



The play area is on top of an area of restaurants. :: JOSELE-LANZA

where she is in the intensive care unit.

The youngster was injured on her torso and is in a serious but stable condition, said sources at the hospital.

The Marbella councillor for Safety, Javier Porcuna, said on Wednesday that "it appears to have been an accident" as, he added, the area is safe and nothing like this has happened before.

"I didn't think my dad's tombstone would turn up by a rubbish bin"

A. PELÁEZ

MALAGA. A daughter is considering taking legal action after the tombstone of her late father was spotted next to a rubbish container on a Malaga industrial estate.

Speaking after a couple found it in the El Viso area of the city last Friday, Antonia Luque said: "I am really hurt and very annoyed. I never imagined that my father's tombstone would turn up in a rub-

bish bin."

Her father, Miguel Luque, passed away in May 2009, aged 84. Last year, when his wife, Antonia's mother, also died, the family decided that they should share the same cemetery niche and so the original stone was replaced with one featuring both their names.

At the time the family said they didn't want the old stone and the funeral directors took it away.

The next time it was spotted was last week by Rafael López and his partner, who saw it on the way to a job interview. On leaving the interview, and seeing it was still there, they decided to put it in their car, taking it home to try and find the person's family.

It didn't take long, after media reports, for the deceased's daughter to come forward.

Antonia has said that she still doesn't want the stone and Rafael and his partner have said that they are thinking about keeping it in their lounge as a decorative item.

The reason it ended up in the street is as yet unknown.

112 REPORTS



The illegally caught produce was labelled, ready for sale. :: G. CIVIL

Three tonnes of sought-after sea delicacy seized

MALAGA

SUR. Guardia Civil officers have seized almost three tonnes of illegally caught sea anemone in Malaga, Cadiz and Granada provinces as part of an ongoing operation that started last year.

The species of anemone caught is used as a delicacy known as 'ortiguillas' in regional cuisine, where it is marinated in vinegar and fried like calamares. The fishing of the species is tightly controlled.

The produce was seized in packaging ready for distribution along with 72 kilos of sea urchins and 43 fishing nets. Ten people are under formal investigation.

Fugitive Brit held in Marbella over drugs

MARBELLA

SUR. National Police officers held a 25-year-old man from Cardiff last weekend with a European arrest warrant. The man is accused of trafficking drugs and related substances by the British authorities. He was arrested after a tip-off that he was staying on the Costa del Sol in the Marbella area.

UK and Spain to study tougher laser pen laws

MALAGA

SUR. Following news last week that two British men were caught shining laser pens at aeroplanes landing at Malaga airport, both UK and Spanish authorities have committed to looking at how to toughen up laws on their sale. A Spanish government spokesperson has said that last year 1,258 laser incidents affecting planes were reported.

Saudi prince loses jewels in Marbella villa raid

MARBELLA

P. C. Police are investigating the theft of a million euros of jewels from the Marbella villa where a Saudi prince is staying.

The Arab diplomat returned to the property, in the La Pera estate in Nueva Andalucía, after dinner to find the door to the lounge open and the safe missing. Officers have been unable to find any signs of a forced entry at the villa,

which had been rented by the Saudi family.

Among the items reported to have been stolen are four diamond rings, two Bulgari necklaces and a ring, a diamond-encrusted Chopard watch, four Cartier rings, four diamond bracelets, twenty gold pendants, an iPad and two high-end mobile phones.

According to the report filed by the prince's son, sources say, the items are worth about one million euros. As yet there has been no news of any arrests or the missing valuables.

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Moving to Spain? 7 questions that could save you money

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

If you are planning on moving to Southern Spain, or have recently done so, you have made an excellent choice. There are so many benefits to living here, and Spain can offer tax-efficient opportunities too.

Make the most of these opportunities and avoid costly mistakes by considering these seven questions.

1. Where will you need to pay tax?

You need to establish when you will become resident in Spain and liable to Spanish taxation on your worldwide income, gains and wealth, and subject to the Spanish succession and gift tax rules.

You will be tax resident in Spain if you are in the country for more than 183 days in a calendar year, but possibly also if your spouse and/or minor dependent children live here or your centre of economic interests is here.

Also be wary of UK tax residence rules – in some cases, just 16 days back home could unintentionally trigger UK tax residency.

2. How much tax will you pay?

Income tax rates for general income (i.e. pension, employment, rental income, etc.) range from 19.5% to 48% in *Andalucía*. Savings income (interest, dividends, capital gains etc.) is taxed progressively at 19%, 21% and 23%.

Spain also currently imposes an annual wealth tax, which generally hits those with worldwide assets worth over €1 million. For Spanish residents, generally there is a personal allowance of €700,000 plus up to €300,000 for your main home. So a married couple could have up to €2 million combined allowance.

The good news is that tax-efficient investment wrappers offered through a Spanish-compliant bond could legitimately reduce tax on savings income and potentially on wealth tax. While some structures can seem similar, their tax benefits can vary significantly so take specialist advice.

3. How should you hold savings and investments?

A potentially costly mistake is assuming what was tax-efficient in the UK is the same in Spain. ISAs, for example, lose their tax-free

status once you are no longer UK resident and the interest, dividends and gains may attract Spanish tax. Your situation and goals will change when you relocate too. It is crucial to take a fresh look at your financial planning to make sure you are suitably diversified and everything is set up in the best way for your new circumstances.

4. What is the right currency mix for you?

Once you are living in Spain and spending euros daily, keeping savings and investments in sterling makes your income vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations. Look for structures that provide currency flexibility.

5. What are your property options?

Another important issue to consider early is the tax implications of buying and selling property. When is the best time to sell your UK property or buy a Spanish home to limit capital gains tax and stamp duty in both countries? How could owning a high value property affect your wealth and succession tax liabilities in Spain? Understanding

the answers could save thousands, so take care to establish your best approach.

6. What should you do with your UK pensions?

If you are planning to retire in Spain, make sure you fully understand your pension options and the tax implications before making any decisions.

There are now many options for how you take your pension, including taking the whole fund as cash, but you need to weigh them up, looking at how they work for you and the tax consequences or benefits. Taking regulated, personalised pensions advice is crucial.

7. Is your estate planning suitable?

In Spain, succession law works very differently from the UK. Unless you take action, 'forced heirship' rules could automatically pass two thirds of your worldwide estate to your direct family, whatever your intentions. Take care to understand your options and any tax implications.

Spanish succession and gift tax also works very differently from UK inheritance tax. The applicable rules vary according to who the beneficiary is, where the deceased and beneficiary are resident, and where the assets are located. Rates and allowances vary across regions.

UK domiciles also remain liable for UK inheritance tax, so seek advice on how to reduce these taxes for your heirs.

Getting the answers to these key questions early can provide peace of mind that your financial affairs are in order so you can relax and fully enjoy your new life in Spain. Cross-border taxation is complicated, so take personalised, professional guidance to get the best results.

Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual is advised to seek personalised advice.

"I own property in Spain and spend time here, but am resident in UK. How can I protect my Spanish assets from local and UK tax?"

Talk to the people who know.

Blevins Franks has offices in six countries including Spain and the UK. We specialise in providing cross-border advice to clients who have assets, property and potential tax liabilities in a number of countries. This includes estate planning, tax efficiency and bespoke investment strategies. Whether you are resident in Spain, Gibraltar or UK; or thinking of a move, we can help.

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Dangerous new roundabout on Benalmádena Costa axed already

The recently-built traffic circle still hasn't been used as the road is too narrow to turn properly but, for a bizarre financial reason, it cannot be knocked down

■ ALBERTO GÓMEZ

BENALMÁDENA. Recently motorists heading along the main coast road though the heart of Benalmádena Costa have become used to carrying out a strange manoeuvre to avoid hitting a newly built mini roundabout.

The traffic island has been the cause of a number of accidents, including one involving local councillor Beatriz Olmedo, as reported in SUR in English last week. And all this when cars are still not allowed to turn at it.

The danger arises as the space in the road isn't wide enough for longer vehicles to turn properly. It was revealed this week that a required safety impact study wasn't actually done until after it was built.

Cars coming along the fast lane of the dual carriageway in either direction are suddenly faced with swerving into the slow lane to avoid hitting the protruding structure.



The offending roundabout, showing damage to the edges. ■ A.G.

Councillors have now decided to do something about the problem. But the reason it cannot be knocked down again is even more bizarre than the way it has been built.

The council says that, as it was

paid for with part of a one-million-euro grant from the Diputación provincial authority, if they remove it, by law they'll have to pay the money back. Instead the edges will be shaved off and it will never be used as a proper roundabout.

Complaints grow over spread of sunbeds on local beaches

■ ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Residents and businesses near Torremolinos's beaches have stepped up their complaints about beach bars that are spreading out their sunbeds all over the sand.

Around twenty formal warnings have been given out recently by the local council and the problem is particularly bad in the La Carihuella area.

Dozens of people who earn their living from the beaches met with the local councillor responsible for beaches, Maribel Tocón, last week to voice their concerns, saying that it was "unfair competition" and

"gave a bad impression".

Some businesses defended themselves, saying that the east wind often erodes sand, which means that they cannot use the legal number of square metres they are entitled to and they have to spread out elsewhere. On average the Junta gives permission for 500 square metres of sand to beach bars and restaurants in their licences.

Locals say the problem is getting worse as beach bars upgrade their facilities on the sand to include dining and "chillout beds", often fencing off areas, which is illegal. They say that soon there'll be no room for their towels.

Petition raised for animal shelter to be given back for charity use

■ ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Animal welfare groups in Torremolinos have started a petition for the municipal animal pen to be converted back into a charity 'protectora' ani-

mal shelter. They say that the current facility is in the hands of a company that doesn't allow volunteers to work there and they suspect that animals may be being put down. The building was given to the current tenants in 2012 by Parque Animal, the charity whose former president was recently jailed for four years over animal cruelty. She had been given the site on a 50-year lease by the council and passed it on when her troubles started. The welfare groups say they cannot understand why the council has not taken it back.

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Calls for action to be taken over illegal camping on Maro beach

Although free camping is banned the authorities have had to take action several times in recent years to move people on

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Three local men claim to have been harassed by a large group of people who were camping illegally on Maro beach. One of them needed hospital treatment for injuries sustained when he was allegedly attacked by one of the campers he refers to as 'hippies'.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Saturday morning, when the men were fishing on La Caleta beach. They say that no sooner had they set up their rods than a group of people began shouting at them, telling them to go away because the beach belonged to them and they



A large group of people is said to be camping at present. :: SUR

lived there all year round.

"There were about 40 or 50 of them, of different nationalities," says Luis Jiménez, who is president of La Axarquía Sports Fishing Club in Vélez-Málaga. He says he was injured when one of the men threw

a large stone at him, and he was also bitten by a dog.

The mayor, Rosa Arrabal, says she regrets the incident and has ordered the Local Police to take action to clear the illegal campsites from the beach area once again.

HERE AND THERE

Sardines instead of stars for tourism boost

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: J. R. Vélez-Málaga's Tourism and Beaches department has recently announced a new initiative to promote the town's beaches.

The 'Playas 5 Espetos' replaces the usual five stars system with the local dish of espetos - grilled sardines on a skewer.

Tourism councillor, Jesús Pérez Atencia, said at a recent press conference, "We are running this initiative to promote the unique-

ness of our beaches as well as the local dish of espetos."

The town hall has patented the name, something which will not need to be renewed until 2026, and plans to organise a series of activities under the Playas 5 Espetos name which the councillor said will mean "an boost for gastronomy and beaches in the area."

He added that his team will continue to promote the town to "maintain our position as a European tourist destination" and that the offer "must reach as many people as possible to encourage them to visit Torre del Mar and Vélez-Málaga."

Mijas council plans new use for the old fire station in Las Lagunas

MIJAS COSTA

:: E.G. Mijas council is considering different uses for the former fire station which stands on the boundary with neighbouring Fuengirola, and is inviting local people to come up with sugges-

tions. First, the local authority needs to determine whether the building can be put to immediate use or whether renovations will be needed beforehand. One suggestion has been that it should become a youth centre, but another idea is to use it for flamenco shows.

The premises are 762 square metres in size and could be converted into a three-storey building.

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CHARITY SWIM RAISES NEARLY 5,000 €

Nearly 400 people took part in a 'solidarity swim' on Sunday, to raise funds for the Vicente Ferrer Foundation, which works on development projects in India. There were three different phases to the event, over 2,500 metres (from La Cala del Moral to Rincón de la Victoria), 1,000 metres and 300 metres for children. Altogether, nearly 5,000 euros was raised by the participants.

Young Irish woman gives birth unexpectedly at Balcón de Europa hotel

The new parents were due to stay for a week but the mother went into labour early and the baby was born with the help of hotel staff

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. In its 52 years of existence the iconic Balcón de Europa hotel has been the setting for numerous celebrations, including weddings, christenings, communion parties and anniversaries, but it is now marking the first birth to have taken place on the premises.

The baby was born after its mother, an 18-year-old Irish girl, arrived at the hotel on Wednesday with her partner, 19, for a week's holiday and unexpectedly went into labour early. Although an ambulance was immediately dispatched from the local health centre, by the time it arrived the baby girl had already



Mother and baby were taken to hospital in Vélez-Málaga. :: E.C.

been born, with the help of hotel staff.

Mother and daughter were taken to hospital in Vélez-Málaga, where they are doing well and are expected

to be able to leave soon. To mark the momentous event, the hotel management has decided to give the little girl a discount at the Balcón de Europa for the rest of her life.

New airport access from A-7 will also add dual carriageway into Alhaurín de la Torre



Construction will cost double the original budget as a viaduct needs to be added to old plans, but the congested single-lane link to the A-7052 and A-404 roads will be fixed first

MALAGA. The planned new northern link road from the A-7 (Malaga outer ring motorway) into Malaga airport will bring an extra bonus to drivers heading into nearby Churriana and Alhaurín de la Torre as well. When the A-7 city bypass opened to traffic in 2010-2011 the need to cut spending during the global financial crisis forced the government to scale back its original plans. At the new Churriana/Alhaurín junction, the 1.6km-long spur going south into the airport terminal went completely unbuilt and the spur going north towards Alhaurín de la Torre was given just one lane in each direction, even though the foundations were laid ready for a dual carriageway. To this day, the motorway signs pointing into the airport have stayed covered up while the single-file spur

- LINK FROM THE NORTH**
- ▶ **Length:** 1.65 kilometres.
 - ▶ **Route:** From A-7 outer ring road (Churriana/Alhaurín de la Torre exit) to Malaga airport.
 - ▶ **Budget and timing:** 44 million euros including land purchase. 36 months construction.
 - ▶ **Capacity:** Three lanes going towards the airport, two lanes coming away from the airport.

exiting towards Alhaurín de la Torre has been blamed for causing one of the area's biggest traffic bottlenecks.

Tailbacks to be solved first
All that will start to change from early next year when constructors move in to complete the missing parts of the jigsaw. First to be fixed will be the extra lane towards Alhaurín de la Torre and the A-7052 and A-404, the authorities responsible confirmed this week. Next will be the new link into Malaga airport. A budget of 44 million euros for the access has been allocated. This is double the amount originally planned as an extra viaduct will be added because other planned local distributor roads in the area haven't been built either. The new link should open by early 2021, speeding up trips to the airport for those from inland Malaga province and the Guadalhorce valley.



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PP set to return to power in Marbella town hall as San Pedro councillors finally swap sides

OSP leaves the PSOE-led coalition and will support a no confidence vote in return for more autonomy for San Pedro as Ángeles Muñoz prepares to become mayor again

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA / NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. It came as a surprise to everyone late last Friday night after a meeting of party faithful in San Pedro. The San Pedro party (Opción Sampedreña - OSP) has voted to withdraw its support for the three-party coalition led by Socialist PSOE mayor José Bernal that has been running Marbella council since 2015.

The move clears the way for the conservative PP party's local leader Ángeles Muñoz to return to the top in the town hall.

The decision by OSP, a party which seeks to separate the town of San Pedro from the overall control of Marbella council, was even more as a shock as it came just a couple of weeks after its ruling council narrowly voted to continue

to maintain support for the PSOE-led coalition until the end of the current council term in 2019.

It means that the OSP's two councillors will now vote with the 13 councillors of the PP against current mayor José Bernal in a vote of no confidence during the council meeting planned for August 29th.

This will give the councillors 15 votes, enough to reach a majority to topple the mayor, as the other parties, who are all against the PP's return to power after it lost control in the last elections, add up to 12 votes only.

The PSOE Socialist party has eight councillors, Izquierda Unida (IU) two councillors and Podemos-linked Costa del Sol Sí Se Puede (CSSP) two councillors as well. The votes of these three left-wing parties won't be enough to keep the PP out of power in the forthcoming no confidence vote.

'Over reliance' on Podemos

The sudden change of heart by San Pedro's councillors was the result of increasing frustration over the way the coalition led by José Bernal was running things.

The OSP councillors' overall pri-



Muñoz addresses journalists with PP and OSP councillors. :: J-L

ority is increasing local powers for the San Pedro area of the municipality and they had agreed to go into coalition with the PSOE and IU in 2015, ending eight years of PP rule, in return for control of the district town hall in San Pedro and a stronger voice in the municipality.


One OSP councillor, Rafael Piña is currently district mayor in San Pedro and the other, Manuel Osorio, is councillor for Finance for Marbella overall.

However the 12 combined votes of the PSOE/IU/OSP alliance is only effective in getting its programme approved in council meetings with the addition of the two votes of the Podemos-CSSP councillors.



Dispute over parking zones

Although Podemos isn't part of the ruling group, they have generally been voting with the coalition to keep it in power and keep the PP out.

However this situation has caused constant background tension within the council as some perceive, especially within the OSP, that the Podemos group has an undue influence over the mayor's thinking.







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Despite the San Pedro party's members voting to keep supporting the coalition last month after the original two-year coalition pact started in 2015 had run out, matters came to a head again last week over a dispute over the running of the on-street parking (zonas azules) in the municipality.

The coalition had promised to return the management of the spaces to direct council control, ending a five-year contract with a private company which expires this summer. Podemos were particularly vocal supporters of this change.

However last week it was suddenly announced by the IU councillor in charge of the parking negotiations that the concession with the private operator would be renewed for a further five years, ostensibly as there is a catch clause in the contract meaning it made financial sense for the town to renew and avoid losing a lot of money.

The "broken promise" caused an intense social media exchange between the ideologically similar Podemos and IU, with Podemos threatening to vote against the council's budget for 2018.

'What's best for San Pedro'

The dispute was enough for the San Pedro OSP party to meet last Friday night and put an end to the uncertainty, as they saw it.

"We can't continue having conditions imposed on us like this," said OSP's Manuel Osorio. "San Pe-

HOW THE TABLES TURN

27

is the total of Marbella councillors.

12

is the number of votes of the current coalition: PSOE (8), IU (2) and OSP (2). It relies on two Podemos councillors to pass most motions and reach a majority of 14

13

is the number of PP councillors with 41% of the local vote in 2015. When the two OSP members swap sides to the PP, there will be a total of 15 out of 27, a majority.

Manuel Osorio (OSP):
"You meet them and those agreements turn out to be non-binding"

Rafael Piña (OSP):
"That's 18 million euros more for San Pedro than it has ever had before"

More good news for Ángeles Muñoz as town plan inquiry is closed

As well as the likely surprise return to being mayor of Marbella after losing control of the council in 2015, there was more good news for the PP's Ángeles Muñoz this week. It has been announced that an investigation into the town hall for allegedly doctoring the master town plan when she was in power last time was being shelved. Muñoz had been reported as part of the case but never formally investigated.

The investigation centred on allegations that officials had slipped in some modifications to a previously agreed new master town plan document, known as the PGOU, in 2009. These changes in part favoured some property belonging to the then

mayor by changing a boundary line between Marbella and the neighbouring municipality of Benahavis, it was suggested.

