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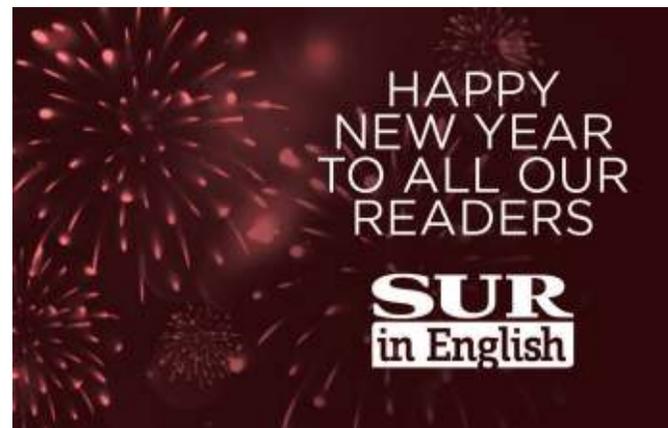
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SOUTHERN SPAIN

Official market leader
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December 29th 2017 to January
4th 2018

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A 'GORDO' TO REMEMBER IN MALAGA

More than a hundred million euros flood into the city of Malaga after a record-breaking Christmas lottery win this year **P20**

The lottery euphoria even extended to Malaga city hall. :: NITO SALAS

Councils to look at using treated wastewater to clean streets

Local water company Acosol says two-thirds is currently wasted and wants to find new uses ahead of a possible drought alert

The water company that covers the western Costa del Sol, from Manilva to Torremolinos, Acosol, is calling on local councils to do more to stave off a drought warning by using recycled water.

Currently two-thirds of the wastewater that comes from the area's sewage plants once it is treated is pumped out to sea and goes to waste. The company says that it is time that town halls copied the example of Marbella and used wastewater on local parks and streets. **P6**

Costa improvement projects stall and roll over into next year

High hopes for new building and infrastructure in 2017 were dashed

Shortage of funds, infighting between political parties in the area's town halls and bureaucracy have slowed down great expectations for new building and infrastructure projects to improve the Costa del Sol and Malaga province during 2017.

Although many schemes were announced at the start of the year, some rolling over from previous



Many plans for 2018. :: SUR

years, failure to agree budgets stopped them coming to fruition.

Other long-held dreams, such as the railway to Marbella, have hardly been mentioned in 2017. However there has been some progress, particularly in Estepona, and exciting plans look close in other towns, including the pedestrianisation of central Torremolinos **P2-3**

Find some island bliss on Bermuda. Andrew Forbes takes us to the British Overseas Territory in this month's Travel special **P30-35**

Have you made any New Year's resolutions yet?

Tony Bryant takes a look at a tradition that dates back some 4,000 years **P24**

It's a wrap! We take a look back at all over the major events which have made 2017 such a memorable year **P10-13**

SPORT

Michel receives the backing of sporting director despite latest loss leaving Malaga in the drop zone **P51&52**

"Our objective is to be up there at the top." Marbella boss Fernando Estévez reflects on the season so far **P51**

The tables have turned. Sky Sports' Rob Palmer looks at the shift in power in La Liga in his column this week **P53**

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The majority of big projects promised for this year have not been carried out

The authorities have made bureaucratic progress on several projects, but only a few of them have actually begun

MÁLAGA. In a couple of days 2017 will come to an end, and it seems a good time to look at the main infrastructure projects which were promised for this year by the different administrations in Malaga province, and see how they are doing. Admittedly, there weren't many of them because the government and the Junta de Andalucía are still reluctant to spend money and, in the case of councils, a lack of resources combined with minority governments or coalitions with multiple parties have delayed the approvals of budgets so very few projects have been carried out.

As a result, the major investments which are under way can be counted on the fingers of one hand: the motorway exit at Arroyo de la Miel to end one of the worst black spots for traffic jams in the area (government), advancing the Malaga metro towards the city centre, and two secondary schools (Junta) and, from councils, the new local hospital in Estepona and several social housing developments in Malaga city. The remainder are still caught up in bureaucratic processes and preliminary studies.

Although important steps have been taken in offices with regard to new infrastructures such as the northern access to the airport, the stretch of railway which will reduce the AVE journey time between Malaga and Seville, the sewage plant for the Malaga city area and projects such as pedestrianising the Alameda in Malaga city and the centre of Torremolinos, there are numerous central government, regional and local projects which have still not begun.

Among the most important are the extension of the suburban railway line to Marbella, which is the only large town in Spain with no rail connection; the progression of the Malaga metro to the Civil Hospital; the road between the 'hiperronda' bypass, Alhaurín de la Torre and the industrial estates in the Guadalhorce area; the theatre in Torre del Mar; pedestrianising the centre of Vélez-Málaga; the modernisation of the railway line between Algeciras and Bobadilla so that cargo can be transported from Algeciras port; and a major logistical



FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

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centre at Puerto Seco in Antequera.

Government responsibility The coastal railway is being studied and the bypass put to tender

For projects financed by the government, 138 million euros were allocated to Malaga in the general state budgets for 2017. This was the lowest amount so far this century and a long way from the 1.2 billion for investment in 2008, which was used for major works such as the second runway at the airport, the 'hiperronda' bypass and the main road through San Pedro.

This year, there has been some progress towards the construction of the northern access to the airport from the second bypass, at a cost of 6.5 million euros. The project has been put to tender and work should begin in the first quarter of 2018. The second major project was the new prison in Archidona (21.4 million euros), which has been completed but has not yet opened and is being used provisionally as a detention centre for migrants.