The new plan in itself went on to be overturned by a court for different reasons and Marbella is still using a heavily outdated 1986 plan while it gets ready to write an urgently needed new one.

Speaking this week, after the case was dropped, Muñoz said, "This knocks down all the PSOE's lies and puts an end to a dispute that they have tried to take advantage of, against the interests of the town," adding that the scandal had deliberately been created to damage the credibility of the PP.

It wasn't clear this week, if Muñoz is returned as mayor again on August 29th, if she will give up her seat in the Senate, Spain's upper house. "We will take the decision that is best for Marbella," she explained.

dro Alcántara isn't interested in this type of politics. They drag everything down with it; you meet with them, you reach agreements and those agreements turn out to be non-binding afterwards."

On Tuesday this week, PP and OSP announced details of the new pact that they will make if the no confidence motion succeeds, as is expected on August 29th, and they take power.

Quicker council services

San Pedro, along with the other districts of Marbella, will be given more autonomy to run their local services, with a large part of the budget directly administered by the district town halls. Key departments, like Human Resources and Security will stay centralised.

According to PP leader, Ángeles Muñoz, who looks set to be voted in as mayor again, it will make

"services more agile, direct and quicker".

"We have worked on this a lot in a very responsible way in an agreement on governing that will let us work for just over a year and a half and see out the legislative term [before the next municipal elections in 2019].

In reacting to the amount of new money coming San Pedro's way as part of the proposed deal, the district deputy mayor and OSP councillor, Rafael Piña, said: "That's 18 million euros, 18 million euros more than San Pedro has ever seen before in its life."

Criticism of the OSP decision

The other political parties in Marbella were quick to criticise the new agreement, sensing power slipping away from them.

The provincial PSOE party said that the move had been made to destabilise and topple "a mayor who has managed [Marbella] well", referring to Bernal.

Meanwhile Podemos party bosses in Marbella appeared in public to plead with OSP not to leave the existing coalition and so let in the PP.

They said that in two years on the council Podemos had "never blocked" anything important and promised OSP that they would not just vote in favour of the 2018 budget but also the 2019 budget as well if they stayed where they were and supported the existing coalition. They plan to meet with OSP in the next few days.

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Dog owners in Estepona will have to carry vinegar and water

The council says the mixture deters dogs from marking territory and will improve the image of the town

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. So far, the battle has been against dog excrement. Now, Estepona council is taking its efforts to clean up the streets even further.

A new campaign aims to encourage owners not only to clear up their dogs' mess, but also to carry a small bottle of water and vinegar to deter dogs from urinating in public areas. It works because dogs hate the smell of acetic acid and avoid it. Dogs mainly urinate to mark their territory and warn others off; they really don't need to relieve themselves up every lamp-post and street corner.

Sergio Rodríguez, the councillor for Parks and Gardens, says that dog

urine and mess is damaging the image of Estepona. "The mixture of vinegar and water is an effective way of dealing with the problem," he says, and he insists that dog owners need to collaborate. "Because there is so little rain between April and October, it makes it very difficult to remove the smell of urine from the outside of buildings," he points out.

Leaflets

To raise awareness of the problem and encourage people to cooperate in keeping Estepona clean, the council is producing 5,000 leaflets with the title: 'Your pet, your responsibility: they are not to blame'. These leaflets also contain helpful advice on looking after a pet and, together with the containers, they can be obtained from council offices.

The A-377 reopens between Manilva and Gaucín

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MANILVA. The A-377 road is now open again between Manilva and Gaucín, after being closed in January so that improvement works could be carried out. The project is now 80 per cent completed, and the only remaining stretch to be done is between Manilva and Sabinillas.



The stretch of road had been closed for eight months. CHARO MÁRQUEZ

HERE AND THERE



The launch of the book in English and Russian last week. J-L

The history of Marbella comes in English and Russian

CULTURE

P. C. Restaurante Santiago hosted the launch last week of the book *The History of Marbella and San Pedro Alcántara* published in English and Russian. Aimed at both residents and tourists, the book,

in comic format, provides an important potted history of two towns that thousands of English and Russian speakers have adopted as their own. Author Andrés García Baena, who was accompanied by the book's illustrator José Sánchez Moyano, explained that the work looks at the evolution of Marbella and San Pedro over the centuries from prehistoric times to the Transition to democracy.

Line 3 bus service has been reintroduced

TRANSPORT

C. M. Tourists and residents in the area west of Estepona were left stranded earlier this week when the Line 3 bus service stopped running at the same time as taxi drivers went on strike. Residents and hotels had

been told that the bus would run from 15 July to 31 August, but on Tuesday there were no buses.

The company which provides the service says its contract with the town hall was only for one month, until 15 August, and that the 22-seater vehicle was never full. It resumed the service at the council's request, due to the difficulties caused by the taxi strike.

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Season's best bull's ball tomatoes sell for 2,100 euros in Coín

Spain's finance minister witnessed the town's annual charity auction that helps promote the giant local tomatoes

:: FERNANDO TORRES

COÍN. On 15 August each year Coín holds its fruit and vegetable auction, an event which is now in its fifth year. Tuesday's auction attracted more people than ever before and was also attended by Spain's finance minister, Luis de Guindos. The proceedings began when a panel of experts in gas-

tronomy and agriculture selected the best tomatoes of this year's crop of the variety known as 'huevo de toro' (bull's ball), choosing those which came closest to perfection in terms of taste and texture. These giant tomatoes, which were originally grown for farmers' own consumption, have become highly prized over the years. Until now, the highest bid had been 1,400 euros but this year, with more people attending the event, the winning lot was sold for 2,100 euros to Pepe Cobos, co-owner of the famous El Pimpi restaurants.

This auction, which is organised by Coín council, the Guadalhorce Val-

ley Rural Development Group and the Malaga provincial government, aims to promote local produce. Farmers compete to win the top prize, not only for tomatoes but also other fruit and vegetables such as pumpkins (the winner this year weighed 54 kilos).

Part of the money raised from the auction is given to the farmer who grew the winning tomatoes, some goes to the other competitors and the rest is donated to the Association of Families of Alzheimer's Sufferers.

The other tomatoes were also sold, at the price people were prepared to pay for them, to raise more funds for the Alzheimer's charity.



The giant tomatoes from Coín are highly coveted. :: SUR

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I have recently signed a contract to open a bank account. That day, the branch was full of people and the bank manager who served me said that she had a lot of meetings afterwards and that she was in a hurry, so she hardly let me check the conditions of the contract. She simply handed in the papers indicating where I

had to sign, and that it was a standard contract. I trusted what she was saying and signed the contract, but afterwards, when I was at home, I could see that it contained clearly abusive clauses. I would like to know if it would be possible to ask for the cancellation of the contract for this reason.

Spanish legislation foresees that all the clauses that are clearly abusive for one of the parties are null and void. In the case of banking contracts, there is strict control by the authorities, and specially, from the Banco de España. Nevertheless, the contract will not be cancelled in full, but only those clauses that could be considered as abusive.

REF. C.S.E.

Every week I buy a lottery ticket together with a friend. We have a contract where we established that if we both paid 50% of the ticket price we

would be entitled to receive half of the money won. Over time we have won some small amounts, which we put into the kitty to continue buying lottery tickets. However, I have just found that in the last draw we won a large sum and I want my share, but I have tried to get in contact with my friend, who has the ticket, and I cannot find him. Two weeks ago we had an argument, and we have not talked since then, so I suspect that I will not receive my share. Is there a way to stop him cashing in the ticket until I can clarify the situation?

No, unfortunately that is not possible. Lottery ticket winnings can be claimed by the person who has them. We cannot prevent the person who has the ticket from getting the money, irrespective of whether you can sue your friend for breach of contract if you do not finally receive your share.

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HERE AND THERE



The 'Damas' posed for photos at the Parador hotel. :: SUR

The Goyesque ladies show off their gowns

RONDA

:: **VANESSA MELGAR.** The Goyesque fair in Ronda starts on 29 August and one of its best-guarded secrets was revealed this week when the 'Damas' showed off the gowns they will be wearing during the fair

and for the rest of the year at events where they represent the women of the town.

The presentation took place at the Parador hotel, where Amparo Molina, Marina Racero, Vanesa Sierra, Andrea Gutiérrez, Pilar García, Cynthia Montes, María Ineva Becerra and Rocío Flores posed for photos before attending the official speech to mark this year's event.

Lottery win for Cuevas del Becerro pensioner

CUEVAS DEL BECERRO

:: **E.P.** A local pensioner won 1.5 million euros in the ONCE lottery on Saturday, with a ticket he bought from a vendor in Ronda. His winnings will consist of a lump sum of 300,000 euros and then a 'salary' of 5,000 euros a month for 20 consecutive years.

Several improvement projects planned in Coín

COÍN

:: **FERNANDO TORRES.** Improvements are to be carried out to the Avenida de Feria, Coín's main street, in September, costing about 400,000 euros. In addition, the council plans to cover an athletics track at El Rodeo and modernise the Local Police station.

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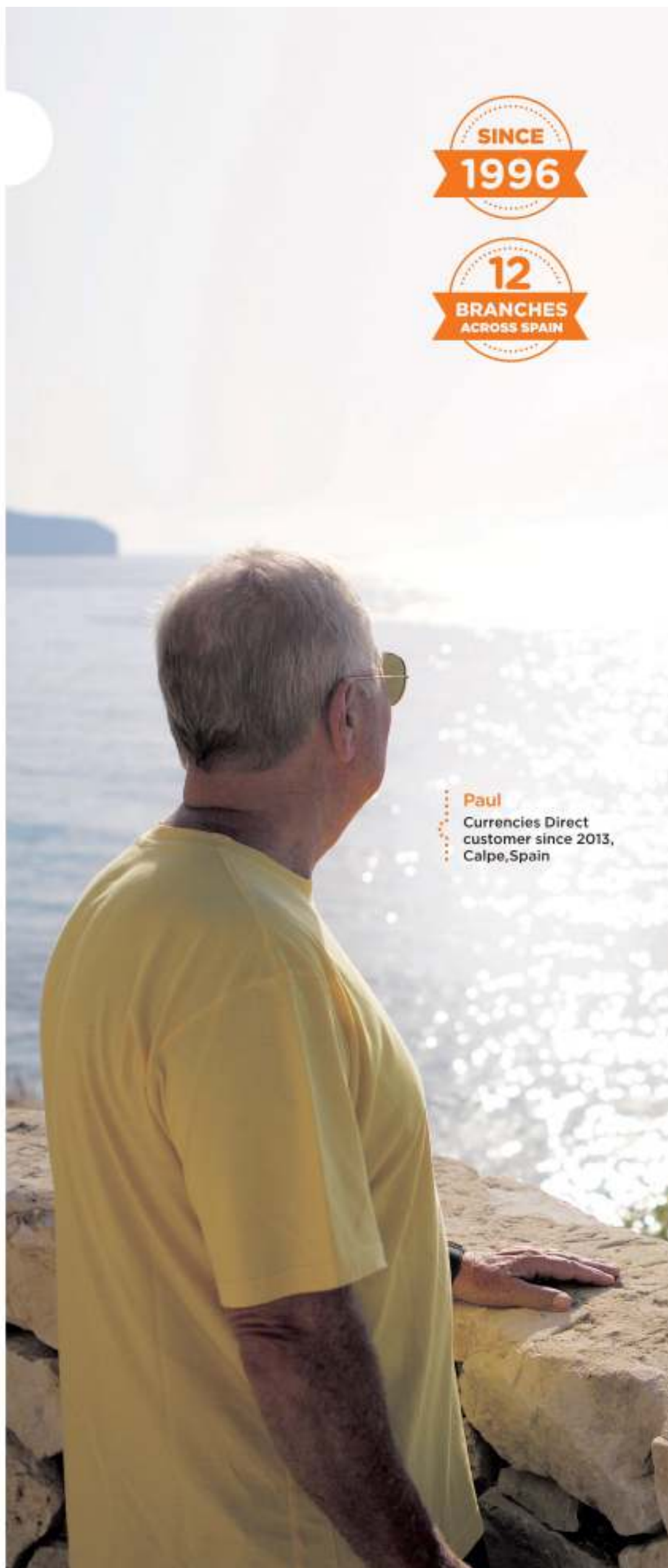
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Exports from Andalucía to the UK are at their highest despite Brexit fears

Britain is now the third biggest market for Andalusian products, having grown by about 64 per cent in a year

by LALIA GONZÁLEZ-SANTIAGO

MÁLAGA. The group studying the consequences of Brexit on the Andalusian economy, which is headed by the vice-president of the Junta, Manuel Jiménez Barrios, will be paying close attention to the export figures that have recently been published by Extenda, the region's trade promotion agency.

Exports from Andalucía are defying the panic about possible consequences of Britain leaving the EU, but the report also shows that the links between the two countries are becoming closer and the effects of Brexit are therefore going to be greater than first anticipated. Brexit is a matter of concern.

According to Extenda, the UK is the market which grew most among the Top Ten destinations for exports from Andalucía, and it moved into third position behind France and Germany. The rate of increase between January and May 2017 was 64%, compared with the same period last year.

The report by Extenda, which is part of the regional Ministry of Economy, shows that Andalucía exported 1.3 billion euros' worth of goods to the UK and the rate of growth was 22 times higher than the average for Spain, which increased by 2.9% to 8.5 billion.

Andalucía is the region of Spain which is growing the most and is second in terms of exports to Britain, with 15.3% of all sales. Only Catalonia is ahead (20.1%), but the growth there was 12 times lower than that of Andalucía during the same period (+5.3%, to a total of 1.7 billion).

The UK's third position in the Top 10 export markets for Andalucía represents 9.5% of the total, and it is



The aeronautical sector is mainly responsible for the growth in the export market. :: EFE

catching up with France and Germany, both of which represent 11.9%.

From the advantageous situation which these figures show for Andalucía, and therefore the risk that Brexit poses, it is also notable that the region has achieved a commercial surplus of 1.02 billion, with a coverage rate of 452%. In other words, exports are more than four times higher than imports, and those

went down by about 6.1% to 290 million. The market coverage rate is therefore more than double that of Spain as a whole, which is 171% with a surplus of 3.5 billion.

The British market buys, above all, from the aeronautical sector and it is mainly responsible for this growth because sales have multiplied by 303 to 363 million euros and represent 27.7% of the total.

The agricultural sector remains strong and in second place: sales of fresh fruit rose to 278 million, which is 21.2% of the total, and vegetables, at 198 million, increased by 15.1%.

The sales of electrical equipment and materials also increased (+155 per cent) to 90 million, amounting to 6.9% of the total. It was followed by olive oil, at 54 million and 4.1%

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of the total, an increase of 40%.

To sum up, there was growth in nine of the ten main sectors, five of them above 40%.

Malaga, up 24%

Despite these spectacular percentages, the number of exporting companies has hardly increased. This highlights the importance of the aeronautical sector and its high value products. In 2016 the number of companies in Andalucía exporting to the UK increased to 1,119, which was 1.7% (19) more than in 2015. Of these, 533 (48%) export regularly and 6.4% (34) exported more than in 2015, and they account for 83% of total sales.

Extenda shows that seven of Andalucía's eight provinces have grown in terms of exports, four by over 20 per cent. Seville heads the list with 507 million, four out of every ten

IN FIGURES

15.3%

of exports from Spain to the UK come from Andalucía.

1.02

billion is the commercial surplus of Andalucía, with a market coverage rate of 452%.

euros exported by Andalucía (39%) and its sales multiplied by four (+326%). Next is Huelva, with 260 million, 20% of the total and an increase of 9.1%, and Almería with 224 million, 17% of the total and 7.2% more sales.

An increase in promotion

■ L. GONZÁLEZ-SANTIAGO

MALAGA. One of the first conclusions of the group which is analysing the effects of Brexit on Andalucía has been that the British market for exports from the region is on the increase. Extenda, which has had a presence in London since 2006 and now operates from the economy and commerce department of the Spanish Embassy, was involved in 42 activities last year, with the participation of 241 companies.

This year the agency has been promoting Andalucía at the Big Fortified Tasting fair in April; a web seminar about infrastructure in the UK in March; the Speciality and Fine Food fair, where it placed the focus on the region's fruit and vegetable sector and the 'A Place in the Sun' property fair. It will also be at the Alpe London UK fair, plans to visit London Technology Week 2017 and be at the London Film Production Finance Market, in addition to other projects.



MARK NAYLER
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THE EURO ZONE

WE NEED TO TALK

On the day of writing (Thursday), anti-tourist demonstrations are planned in the Basque coastal town of San Sebastián, during the region's Semana Grande festival. Coming after similar protests in Barcelona, Valencia and Majorca, they are the latest manifestations of a growing concern amongst some Spaniards about the effect of mass tourism in Spain, the third most-visited country in the world. Some of the protests have been unjustifiably violent, such as the attack on a tourist bus in Barcelona last month, but they nevertheless draw attention to an issue that requires immediate attention by the Spanish government.

Since the first package-holiday visitors arrived on its sunny shores in the late 1950s, Spain has established itself as one of the world's tourist superpowers.

Statistics that demonstrate the importance of tourism to the country's economy have been widely quoted recently. The sector accounts for around 13% of all jobs in Spain (although a great deal of them are temporary or seasonal) and in 2016 constituted 14.2% of the country's GDP. Every year, Spain seems to smash its own records for visitor numbers, and it looks as if 2017 will be no different: La Caixa recently predicted that the country will welcome an unprecedented 84 million tourists this year, which would be an increase from 75 million in 2016.

Yet the recent protests about the effects of such enormous numbers of visitors on Spanish cities and their local residents should prompt a serious discussion about sustainability. Mariano Rajoy has denounced the demonstrations - particularly the Barcelona bus attack - as in-

stigated by "crazy extremists" and, in a sense, is right to do so: the violent intimidation of foreign visitors is wrong and no way at all in which to address the issue of sustainable tourism. But to treat that issue as a minority interest, or the bugbear of nut-job radicals, is to ignore a matter of crucial social and economic importance. Indeed, this year has been designated by the UN as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development: what better time for Spain to examine its tourism model and see how it might be improved?

In Barcelona, leftist mayor Ada Colau has already taken matters into her own hands. Colau has banned any new hotels opening in the city centre and is cracking down on unlicensed rentals through websites such as Airbnb. Her city is the most visited destination in Spain and received 17.4 million tourists last year - a fact that concerns many locals: in a recent survey conducted by Barcelona city council, residents said that tourism is the city's second biggest problem after unemployment. But justified as many in Barcelona see them, Colau's actions have not been preceded by a nationwide discussion about how to deal with the ever-increasing amount of foreign visitors to Spain. It's now time to have that discussion.

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IN BRIEF

Music festival and National Day both coming up soon**GIBRALTAR**

Two important events are coming up early next month: firstly the MTV Gibraltar Calling music festival, which will be taking place on the weekend of September 2nd and 3rd, and then the National Day celebrations on 10th, although some associated activities will be taking place in the days beforehand.

The music festival promises to be bigger and better than ever before, with major stars performing each day, including Ricky Martin, Craig David, Tinie Tempah, Bananarama, Midge Ure and many other acts.

National Day is also a fun event, with people dressing in the Gibraltar colours of red and white and partying the day away in and around Casemates Square.



National Day is a day-long party in Gibraltar :: VISIT GIBRALTAR

Customs seize major haul of cigarettes**GIBRALTAR**

Early on Tuesday morning, in an area just off Emerson's place close to the Western end of the runway, Customs officers seized approximately nine cases of cigarettes along with a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB). The cigarettes have a retail value of £9,000.

A 40-year-old Spanish man was arrested and then released on bail until 9 November.

Gibraltar's first Bitcoin ATM has now been installed in the World Trade Center

This WTC is the first in the world to offer this facility, and fractions of Bitcoins can be purchased with Sterling, Gibraltar pounds and euros

DEBBIE BARTLETT

This week, another first was announced for Gibraltar: its first Bitcoin ATM has just been installed in the World Trade Center, and the Gibraltar WTC is the first one to offer this facility.

People who live and/or work in Gibraltar, as well as anyone who is visiting, can now purchase the cryptocurrency using cash and mobile phone wallet apps. The BATM, as the machine is known, accepts Sterling, Gibraltar Pounds and euro notes, and a fraction of a bitcoin can be purchased for as little as £10, or 10 euros.

By now, though, many readers will be wondering "but what is a Bitcoin?" Bitcoin is a form of digital currency, which is created and held electronically. It can be used



The BATM in the World Trade Center Gibraltar. :: SUR

to buy things electronically, but is never printed in the form of banknotes or coins. It differs from conventional money because it is decentralised, i.e. no single institution controls it. The smallest divisible amount is one hundred millionth of a Bitcoin and is called a

'Satoshi', after the man who founded Bitcoin.

Bitcoin ATMs are regarded as the beacons of the cryptocurrency industry, which has become a worldwide phenomenon. Bitcoin has reached its all-time highest price in the last few days. In Janu-

ary 2009, when it was first launched, one Bitcoin was worth \$0.0001 (USD), but today it is a worth a whopping \$4,000. Leading analysts predict that the value will hit a six-digit number in ten years' time.

One establishment in the World Trade Center Gibraltar is already accepting bitcoins in payment. Dan Thomson, who owns the Supernatural health food restaurant on the mezzanine floor of the building, says that it was a natural progression to start to accept a modern currency and "as the first retail business to do so in Gibraltar, we hope it will raise awareness and encourage other retailers and customers to begin to use this type of currency as well."

The Gibraltar government plans to introduce legislation in 2018 for the provision of Distribution Ledger Technology (DLT), including Blockchain, Bitcoin and other leading emerging eMoney innovations, to regulate and facilitate this rapidly expanding sector of FinTech companies, many of which have already been attracted to the World Trade Center in Gibraltar.

Ed Allison-Wright, of the WTC, considers that it is particularly fitting to have Gibraltar's first Bitcoin ATM in the World Trade Center: "It sits at the heart of what this global brand represents and brings to Gibraltar; expanding horizons, enhancing growth and fostering new links with international partners," he says.

Junior chess festival is taking place at the Caleta Hotel until 22 August

DEBBIE BARTLETT

The International Junior Chess Festival began in Gibraltar yesterday (17 August) and will continue until Tuesday. A total of 136 youngsters from 15 countries are taking part in the championship, which is being held at the Caleta Hotel.

Spain has the highest number of participants (47), followed by Britain (43) and Gibraltar (14). The number has increased by 39 per cent compared with last year, which festival director Stuart Conquest says is a particularly positive sign, bearing in mind that at this time of year there are several chess competitions of this type in Europe.

In addition to the chess tournament, the competitors will be able to enjoy classes with international grand masters such as Jovanka Houska, Juan Manuel Bellón, Pia Cramling and Adam Hunt, trips to watch dolphins, visits to the nature reserve to see the famous Gibraltar macaques, and let their hair down at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre.

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Consider this: Inhabitants of a small community before the wheel was invented carried heavy goods on their backs. Then came the wheel and, from then on, their goods could be efficiently moved on a cart, and not on their backs. As with all economic productivity, cause and effect meant that the village doctor made less money as the epidemic of related back complaints ceased.

Then the competitive spirit of entrepreneurship raised its head and a young man produced an upgraded cart, with a device that worked as a 'brake'. However, to his surprise, the cart did not sell! Demand was as flat as the ground the village stood on. The new cart was not necessary.

Desperate to recuperate his new investment costs, the young man



JEREMY BLATCH
✉ jb@ehh.gi

THE BIGGER PICTURE

EXCESS HOSPITALITY

The oil that lubricates the wheels of investment management

hired people with the promise of being paid a commission for every cart sold with a brake. Their first task was to convince villagers that they needed a brake and then overcome their objections as to why they would not buy one.

Providers of investment prod-

ucts design first and foremost what they can sell, rather than what investors need. To do this they need an army of salespeople and a distribution network of intermediaries. Lubricating the wheels of this network is a costly business. In an age of digital com-

munication, financial journalists and media pundits are lavishly entertained. All expenses paid, helicopter tours of major cities, first-class air trips to exotic places, big game safaris in Africa, VIP tickets at Formula One races, to name but a few...

Little wonder management charges are a complicated act of smoke and mirrors deliberately hiding the real costs. In addition to the average management fee of 1% per annum, the investor has to navigate through a head-spinning complexity of additional costs covering entry fees, exit fees, administration charges, transaction costs, market impact costs, stamp duty and performance fees. In fact, a report by the UK regulator into investment industry charges is due to be published in October. Don't hold your breath, though. A

simple transparent all-in fee is what is needed for investors to compare apples with apples but, if past is prologue, this is not what we will get.

Why should investors pay the investment company's cost of marketing designed to enhance its own profitability? The more we keep in our pockets as investors the more we make. Investment companies should throw less money at entertaining journalists and intermediaries and give it back to the investor. For most of us, a cart without a brake will do just fine!

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

More strikes planned at airports across Spain on top of current action

SUR

MADRID. Industrial unrest in Spanish airports has rapidly turned into a headache for the government this summer and it's possible that the strike action could rumble on for the rest of the year.

With the dispute at Barcelona airport still unresolved, trade unions representing staff at AENA, the part-privatised national airport operator, have called for strike action from September 15th that will affect airports across the country.

The existing dispute at Barcelona airport centres on staff checking passengers through security who work for contractor Eulen. The employees are demanding an improvement to pay and conditions. Last week they voted to step up their action and this week extra Guardia Civil officers have been on duty to cover security checks during the periodic stoppages by Eulen staff. To the relief of passengers and the government, there has been no repeat of the long queues witnessed two weeks ago.

AENA announces strike

Now, in a separate dispute, unions are calling for employees at the 48 airports run by AENA to take action in protest over "precarious" working conditions. They had given the government, the majority shareholder, until last Wednesday to meet with them, which did not happen, before announcing strikes. The unions have said that they still hope the government will start negotiating in the next few days to avoid disruption.

The national stoppages won't be consecutive and would be spread out between September and Christmas, including several key travel dates. Workers in many parts of the airports would be involved.

Meanwhile, the government has approved measures to force compulsory arbitration in the ongoing Barcelona dispute.

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Ayuntamiento de Málaga

Spain reacts with shock to terrorist attack in heart of Barcelona's Ramblas

Earliest reports on Thursday evening were of at least 13 people dead and many more injured as police said that the suspected terrorists were still being sought in the immediate area

■ SUR

BARCELONA. Terror returned to the streets of Spain once again on Thursday afternoon after a van ploughed into crowds on Barcelona's famous Ramblas. At the time of going to press reports said there were at least 13 dead and more than 20 injured.

Having avoided any of the recent high-profile attacks on pedestrians by vehicles, it was Barcelona's famous main boulevard that was the scene of the latest horrific incident to shock the world.

At around 5pm a white van was reported to have entered the top end of the pedestrian boulevard that is packed with tourists at any time of the year. The vehicle moved from the mouth of the metro station on the edge of Plaça de Catalunya, eye-



Young people stunned in the immediate aftermath of the attack in the Catalan capital. ■ EFE

witnesses said, and drove in a zig zag pattern for around 600 metres, mowing down pedestrian as it went.

It still wasn't clear how many were involved. Some reports linked up to three people to the attack.

At the time of going to press police were searching for two suspects, one of whom, a man from Melilla,

had apparently barricaded himself into a nearby Turkish restaurant.

As news of the attack spread, police rapidly closed off neighbouring streets, progressively extending the cordon and trains were prevented from stopping in local stations.

Some people were initially

trapped in nearby shops, hotels and restaurants before being gradually led away by police.

Catalonian president Carles Puigdemont urgently returned from his holiday home after learning of the attack and prime minister Rajoy said he was in contact with the regional authorities.

IN BRIEF

Juana Rivas loses latest attempt to keep kids

SEVILLE

■ **SUR.** The Granada woman who has gone into hiding with her two young children to avoid handing them over to their Italian father, whom she accuses of domestic abuse, has failed in her attempt to have Spain's constitutional court give her extra legal protection. Juana Rivas' lawyers had made the application after the top court in Granada confirmed last week previous judicial decisions that had gone against their client. Her legal team now says they will take it as far as the European Court of Human Rights.



The baby dolphin. ■ EQUINAC

Dolphin dies of stress from beach handling

MOJÁCAR

■ **EFE.** A female baby dolphin has died of shock, a marine-life protection group has said, after being passed around by beachgoers. The incident happened on the beach in Mojácar, Almeria, according to Equinac, earlier this month. Their Facebook page showed the creature supposedly being touched by curious bathers, including children. One was seen inadvertently covering its breathing hole. Although Equinac confirmed that the baby was sick or had lost its mother, putting at risk its long-term survival, it said the public's reaction hadn't helped matters.

Two local police save choking baby

SAN ROQUE

■ **SUR.** Two Local Police officers are being hailed as heroes after their quick thinking almost certainly saved the life of a baby girl.

The two officers, named only as Pedro and David, were out patrolling in San Roque, Cadiz, when a parent ran up to them carrying a baby who was choking. The child had gone to suck on a straw in a drink carton but hadn't realised a piece of the plastic wrapping still covered it.

The officers used the Heimlich manoeuvre and the baby was able to start breathing again.

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Migrant pressure grows as 600 arrive by boat in a day

■ LALIA GLEZ.-S.

SEVILLE. The number of illegal immigrants trying to reach the shores of southern Spain by boat has increased in the last few days.

On Wednesday over 600 African migrants were rescued by Spanish emergency services, in what was the busiest day of the year so far. 424 people from ten different boats were found and taken to the port at Tarifa. A further 169 people from five boats were found off the shores of Granada and Almeria provinces. Two people on jet skis were also rescued.

More than half of those arriving at Tarifa were from north Africa, principally Morocco, a change on recent months when most have been from sub-Saharan Africa. Over 30 were children and some needed medical treatment for hypothermia and wounds. One was taken to hospital.

Watchdogs said that the increase could be due to fewer security patrols as officers have been diverted to support the land border between Spain



Wednesday's scene in Tarifa. ■ EFE

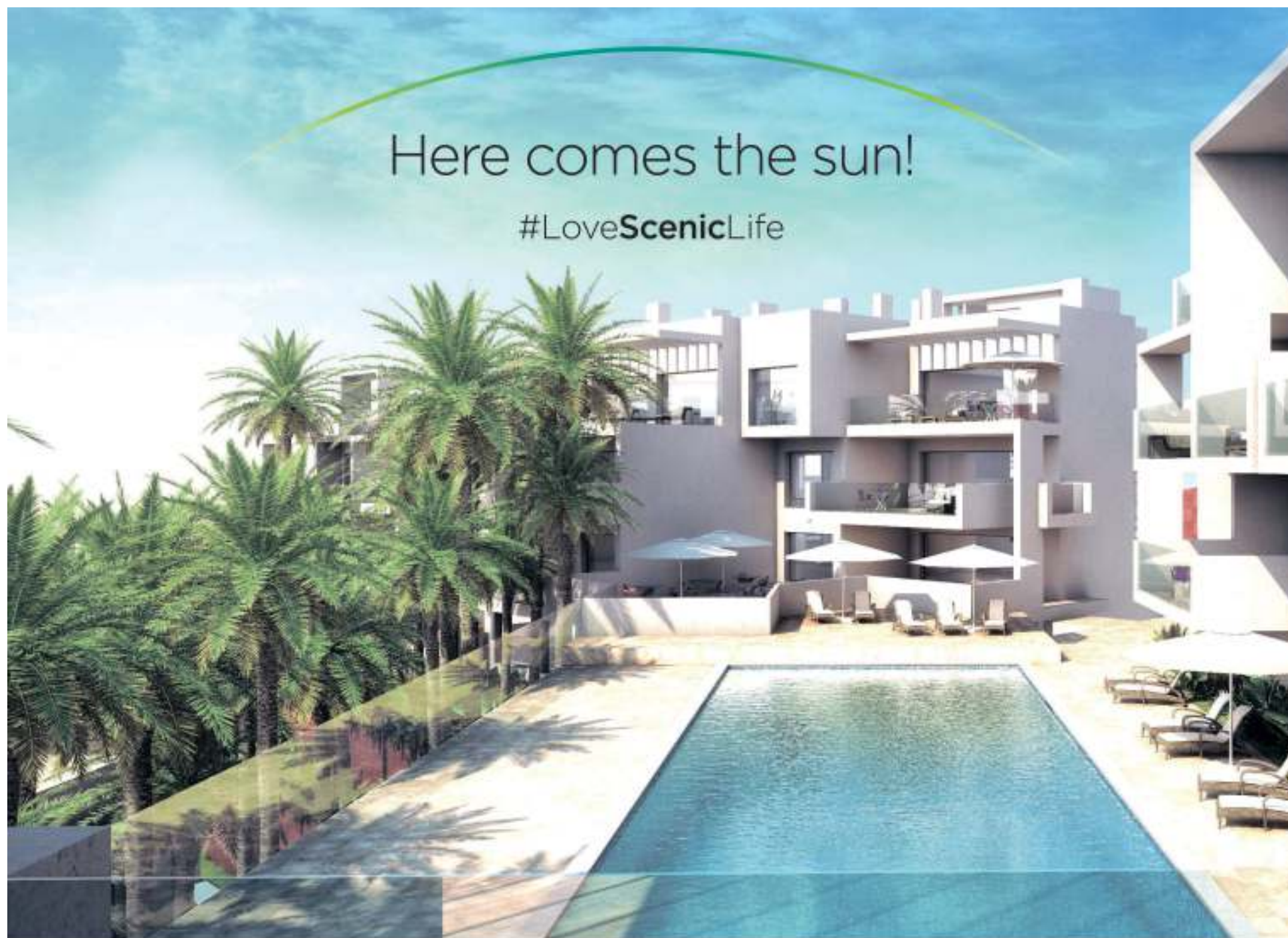
ish Ceuta and Morocco, where there was a large surge of migrants last week. Prior to yesterday, data showed that over 8,000 migrants had been rescued at sea so far this year.

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Tourist-phobia

I think that soon we will have the same problems here in Costa del Sol because the increase here is exceptional. This year Malaga may have doubled the number of tourists. Therefore the prices of apartments are just insane.

It is impossible to rent a place in any of the cities along the coast; owners and agencies are just hungry.

Apartments that you could've rented with 500 euros two years ago now go for more than 1,000. Everyone is renting per week

and then from September to June, but there are not only teachers living here.

Tourists come and spend millions here but the salaries are not going up; it just makes day to day life for the usual working man harder. We cannot compare Catalonia with Andalucía; they have other available income but here tourism is everything.

We cannot push them away but changes must be imposed so the ones actually working in tourism can afford living here.

VALENTIN NICULA
BY EMAIL

Franco, Hitler and
Gibraltar

Ash Bolton's article in this week's SUR (Aug 4 2017) is indeed correct, but biased because of omissions. The many Nazi fortifications around Gibraltar and indeed the old Nazi campsite outside Manilva provide ample proof of Hitler's intention to seize and occupy the Rock. But Franco's negotiations and procrastinations with Hitler and Canaris in 1940-42 left Spain completely neutral and denied Nazi land access to Gibraltar. Churchill recognised this but was probably one of the very few Brits who recognised this ploy and did not regard Franco as a monster (as most do, to this day). Franco was never even close to the Horror of Hitler.

Franco recognised that weak and starving Spain during the Hungry Years (1940-1950) after the Civil War (1936-39) had no appetite or capability for more war. Therefore he kept strict neutrality. It was only in the aftermath of WW2, several years after 1945, that America realised Spain's contribution to the Nazi defeat. Spain was not eligible for Marshall Aid which saved and rebuilt Europe. So the USA negotiated leasing Spanish territory for an air base near Madrid (Torrejón) and the naval base at Rota (1953). The early lease payment was US\$400 million per year. A huge sum then. I cannot verify this amount, but anyway it was enough to rebuild

the poverty stricken country that was Spain then.

A little side issue: Gibraltar is three square miles, So Franco made Rota 10 square miles - just to annoy the British.

His ambition in the second half of his dictatorship was to see every Spaniard fed and have a roof, and after that, every child educated.

Franco had many serious failings but he was also a visionary. Whilst almost everyone recognises that Francisco Franco was a ruthless dictator, few are aware that his duplicity and diplomacy with Hitler probably cut WW2 by considerable time, and thus saved many lives.

HECTOR KLEINOT
ESTEPONA

Bad behaviour

How embarrassing that the pair arrested for pointing lasers at aeroplanes last week were British. Every time I read that a Brit has been arrested for one thing or another, minor or major, in southern Spain, I cringe. It feels like everyone is looking at me as if to say, "one of your lot again". Thank goodness my fears are unfounded and my Spanish neighbours realise that we're not all tarred with the same brush. Just as I hope my fellow Brits in the UK do when foreign names appear in the court reports in their local papers.

AMANDA JAMES
BY EMAIL

Life in a northern town

PETER EDGERTON
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Quite unexpectedly, I'm writing this article in a small village in the North West of England, rather than beneath a blistering Andalusian sun as is usual. A quick phone call, a couple of changes of clothes thrown into a bag, a last minute flight and Robert is, as nobody ever says, your avuncular relative.

I haven't been in the UK for four or five years, so I had to get down to the essentials immediately on arrival. A full English breakfast and some swarthy ales down at the village pub were the main priority and then an idle wander around the cobbled streets, head down, nodding and mumbling "Yarright?" at random strangers - English northern village life in a nutshell. Good, that was all very satisfying but what was to be done now?

I decided to watch a bit of telly

- when in Rome, etc. - but it was just an endless stream of adverts encouraging me to sue anyone I'd ever met for no discernible reason. So, I turned it off and had another sausage. "This is no good," I thought, "I've got another five days to go - I'll be slumped on the bar at The Black Horse, amid piles of half-eaten pickled eggs, murmuring something unintelligible about tinto de verano and espetos."

Just when I'd concluded there was no hope, my sister appeared at the door saying that the garden hedge needed trimming. Brilliant. What could be more English than that? I put down my umpteenth forkful of bacon and beans and bounded out to get the machine. I'd never trimmed a garden hedge before - this would be life-affirming. A few early tentative stabs at easy baby twigs soon gave way to full-on Erroll Flynn swashbuck-

ling swipes. The neighbours looked on shaking their heads in bewilderment as I swooped and parried, leapt and stabbed, simultaneously wondering if there might be any current vacancies at Hampden Court gardens. "Bring me more tea!" I cried "This hedge is mine!" Then....silence. I bashed lamely at some remaining leaves but it was no good, the trimmer had given up the ghost. Well, actually, the truth was that I'd thrust forth a just little too enthusiastically and cut through the power cable. So, that's why the neighbours had been shaking their heads - they'd seen it coming. The old over-confident novice/capricious machinery combination - a disaster waiting to happen.

Not to worry, a bloke's coming to fix it tomorrow - meanwhile I'm off to the Black Horse. It's Pie And A Pint night.

SANSÓN

A holiday
in Spain

RACHEL HAYNES

Last week, while on holiday in England (not trimming hedges as my fellow columnist above), I was talking to a family who were excitedly preparing for a week's holiday in Mallorca.

They were discussing what to take with them, whether they could fit the inflatable crocodile they bought last year in their suitcase and how far the beach was going to be from their hotel room, among many other issues.

They weren't worried, they said, despite everything.

Despite what? I was puzzled. Well, for example, they said, there are gangs of people going round attacking tourists, especially the Brits because they hate us. And if the tourists aren't attacked by these gangs of animals then the police may well do the job as they like to beat up tourists for no reason at all. Then there are the delays expected at passport control so they would probably miss their flight home if they didn't get to the airport five hours in advance.