Initial work has also begun on the new link road between the A-7 and Arroyo de la Miel, one of the busiest points on the roads in Malaga province, which will cost 11.2 million euros. However, the majority of the most urgent projects which are to be carried out by the government are still in the study phase or, in the best of cases, the plans have yet to be drawn up. This applies to the rail connection at Almodóvar del Río (Córdoba) which will reduce the journey time between Malaga and Seville on the AVE to an hour and a half. It will cost around 32 million euros and, if all goes according to schedule, could be ready by 2020.

The ministry of Public Works was also due to pay 350,000 euros for the project to extend the railway from Malaga to Marbella and Estepona. However, at the moment it is still not clear whether this will be done by extending the existing Malaga-Fuengirola line, despite the fact that the service is already running at full capacity, or whether, as numerous politicians, citizens and businesses are demanding, a new line will be built which can support more people.

Some work was carried out on the

stretch of railway between Algeciras and Bobadilla in the summer, on two areas in Cadiz province where the works had stopped in 2013 and 2015. On the Malaga side, which is where the most controversial and longest-delayed stretch of track is located (Ronda-Antequera), the minister of Public Works, Íñigo de la Serna, raised hopes recently when he promised that the whole network will be completed in 2021.

Still on the subject of railways, Malaga port has passed another year with no sign of its underground track, and work came to a halt on the new oceanographic centre, which was due to open next year, because of problems with the foundations. It should now open in 2019.

Construction has also been suspended on the sewage plant at Nerja; although this is a government project, the company which won the contract is suffering financial difficulties.

Junta de Andalucía Slow progress on the metro but advances in sewage and schools

While Nerja is the only coastal town which does not treat its sewage, in the Guadalhorce valley the river of the same name continues to act as a drain for the waste produced by 100,000 inhabitants of the area. However, in the middle of this year, after the project was blocked by the Junta de Andalucía for over a decade, work finally began on the Bajo Guadalhorce treatment plant which will serve Álora, Pízarra and Coín. At the same time, the Junta and the councils signed an agreement for the plant for the metropolitan area, which will handle the sewage produced from Alhaurín el Grande and Cártama. This will ease the pressure on the one in Malaga city, which is now at its limit because it also handles the waste from Torremolinos and Alhaurín de la Torre.

Apart from these advances on projects to complete sewage treatment in the province, the Andalusian government's main achievement this year has been the improvements to the road linking the coast to Gaucín via Manilva, which cost 4.3 million euros.

In terms of education, in recent weeks work has begun on new secondary schools at Teatinos (Málaga) and Rincón de la Victoria, and the project for the one at Las Lagunas (Mijas) has been put to tender. There is still no news about the school planned for San Pedro Alcántara, but at



▲ **Government.** The railway line to Marbella is still in the study phase and plans are about to be drawn up for the AVE bypass on the Malaga-Seville line.

✉ FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ



▲ **Provincial government.** The project to convert La Malagueta bullring into a cultural centre will be put to tender early next year. ✉ SUR

least the town is to have a new health centre, for which the works were contracted a few days ago.

As has become habitual in recent years, the biggest investment from the regional government has been the Malaga metro, and that is likely to be the case for some time because of accumulated delays in the works.

The only tunnel which is currently being built is between the Tetuán bridge and the Alameda Principal, but the stretch of track which will run down Avenida de Andalucía has been suspended because the contract with the previous constructor was rescinded and the tender process has to be repeated. It is still not known what will happen about the above-ground stretch of line between El Corte Inglés and the Civil Hospital. The Junta's ministry of Public Works is now free to put the works (costing 41 million euros) to tender, but has not done so yet because of Malaga council's outright opposition to the line in this area.

Malaga council Traffic-free Alameda and subsidised housing

At the same time as the metro is ex-

tended to the city centre, most of the Alameda will be pedestrianised so that traffic will only be able to use the central area. The north side forms part of the reurbanisation of the metro and will therefore be financed by the Junta (3.5 million euros). On the south side, the city hall is about to put the project to tender to convert it into a 23 metre-wide boulevard beside the Soho district. The cost is expected to be 5.2 million euros and it should be completed in the second half of 2018. Also waiting to be put to tender is the construction of the central area of the Alameda, for 2.7 million euros.

Most of the money spent by Malaga city hall this year has been on VPO social housing. In the Trinidad-Perchel district 23 apartments of this type have been built, and another 16 are under construction in Calle Calvo. In the past three months, three other developments which will include 88 VPOs have been put to tender or contracted.

Still pending are the conversion of Campamento Benítez into a large periurban park (it is open provisionally while town planning processes are completed), the reform of the old jail



▲ **Junta.** The only stretch of the metro line in Malaga city currently being built is in La Alameda. The one in Avenida de Andalucía and the extension to the Civil Hospital have yet to be put to tender. :: **SUR**



▲ **Malaga city hall.** The south side of La Alameda is to be pedestrianised next year.

at Cruz del Humilladero and the long-awaited remodelling of the Salamanca market (waiting to be put to tender.)

Provincial government

The bullring and Bernardo de Gálvez centre still pending

The provincial government is about to complete the visitors' reception centre at the Caminito del Rey, and improvements have been carried out to the Great Trail hiking rou-

te in the same area.

So far, progress on two star projects in Malaga city has been very slow: one is the remodelling of the bullring to turn it into a cultural and leisure centre, although it is hoped that the contract can be put to tender early in 2018. The other is the Bernardo de Gálvez Centre of American Studies which, it has now been decided, will be located in the grounds of La Térmica cultural centre.

Estepona, an island amid a sea of broken promises

A lack of resources, coalition councils and delays in approving annual budgets have reduced new projects to a minimum in many towns in the province

:: **F. JIMÉNEZ**

MALAGA. A lack of resources and coalition councils have become a lethal combination for investment projects in many towns in the province, where the budgets for 2017 were approved so late that there was barely time to start building anything. Marbella, Torremolinos, Rincón de la Victoria, Vélez and Nerja are examples. Estepona, on the contrary, is like an island amid a sea of unfulfilled promises. The council has now started work on the local hospital, which the Junta de Andalucía announced years ago but which the local authority finally decided to finance itself, at a cost of six million euros. The project should be completed by the end of 2018. Estepona council has also just started building an athletics stadium (3,000,000 euros) and recently finished, albeit a year late, the improvements to the Plaza Antonia Guerrero.

The situation in neighbouring Marbella is very different. The municipal budget couldn't be put into effect until May so, as in 2016, this year will end with very few projects having been completed. Most of them were funded by money reserved for financially sustainable investments, leftover from 2016, which had to be spent before 31 December. These included improvements to the Divina Pastora district and the Plaza de Paco Cantos.

A few weeks ago work also began on the leisure port, to integrate it more in the town. There has been such a lack of activity that the town hall has lost a 1.3 million euro grant which the provincial government allocated in 2015 for the first phase of the boulevard and park at Arroyo Primero.



Construction of the hospital in Estepona. :: **CHARO MÁRQUEZ**



Work will start in Torremolinos town centre in January. :: **SUR**

Too little time

The situation is similar in Torremolinos, where investment projects were also held up because the budget was not approved until July. The positive side is that at least there has been time to contract the works on its star project, the pedestrianisation of the town centre. These will begin in January, two months later than expected. There has not been enough time to launch the employment plans which had been announced, or start the remodelling of the Casa de María Barrabino.

In Benalmádena, where investment has been limited because of the need to comply with a financial adjustment plan to reduce the debt, work did begin last month on improvements to the Paseo de Generalife, in Arroyo de la Miel.

There have been few completed projects on the eastern Costa del Sol, either. In Vélez-Málaga several streets have been improved, but the project to pedestrianise the historic

town centre and the conversion of the MercoVélez building for administrative use are still waiting to be put to tender. In terms of culture, the theatre in Torre del Mar, which was announced a year ago, will still have to wait. In Rincón de la Victoria the situation is different, because the budget was not approved until August and barely one million euros were allocated for investment. Half of those funds will be used to finish the indoor swimming pool.

The case of Nerja is similar: the budget wasn't approved until July and hardly any of the 5.2 million euros allocated for works have been used. The most important project has just been put to tender: the demolition of the Giner de los Ríos centre, which will be replaced with a new multi-use building.

📌 **Contributors:** Agustín Peláez, Mónica Pérez, Eugenio Cabezas, Charo Márquez and Alberto Gómez.

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Investigators given more time to look into the death of little Lucía

It has not been possible to finish the investigations into the death of the child within the legal time frame

:: JUAN CANO / JON SEDANO

MALAGA. The public prosecutor in Malaga has requested that the case of three-year-old Lucía Vivar, whose body was discovered at the side of the train tracks between Pizarra and Álora at the end of July, should stay open so that investigations can continue.

A report dated 13 December to which the SUR has had access asked to extend the investigation as it has not been possible to reach a conclusion within the legal time frame of six months.

The family of the little girl, who wandered away from the old station building in Pizarra where her



Lucía's body was found near the train tracks in Pizarra. :: EFE

parents were dining on the night of 26 July, were skeptical of the official explanation of what had happened, and of how a three year old child could undertake an arduous trek along the tracks in total darkness on her own, before being hit by a passing train next morning.

The family's solicitor has asked for clarification on some twenty points that, in the opinion of the

family, have not been explained satisfactorily by the investigation.

One of the points that has not been explained is the bottle of chloroform that was found 700 metres from the station building in the same direction which Lucía took.

Adif and Renfe have also been asked if anyone gave the order to stop the first train of the morning after Lucía's disappearance was reported.

Seven youths detained and several injured in mass brawl

:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. A police patrol car was stopped by a member of the public in the street to report a fight in a bar in Calle Camino de Los Guindos in Malaga city in the early hours of Christmas morning.

The police went straight to the bar and, on seeing chairs and glasses being thrown around in-

side, called for more officers and assistance from the local security group, Grupo Operativo de Apoyo (GOA), to stop the disturbance.

Six youths were arrested in connection with the fight at the bar, one of whom was a 17 year-old minor. Another youth handed himself in at the police station.

The actual cause of the brawl is

still unknown, although it started with a quarrel between two groups. The quarrel evolved into blows in which snooker balls and cues were used as weapons.

None of the injuries sustained in the fight were serious.

Emergency call outs

The 112 Emergency Service in Andalusia attended 737 incidents in Malaga province over the Christmas eve and Christmas day period. The majority were for health issues, followed by matters relating to public safety and fires.

IN BRIEF



Carlos Toledano with the drug-making equipment. :: EFE

The biggest designer-drug laboratory in Spain discovered in Cordoba

ANDALUCÍA

:: **SUR.** The Guardia Civil in Cordoba have dismantled what is considered to be the biggest laboratory of designer drugs in Spain. Four people between the ages of 35 and 48 have been arrested for producing 100,000 doses of mostly

MDA. The head of the drugs ring is apparently self-taught and has no chemical training, according to Carlos Toledano of the Guardia Civil.