In any case last year, they said, they were told they were bound to

get food poisoning but they were fine.

I didn't bother to enquire where they had gained all this information, and fortunately they realised that their sources had given them a highly exaggerated version of this new phenomenon labelled "tourist-phobia".

This year has thrown up a new attitude to tourism in Spain and there are clearly some problems to solve, but this country remains a favourite place for a holiday in the sun among British tourists.

It's easy, though, to see how the image of a destination and a country can be damaged by overenthusiastic reporting of what have been mainly isolated incidents.

In the case of my friends, the scary news flying round social media had failed to persuade them to opt for a week in safe Scarborough instead of Mallorca, and now Facebook informs me that they are currently having a great time, inflatable crocodile and all.

SUR English

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Royal relaxes at beach club birthday

The well-known Ocean Club in Puerto Banús celebrated its tenth anniversary last week; the king's nephew was among the guests

:: HUGO SIMÓN

MARBELLA. Last week Ocean Club, one of Marbella's most exclusive beach venues, celebrated ten years since it reopened under new owners. Guests heading for the luxury sunbeds that are often occupied by international celebrities were greeted by models and giant balloons and entertained by live music and DJ sessions.

Among them was a Spanish royal, Felipe Juan Froilán de Todos los Santos de Marichalar y Borbón (to give his full name). Froilán, the son of King Felipe's sister Elena de Borbón and the eldest grandson of King Juan Carlos, was spotted at the club with his girlfriend, Mar Torres-Frontes.

Ocean Club attracts up to 1,200 people at weekends in the summer, mostly from Britain, the Low Countries, France and the Arabian Peninsula. Aside from the famous themed parties and champagne-drinking image, however, Ocean Club is also a family venue with children enjoying the pool during the week.



Felipe Juan Froilán de Marichalar and his girlfriend at the tenth anniversary celebration at Ocean Club. :: SUR



The pool, left, and the models who paraded colourful swimsuits on the pink runway. :: SUR / JORGE REY



Hilton in Marbella. :: SUR

Paris Hilton brings a "magical" night to Puerto Banús

MARBELLA. Paris Hilton had promised an "incredible night" and she delivered. The American socialite was celebrity DJ last Saturday at the Mirage Club in Puerto Banús, where she arrived at 3am and played a three-hour set. The night, which she described as "magic", was part of her Gold Rush tour that drags her away from her favourite summer haunt Ibiza. This Marbella visit went down better than last year's when Hilton walked out half way through her set at the Olivia Valère nightclub.

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IN THE FRAME

RACHEL ARMSTRONG



"It is a great joy to give"

Sandro Morelli Restaurant owner

From the streets of Naples to a renowned restaurant on the Golden Mile, Sandro Morelli has seen life from contrasting perspectives

Sandro Morelli, owner of Villa Tiberio restaurant in Marbella, takes great pride not just in the food that comes out of his kitchen but also in the flowers that adorn his diners' surroundings. Sitting in the courtyard as I wait to meet him it is not difficult to see why; the setting is breathtakingly beautiful.

Sandro bought Villa Tiberio in the late 1980s when it was a small, neglected house with a lot of grounds. "It took about two years to change everything," explains Sandro, "but I had a lot of help from the local authorities." Opened in 1989 it has become more than a restaurant: a meeting place for royalty and celebrities; a tranquil serenity under the glorious Marbella sunshine; a welcoming backdrop for hosting charity events - something that Sandro is extremely passionate about.

There is no denying the owner's love affair with nature and architecture as you meander through the grounds; the mesmerising water features, intricately placed statues and stunning flowers make a visit to the restaurant an unforgettable experience before even setting eyes on the menu.

When talking to Sandro his love of Marbella - and the lifestyle it offers - is irrefutable. "I don't know any other place that I would say to you right now that could compare better than Marbella." It is all about "quality of life" for the restaurateur and, from his point



Sandro talks to guests on the terrace of his restaurant. :: SUR

Years of charity work

:: R. ARMSTRONG

MARBELLA. On 11 June Villa Tiberio hosted its annual Summer fundraiser in aid of Children with Cancer UK, raising 45,435€ on the night. David Sullivan, joint chairman of West Ham United FC, donated a further 5,000€ after the event.

Cliff O'Gorman, CEO for the charity was delighted to be able to attend the occasion and later sent Sandro a letter expressing their gratitude, a letter which is now sitting pride of place in the entrance of the Marbella restaurant.

In the letter Cliff explains that the money raised will be used to "fund vital research" as the charity strives to increase cancer survival rates. "We won't rest until every young life can be saved, and every young cancer patient can look forward to a long, healthy life," he wrote.

2017 marks the tenth year that Morelli has organised that event which has now raised over 438,735€ for Children with Cancer UK. The restaurateur has also helped to raise thousands of euros for Cudeca hospice and Unicef.

of view, Marbella excels in that respect: "To get up in the morning and be able to swim in my pool, walk to the beach and have coffee, spend time with family - this is what life is all about."

Despite his success, he is humble and respectful with a passion for helping others. Reminiscing

about his childhood he reveals that his sole aim was to help his parents because "they were so poor".

Sandro remembers begging for cigarettes on the streets of Naples at just seven years old: "If I could get four packs of cigarettes I used to run to the bus stop, sell them and run home to my mother and

"I have never forgotten; it was Christmas time and snowing; I was going to meet a girl and I saw a poor man, cold and sitting on the floor. I couldn't believe it so I invited him upstairs and gave him a cup of tea. I had a coat - a beautiful coat that my uncle sent to me from the United States, we were always very poor - and I gave it to him. He couldn't believe it, he was crying. I said 'don't cry' and he said 'but you're giving me this coat' and I said 'yes, you keep yourself warm!' I never forgot that. I will always remember his face - he had tears in his eyes. I was so happy because I felt I was in a position to give someone something they needed. It's a great joy to give."

Having experienced life from different extremes, the Italian-born restaurant owner is disgusted by the "untouchable disparity" in the world today. "No man or woman should be a billionaire - for me, it is immoral. How can you explain a child dying because they don't have any food and others have more money in the bank than they know what to do with?"

His desire to help people has led Sandro to raise thousands of euros for charities over the years, including Cudeca, Unicef and Children with Cancer UK, and fundraisers continue to be a fundamental part of his work. Sandro's aim is to invest money in the future generations and help children grow up in a world away from war, poverty and starvation.

He is particularly passionate about raising money to help children as he believes their innocence is one of the pure beauties of the world. "To me they give me the stamina to get on in life and be successful."

"What we need to do to create a better world is to invest money not in nuclear warheads but invest money to ensure that every child that is born has food to eat, a home to live in and an education."

The interview draws to a close as Sandro receives a phone call and excuses himself to say goodnight to his seven-year-old grandson.

"No man or woman should be a billionaire - for me, it is immoral"

give her the money."

At the age of 18, he went to London with five shillings in his pocket and got a job as a washer-upper. Earning £8 a week, he would spend his weekends working as a waiter in Leicester Square and send the extra £2 wage to his mother.

Sandro recalls a memory from when he was 18 years old, working as a washer-upper in London:

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The Strathleven Artizans on a former visit to the Douglas Day Festival in the town of Teba. :: SUR

The heart of Scottish tradition

Scots prepare to descend on Teba next week for the Douglas Day festival

The Festival commemorates the adventures of Sir James 'The Black' Douglas during the siege of Teba castle in 1331

TEBA. As August comes to an end and Andalucía starts to cool down after several months of scorching temperatures, the final summer festivals and celebrations will be under way throughout the region. One of these is the XIII edition of the Douglas Day festival, which will take place in the town of Teba, in the region of Guadalhorce-Guadaleba, from Friday 25 until Sunday 27 August.

This festival recalls one of the



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

most epic stories in Teba's history, a legend that goes back 700 years, to pay tribute to the exploits of Sir James Douglas.

The festival commemorates the adventure of this Scottish knight, also known as the Black Douglas, when he was carrying the embalmed heart of King Robert the Bruce on a crusade to the Holy Land.

As a friend of Robert the Bruce, Douglas attempted to fulfil the king's dying wish that his heart be taken to the Holy Sepulchre in Je-

rusalem in a silver casket.

However, it was while attempting this mission that the Black Douglas met his end. On his way to the Holy Land, Douglas received confirmation that Alfonso XI of Castile was preparing a campaign against the Muslim kingdom of Granada. He had with him a letter of introduction to King Alfonso from Edward III of England and so he sailed to Seville, where he was received by Alfonso with great honour. Douglas and his company joined Alfonso's army, which then set out for the frontier of Granada to besiege the castle of Teba.

Sir James Douglas fought the Nasrid dynasty with the Castilian troops, but he was killed during the campaign, although how he died has remained uncertain.

Although his mission was unsuc-

DOUGLAS DAYS

► **Friday 25 August.** Inauguration of the Medieval market and the opening of the Douglas museum. The museum will remain open for free visits throughout the festival.

► **Saturday 26 August.** Falconry display, snake charmers and belly dancing in Calle San Francisco. There will be a special tribute to Sir James Douglas at 8.30pm in Plaza España.

► **Sunday 27 August.** Live music in Plaza de la Constitución from 12.30pm. Visitors will enjoy free sangria and porra, a gazpacho-style thick soup.

cessful, the Black Douglas has remained such a legend in Scottish history that thousands of people descend on the town of Teba in August to commemorate his death.

One group that has attended the festival for the past ten years is the Strathleven Artizans from West Dunbartonshire. The group was formed in 2006 and focuses on the history of Robert the Bruce, and of course, Sir James Douglas. Shortly after the group was formed, members visited Teba to pay homage to the Black Douglas and to see the site where the famous battle took place.

First visit

Duncan Thomson, Chairman of the Strathleven Artizans, told SUR in English that he was a little reluctant when first offered the opportunity to visit the town.

"One of our members was invited to a wedding in Cordoba and he asked if I would like to go. I said that two men in kilts in the middle of Spain was a big no, but he persuaded me by saying he would take me to the place where Sir James Douglas was killed," the chairman explains.

Duncan immediately fell in love with the town and he, and several members of the Strathleven Artizans, have been visiting ever since.

"After the wedding we travelled to Teba and were not disappointed. What a wonderful village. We stayed at a hotel on the hill and had the most amazing view of the castle at night. As it turns out, we had missed the first Douglas festival by a few days," Duncan says.

The group developed a bond with the town and now they visit every August to commemorate the battle of Teba. This year, twelve members will travel from Scotland to attend the celebrations.

The Artizans were first taken in by Mark and Lindsay Comer at La Calera Hotel, which looks over the battlefield, and they have supported the festival, and the Strathleven Artizans, from the beginning.

The couple, originally from Chester, have owned the self-catering accommodation for twelve years and they are extremely happy with their annual Scottish visitors.

Lindsay explained that festival attracts thousands of people from



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The Douglas clan included Warriors, Marquises and Oscar Wilde's lover

by TONY BRYANT

MÁLAGA. The Douglas family history stretches back to the eighth century. Legend claims that a Scottish king, whose army was losing in battle, saw the tide turn in his favour following the intervention of an unknown warrior.

The man was a fearsome fighter named Sholto Douglas, one of the earliest recorded members of the Douglas family.

A more recent member of the family to go down in history was John Sholto Douglas, 9th Marquis of Queensberry. Born in 1844, John

Douglas was a Scottish nobleman, remembered for his outspoken views and his brutish manner.

He lent his name to the rules that form the basis of modern boxing. Queensberry was a noted boxing enthusiast and he was one of the founders of the Amateur Ath-

letic Association of England. The Club published a set of twelve rules for conducting boxing matches.

The rules appeared under Queensberry's sponsorship and are universally known as the Queensberry rules.

Wilde

John Douglas, however, is probably more remembered for his role in the downfall of author and playwright Oscar Wilde.

The notorious Lord Alfred Bruce

Douglas, known to the world as Bosie, was the son of Queensberry and the lover of Oscar Wilde. In 1895, angered by the apparent ongoing homosexual relationship between Wilde and his son, Queensberry started legal proceedings that would result in Wilde's imprisonment.

Lord Alfred was a British poet whose work was characterised by the history of Ancient Greece. There are many who believe that his poetry was far better than anything Wilde ever published.



A stone plaque in Teba remembers both Bruce and Douglas. **by SUR**

all over, but the Strathleven Artizans have become part of the festival and she is always glad to see them.

"The Artizans have been coming for a number of years and they are fabulous. There are normally around 12 of them and this year they are bringing a piper and a six-piece band," Lindsay says.

The festival is organised by Teba town hall, which has recently turned the once derelict tower of the old castle into the Sir James Douglas Museum. The town also bears a plaque dedicated to both James Douglas and King Robert the Bruce.

Entertainment

During the three-day festival, visitors will enjoy a medieval market, mock battles, displays and exhibitions of weapons of the middle ages, Arab and Scottish musical performances and various workshops.

More than three thousand people attended the festival last year and because of a rising interest in the legendary Black Douglas and Robert the Bruce, the event has become one of the most important of its kind.

The heart of Robert the Bruce was eventually buried in Melrose Abbey, while the remains of James Douglas rest in the Douglas Valley Church in South Lanarkshire. The Douglas coat of arms bears a heart and the word 'Forward', a reference to his most famous phrase, "Forward, brave heart, where you go Douglas will follow or die."

The determination and vehemence that characterised the Black Douglas' career emerged in the lives of many of his descendants, however, it will be Sir James that the pipers will be saluting next weekend.



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All the fun of the feria in Malaga

Southern Spain's biggest summer party reaches its climax in the Costa del Sol capital this weekend

Record numbers of visitors and locals have been enjoying the colourful celebrations that run through the day and night

by NEIL HESKETH

MALAGA. For those who haven't been swept along by the joy of colourfully dressed locals dancing in the streets, the temptation of free-flowing sweet Malaga wine or the buzz of the neon-lit showground, there is still time until Saturday (19 August) to take part in Malaga's huge city-wide feria.

The feria (or fair), the biggest summer party in southern Spain, kicked off last Friday night (11 August) with a huge firework display on the city's La Malagueta beach.

Events have continued throughout the week centring on the daytime feria in the city centre, where bars, restaurants and businesses have been hosting visitors and locals with street celebrations, and the evening El Real showground on the outskirts. Here 'casetas' serve up food, drink, music and entertainment alongside the Ferris wheel and other brightly lit attractions.

Tomorrow (Saturday) is the last day of the party and a public holiday in Malaga city. On Sunday, as the bunting is brought in for another year, the parade recreating the arrival of monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella after conquering the city in 1487 takes place at 8pm in the city centre.



Dancers in the city centre earlier this week. by NITO SALAS



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▲▼ **Fair fun.** The city's main street and the fairground have been packed with colour and tradition all week.

✪ E. NIETO / F. SILVA



GOLDIES SAY THANKS TO ICELAND

The Cudeca Goldies have presented the Iceland food store in Mijas Costa with a 'diploma of appreciation' for allowing them to raise money outside the store throughout the year. So far this year, the Goldies have collected in excess of 3,000 euros at the entrance of the Iceland store, a practice they intend to continue once a month for the rest of the summer season. Cudeca fundraiser Carlos White said, "We would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved, especially Iceland's generous customers."



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Resident Irish musician to help local underprivileged families with charity record

Finion Kenny has compiled a list of classic hymns and Christmas carols that he intends to record with a Benalmádena-based church choir

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDEN. As the August temperatures rise and the summer holiday season continues in full swing not many of us will be thinking about Christmas. However, one Costa del Sol expat can think of little else at the moment, because he is currently organising the recording of a charity Christmas record.

Dublin-born Finion Kenny plays the clarinet and saxophone during Sunday mass at the Catholic Church in Bonanza Square in Benalmádena. He is also a member of the choir, and he has decided to use his musical knowledge to help the local branch of the charity Cáritas.

Finion has compiled a list of classic hymns and Christmas carols that he intends to record with the resident organist and the church choir. He will play the clarinet and saxophone on the CD and all proceeds will go to Cáritas, a Catholic charity that helps underprivileged families around Spain.

Finion grew up in Dublin and began playing the clarinet and saxophone as a teenager; by the age of twenty-one he was the leader of his own seven-piece jazz band. He went on to work with the

Leicestershire Philharmonic Orchestra, and also the BBC, recording live music for radio and television programmes.

He has lived in Benalmádena since 2005 and he has performed as a solo artist in many of the live music venues along the coast over the years, but he is now dedicating his time to organising the recording of the charity record.

Finion has decided to make the record to help the underprivileged

and homeless people in Benalmádena, because it is a cause that is very close to his heart.

"People don't realise there are poor people living in this area and this is more evident at times like Christmas. Some people can just about pay their rent and bills, but they have nothing left to feed their families. We hope to raise money to help those less fortunate than ourselves," Finion told SUR in English.

The recording of the backing tracks will cause little problem for the Irish musician, but how to record the choir will be quite a different thing; getting them all together at the same time is proving to be difficult, especially during the summer, when most are away on holiday.

"It will be easier to record the choir in the church if possible, because I think we will capture the right ambience for the songs, but how we will achieve this evades me at the moment," Finion said.

A project of this scale will take a lot of organising and Finion is trying to raise sponsorship in order to pay for the production of the CD. He would also appreciate the help of anyone who has knowledge in this field, especially anyone who can help with the actual recording of the choir.

"There is still a lot of work to do, but, with a little help, we are hoping that it will be possible to make the CD in time for Christmas, the plucky Irishman concluded."

More information :
finionkenny1@gmail.com



Finion Kenny will use his musical skills to help underprivileged families. BY T. B.

"We hope to raise enough money to help those people less fortunate than ourselves"

THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



American eclipse

This Monday, 21 August, a path less than 70 miles wide will be plunged into darkness as a total solar eclipse sweeps right across the USA. The USA has never seen an eclipse that swept right across the country from east to west before; the closest was in 1308 and even then it didn't quite match what will happen on Monday. There will be another total eclipse in 2024 and in 2045 that will also sweep right across.

Beginning at 10.15am, the moon's shadow will begin its journey at Oregon on the west coast; it will then pass over fourteen states including Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky before leaving the east coast of South Carolina just after 2.45pm local time.

Eclipse events and parties are being organised at virtually every point along the path as over 12 million people live along the line and over 88 million live within one day's drive.

People tend to think that a total solar eclipse is a very rare event but in truth there are an average of 2.4 eclipses occurring every year. It is because the eclipse path is so very narrow that the chance

of an eclipse falling directly where you are is very slim.

An eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the Sun and covers the face of the Sun. By sheer coincidence the Sun is 400 times larger than the moon but it just happens to be 400 times further away and so the two appear as almost exactly the same size. But the moon passes between the Sun and the Earth every month so why don't we have an eclipse every month? Well we would if it wasn't for the fact that the moon orbits the Earth at a slight angle and so each month during the new moon stage the moon usually passes above or below the Sun.

In exactly 10 years time, on 2 August 2027, a total eclipse will pass directly over the Costa del Sol. It will begin in Gibraltar and continue right along the coast through Marbella, Fuengirola and Benalmádena before moving off at Malaga. Millions of tourists will probably descend upon Spain for the event.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

18 AUGUST 1492

The first Spanish grammar book was published

The name Antonio de Nebrija may not ring many bells - unless you happen to be learning or studying the Spanish language, that is. In that case, you have a good reason to be grateful to him.

It was he who wrote the first ever Spanish grammar book, which was published on 18 August 1492 under the sober name of 'Gramática sobre la Lengua Castellana'.

As a result of this work, Spanish became the first Latin-based language to be defined for its own merits, and Antonio de Nebrija's main claim to fame was that he became the first person to explain the rules governing the Spanish language and put them in written form.

We also have him to thank for pointing out one particular gram-

mar rule which is still highly relevant today: the phonetic spelling which is such a great help to foreigners trying to pronounce Spanish.

In fact, one of his stated aims in producing this book was to "make written Spanish correspond to spoken Spanish".