National Police in Malaga have also discovered a large quantity of drugs, in this case cannabis. Around 94 plants were found at the home of one of two Spanish men who are presumed responsible for a spate of burglaries in bars in Torremolinos and Malaga.

Foreign woman hit by train at Plaza Mayor

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** National Police are investigating the death of a woman who was hit by a train around 10pm last Tuesday evening next to the Plaza Mayor shopping centre near Malaga. The woman, who was not Spanish and around fifty years old, was hit on the track about 200 metres from the platform.

Police are investigating the incident as at the moment it appears the woman may have been deliberately thrown in front of the train.

Man dies after fight in a squat in Elviria

MARBELLA

:: **A. FRÍAS.** Emergency services were alerted to a fight in a squat in the Golden Beach area of Elviria, Marbella, on Tuesday afternoon. An ambulance was called to one of the men involved, a 27 year-old with superficial stab wounds. He was treated at the scene. The other man, 44, was found unconscious and, although he had no visible knife or bullet wounds, later died. An autopsy is being carried out to determine the cause of his death.

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The methods practised at the clinic are based on the belief that what goes on inside the body is influenced by its outside form and structure. By changing the body's configuration, correcting misalignments and adjusting structural problems, it is basically restored to a healthy state in which it can heal itself and correct its functioning. In essence, ailments are cured by eliminating their physical causes.

Although he has studied medicine, Mr Blum doesn't call himself a doctor, nor does he ever don a conventional white coat. His tools are his hands, and spe-

cially designed apparatus, with which he manipulates and, in his own words, 'rebuilds' human beings. Patients told by conventional doctors they need surgery or diagnosed with incurable conditions have found their health miraculously restored following therapy at the Marbella clinic and have never looked back.

"Instead of treating one individual organ by bombarding it with some chemical or other, first I align the person as a whole, and then it turns out that there is nothing to cure anymore; the corrected organism has no diseases. And if they arise again, the



Mr Blum. :: SUR

restorative systems of the body can cope with them themselves. It is simply the holistic anatomy of the human body that requires correction!" Professor Blum explains.

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Costa councils urged to use water from sewage works on parks and streets

The move needs approval from the regional government and comes as a lack of rain is putting pressure on local water supplies

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The company responsible for water distribution on the western Costa del Sol is seeking the agreement of local councils for them to use treated water from sewage works to water their parks and gardens and to wash the streets.

Acosol, a publicly owned company, wants to extend a deal recently reached with Marbella that sees the district council there buying the recycled wastewater to use and comes as the Costa faces an increasing risk of an official drought warning owing to the lack of rain.

The company says that currently two thirds of the water that is treated in sewage plants is then pumped straight into the sea while the rest is used to water the area's golf courses - in all 45 courses are kept green this way. It adds that some 30 kilometres of pipes already exist to pump the unused water directly to local municipalities, while for those not



A file photo of street washing in Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Two thirds of treated wastewater currently goes out to sea

yet connected, a tanker collection service would be provided in the meantime.

Earlier this autumn Marbella council became the first in the area

served by Acosol to agree to use recycled water on its parks and gardens, although it is hoped that the agreement can be extended to include the washing down of streets.

The company has asked permission from the regional ministry for the Environment to roll out its idea to other council areas.

Acosol serves all coastal municipalities from Manilva to Torremolinos and the use of the wastewater could see a reduction in council bills.

Famous sculptor's work to take pride of place in Torremolinos

The sculpture by Malaga-based Elena Laverón, is made up of five bronze figures and will be temporarily installed in the Picasso Cultural Centre

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. A new addition to Torremolinos' impressive collection of bronze sculptures by internationally renowned Elena Laverón was unveiled in the town last week.

The sculpture, called 'Los Oficios' (tradesmen), is made up of five bronze figures and will be centre-piece of the planned pedestrianisation of the Plaza Costa del Sol. It was previously displayed in the Palmaral de los Sorpresas in Malaga and for the moment will be temporarily located in the patio of the Pablo Ruiz Picasso Cultural Centre.

One the pedestrianisation work is complete the one tonne work will take pride of place in the main plaza on the new central boulevard. The

two-metre high piece will be situated in front of the Barrabino mansion, which will house the town's new cultural and artistic centre.

This will not be the first time the Plaza Costa del Sol has displayed the work of Elena Laverón. Last year, Torremolinos hosted the exhibition Poesia Multiforme, a collection of eleven bronze and stone pieces. Other works by Malaga's adopted artist can be found in Plaza Blas Infante and Plaza La Nogalera.

Laverón was born in Ceuta in 1938 and lived in Morocco until 1954, when she moved to Barcelona and attended the San Jorge School of Fine Arts. She settled in Malaga in 1966 and still resides in the city today.

She has received international recognition and her creations can be found at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris and at the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

IN BRIEF



The remains date from the first century BC. :: I.G.

Fuengirola moves to protect ruins of Roman baths in Torreblanca

FUENGIROLA

:: I. GELIBTER. Fuengirola council has bought a private plot of land in Torreblanca which contains important Roman ruins dat-

ing from the first century BC. The ruins alongside the N-340 were once a bathhouse and were declared of special historical interest in 2005 but until now have lain abandoned as the council tried to persuade the owners to sell. The town hall has now started a clean up and assessment of the ruins' condition.

Earth tremors felt in Torremolinos

TORREMOLINOS

:: SUR. Two earthquakes with epicentres under Torremolinos were recorded in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The first registered 3 on the Richter scale and took place at 2.10am and the second reached 3.1 and was recorded at 5.09am. Both movements happened 79 kilometres below the surface, official data showed.

Permission given for 6m Club la Costa work

MIJAS

:: I.G. Mijas council has approved a building licence for the construction of 50 new holiday properties on the Club la Costa resort in Mijas Costa. The owners are expected to spend six million euros expanding their holiday ownership complex and have agreed to add longer slip roads at the exit from the A-7 motorway into the resort.



The bronze figures will first be displayed at the cultural centre. :: T. B.



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Nerja Caves Foundation hopes to top visitor numbers next year

The 2018 budget was approved last week and includes increased investment for research, accessibility, lighting and museum reforms

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Publishing its budget for 2018 on Wednesday, the Nerja Caves foundation said that it wants to maintain high visitor numbers in 2018.

At the end of 2016, the foundation announced that more than 432,000 people had visited the site; a 5.2 per cent increase on the previous years. Figures for 2017 have yet to be published but managers have said that they hope to reach 475,000 visitors in 2018. The numbers aren't as high as the caves' record, which reached more than half a million in the early 2000s.

The entity approved a budget of 3.9 million euros for the coming year, which includes more research into the caves. The budget allows for 274,000 euros to be spent on conservation and research.

President of the foundation and member of parliament for Malaga, Miguel Briones, said that the budget was, "continuous but ambitious".



Improved access and lighting are included in the 2018 budget. :: J. R.

The caves are awaiting a decision from Unesco as to whether they will be considered as a candidate as a World Heritage Site.

The budget showed a balanced budget with no deficit, which will allow the foundation to increase its investments up to 421,000 euros. Briones highlighted a "significant" increase in the promotional budget, both in terms of visitors to the caves and Nerja mu-

seum as well as scientific research and education programmes.

The international music and dance festival, which takes place every June and July and will be in its 59th year in 2018, is set to receive an investment of 260,000 euros.

Briones also announced that other planned projects include improved access and lighting in the caves as well as a third phase of reforms to the Nerja museum.



Worryingly low levels of water at La Viñuela. :: D. PÉREZ / EFE

Axarquía growers start to feel effects of drought

Water supplies have been cut off to those who have already exceeded their December quota

:: ÁGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. The Axarquía really started to feel the effects of the drought last week when around 10 communities of growers had their water supply cut off. Restrictions were established at the beginning of December, meaning that growers of crops such as mangoes and avocados have been

restricted to just 40 per cent of their usual water supply from La Viñuela reservoir.

The restrictions apply for the next hydraulic year which will end on 31 September 2018 and has come about because of the drought declared in October when the reservoir was at just 23 per cent of its full capacity. The lack of rainfall in recent years, as well as the demand for water from the booming tropical fruit industry, has led to the current situation. Growers will be able to resume watering in January but will still be at risk of having supplies cut off again should they continue to exceed their quotas.

HERE AND THERE

New promotional video of Frigiliana launched on Youtube

FRIGILIANA

:: J. R. Frigiliana's councillor for tourism, Carmen Cerezo, presented the town's new promotional video last week.

The two-minute video, which can be watched on YouTube, will be used to promote the town through social networks and replaces the last one which was made in 2010.

The decision to make such a short video was made so that it would be "easier to watch on the internet", according to the councillor.

The clip includes art, handicrafts, cultural events such as the Three Cultures festival, the gastronomy of the area -such as molasses produced at the only working sugar cane factory in the area- and olive oil, music, the local flora and fauna and traditions as well as views of the old town.

Cerezo said that it is "essential to have a strong online presence nowadays".

Easter dates announced for tenth Cómpea Art Walk

CÓMPETA

:: J. R. The dates were announced last week for the tenth Cómpea Art Walk.

The event will coincide with Easter Week and will run from Saturday 31 March until Wednesday 4 April 2018. The Art Walk will not be open on Sunday 1 April.

Various locations, including galleries, restaurants, the town hall and open air displays around the town will be exhibiting sculptures, paintings and photographs etc by a selection of international artists.

For further information and a list of the participating artists visit: www.artcompeta.com or Facebook: [artcompeta](https://www.facebook.com/artcompeta).

Nerja town hall welcomes suggestions on how to improve area

NERJA

:: D. B. Residents of Nerja are being encouraged to take part in the town hall's new initiative 'Nerja Decide' which runs until 14 January.

The council is hoping that residents will put forward suggestions on how to improve the town. A form can be downloaded only from www.nerjadecide.com.

Guidance (in English) will be given at a meeting at the town hall at noon on 9 January where, after an introduction to explain areas that the town hall considers to be of interest, a brainstorming session will take place.

A budget of 500,000 euros is in place for residents' suggestions.

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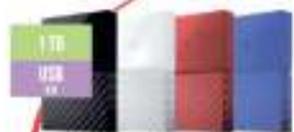


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DEBBIE BARTLETT



2017: a rollercoaster year

We take a look back at some of the major events that shaped the past twelve months

JANUARY

Courts

Animal shelter boss sentenced in cruelty case

The former president of the Torremolinos animal shelter Parque Animal, Carmen Marín, was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison for cruelty to animals, falsification of documents and unqualified practice. The trial revealed how hundreds of dogs and cats had been sacrificed using moneysaving methods that caused slow and painful deaths. The sentence sparked calls for harsher penalties in animal cases as only 12 months of Marín's sentence were for cruelty, the maximum permitted by law.