Antonio (whose surname was actually Martínez de Cala y Jarava), was born in a town which we now know as Lebrija, in Seville province, but which in the 15th century was known as Nebrixa, or Nebrija, and he decided to use that name instead.

As a Latin scholar, he had not



A portrait of Antonio de Nebrija and, left, his book. :: SUR



intended to write a Spanish grammar book, but after dedicating his time to producing a Latin grammar which he hoped would be easier for people to read, he realised that there would not be much inter-

est in it unless he translated it into Spanish.

At that time, classes were normally taught in either Latin or

Greek, so Antonio became a pioneer by producing a book which explained the rules of the Spanish language.

Around the same time, he also published a Spanish dictionary, although he was not the first person to do that. His version was, however, then the largest to date, as it contained over 30,000 words in total.

The 15th century was an important one in Spain, with Christopher Columbus setting sail on the voyage during which he

would discover America, and in a quieter way Antonio de Nebrija also contributed to the start of the country's golden age.

As a result of his grammar book and dictionary, Spanish literature really started to take off and gain worldwide acclaim, and the language came into common use. Columbus (or Cristóbal Colón as the Spanish know him) may have been a more flamboyant hero, but for the Spanish-speaking world Antonio de Nebrija is equally as deserving of the title.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Idioma/lengua	Language
Gramática	Grammar
Diccionario	Dictionary
Publicado	Published
Escrito	Written
Hablado	Spoken
Español	Spanish
Latín	Latin
Griego	Greek
Estudiar	To study
Apellido	Surname
Leer	To read
Traducir	To translate
Palabras	Words
Siglo	Century
Descubrir	Discover
Dorado	Golden
Literatura	Literature
Héroe	Hero

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GARDENING

Clethra alnifolia

Clethra is a sweet scented genus of plants which will tolerate full shade and provide pretty flower spikes all summer long

Clethra is a genus in the Clethraceae family, native to the eastern part of the United States. The genus contains both deciduous and evergreen shrubs and small trees, some which have attractive peeling bark.

Clethra alnifolia has small, white panicles of flowers 15cm long which form on the tips of the stems. The flowers are strongly

perfumed and are said to smell like cloves. Although usually white, there are pale pink forms such as C. alnifolia 'Pink Spires' and a dark pink form 'Ruby Spice'.

Common names for this attractive shrub include summersweet, sweet pepper bush and white

alder. C. alnifolia will form a dense shrub around two metres high and, as it sends up suckers from the base, can spread to form a dense colony in the wild. This makes it an ideal shrub for hedging. It can also be used in woodland plantings, in borders or as a specimen plant in a large planter. C. alnifolia 'Hummingbird' is

a dwarf form that is probably best for container growing as it barely reaches just over a metre high.

Unfortunately, this sweet scented perennial is not drought resistant and will need to be kept in a rich, moist soil. However it loves the

shade and is one of the few plants that will flower during the summer in full shade. The soil or compost needs to be well drained and preferably acidic although it will tolerate neutral soils.

Flowering starts in midsummer and continues until late autumn when the leaves of Clethra will turn a beautiful golden yellow before falling. The flowers attract bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects and when the blooms are finished, dark brown seed casings form containing brown seeds. The seeds look similar to peppercorns although they have no value as spice; hence the name pepper bush.

The only pruning necessary is to occasionally thin the growth out by removing some of the oldest wood. Propagation can be carried out in early summer from new green growth or by removing suckers carefully from the base.



Clethra alnifolia and 'Ruby Spice' (inset). :: WIKIPEDIA

READER'S PHOTO



:: J. MERINO

AN ANCIENT GARDEN WALL

This immaculate garden belongs to Jackie Merino who says, "One whole side of the plot consists of a high 'wall' of coral which is millions of years old!"

GARDENING HINTS FOR AUGUST

Hedge trimming time

Now that the birds are no longer nesting and it seems the weather is cooling down a bit, you can get on with cutting back evergreen and deciduous hedges. Be on the lookout for wasps though, our cypress hedge is full of their paper nests so we have to leave trimming ours until the winter. Lavenders have finished flower-

ing so they can be given a trim to stop them getting too woody and to keep them a nice, compact shape. Take off the whole flower stem and about two centimetres of growth. They can be cut back harder but be warned, cutting back into old wood can cause die-back and you could lose the whole plant.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation, or send them via Twitter @SUR_English or Facebook @surenglish and we'll do the rest!

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Southern Spain has a multitude of hidden corners just waiting to be discovered: this week we suggest you take the road to...

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Fast-flowing rivers in the Sierra Almijara

The Chíllar and Higuerón are two of the most popular places in the summer, but there are others too

✪ JAVIER ALMELLONES

MÁLAGA. The Chíllar is probably the most popular river for a summer hike in La Axarquía, but it is by no means the only one. In fact, there is a variety of unusual and interesting walking routes very close by, for those who fancy spending a day beside the water in the countryside.

What is most unusual about this group of rivers and streams is not, in fact, their water but the way they have eroded the landscape over time. While walking in this area you can see stunning waterfalls cascading from on high and extremely narrow gorges where the water has carved its way through the rock and created spectacular nooks and crannies over thousands of years.

As well as the Chíllar river, El Higuerón, the Cebollón (on the Granada side of the mountain range) and the Patalamara are just some of those which are also found in La Axarquía region.

They all have their source in the same place, the Sierra Almijara mountain range, and share certain geographical features. The karst nature of these mountains has produced some spectacular scenery, such as the narrows which are known as 'cahorros' or 'cajorros' in Spanish.

There are also several pools of crystal clear water, which help to make this a very enjoyable excursion in the summer months.

The best-known and busiest river at this time of year is the aforementioned Chíllar, which can be reached from Nerja. It is well worth a visit, because simply walking beside the water feels so refreshing.

However, the walk upstream is also full of surprises. Landscapes filled with life, walls of limestone



In many of the rivers in the Sierra Almijara there are pools of crystal-clear water. ✪ J. A.



There are spectacular narrows in the upper Chíllar river ✪ J. A.

rock which are a reminder of other latitudes and a continual scattering of small waterfalls and pools are all there to surprise and captivate walkers.

One of the most unexpected features are the 'cahorros'. Some of these narrows are barely one metre wide and are surprising not only because they are so long but also for their height.

People normally start this walk from Nerja, although it can also be accessed from the village of Frigiliana, which is a few kilometres away. In that case, however, there is a steep limestone slope to be climbed first.

The Patalamara and Cebollón are other options to enjoy an interesting walk beside a river

The other option, which starts at the Almijara residential complex, means that you enter the Chíllar valley much lower down. For the first few metres there is not much water in the river because it is diverted further up and used for

irrigation. On this first part of the walk you can see a narrow valley below: this is one of the entrances to the Natural Park of the Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama. A little further on you come to the stretch where the Chíllar river flows quite fast.

El Higuerón is like a cousin of the Chíllar (it is actually its main tributary). The best way to access this river is from the centre of Frigiliana. You take a track close to the Guardia Civil station and go down to a valley which is similar to that of the Chíllar, although it is less busy in summer.

Continuing upstream, walkers come to the Pozo de Batán pool which is fed by the river and is nearly seven metres deep. Although a dip in this immense natural pool may seem tempting, swimming is prohibited.

Unlike the Chíllar, when you walk by the Higuerón you have to keep at a distance from the river to find the unusual 'cahorros', with their wonderful views over the Sierra Almijara. These narrows are difficult to cross. Anyone who does decide to explore them should be extremely careful.

The Patalamara river is reached from a track which leads off the road from Torrox to Cómputa. You need to go up to the Fábrica de la Luz in Cómputa (don't confuse it with the one in Canillas de Albaida). Although in this case there are fewer narrows, there is an impressive waterfall on the final stretch of the river.

Another possibility is the Cebollón river, which is reached from the Granada side of the Sierra de Almijara. To get there, you need to go to La Resinera visitors' centre, and along a track off the road between Fornes and Arenas del Rey.



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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.



Jorge Rando, Malaga.

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 rep-

Arabic culture weekend

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena Pueblo will host the seventh edition of the town's popular Arab souk from Thursday 24 until Sunday 27 August.

Organised by the Benalmádena town hall and Andalucía Medieval, the Arab market will take place in various locations throughout the town and is aimed at promoting the area's Moorish beauty and charm.

Locals and visitors will be able to enjoy the best of Arab culture through its products and traditions. The narrow streets of Benalmádena Pueblo will be draped in exotic fabrics and traditional Arabic style tents. More than 20 stalls will offer a choice of teas, spices, clothes, ceramics, jewellery and gastronomy. There will also be workshops promoting Arabic arts and crafts, street parades, jugglers, and demonstrations of belly dancing and Arabian music.

The main market will be installed in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, Plaza de España and in



Herbs and spices will be at the souk in Benalmádena. BY SUR

the 'Jardines del Muro'.

This is a unique opportunity to take a trip back in time and let your senses absorb the aromas of the exotic food while experiencing the delights of Arabic culture.

The Arab market is open from 11am until 1am.

DETAILS

► **When:** Thursday 24 until Sunday 27 August.

► **Where:** Benalmádena Pueblo.

resents 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

Art Moves

Estepona. Until 6 October. El Campanario Golf & Country House. Emile Chaussidière and Paul Rosher will be exhibiting a selection of their paintings. Inauguration cocktails at 8.30pm, 18 August. art@artmoves.es

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Until 30 September. Cruz del Molinillo, 12. A temporary exhibition entitled 'El Nacimiento del Color' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. It includes over 100 works by Jorge Rando. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.

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 until 4 February next year, will feature Alexei Jawlensky (1864-1941). 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.

Pacífico 54

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

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



Bacon, Freud and the London School, at the Picasso, Malaga.

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 artefacts 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.

Philippe Starck

Malaga. Until 17 September. Pompidou Centre, Muelle Uno. 'Secret Drawings, 4,000 sketches unveiled' is an exhibition of the artist's works.

'La Aparencia de lo real'

Malaga. Until 10 September. Museo Carmen Thyssen, C/Compañía, 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. 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.museopicasso-malaga.org



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Jawlensky fills the Russian Museum with colour

The Malaga gallery begins showing works by the expressionist master and explores the artistic relationship with his son

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. He was a friend of Kandinsky and a member of Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider), an artistic movement that transformed German expressionism. They once shared exhibitions and artistic interests and are now doing it again in Malaga. Alexéi Jawlensky will be filling the space vacated by his friend in Malaga's Russian Museum from now until February next year.

The exhibition sets out to explore his role "at the vanguard of the twentieth century", in the words of José María Luna, director of the Malaga branch of St Petersburg's State Russian Museum.

Respected by the experts but unknown to the public at large, the city's Tabacalera building makes clear the importance of this expressionist painter's work and discusses it in the context of his contemporaries and his successor, his son Andreas.

The search for a personal journey through the use of colour and light



Andreas and Katia (1905). :: SUR



Mystical head. John the Baptist. :: SUR



Factory (1910). :: SUR

unites father and son. The result is an explosion of tones in the exhibition galleries, a kaleidoscopic palette for people to compare and contrast their form, style and subject. With The Adventure of Colour, the show's subtitle, Alexéi and Andreas meet again in Malaga, almost a hundred years after they first exhibited together in 1914.

The exhibition looks at the artist's creativity through around fifty of his and his son's works, (from the St Petersburg museum, private collections and the artists' descendants), as well as 20 contextual works by other artists.



Alexéi's work is compared and contrasted with that of his son and other artists. :: NITO SALAS

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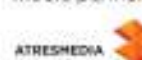
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EXHIBITIONS

El Renacer de Jábega
Torremolinos. Until 8 September.
Town Hall.

A 'jábega' is a traditional rowing boat. The exhibition includes an example of one of these boats as well as photographs and trophies from the rowing clubs of Torremolinos.



Jábega, Torremolinos

Juan Manuel Hurtado González

Torrox-Costa. Until 31 August. Tourist office.

Juan Manuel Hurtado is exhibiting a selection of his work.

Contemporary artists

Nerja. Until 3 September, Museo de Nerja.

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

Galería Krabbe

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

Works artists Fernando de la Rosa, Gert Mathiesen Pamela Smillow, Yaiza García, Luise Haugen and Camilla West.

Janna Fabian

Castell de Ferro. Until 3 September, Sala de Exposiciones, Town Hall.. An exhibition of colourful paintings by Janna Fabian.

CHARITY

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

Jammin' in Almuñécar

JENNIE RHODES

ALMUÑÉCAR. Rapsusklei, Sharif, Ikki & Costa, Sho hai (Violadores del Verso), Chuty – BTA, Shabu and El Niño la Guitarra and Barbass Sound form the lineup for Almuñécar's fifth Summer Jam festival. Celebrating hip hop, freestyle and reggae music, the festival takes place on 18 August at Parque El Majuelo on the Costa Tropical.

Festival organisers, Boom Bap, say that around 1,000 people are expected to attend the one-day event to see acts such as Rapsusklei, considered one of Spain's best hip hop artists, who will be performing tracks from his latest album.

Sharif is a hugely popular hip hop artist, both in Spain and South America. Famous DJs Ikki & Costa will be performing and back by popular demand is Sho Hai (Violadores del Verso). Freestylers Chuty and BTA, who recently won the Red Bull Batalla Gallos, will be performing and for fans of reggae, Shabu & El Niño la Guitarra and Barbass



Shabu and El Niño la Guitarra :: YOU TUBE

Sound form part of the lineup.

The festival will start at 7pm. Tickets are 11 euros and available from La Najarra tourist office, Viajes Ecuador in Almuñécar, as well as via the internet at: www.ticketea.com

INFORMATION

► **When:** 18 August from 7pm.

► **Where:** Parque Majuelo auditorium, Almuñécar.

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

Ocean Bar

Malaga. 19 August, 10.30pm. Hotel Vincci. C/Pacífico.

Daphne & Nicky. Jazz and bossanova.

Jazz, blues and swing

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

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



Janna Fabian, Castell de Ferro

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Gibraltar. 9 September, 9.30pm. Victoria Stadium.

A concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, conducted by Timothy Henty, with performances by soprano Laura Wright and tenor Wynne Evans. Tickets £5 from www.buyltickets.gi and from the John Mackintosh Hall week-

days 11am and 1pm.

Starlite

Marbella. Until 27 August, 10.30pm. La Cantera de Marbella. <https://www.ticketea.com>

18 August. Noche Movid. A band created by Starlite will be performing hits from the 80s and 90s.

19 August. El Arrebato. Rumba and Flamenco-pop.

20 August. Álvaro Soler. Spanish artist with 37 gold and platinum awards.

21 August. Hardwell. Robbert Van de Corput, better known as Hardwell the DJ. All the best electronic music.

22 August. Mago Pop. Magic tricks and illusions.

22 August. Juan Magán. The King of Latin American Electro.

23 August. Sofia Ellar. Singer, songwriter.

24 August. Jason Derulo. The American artist has sold more than 5 million albums.

26 August. Morat. Latin

American music.

27 August. Andrea Bocelli. Due to his concert being cancelled on 15th August, Bocelli will be appearing on 27 August.

Yin Jazz

Almuñécar. 18 August, 10.30pm. Palacete La Najarra.

Jazz fusion.

UK Legends

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

Members of The Animals and The Animals II are touring Europe playing their greatest hits including 'The House of the Rising Sun'. Also Smokie tribute act Songs of Smokie, featuring Bernie Lowry. The concert finishes with a performance by Echoes of the 60s. Tel: 609 488 572



Jason Derulo comes to Starlite.

Ebi 50 World Tour

Torremolinos. 19 August, 10pm. Auditorio Municipal Principe de Asturias. 60€

Iranian singer Ebrahim Hamedi will be performing in Torremolinos as part of his world tour. www.ebi-concert.com

Hank Marvin tribute

Almuñécar. 20 August, 10pm.

Parque el Majuelo. A tribute to Hank Marvin and the Shadows by Fender Swing.

Cuartsax

Torremolinos. 23 August, 9.30pm. Plaza Costa del Sol..

'Cuartsax' is a quartet consisting of four different types of saxophone. Juan Pedro Luna Agudo (soprano sax), Francisco Rusillo Márquez (alto sax), Marco Antonio López Vergara (tenor sax) and Javier Carmona Pérez (baritone sax).

Sundown Sounds

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Cala de Mijas Town Hall every Thursday from 9pm.
24 August. *The New Jersey Boys* tribute to Frankie Valli and the 4 Seasons.
31 August. Arte Azabache, Traditional Flamenco show.

Brown Sugar Quartet
Nerja. 30 August, 9.30pm. Hostal Mena, C/Barrio, 15€
Jazz, blues and soul concert with Manuela Nelom who pays tribute to the Motown greats of 60s and 70s. Tickets for this concert and the following at the Hotel Paraiso del Mar (below) 25€. Tel: 690073871

Cuarteto Con Fuoco
Nerja. 5 September, 9.30pm. Hotel Paraiso del Mar, C/Prolongación de Hernando Carabeo, 15€. Quartet n°1 in E minor by Smetana and cord quartet N°1 in G minor by



Barbarian muscle, Plaza Mayor.

Grieg. The quartet is made up of musicians from the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra.

Jazz Wednesdays in the CAC Vélez-Málaga. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. 8.30pm. Free.
23 August. Carlos Cortés Cuarteto.
30 August. Garum Trio.

Villa de Mijas choir
La Cala de Mijas. 18 August, 9pm. Plaza del Torreón.
A varied repertoire of choir music from diverse cultures and origins.

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 is a celebration of the music of three of the biggest names in rock history, Pink Floyd, Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin. The music will be performed by three of the leading tribute bands from the UK: Think Floyd, Deeper Purple and Whole Lotta Led. www.pinkpurplezefest.com

FLAMENCO

Weekly flamenco shows
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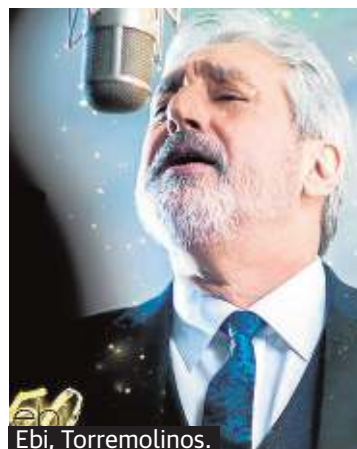
de Puerta Nueva 10.
Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.30pm. For private workshops and more information tel: 34 665 09 73 59 or email: keliye.man-zano@gmail.com

Open-Air Flamenco
Vélez-Málaga. 10.30pm. The open-air theatre on the Cerro de San Cristóbal. Free.
18 August. Jorge Pardo.
<https://mivelezmalaga.com/whatsapp/open-air-flamenco-concerts/>

Peña Flamenca
Estepona. 18 August, 10pm. Plaza de Fuerzas Armadas.
Flamenco show. Reservations: 952-803183 or 683141136

Amalgama
Almuñécar. 21 August, 10pm. Parque el Majuelo.
Javier Martos demonstrates the pure art of flamenco in dance.

Festival de Flamenco
Torremolinos. 25 August, 10.30pm. Auditorio Príncipe de Asturias. 10€
The festival is celebrating its 29th year in conjunction with the 5th Bienal de Arte Flamenco de Málaga. Juan Rafael Cortés Santiago, better known as Duquende, will present his show 'A Camarón' with Paco Heredia (guitar), Isidoro Suárez (percussion) and Sergio Aranda (dance). Also the Casas Cantoras del Campo de Gibraltar will be performing with José Pañero, Perico Pañero, Fernando Canela and José



Ebi, Torremolinos.