Ronda

New hospital opens as snow hits inland

Residents in Ronda and its surrounding towns and villages finally saw the opening of a new district hospital, 20 years after plans were first announced. The outpatient services began to function in a week when the area was hit by the first cold snap of the year. Two days after the opening, road access to Ronda was cut off due to the first snowfall of the year.

Multimedia

New SUR in English web site goes live

SUR in English took a step forward in January 2017 with the launch of the newspaper's updated web site. While surinenglish.com has existed since 1996, this year the web site underwent a major facelift thanks with the help of the state-of-the-art technology of the Vocento group and the team of developers at SUR. The site introduced new sections and multimedia features, without losing its popular classified ads section and the print edition of the paper in PDF format.



Pablo Ráez encouraged more bone marrow donors to come forward. :: SUR



Ronda's new hospital. :: SUR



The Infanta with her husband :: EFE



Carmen Marín. :: SUR

There was some relief for the Spanish royals when the Infanta Cristina, King Felipe's younger sister was acquitted of charges against her in the Nóos fraud and corruption case.

The court found no evidence to prove that Cristina had played a role in the fraud committed by her husband through a firm the couple both owned, among other businesses. Her husband, Iñaki Urdangarín, was found guilty and sentenced to six years and three months in the case that involved public funds being channelled into private hands through a non-profit organisation. The couple are still living in Switzerland while his appeal goes through.

Society

Pablo Ráez dies

The young Marbella leukaemia sufferer whose campaign for bone marrow donors was followed by thousands on social media died in February 2017. Pablo Ráez, who was only 20, shared his fight against the illness with his followers to encourage more donors to come forward. He will be remembered for his trademark pose with fists clenched and his slogan, "siempre fuerte" - "always strong".

Business

SUR holds first international forum in London

Representatives of SUR were joined by Malaga's city hall, university and Unicaja bank in London to organise an international event aimed at promoting Malaga and the Costa del Sol as a located for international business. The event was attended by around a hundred business leaders from City-based firms who were shown why this area is acting as a magnet for British and international companies wanting to relocate or open branches in southern Europe.

FEBRUARY

VIPs in Malaga

King Felipe and President Hollande come to town

February was a month that saw Malaga getting the flags out for heads of state. Spain's own King

Felipe visited the city to open the 6th Transfiere conference highlighting the city's position as a benchmark in Spain for technological innovation, development and research.

Later in February the Marseillaise was rehearsed for the visit of then French president François

Hollande, who was in Malaga for the Spain-France summit. While talks focused on Europe the president had the chance to visit some of the city's cultural attractions.

Spain

King's sister acquitted in fraud case



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MARCH

Local politics

Taped conversations reveal alleged job offer in exchange for council vote in Mijas

The content of taped conversations published by SUR in March apparently revealed how the Mijas branch of the Partido Popular, led by former mayor Ángel Nozal, offered a councillor a job in exchange for supporting a vote of no confidence in the town's Ciudadanos mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado. The recordings were made by the councillor for the Podemos-linked group CSSP, Francisco Martínez, while he was driven by former councillor Santiago Martín to a meeting with Nozal. Martín resigned after the scandal broke, but Nozal remains as leader of the PP opposition. Martín and Nozal have both since been called for questioning by the judge investigating whether any criminal offences were committed.

Brexit

Expats watch on as Britain triggers article 50 and talks get under way

British residents in Spain and around Europe watched on concerned after Theresa May triggered Article 50 marking the official start of the UK's exit from the EU. The message from campaigners in Spain, many of whom went to the Unite for Europe march in London while others protested in Madrid, was that Brits in the EU, just as EU citizens in the UK, must not be used as bargaining chips in the negotiations.

Culture

Antonio Banderas collects honorary 'biznaga'

The international career of Malaga-born actor Antonio Banderas was honoured in his home city at the end of this year's Malaga Film Festival. The actor collected his honorary 'biznaga' at the closing ceremony of the festival, the main section of which was won by the film Verano 1993.

APRIL

Transport

No train for Marbella

Despite previous promises, plans



Antonio Banderas was given honorary golden 'biznaga' at the Malaga Film Festival. :: EP / SUR

to extend the suburban railway line to Marbella were put on hold once again, despite assurances by former Minister for Public Works, Ana Pastor, that priority would be given to the project. The funding for Malaga in the 2017 State Budget was the lowest received so far this century, approximately 40 per cent lower than last year. The government allocated just 350,000 euros for the new coastal railway line, barely enough to pay for the studies needed to carry out the project.

Culture

Town hall takes over Marbella bullring

Marbella town hall began negotiations with the concession holders of the central bullring, to end their contract and take over the direct running of the arena. Few important fights had been held there in recent years and in August 2015 anti-bullfighting protesters invaded the arena during a fight causing confrontations between fans and opponents. Following a drop in interest in the corrida in Marbella, the council declared that the bullring would be used for concerts and other cultural events, but not for bull fighting. Former mayor, José Bernal, denied the council was

banning the tradition at the behest of his coalition, claiming that the bullring in Puerto Banús could be used for fights.

Art

Freud and Bacon meet Picasso

An exhibition titled 'Bacon, Freud and the School of London' arrived at the Picasso museum in Malaga, thanks to a new alliance with the Tate gallery in London. Ninety paintings by Lucian Freud, Francis Bacon, R B Kitaj and Leon Kossoff, reflected one of the most vibrant chapters in the history of western art in the past century. The works covered eight decades and the exhibition marked an important step forward in the Picasso museum's international presence.