Canela (vocals); Rubén Lara, Fran Vinuesa and Joselito de Pura (musicians); Lucía La Piñona (dance); and Fernando Canela and Miguel Ortiz 'El Nene' clapping. Tickets: Diputación de Málaga 9am-2pm and 4-8pm. www.mientrada.net or tel: 902646289

FESTIVALS

Fairs and festivals
Antequera. Until 20 August.
The annual fair is split into daytime and nighttime events both with concerts and other activities. Saturday is the Día del Caballista and there will be a gathering of riders and their horses in Paseo Real.
Archidona. Until 18 August.
In honour of the patron saint of the town, La Virgen de Gracia.
Malaga. Until 20 August.
A day feria in the centre of Malaga and a night feria at the fairground.

A full programme of events which includes concerts, dance performances and horse shows can be found at: www.feria.malaga.eu

EVENTS

Cossack ballet
Almuñécar. 19 August, 10.30pm. Parque el Majuelo.
The Ukrainian State Cossack ballet will be performing folk dancing from the Ukraine. Followed by 2016/2017 Eurovision Gran Gala Tetyna Kislyak and Irina Gaydeichuk.

Barbarian Muscle Festival
Malaga. 19 August, from midday for weighing in. Starts at 8pm. Plaza Mayor shopping centre. Free to register.
Categories: bikini, men's physique, men's short, classic bodybuilding, bodyfitness. Prizes of 3,000 euros.

Plaza Mayor Summer festival
Malaga. Until 26 August, 9.30pm. Plaza Mayor.
Magic shows, circus acts, music from local bands and the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra and much more. www.plazamayor.es

Ecological market
Mijas. Parque Andalucía. Second Sunday of the month and the last Sunday of the month in the Bulevar de La Cala.
Ecological food and environmentally friendly products are on sale.



PROGRAMMING

From Friday 18th to Thursday 24th August

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



THE DARK TOWER

Director Nikolaj Arcel
Starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey
FICTION - 95 min.

The last Gunslinger, Roland Deschain, has been locked in an eternal battle with Walter O'Dim, also known as the Man in Black, determined to prevent him from toppling the Dark Tower, which holds the universe together. With the fate of the worlds at stake, good and evil will collide in the ultimate battle as only Roland can defend the Tower from the Man in Black.



From Friday 18 to Thursday 24: 15:40, 17:30, 22:30



THE BEGUILLED

Director Sofia Coppola
Starring Colin Farrell and Nicole Kidman
DRAMA - 94 min.



From Friday 18 to Thursday 24: 15:45, 22:50



KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

Director Guy Ritchie
Starring Charlie Hunnam and Jude Law
ACTION - 126 min.



From Friday 18 to Thursday 24: 16:00



THE EMOJI MOVIE

Director Anthony Leondis
Starring T.J. Miller and James Corden
ANIMATION - 86 min.



From Friday 18 to Thursday 24: 15:45, 17:50, 20:00

EVENTS

Craft Beer Festival

Mijas. 18- 20 August, 7pm-1am La Cala de Mijas boulevard.

Concerts: Yohan Diz, pop, rock and soul on 18th, Money Makers, pop and rock on 19th and Tocata covers on 20th August.

Fiesta de la Cerveza Oktoberfest

Fuengirola. 18 August until 3 September, 7pm-2am Mon-Sat and midday to 2am on Sundays. Castillo Sohail.

The best Bavarian beers, typical German foods and folklore bring the ambiance of the Munich Oktoberfest to Fuengirola.

Craft beer tasting

Marbella. 18- 20 August, Noisy Budgie Brewery, Avda Ramón y Cajal. 20€

The specialist craft beer bar is offering a tasting of their four signature beers, explaining the flavour profiles, ingredients and ideas behind the beers. The beers will be accompanied by gourmet tapas, which compliment the flavours. Bookings: brian@noisybudgie.net or tel: 952 777 869. www.noisybudgie.net

Ye Ye Market

Torremolinos. Until 20 August, Plaza Costa del Sol.

Live music, workshops, crafts all themed around the hippie movement of the 60s and 70s. Open 11am to 2pm and 8pm to midnight.

Three Cultures Festival

Frigiliana. 24-27 August.

Arabic, Christian and Jewish history is celebrated at the Three Culture Festival with concerts including middle Eastern, spiritual Islamic, traditional Spanish and Syrian music; workshops, processions and craft market. Also typical gastronomy and a tapas route around the town. www.festival-frigiliana3culturas.com

Trip to Three Cultures Festival

Fuengirola. 25 August. Various departure points. 20€

Lux Mundi Fuengirola have organised a trip to Frigiliana for the Three Cultures Festival. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail luxmundi@gmail.com

O. V. FILM

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

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Cinesur El Ingenio

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

Despicable me 3: 12.15, 17.40, 19.40, 21.40, 23.40 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Valerian: 21.00, 0.00 (Mon, Tues,



Three Cultures, Frigiliana

Thurs).

Emoji Movie: 17.10, 19.05 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Dark Tower: 17.30, 20.00, 0.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Dunkirk: 0.00 (Tues).

King Arthur: Legend of Excalibur: 17.00 (Tues).

The Beguiled: 12.05, 18.00 (every day).

Spiderman: Homecoming:

16.55 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

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Dark Tower: 12.20, 16.45.

King Arthur: Legend of Excalibur: 12.05, 16.30.

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Emoji Movie: 15.45, 17.50, 20.00

Traditional village ferias

TONY BRYANT

GUARO. The small town of Guaro, situated north of the Sierra de Mijas, is preparing to celebrate its annual feria next week.

The fair, which will begin on Thursday 24, and continue until Sunday 27 August, is held in honour of San Sebastián, the town's patron saint.

This traditional village-style feria is full of the razzmatazz of the Andalusian fair, with bunting-festooned marquees full of revelers enjoying a few days away from their usual daily routines. Fried fish, manzanilla sherry and an endless supply of Sevillana music will fuel the celebrations, as visitors and locals immerse themselves in four days of unbridled fun.

The feria gets under way with the traditional Cena de los Abuelos (dinner in honour of the grandparents) after which, the election of the Abuelos de la Feria, will take place. This is followed by a magnificent firework display at midnight, which marks the official start of the feria.

Thursday is children's day, when all of the rides at the fair will cost just 1.50 euros, while on Friday at 5pm; a huge foam party



Enjoying a break from their usual daily routines. :: SUR

will be held in the Plaza de la Constitución. On Saturday the ceremony of selecting the feria King and Queen will take place in the Caseta de la Juventud.

The day fair takes place in the centre of the town and visitors can enjoy the entertainment supplied by Alborea and A-Compás, two local groups that perform light flamenco and the copla. There will also be performances by the Milenio orchestra and the Romero Biznaga choir. The highlight of the fair will be a concert by Sotano Sur, a trib-

ute band that will perform pop and rock music of the 80s.

Monda will also be enjoying its annual Feria this week. The festival, which is held in honour of San Roque, began on Wednesday and continues until Sunday 20 August.

Every year the festival begins with the procession of San Roque through the streets. Festivities then follow with live performances, children's entertainment, a street market and free gazpacho and beer served in the main plaza on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

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Producers reassure consumers that Spanish eggs have had no contact with fipronil

The only reported appearance of foods contaminated by the insecticide in this country was in liquid egg products at a food company in Vizcaya

by J. V. MUÑOZ-LACUNA/EFE

TOLEDO/MADRID. Spanish eggs do not come into contact with the insecticide fipronil, the association of producers has told consumers.

The reassurance comes in the wake of the Europe-wide health scare which has seen millions of eggs produced in the Netherlands removed from supermarket shelves in numerous countries. The eggs were found to contain levels of the toxic insecticide which is banned from use in the production of food for human consumption.

Mar Fernández of the Spanish association of egg producers ASE-PRHU said that consumers in Spain have no need to worry because this country is self-sufficient and does not import eggs from other countries.

"No contaminated eggs have been detected here and the alert system works correctly," she said.



A worker sorts eggs on a production line in Belgium. :: AFP

Demand for Spanish-produced eggs had increased since the fipronil scandal was made public earlier this month, explained Fernández.

"There has been more demand from countries that normally import their eggs from the Netherlands

and are looking for an alternative supply. This has in turn led to an increase in the price of eggs exported from Spain.

Francisco Olivares, president of the association of poultry farmers in Castilla-La Mancha, the country's

main egg-producing region, also sent out a message of reassurance.

"It is highly unlikely that eggs from the Netherlands and other countries where this problem has been detected get into Spain," he said.

"The insecticides we use on poultry farms in Castilla-La Mancha are the authorised ones," he said.

Spain produces 1.2 billion dozen eggs on 1,193 farms. Of these 20 per cent are exported.

Liquid egg seized

The country's self-sufficiency in eggs, however, does not mean that imported egg products are not used in food production in this country.

The presence of fipronil was found last week in a batch of liquid egg products at a food company in Vizcaya, in northern Spain.

Last Friday the Basque government's Health Department seized 20,000 units of liquid egg, explaining that the batch was intact and had not yet been used for the production of food products.

The pasteurised liquid egg, which had been imported from France, was taken away to be destroyed, explained officials.

The food safety agency at Spain's Ministry of Health (Aecosan) said after the discovery in Vizcaya, that Spain was still "unaffected" by the distribution of contaminated eggs. "The control system in place allows the immediate location and removal of the products involved," said the agency.

According to specialists, fipronil poses an "improbable" risk of intoxication for humans, who, with the maximum levels detected in Belgium and the Netherlands, would have to consume thousands of contaminated eggs in their lifetime to suffer adverse effects.



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We speak

The secret of no-sweat exercise: 'slow

The method used by Emma Stone to prepare for La La Land is gaining popularity in Spain

▄▄ RUBÉN CAÑIZARES

Not many people, at the age of just 28, would find themselves going on-stage at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles to receive an Oscar for Best Actress, but Emma Stone did. Five months ago the Hollywood Academy awarded her the golden statuette for her brilliant performance in *La La Land*, a musical with a demanding script which became an instant hit with lovers of the genre.

This American actress's performance also came as an enormous surprise. How did Emma Stone manage to have such a superb figure, and prove to be a fantastic singer as well as dancer? Her acting talent was already well known anyway, but the critics were completely overwhelmed by the strength of her voice and her slim, toned shape. What was her secret?

It has now been revealed that it was down to a training plan known as 'slow training', which has become fashionable in Spain over the last few months. It meant she was able to withstand the long hours of strenuous filming.

"This type of training is very, very slow. You expend the minimum energy but aim for the highest possible intensity during short periods of time. You give priority to strength work, and that way you can attain a very intense metabolic condition," explained Raúl Escobar, Fitness Manager at the Ice Palace in Madrid, which is part of



As its name suggests, nothing about 'slow training' is done fast. ▄▄ SUR

the Holmes Places centre, one of the most famous fitness centres in Spain.

"Also, the weight you have to move needs to be very low because that way it reduces the risk and strain on joints. It also reduces inertia when moving the weight, and because the speed of the move-

ment is so slow, the risk of injury is almost nonexistent," he added.

The 'slow training' method was started in Oklahoma in the 1970s by Arthur Jones, a legend in the world of bodybuilding and strength training. Over the years, it expanded across the USA, and by the end of the last century it had be-

come very well known.

It only reached Europe a few years ago, and has now become very popular in Spain.

"You only need two minutes of exercising to lift your pulse rate to the maximum and reach the muscular threshold. The routine is very simple: for 25-30 minutes you

work on the main muscles of the body (pectoral, shoulders, dorsals, biceps, triceps, buttocks and legs), doing a series of exercises which last two minutes for each of these muscle groups. Within each series, the movement is repeated five or six times for 20 seconds, ten for the concentric phase of the mus-

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training'

cle and the other ten for the eccentric phase," explained Raúl, who said the method is completely reliable.

"High frequency and high intensity training causes accelerations which, depending on what shape the person is in, can be unhealthy for the body and cause injury. Slow training never puts you in that situation and the results are even better," he explained.

Multiple benefits

Multiple-joint exercises form the basis of slow training, and they have a long list of benefits. They increase the capillarization of the tissues, which results in better recovery of muscle fibres.

This form of training improves the performance of the heart and lungs, resulting in better cardiovascular health. It obliges the body to turn to its fat deposits to produce energy rather than its glucose, and that makes the body stronger and healthier. In addition, it generates an oxygen debt which means more calories are spent during and after the training session, as Raúl explained:

"This is a very interesting method for people who want to lose weight but can't lift anything

very heavy or do it at high speed. In a slow training session, you can burn up to 500 calories."

"There are different brands specialising in the world of fitness on the market, such as MedX and Keiser, which have invested a great deal of money and time on biomechanical and structural studies in order to manufacture equipment specifically for slow training. These are machines with very precise resistance profiles and very thin fixtures so there is total connection between them and the person. You often get the feeling that there is no synergy between what you want to do and what a machine will let you do, so the ones used in slow training are designed to adapt to the needs of the person who is training, not the other way round," said Raúl.

The biggest problem is the cost. "In Spain this specific equipment is starting to be brought in, but in the meantime people are training with the usual machines you find in a gym and the results are also good. We are talking about very sophisticated machines which help to control technique and fatigue, so people are able to use them to practise this form of training," he added.

Golf tournament and dinner help butterfly skin charity

Events last week raised nearly 25,000 euros for Debra, the organisation that helps children with epidermolysis bullosa, or butterfly skin

■ SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. The Debra golf and dinner fundraising event held last week in Marbella helped swell the funds of the butterfly skin charity by 24,700 euros.

Sixty-one golfers got together at Marbella Club Golf to play 18 solidarity-packed holes with the aim of improving the lives of youngsters with the rare condition that causes the skin to endlessly blister, shear and scar.

The golf was followed by a prize presentation and dinner at the Casa Club Marbella. There were three winning teams and prizes for longest drive in the ladies' and men's categories.

At the event Nieves Montero, Debra's founder and president, spoke of some of the charity's achievements. She said that the care team had dealt with 825 en-



Some of the winners with president Nieves Montero. ■ SUR

quiries and made 11 visits to families of newborns with the condition. Meanwhile some 174 families had been advised by the pro-

fessionals of the charity at La Paz Hospital, Madrid.

Dinner was followed by a tombola with more than 300 prizes.

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The other day, as I was about to add milk to my coffee, I saw the words 'gluten free' on the carton. Why on earth would anyone think that milk, which undergoes no processing other than uperization, would contain gluten?

That label, like so many others, was bordering on the absurd and it is just another sign of the 'gluten-phobia' which has been introduced into our society by celebrities, people seeking fame, the media and social networking sites. This has been in turn boosted by some doctors, dietitians and pseudo health professionals who have found in gluten something to blame for many of our real or invented illnesses.

By that, I don't of course mean coeliac disease (CD) which is a permanent intolerance to gluten. In some genetically predisposed individuals CD can cause serious injury to the mucous of the small intestine, producing important symptoms in the digestive system and other organs and apparatus. Between one in every 2,500 and one in every 1,000 people in Europe have been diagnosed with CD; however, it is thought that, if we add up the forms which produce few symptoms and those which have not been diagnosed, it could actually affect about one per cent of the population (up to two per cent in Scandinavian countries).

Once these patients have been diagnosed, the treatment consists of following a strict gluten-free diet for the rest of their lives, because consuming even small quantities on a regular basis can damage the intestine and cause alterations, even if there are no noticeable symptoms.

If CD only affects two per cent of the population at the most, why do as many as 30 per cent of people say they follow a gluten-free diet,

Glutenphobia

GABRIEL OLIVEIRA
NUTRITIONIST

What happens if you follow a gluten-free diet unnecessarily?



ures cannot be known. This actually facilitates over-diagnosis and, especially, self-diagnosis by people who do not consult a doctor before deciding to remove gluten from their diet.

Nearly 40 per cent of people who buy gluten-free food without being diagnosed with CD or NCGS do so for a variety of reasons, including "to lose weight", or "because it's healthier", or because they believe it reduces depression or inflammation. None of these has ever been proved in the healthy population.

What are the consequences of following a gluten-free diet unnecessarily? It is true that people can live perfectly healthily without gluten, fulfilling all their nutritional requirements, especially if they don't use products which are "made without gluten".

However, it should also be remembered that there are numerous benefits of including wheat products including barley and rye as part of a healthy diet (such as the Mediterranean diet), especially if they are wholemeal or whole grain. They are beneficial for our intestinal health and the ecology of intestinal bacteria, they contain nutrients, they reduce the level of sugar in the bloodstream and prevent cardiovascular illnesses, among others.

On the other hand, products made without gluten are often low in vitamins, minerals and fibre, but high in calories, simple sugars and unhealthy fats, compared with the others. Clinical studies have associated this with a higher risk of developing diabetes, cardiovascular illnesses and even, on occasion, higher levels of toxins and heavy metals.

In extreme cases, babies have died from malnutrition because the parents (in one case, they owned a shop selling 'natural' products) diagnosed them with an intolerance to gluten and lactose.

Finally, a gluten-free diet is not easy to follow, it is expensive and it often has a negative effect on social and family relationships, quality of life, self-perception of health and can even mask other problems such as eating disorders.

'Glutenphobia' and 'lactophobia' are nothing more than symptoms of a sick society which oversimplifies food as 'good' or 'bad', and has a vague idea of 'healthy eating'. Please, use a bit of common sense, which we know, is the least common of all the senses.

when asked in surveys? Why is the figure so high?

There are two reasons. One is the over-diagnosis of a new condition which is called 'non-coeliac gluten sensitivity' (NCGS), and the other is that people think a gluten-free diet must be healthy, despite the fact that this has not been clinically tested and confirmed.

NCGS is a clinical condition in which a patient without CD experiences symptoms (normally digestive) when exposed to gluten and those symptoms disappear when it is eliminated from the diet. It is believed to affect be-

A STATISTIC

30%

of healthy people say they are on a gluten-free diet

tween one and six per cent of the population.

The figures are so variable because the studies use different diagnostic criteria, many of which are not validated, so the exact fig-

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High blood pressure is very common and easily detected in a basic health check-up. :: SUR

The check-ups we should have, according to age

The WHO recommends certain tests after the age of 45

::CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. Most of us should probably have a medical check-up. That is something we all hear quite often; few people take any notice, but health professionals and the World Health Organisation (WHO) say regular check-ups are important after the age of 45, or earlier than that if there is a family history of certain illnesses.

Check-ups before that age are not normally necessary, unless we think there may be something wrong with us. Gonzalo Sanz, medical director at the Premium Marbella Clinic, explained that men over 45 should regularly check three aspects of their health: cardiology (heart and lungs), digestive (colon cancer) and urology (prostate cancer, bladder and kidneys).

Women should do the same, but with gynaecological check-ups instead of urological ones (breast cancer, uterus, cervix). However, if there is a family precedent of these types of cancer, and definitely if two close relatives have had it, the check-ups should start at the age of 40.

After the first check-up, the results will determine how often the tests should be repeated. Patients with no family history of health problems and no risk factors can have a check-up every two years. However, if a urological problem is detected, for example if the prostate tumour marker is high, the test should be repeated every six months.

With cardiology, it varies a great deal, but annual checks are recom-

mended. For digestive checks, as these involve a colonoscopy (examination of the colon) these should be done every two years "because this is a test which needs to be done regularly" said Dr Sanz.

Children

For children, the annual check-up by a paediatrician is all that is needed, because they will raise the alarm if they notice any problems in growth, genital development, malnutrition, etc.

Children who belong to federated sports clubs have to provide a medical report at the start of every season. This needs to include an electrocardiogram, general blood test and physical examination.

"In 99 per cent of cases these tests on children don't show anything untoward, but if they do then they are referred to a specialist," explained Dr Sanz.

Medical check-ups are not deemed necessary between the ages of 20 and 35, but in some cases, depending on someone's profession, whether they smoke or

lead a very sedentary life, a metabolic profile is recommended to determine levels of sugar, cholesterol and triglycerides.

At this age doctors don't normally carry out colonoscopies "because the risk is so low that statistically, the tests are riskier than the possible benefits", explained Dr Sanz.