MAY

Gender harassment

Persecuted couple arrive at Malaga airport

An epic journey across three countries, fleeing discrimination for their sexual orientation, came to a happy conclusion for 28 year old Maria Jimena Rico and her partner, Shaza Ismail. Their plight hit the head-

lines in April when Shaza's father had tricked the couple into travelling to Dubai, claiming that her mother was ill. However, he had reported their relationship to the authorities and fearing for their lives, the couple fled to Georgia. They were about to catch a flight back to London when Shaza's father intercepted them at Tiflis airport, threatening to kill the two girls. He was arrested and the couple was escorted to the Turkish border, where they were detained and eventually deported. They arrived back in Torrox, where Maria has lived since 2001, and immediately began planning their wedding.

Unexpected visitor

Floating platform runs aground in Benalmádena

Residents in Benalmádena were greeted with an unusual sight after extreme weather caused a floating industrial platform to wash up close to the town's nudist beach. The platform was being towed from Cartegena to Cadiz when rough seas and high winds saw the cables used for towing the structure break. Despite a number of boats being scrambled to assist, none were able to steer the platform away, instead controlling its

movements until it finally washed up off the coast in Benalmádena.

Cultural

Banderas pulls out of city arts project

Hollywood actor, Antonio Banderas, abandoned his proposed plans to turn the old Astoria cinema building into a performing arts centre. The project received criticism and Banderas became the target of insults and humiliation on social media, leading him to pull out of the project, much to the dismay of the people of Malaga. The actor wrote a public letter in the SUR withdrawing his involvement in the project after opposition councillors had unsuccessfully tried to get the competition he had won for the scheme cancelled, amid claims of irregularities and fraud.

JUNE

Terrorist attack

British investigators criticised

British authorities faced mounting criticism for the delay confirming the death of Ignacio Echeverría, a 39-year-old Spaniard killed in the London Bridge terror attack. There was disbelief as to why it took three days for British police to confirm his death to his family, and increasing calls for the identification process to be sped up caused a small diplomatic crisis between the two countries. Ignacio, who worked at the HSBC bank in London, was hailed a hero after he used his skateboard to try to save a woman who was being attacked by one of the terrorists. Spanish foreign minister, Alfonso Dastis, claimed that the treatment of the family was "bordering on inhuman", after British investigators claimed they had finger print proof but were waiting for DNA results.



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JUNE

Leisure and entertainment

New Intu complex planned for Torremolinos

Torremolinos town hall announced plans for a new Intu shopping and entertainment complex that is to be built on the outskirts of Torremolinos.

Set to become the biggest shopping and leisure centre on the Mediterranean coast, the 500-million-euro project will include a resident circus, a ski slope, an aquarium and landscaped botanical gardens.

According to data provided by British-based company, the park will have more than 8,000 square metres of multipurpose areas; 23,000 square metres for sports and culture; and more than 65,000 square metres of green areas planted with 3,000 trees.

Tourism

Clampdown on antisocial behaviour

Councillors in Marbella showed their concern about the resort's image and reputation being damaged by drunken foreign tourists. The local authority decided to clamp down on disreputable tourists who disrespect other visitors using the destination, saying that "the situation will not be tolerated".

New regulations to control antisocial behaviour included a ban on people walking shirtless or drinking alcohol in the streets. Fines of up to 3,000 euros were introduced for those who did not comply. The police presence was also reinforced in Puerta Banús, however the town hall stressed that the initiative also needed the cooperation of local business owners.

JULY

Royals

King Felipe and Queen Letizia on state visit to UK

A three-day State visit of King Felipe and Queen Letizia to London captivated attention across both Spain and Britain in July. The focus was very much on economic links between the two countries and the possible affects of Brexit.



The Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Letizia, Queen Elizabeth II and King Felipe VI. :: MATT DUNHAM / AFP



March against terrorism in Barcelona. :: PAU BARRENA / AFP

Speaking at a breakfast meeting entitled 'UK Spain- Business Forum' King Felipe said that Spain and Britain had to work together to reduce any negative effects of Brexit. A statement from Downing Street said that "there are over 300,000 Britons living in Spain, while over 130,000 Spaniards have made the UK their home", adding that the prime minister would highlight "the valuable contribution that Spanish citizens make to Britain's economy and society." The State Visit of King Felipe and Queen Letizia was their first official visit to the UK and the first Spanish State visit since 1986, when the king's father and mother, King Juan Carlos and

Queen Sofia, were welcomed by Queen Elizabeth II.

Sport

Corruption scandal hits Spanish football association

Spanish football's governing body, the RFEF, was rocked by scandal in July after its president Ángel María Villar, his son Gorka, and two regional officials were arrested as part of 'Operación Soule', an investigation into a funding black hole of at least 45 million euros. Villar was accused of asset-stripping for the financial gain of himself and his son, as well as offering favours and incentives to officials for their support.

Similar gatherings took throughout Spain. A minute's silence was held outside town halls along the Costa del Sol. Thousands also turned out later on in the month for a march against terrorism in the city.

Music

Starlite threatens to quit Marbella over opening hours

The organisers of Marbella's Starlite live music festival threatened to move somewhere else next year as relations with the local town hall had deteriorated in the months leading up to the festival. Staff, fearful for their jobs, protested against the council's enforcement of legal opening hours. The move came amid increasing tension between event organisers and Marbella council over closing times after concerts and uncertainty over operating licences. The dispute centred disagreement over whether the event should be legally defined as a festival, and so entitled to special privileges in how long it stay open each night, or a normal nightclub which has to adhere to stricter rules. The 45-night event, which was originally branded as Starlite Marbella but is now advertised as Starlite Festival started on the Costa del Sol 2012. This year it featured many major international stars, including Elton John, Luis Fonsi, Art Garfunkel and Andrea Bocelli.