Money savers

In many cases, the check-ups can save the health service money, because the more that are carried out and the more illnesses which are detected early, the less money has to be spent on treatment. Having said that, an extensive check-up with specific tests can be costly.

Prostate and colon cancer are the illnesses which are detected most frequently, at a rate of 10 to 15 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. High blood pressure is very common, and 30 per cent of the population over the age of 50 suffers from it; it is very easily detected, however, and that reduces the number of heart attacks.

How many illnesses can be prevented altogether by investing in check-ups? Doctors say two tests are definitely worth doing because they give excellent results: mammograms, to prevent breast cancer, and blood in faeces, which could be colon cancer. These tests are both cheap and profitable from a diagnostic point of view.

However, it is often the case that a simple visit to our GP for a chat, during which we tell him or her how we are feeling, is all it takes to enjoy good health.

The more illnesses detected at an early stage, the less money the health service has to pay on treatment

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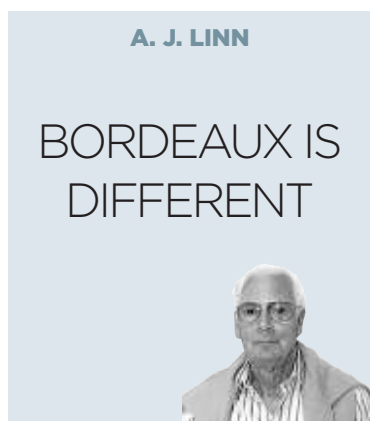
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A Swiss lawyer, about to move into his new property on a luxury urbanisation on the coast, was boasting at the golf club that he would not be buying Spanish wine. Only 'the best' for him. He would be ordering the best clarets direct from Bordeaux's highest-classified chateaux, saving middlemen's margins in the process. What this know-all did not know is that it almost impossible to buy such wines direct from the producers, as would normally be the case in other re-



A. J. LINN
BORDEAUX IS DIFFERENT

gions. The chateaux work through appointed brokers, negociants, and these control who gets what.

The first Bordeaux winemakers were the aristocracy, and while such families made wine, they had no desire to meet consumers. Hence the introduction of negociants. The new wine has traditionally been sold after each grape harvest 'en primeur', securing cash-flow for maintaining the estates until the next harvest. No need to get involved in the messy business of bottling and distributing, this be-

ing the responsibility of the negociant. Even today Bordeaux wine producers are probably unique in the world in having no contact with end-customers. The negociants have almost total control of what happens to the wines, and it has been possible to arrange for the bottling of a blend of 50% Chateau Latour y 50% Lafite Rothschild.

Finally the Chinese are here, and they dislike middlemen. One of their biggest groups, Bright Food, in which the Chinese government holds shares, has acquired a long-

established Bordeaux negociant, Diva (33 million euros annual sales), giving them direct access to the exclusive network of brokers.

Now the Swiss bigmouth is faced with a choice. He can either buy his 'best wines' on the Internet, at inflated prices and no guarantees of authenticity (faking of such wines is common), or he will end up dealing with one of London's long-established wine merchants. Or he can wake up to the wonderful world of Spanish wine and save himself a fortune.

The most exclusive cocktails

Originality and luxury are the key words for the cocktails served at the select beach clubs in Marbella

:: HUGO SIMÓN

MARBELLA. Relaxing on a Balinese bed by the pool, just a few metres from the sea at one of the unique beach clubs in Marbella, is just the place to enjoy a cocktail. It is here that the cocktail takes on another dimension: exclusivity, history, originality and, in some cases, a prohibitive character for the pockets of us ordinary mortals. Pink Sangria with Dom Pérignon champagne, secret recipes, ice made with water from Tasmania and colourful, designer containers are on offer this summer in Marbella.

The most exquisite and select recipe is found at Nikki Beach, The Century Cocktail. It is also the most likely to max out your credit card. A thousand euros for a cocktail whose ingredients include Louis XIII cognac, a limited edition that is the most expensive in the world and is made from the blend of 1,200 distillations aged for nearly a hundred years. To make ten millilitres of this cognac it takes a tonne of grapes from the French region of Grande Champagne.

It is not the only premium element in the ingredients, which is joined by Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blanc - one of the most famous sparkling wines



Nikki Beach offers The Century Cocktail for just 1,000 euros. **:: J-LANZA**

in the world - Angostura Bitter and the 'purest' ice, made with Tasmanian mineral water. The mixture is prepared at the customer's own table by the master mixologist. "It is

not a cocktail that we make frequently because it is a product for a very specific customer," says Razvan Olteanu, head of bar at the beach club.

The Century Cocktail is not, however, Nikki's most expensive cocktail. The star product in terms of economic outlay costs 1,500 euros and is ... a sangria! Gran Sangria Mar de Rosa is served in a three litre carafe, a drink to share among several diners. At the basis of the recipe is a champagne. A Dom Pérignon Magnum, which is accompanied by the Dutch Orange Curacao liquor and another famous brand of cognac: Hennessy XO. A mixture that, Olteanu says, "is frequently ordered because it is a cocktail that is very popular and, when shared, is much more affordable."

The star cocktail this summer at the Beach Club Estrella del Mar, part of Vincci Hotels, is the Fresh & Wild. The blend includes vodka, Cointreau, pineapple and Blue Curacao. "It is refreshing and at the same time wild and is perfect to enjoy at sunset by the sea", explains the beach club director, Adrián González, who points out that "it is inspired by the nature that surrounds this magnificent corner of the Costa del Sol and the freshness of the sea; hence its blue color and its tropical notes".

For its part, La Cabane - the beach club of the Hotel Los Monteros - offers a cocktail with history. The club was a pioneer on the Costa del Sol and one of the first beach clubs in the world, which opened its doors facing the sea in 1965. The customers were already enjoying their Piña Colada La Cabane, a cocktail that remains popular half a century later. "Legend has it that it goes back to a mixture of rum, coconut and pine-

apple that the pirate Roberto Cofresi offered his crew," explains Conrado Hernández, deputy director of the hotel. "The recipe was lost at the bottom of the sea of history, until in 1954 it was reborn in the Caribbean, as Piña Colada. Eleven years later we were serving it in our beach club. It is quite simple, but it stands out for its freshness, its texture and because it can be easily adapted to our client's tastes," he added.

Choosing a cocktail at Trocadero Playa, with more than fifty listed on the menu, is no easy task. This summer, its star cocktail is Planters Punch, a reinterpretation of the traditional cocktail that, as Roberto Pasqua, manager of the Trocadero group explains, was mentioned in the New York Times in 1908. Vintage has reached bartending, with many old recipes being recovered from obscurity. However Pasqua points out that 90 of the cocktails from the first half of the 20th century "are not very commercial for the palate of today". The bar manager's adaptation of 'Planter's Punch' incorporates a house syrup and the aroma of lemon verbena to give it a Mediterranean flavour.

At the Ocean Club they recommend an energizing mix, the Marbella Mule: from Russia with Love, a reinterpretation of a traditional cocktail with Moscow touches which include a homemade mix of honey and ginger. The cocktail, served in a copper can, delivers the "kick of a mule to wake us from the lethargy of the sweltering summer heat."



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Dominant Madrid embarrass Barcelona at the Bernabéu

2-0

R.MADRID-BARCELONA

CHARLES DOWLES

MALAGA. Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-0 at the Bernabéu on Wednesday night to win the Supercopa 5-1 on aggregate.

It was an excellent first half display from the Spanish and European champions, who made Barcelona look inferior in intensity and desire.

Twenty-one-year-old Marco Asen-

sio gave Madrid an early lead with a thunderous 25-yard strike in the 4th minute.

Madrid continued to mount pressure on the Catalan side and Lucas Vázquez almost doubled their lead with his effort in the 33rd minute being denied only by the post.

Soon enough, Madrid were two up as Karim Benzema scooped up Marcelo's cross and slotted it in the bottom right past a helpless Ter Stegen.

Barcelona did improve in the second half. Luis Suárez and Lionel Messi both hit the woodwork as Madrid's comfortable lead caused them to ease off. However it was a case of too little too late for Barça and a deserving Madrid lifted the trophy.



Benzema celebrates his goal (Madrid's second) in the second leg of the Supercopa. :: CHEMA MOYA



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Barça needs a cure

Action must be taken at the Camp Nou, and quickly

The look in the eyes of the Barcelona players told the whole story. The glint has gone; there's just a look of emptiness - "How did we get here?"

Real Madrid had just strolled through the Supercopa, the pre-season showcase trophy, using the full arsenal but reserving quite a lot of the ammunition. Barcelona misfired, their legion woefully inadequate.

It was reality hitting home, although Barcelona finished just three points behind their great rivals in last season's table, there is a gulf developing between the teams.

You can't blame the manager as he's just walked into the situation and the players he's inherited are performing to their limitations;

the players signed over the past 18 months are just not up to scratch.

The well is dry at La Masia, the club academy. The strategy of buying players with potential isn't working, over 100 million euros has been squandered in the past year on budding talent. The focus has been on signing 'ones for the future' with Ousmane Dembélé and Philippe Coutinho falling into that category. Signing for Barça will be a step up for these two emerging talents; the problem is that judgement is instant.

The club board are under scrutiny and they need to act fast. The formula has been to sign players who are aged 23 or under and develop them.... Maybe it is time to play hard-ball. The club culture needs changing.

Why don't they take a leaf out of Paris Saint-Germain's book and flex their financial muscle? Diego Costa is twiddling his thumbs in exile in Brazil, presumably waiting for a call from Atlético Madrid? Why not gazump them?

Sergio Aguero felt unloved at times by Pep Guardiola last season. Why not throw open your arms and welcome him to the Camp Nou?

Alexis Sánchez is clearly angling to escape from London and he'd may feel he has some unfinished business in La Liga.

Make the world sit up and take notice.

The world record for a transfer belongs to Barcelona... but as a selling club. Luis Suárez was their last blockbuster and he is now the sev-



Barça trouble leaves Messi and Suárez head in hands. :: REUTERS

enth costliest transfer of all time.

Few know how good Dembélé really is and Liverpool fans will tell you that Coutinho is prone to drifting in and out of games. Barcelona need instant impact and ready-made superstars.

The board members will cite business model and balance sheets. They won't be members of the

board any longer if they don't take immediate action and win over the club members. It's honourable to have a club philosophy but it clearly isn't working.

Gerard Piqué admitted that for the first time in his career the team feel 'inferior' to their eternal rivals. Barcelona need a cure for that complex.

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Malaga first eleven, with Roberto, Recio, Luis Hernández, Baysse, Bastón, Kuzmanovic, Adrián, Juan Carlos, Jony, Mula and Rosales. :: NITO SALAS

Poor preseason not a cause for concern, says Michel

Malaga faces dismal performance before season start after eight defeats, but Michel remains confident

Malaga have scored just three goals in this pre-season campaign, conceding twelve in eight fixtures

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA . Disappointing results against the likes of Sheffield United, AZ Alkmaar and Lazio leave Malaga with work to do before the start of the new season against Eibar this Monday.

Despite their run of bad form, coach Michel maintains that the team are "ready to compete" and claims that results in this period are of little importance, although he may be holding his concerns close to his chest. The hope which

Michel's arrival in March had brought to the club has been somewhat diluted by the dreary pre-season performances.

The run of poor form could be put down to several factors. The departures of key players have damaged the strength of the first eleven. The losses of goalkeeper Kameni (to Fenerbahçe), Defender Llorente (to Real Madrid and now on loan at Real Sociedad) and Midfielder Camacho (to German side Wolfsburg) are among some of the more damaging blows to the squad.

Efforts made

Malaga have been active in this summer transfer window. New signings Cecchini and Diego González both featured in the Costa del Sol cup, but the 1-0 defeat against Lazio made for a bitter debut.

The 20-year-old Argentinian midfielder Cecchini's first minutes in a Malaga shirt were disappointing; his performance in the centre of the park was timid and lacked conviction.

On the other hand, the ex-Sevilla central defender, Diego González, seemed comfortable and competent at the back and looks to be a promising addition to Michel's first eleven.

Poor preparation

Manager Michel opted for an intensive preseason schedule this summer totalling nine opponents, only three of whom do not play top flight football in their respective countries.

The rigorous fixture list seems to have jeopardised the team's training, and Malaga almost always arrived less prepared than their opponents, as was clear against Sheffield in Coin last month.

Although results may suggest a crisis at Malaga, there are still reasons to be optimistic. The victory against Villarreal will give a confidence boost to the team and fans. The extra-time winner, scored by Adrián just ten seconds before the final whistle, proves that Malaga can still compete at the top level in Spain. Michel set up in a 5-4-1 formation, giving the team defensive stability and enabled them to retain possession of the ball for large spells of the game.

Malaga host Eibar at the Rosalada stadium this Monday at 10pm, marking the beginning of their tenth consecutive campaign in top flight Spanish football.

PRESEASON

Malaga CF results in the preseason campaign

14th July: 0-1 defeat against Sheffield United in Coin

23rd July: 2-1 and 1-0 defeats against Hertha Berlin in two 45 minute games in Duisburg

26th July: 3-0 defeat against AZ Alkmaar at the Rosalada in Malaga

29th July: 2-1 defeat against Borussia Moenchengladbach in Duisburg

5th August: 0-1 defeat against Lazio at the Rosalada

8th August: 1-0 defeat against Granada at Los Cármenes.

11th August: 1-0 victory against Villarreal in Cadiz.

12th August: 0-2 defeat against Las Palmas en Cadiz.



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Squad adjustments made ahead of the start of the new season

With the likes of Camacho, Mikel and Michael Santos leaving the club, Malaga look to bolster their squad with new signings

■ DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Despite featuring against Granada on Tuesday last week and injuries in defence for Federico Ricca and Miguel Torres, Malaga have allowed centre-back Mikel Villanueva to complete a loan move to Segunda liga side Cadiz.

Mikel, 24, who has 14 caps for Venezuela, had found himself behind Luis Hernández, Paul Paysse and Diego González in the pecking order, despite a reasonable campaign last season.

That said, the club extended the player's contract until 2020 before allowing him to complete the switch.

Mikel was joined out the exit door on Friday by Uruguayan striker Michael Santos who completed a second-tier loan move of his own; he joins Sporting Gijón who are fighting to return to LaLiga after their seventeenth placed relegation last season. Santos scored three goals last

season.

After missing out on the signing of Javi García, who completed a move to Real Betis, Malaga continue to seek ways of improving their squad.

They also look to replace outgoing players such as Camacho and Fornals.

Centre midfielder Esteban Rolón is among their targets and Malaga are close to signing the Argentinian for a fee of around 3.5 million euros from Buenos Aires based club, Argentinos Juniors.

Rolón, nicknamed El Jefe (The Boss), scored just one goal for the club last season.



Potential signing Esteban Rolón playing for Argentinos Juniors. ■ SUR



MALAGA PLAYERS DELIVER FLOWERS TO LA DIVINA PASTORA

Malaga CF made the traditional floral offering to the Divina Pastora on Wednesday. This year the event was held at the Salesianos Chapel in the Capuchinos area of the city. Captains Recio and Miguel Torres took time out of preseason preparation to place a large wreath of blue and white flowers at the feet of the image of the Virgin Mary, matching the colours of the Malaga jersey.

■ NITO SALAS

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Local cyclist prepares for La Vuelta cycle race on Saturday

■ SUR

MÁLAGA. Spain's most renowned cycling event La Vuelta begins on Saturday (19 August) in the French town of Nîmes.

The race consists of twenty one stages and totals a gruelling 3,324.1 kilometres, ending on the 10 September in Madrid.

The race will once again pass through the province of Málaga this year in the following stages: Motril-Los Dólmenes de An-tequera (31 August) and Coin-

Tomares (1 September).

Luis Angel Maté, from Marbella, will again be competing in the Vuelta this year, his sixth to date.

After three weeks of hard training in the Sierra Nevada, Maté travelled to Nîmes this week to take on La Vuelta.

Maté gave his thoughts on the upcoming challenge, "I am starting the race with a lot of hope and the intention of making this a great Vuelta for myself".



Maté in his red strip with his Orbea road bike



A photo taken during the presentation. ■ J-L

Trocadero Marbella takes a step nearer the elite in rugby

The club is making its administrative departments more professional, renewing sponsorships and taking on new players, who will work with the youth team

■ JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. A year of consolidation. After reaching Division of Honour B and ending last season in sixth place, this year's focus for the Marbella Rugby Club will be to move up to the highest national category. It has just renewed its agreement with the Trocadero group as a sponsor, and will start its attempt on 17 September at Bahías Park, in a match against Ingenieros Industriales from Las Rozas. The exponential growth in this team from the Costa del Sol and the continual incorporation of junior players into the youth team at an increasingly young age has encouraged over 100 small and medium sized businesses to link their names with that of an up-and-coming club.

The technical organisation of the Trocadero Marbella Rugby Club has taken a leap forward in quality with

new additions to make it more professional, including legal advice from the Triay & Triay firm and a new department communication and marketing strategy, thanks to Mirella Ruiz Comunicación and Olarte con Peregil. Club president Francisco García recently showed that he is serious about moving forward. "We're going to give this everything we have. Last year we ended in the top half of the table. This year we will do even better. We want Marbella to be known for having a rugby team which is one of the highest quality in the country," he said.

"We want Marbella to be known for having a rugby team which is one of the highest quality in Spain"

In 2019 Marbella Rugby Club will be celebrating its 30th anniversary and wants to do so at top level

Thirty years

In 2019 the Marbella club will celebrate 30 years of existence and everyone involved wants this anniversary to be marked in the Division of Honour. New additions to the team will be announced later, but for now Marbella Rugby Club has contented itself with presenting its new shield. The design is more modern and it gives the town more importance, with the name 'Marbella' appearing in large letters.

The pre-season period is always hard work, with so much to be prepared. General Manager Nacho Molina, is continuing to look for quality players for the team; for the eliminations, to go up to Division of Honour A, the club has already incorporated five players with experience in higher leagues.

These are Jorge Rodríguez Martín, Pablo Castro Moyano, Manuel Paniagua, Luciano Rivero and Santiago Pando. Rodríguez has come from Ciencias de Sevilla, with whom he spent the past two seasons, and the others are from Argentina. They have study scholarships as part of an agreement between Trocadero Marbella Rugby Club and the International Language Institute.

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The speedy bodyguard

Mario Soto, one of the mayor of Malaga's protection squad, is a top veteran athlete

Mario Soto, training at the Ciudad de Málaga stadium.

ÁLVARO CABRERA

ABOUT MARIO SOTO

Personal profile

Full name: Mario Soto Lara.
Date and place of birth: 1-5-1976, Malaga.
Height and weight: 1.82 metros and 74 kilos.
Coach: Josué Mena and Miguel Bandera.
Club: Malaga athletics club.

His achievements

Personal best over 100 metres: 10.70 seconds.
Personal best over 200 metres: 20.33 seconds.
Titles: Veterans Champion of Spain with the 4x100 team, 400 metre hurdles champion and 200 metres flat in the European championships for fire fighters and police, and silver in the 4x100 with the Spanish team in the Europeans. He has also won several Andalusian medals in different categories.

He successfully combines his job with his training and says that next year he plans to compete for Spain in the World Masters in Malaga

MALAGA. His normal working day starts when the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, leaves home in the morning and doesn't end until the mayor returns home at the end of the day, because he has to be on hand at all times to protect him.

Mario Soto, aged 41, is from Malaga and he lives a curious double life: firstly, he is 100 per cent dedicated to his job as one of the mayor's bodyguards, and secondly he is an athlete in the Masters class, sometimes also known as veterans.

His passion for athletics began when he was just 13, after one of his teachers spotted his talent and encouraged him. Since then he has specialised in racing, specifically focusing on the 100 and 200 metre flat, and he has been Andalusian cham-

MARINA RIVAS



pion on several occasions.

The most recent was just a few weeks ago in the regional World Masters Athletics, when he won a gold medal for both distances. He also came first in the national 4x100 relay and won two golds and a silver in the 400 metre hurdles, 200 metre flat and the 4x100 respectively, in the European championships for fire fighters and police officers.

Although time has passed and Mario now competes as a veteran, he says there is a definite lack of knowledge about this category of sport. "People think that because we are 'veterans' we must be very old, but in the trials which take place before championships I have beaten lads who are 20 years younger than me," he says.

At present he trains with Josué Mena's athletics group and the Malaga

athletics club, either at the Ciudad de Málaga sports stadium or the facilities in Torremolinos and he says that at the moment he has no plans to stop competing.

"Next year I'm taking part in the European indoor championships and then the World Masters Championships here in Malaga, where I'll be representing Spain," he says.

In his wardrobe, Mario has two 'uniforms': the black suit he wears for work and the track suit in which he trains. "It's difficult to find the time for sport with this job, but if I want to carry on with it that's what I have to do. The mayor has five bodyguards and normally I work five days one week and two days the next. The rest of the time I train," he explains.

From policeman to bodyguard

Not even Mario is sure exactly how he became De la Torre's bodyguard, but his philosophy in life has always been to take any opportunity that comes along. That is how he became a police officer, and how he ended up doing his present job.

"When I was at university, study-

ing Physical Education, I used to go training and some of the others there were preparing to join the police. They said I ought to do the same, so I decided to give it a go and I spent four years as a police officer," he explains.

In fact, he was one of the youngest people to join the police, and the youngest in his group because he was only 19 at the time. It meant putting his studies to one side for a while, but he never lost his passion for athletics. During his time with the police he worked nights for three years, which he says made him much stronger as a person.

"It was a difficult shift, because there were a lot of arrests. It was very intense. At night there are more rob-

beries, more crime in general... once there was even a shoot-out between some Arabs," he says.

His life, and also that of the whole of Spain, changed when the terrorist group ETA embarked on its most active and violent phase of existence. Nobody in Malaga will ever forget the day in July 2000 when ETA assassinated Partido Popular councillor José María Martín Carpena.

As a result of that, protection was stepped up throughout the city, especially for politicians. The number of bodyguards employed to work at the city hall increased dramatically, and Mario Soto became one of them.

The first truce by ETA when Zapatero was prime minister, and their later surrender of weapons, meant that many bodyguards were laid off, although some were still needed.

For Mario, everything is continuing as usual and he has no plans to change his life, as long as he can carry on doing the work he enjoys and continues to fulfill his passion for sport on the athletics track.

"People think veterans are very old, but I have beaten lads who are 20 years younger than me"

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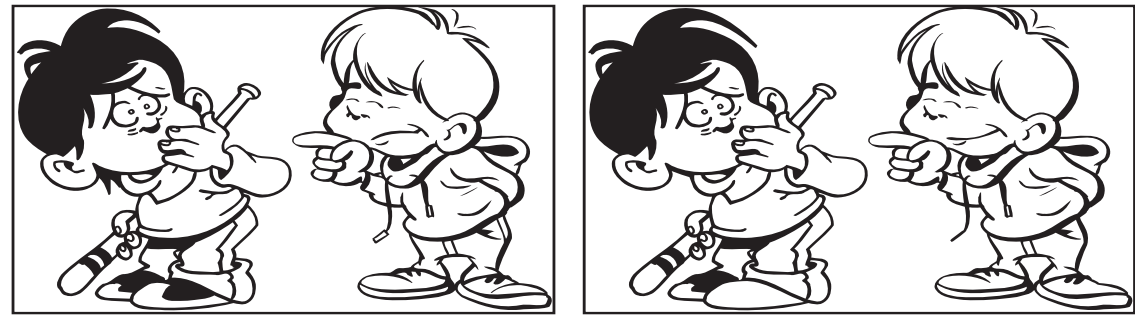
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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES





THE STARS


 **Aquarius**
January 21 - February 19
Getting out of one situation may prove a chore but have patience. Stick to your guns.


 **Pisces**
February 20th - March 20th
Over the next month you should check up on both your bodily health and your financial health.


 **Aries**
March 21st - April 20th
Something that you thought of at the beginning of the year comes around again. This time, however, it is more practical and more relevant.


 **Taurus**
April 21st - May 21st
Guide the hand of fate by being flexible and practical. What cannot be changed must be accepted and adjusted to.


 **Gemini**
May 22nd - June 21st
Although you may think that you have passed most milestones in your life, wait to be amazed!


 **Cancer**
June 22nd - July 23rd
In an exciting and frankly surprising week, make the most of opportunities that arise.


 **Leo**
July 24th - August 23rd
A terrific burst of energy and optimism hits you this week. It may come from nowhere but it is certainly going somewhere.

 **Virgo**
August 24th - September 23rd
Keep looking out for a revelation. A surprise happening that should be unpredictable.

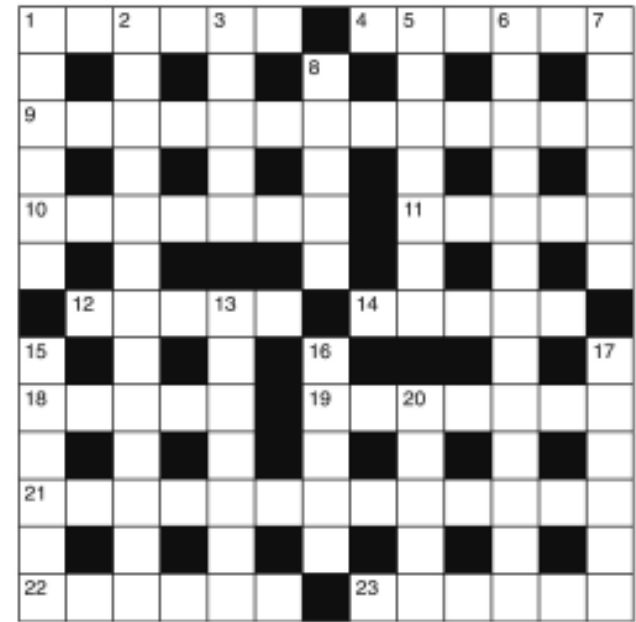
 **Libra**
September 24th - October 23rd
An opportunity or two come your way. Don't doubt that you are capable of the tasks in hand.

 **Scorpio**
October 24th - November 22nd
Give yourself the gift of optimism and be ready to ask someone a very important question.

 **Sagittarius**
November 23rd - December 21st
Sunshine, joy and laughter are just a jump away. That jump must be into the future, however, and not back! What is on offer is what you had hoped for.

 **Capricorn**
December 22nd - January 20th
What you see as an offer not to be missed could be only the beginning. Only go for a deal you are happy with.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11255



Across

- 1 One girl that is after another (6)
- 4 Sort of hat used by gardeners (6)
- 9 Distinctions that may be standardised (6,7)
- 10 All the same, it suits servicemen (7)
- 11 One may be put out by it (5)
- 12 Resplendent part of the flag lowered at sunset (5)
- 14 Employing some delicious ingredients for a cake (5)
- 18 Gymnastic animal (5)
- 19 Sharp reminder of the church's status (7)
- 21 Dual purpose stores for life-boats? (5-8)
- 22 Such a game is not for amateurs (6)
- 23 Spoils a signal and gets into a row (6)

Down

- 1 A sailor has to scowl about hard work (6)
- 2 Advantageously placed for a glamour photograph? (7,6)
- 3 See, I go round a house up North (5)
- 5 Dance for soldiers and surgeons (7)
- 6 Surprised having forty winks (6,7)
- 7 Run and see, perhaps, to make certain (8)
- 8 Around morning she gets a feeling of guilt (5)
- 13 Go over the limit and speed too much? (7)
- 15 Appear to accentuate (4,2)
- 16 It may be set for lunch (5)
- 17 One would be mad to be out of them (6)
- 20 Excellent, if not fast, way to do better (5)

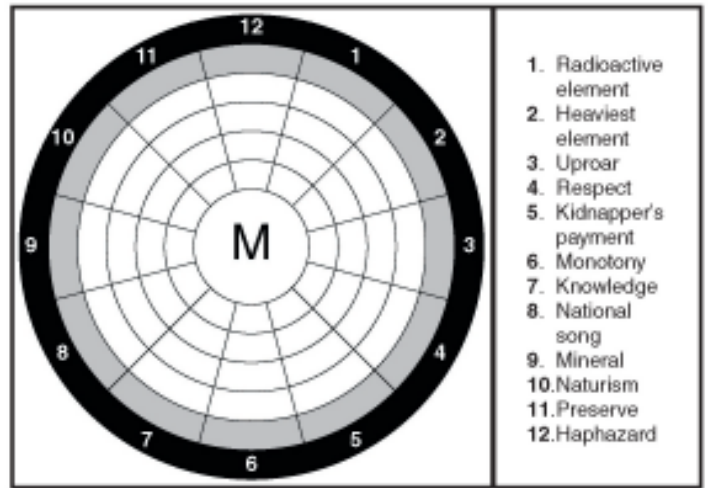
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

	2			3		6		
7			4		5			
4		3			2		1	5
		2	7			4	9	6
			8			3		
	9	7		2	4			
								9
		9	5	8	1			4
8	4				7		3	1

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter M in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a U.S. actor.



THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the animals missing from the song titles listed below?

- 1. --- Train
- 2. Puff the Magic ---
- 3. Teddy ---'s Picnic
- 4. Nellie the ---
- 5. --- Music
- 6. Little Red ---
- 7. The --- Sleeps Tonight
- 8. Mary Had a Little ---
- 9. The Eye of the ---
- 10. Me and You and a --- named Boo

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 Almijara** (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 was the Russian composer Stravinsky's first name?

- 1. Gustav
- 2. Franz
- 3. Fryderyk
- 4. Igor

QUESTION 2

In which country would you find the Troodos mountains?

- 1. France
- 2. Cyprus
- 3. Greece
- 4. Canada

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
1. Stages (10)

5. To postpone (8)

9. Through (3)

10. With (3)

11. Demand (7)

13. Faith (2)

14. Summer (6)

15. I read (3)

16. She loves (3)

17. Mythical (f) (6)

19. Praise! (4)

20. Nothing (4)

21. Music (6)

22. Beach (5)

25. To go (2)

26. She (4)

28. To go (2)

29. To air (6)

34. You avoided (8)

37. Yes (2)

38. February (7)

39. Ethnic (f) (6)

40. November (9)

43. I filmed (4)

44. There (4)

46. Songs (9)

48. They give (3)

49. Inept (f.pl.) (7)

50. A (m) (2)

52. September (10)

53. Aperitif (9)
1. Excellent (9)

2. Trust! (7)

3. Affordable (9)

4. Iraqi (6)

5. Cousin (f) (5)

6. She saves (5)

7. You (2)

8. We'll remember (12)

9. For (4)

12. May (4)

18. December (9)

21. March (5)

23. I (2)

24. The (f) (2)

27. Get up! (9)

30. East (4)

31. Remember! (8)

32. It is (2)

33. Festival (8)

35. I'll fan (9)

36. Melodies (8)

41. A lot (5)

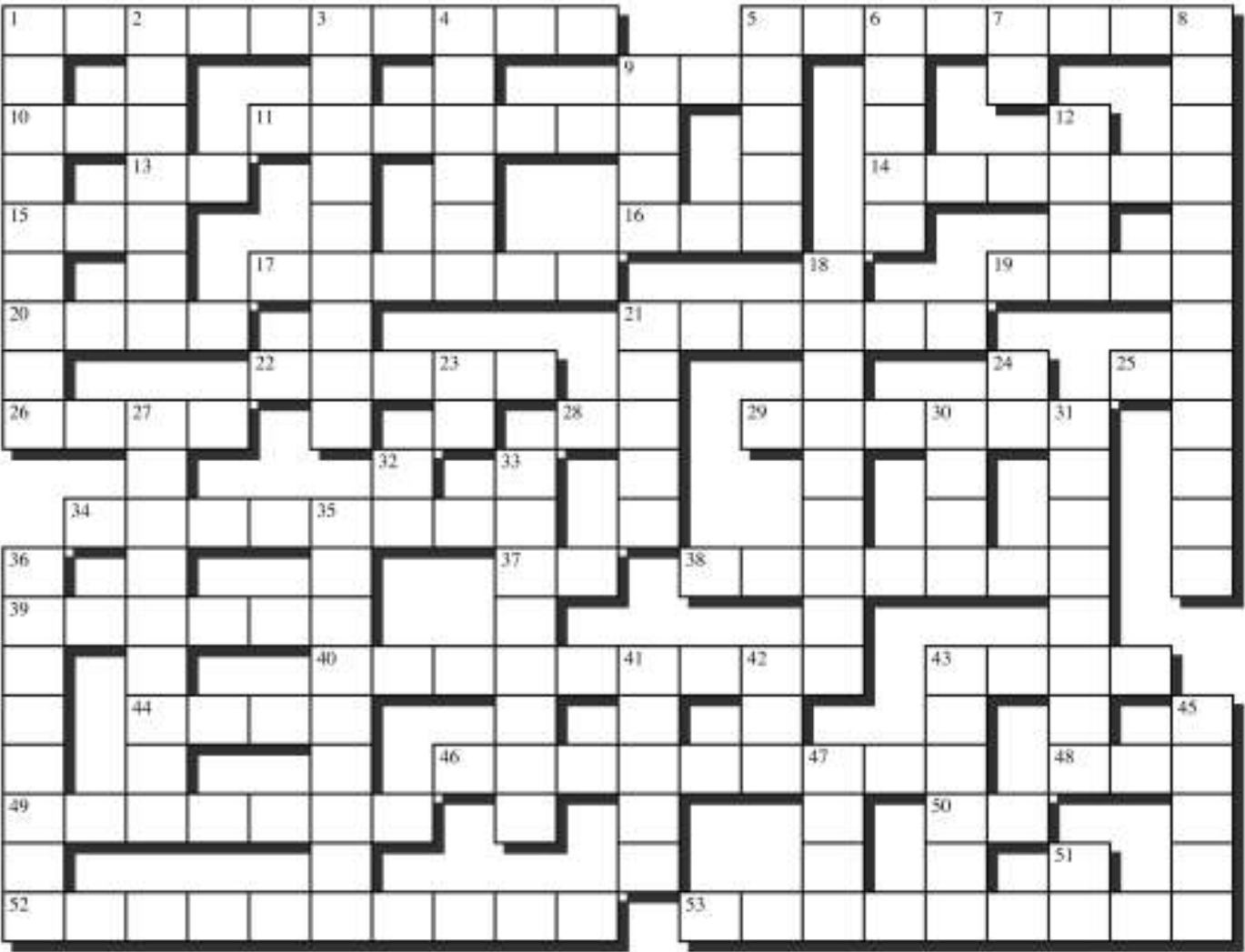
42. River (3)

43. I summed up (6)

45. January (5)

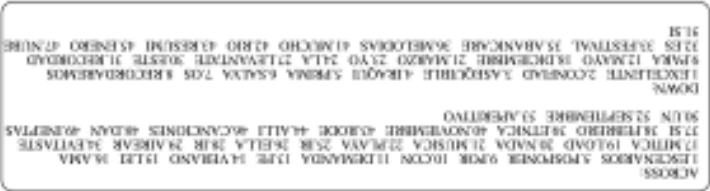
47. Cloud (4)

51. If (2)

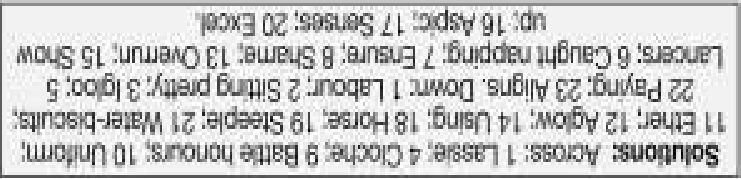


ANSWERS

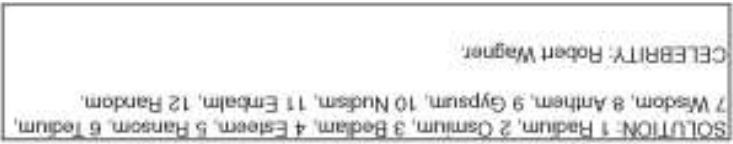
Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



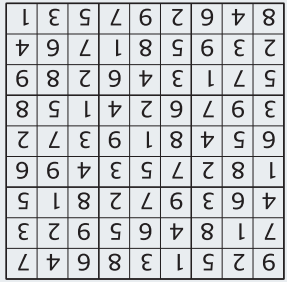
Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



Sudoku solution



Quiz answers

Answer 1: Igor Stravinsky created such famed works as 'The Rite of Spring,' 'Symphony in C' and 'The Rake's Progress.

Of interest: Troodos is the largest mountain range in Cyprus. Its highest peak is Mount Olympus at 1,952 metres. The Troodos mountain range stretches across most of the western side of Cyprus.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



The Winterlings
Cristina Sánchez-Andrade

Two sisters return to the small parish of Tierra de Chá in Galicia after a long absence, to the home of their grandfather, from which they fled when they were just children.

The return of the sisters disrupts the placid existence of the villagers, stirring up memories best left alone.

When news arrives that the famous actress Ava Gardner will be shooting a movie in Spain and that lookalikes are wanted, the sisters have a chance to make their dreams come true. But the past is catching up and family secrets won't stay buried for long.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Your past mistakes are meant to guide you, not define you

ANON

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

A cure for August lethargy

Time flies, as we all say, when a significant date or anniversary comes round on the calendar. They also say that, unlike our legs, time goes faster as we get older. So we've already passed the halfway mark for August, the Malaga fair is nearly over and the next big fiestas can almost be labelled autumnal.

In this second half of the summer, the faces of local residents gain that tired look as they carry their chairs to the beach, a daily routine they carried out with fresher

faces and more sprightly steps in June and July. At SUR in English we hope we can brighten up that final stretch of the season with the usual combination of news and features.

Meanwhile it's already time to start talking about going "back to school". This weekend sees the start of the football season and as usual we'll bring the Malaga CF match reports to you online and in the following Friday's edition. Let's hope we'll be reporting a win for the Blues and Whites next week.





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Stars get out their glitter for a good cause

Spanish and international celebrities joined actor Antonio Banderas at this year's Starlite charity gala

by **HUGO SIMÓN**

MARBELLA. The red carpet was rolled out at the Starlite Festival last weekend for the annual charity gala where stars and celebrities show off their enthusiasm for a good cause.

Actor Antonio Banderas, who is behind the charity gala along with Starlite organiser Sandra García-Sanjuán, arrived with girlfriend Nicole Kimpel and her sister Barbara.

They were joined by flamenco dancer Sara Baras, who was one of the recipients of the Starlite awards for charitable works, along with singer Miguel Poveda, actress Loles León, Marbella chef Dani García and Atlético de Madrid coach Diego Pablo Simeone.

As tradition now dictates - the event is in its eighth year - Banderas stamped his signature on a car brought in by sponsors Ford, on this occasion a blue Mustang.

"We all do our little bit," said Banderas modestly as organisers revealed that the event had so far raised 2.2 million euros, helping 100,000 families and providing schooling for 18,000 children.

With 400 tickets sold at between 500 and 1,000 euros each plus an auction and donations, this year's



Antonio Banderas with Nicole Kimpel, her sister Barbara, Sandra García-Sanjuán and television presenter Anne Igartiburu. by **JOSELE-LANZA**

total also promises to be high.

Every year funds raised at the Starlite gala go to the Niños en Alegría foundation, headed by García-Sanjuán, and Lágrimas y Favores.

The latter is Banderas' own foundation, which shares its funds among Cudeca, Cáritas, the University of Malaga and the Corinto Foundation.

The event, which attracted numerous celebrities from the Spanish and international music and television scenes as well as actors and aristocracy, was presented by model

Valeria Mazza and comedian Carlos Latre. Singers Coti and Niña Pastori performed at what has become one of the most important charity events on the Marbella summer scene.

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