Music

The Prodigy headline Weekend Beach festival

British band, The Prodigy, headlined Friday night at the fourth Weekend Beach festival in Torre del Mar. Around 30,000 people listened to the group, which is fronted by Keith Flint. They burst onto the stage with the famous 'Firestarter', before alternating newer tracks with 90s classics such as 'Smack my Bitch Up' and 'Breathe'. The Prodigy are the most famous international act to have performed at the festival to date.

AUGUST

Spain

Terror attacks in Barcelona

Spain and the international community were rocked by a terrorist attack on Barcelona's Las Ramblas, which left 15 dead and over 100 people injured. Days later, a car ploughed along the sea front in the town of Cambrils. All five suspects were shot dead by police at the scene. One woman was killed and a further six people were injured in the incident. Thousands of people, headed by King Felipe, came together to express their grief following the terror attacks. The demonstration in the Plaza de Catalunya in Barcelona was also attended by Spain's prime minister Mariano Rajoy who stood alongside the then president of the Catalan government, Carles Puigdemont.

Crime

Britons caught shining lasers at aeroplanes

Two Britons were caught after threatening the safety of aeroplanes coming into land at Malaga airport by shining high-powered laser pens into the eyes of the pilots. The alarm was raised when several pilots of passenger aircraft that were coming into land from over the sea at around 11pm reported being distracted by the illegal pointing of lasers into their aircraft. Air traffic controllers, seeing the risk of a plane being brought down, immediately called police and sent out a message over their Twitter account in an attempt to find the culprit. One pilot, who knew the area, said that they appeared to be coming from the direction of hotels in nearby Torremolinos.

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SEPTEMBER

Visit

Spanish PM meets Donald Trump at White House

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy paid a flying visit to Washington DC this week to meet with US president Donald Trump at The White House. During the first official meeting between the two the leaders took questions from the press. Asked for his view on the planned banned Catalanian referendum, Trump said that Spain was "a historic country" that should stay united.

Catalonia

Guardia Civil seize voting slips ahead of referendum

Spanish authorities took steps to stop the banned independence referendum being planned by the Catalanian regional government for 1 October. Following court orders, Guardia Civil officers seized 10 million voting slips and arrested several regional government chiefs and business people. The interventions sparked an immediate wave of demonstrations across Barcelona and fourteen officials and business owners were arrested over organisation of independence referendum. Some were later released after questioning and many appealed their arrest. Protesters in favour of the banned vote on independence gathered outside the buildings being searched. The Guardia Civil continued their search of the regional economy ministry through the night, with demonstrators barring their exit the following morning. Some of the police vehicles parked outside were heavily damaged by vandalism.

Marbella

Malaya case fugitive arrested in Argentina

More than a decade after the Malaya corruption scandal broke out in Marbella, the last fugitive, Carlos Fernández was located and arrested in Argentina. The former councillor was detained at his home in Rivadavia, a small town in the province of San Juan, near the Chilean border. Fernández, who had been a Marbella councillor for the GIL group before switching to the Andalusian party PA, had married and formed a family

in Argentina. The arrest came after Fernández's defence lawyers had written to the Spanish courts asking them to declare that the statute of limitations for the offences he was wanted for in 2006, including embezzlement and accepting bribes, had expired. In other words, they believe that legally enough time has gone by since the initial investigation for him to return to Spain without having to go to prison.

OCTOBER

Independence Referendum

Conflict as Catalonia votes

Catalonia held its referendum on independence from Spain on Sunday October 1st, a day marked by conflict and violence as Spanish police used physical force in some cases to prevent people going into the polling stations to vote. The referendum was illegal under the Spanish Constitution, but the regional government announced afterwards that turnout had been 43 per cent and of the two million Catalans who voted, 90 per cent had backed independence and the move would go ahead. Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy called for calm, saying that the country was not going to give in to "blackmail by a few people." He later annulled the Catalanian government, took control of the region and announced that new elections would take place on December 21st. Several politicians were jailed for sedition, and the president of the former regional government, Carlos Puigdemont, went into self-imposed exile in Brussels.

Monarch

Thousands left stranded after airline goes bust

Britain's fifth largest airline, Monarch, ceased trading and went into administration on Monday 2 October, leaving as many as 110,000 tourists left stranded abroad. The UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) immediately announced an operation put into place by the UK government to repatriate the affected tourists, several thousands of whom were on the Costa del Sol. The British government described the operation as the "biggest ever peacetime repatriation."

Domestic violence

An increase of 31.6% in



Starlite Festival, Marbella. :: SUR



Rajoy and Trump shake hands outside the White House. :: EFE



Monarch Airlines goes bust. :: EFE

Malaga province

In the second quarter of this year, 2,084 reports of domestic violence were presented to courts in Malaga province, which was an increase of 31.6 per cent compared with the same period last year. According to the figures, 2,079 of the reported victims of domestic violence during that time were women, which was an increase of 57 per cent; in the second quarter of 2016 there were 1,321 female victims. "These figures are shocking," said the public prosecutor for domestic violence in Andalucía, Flor de Torres, who attributed the rise in the number of reports to greater awareness and

more determination not to tolerate chauvinist behaviour. She also pointed out that many cases go unreported, so the real figure must be much higher.

NOVEMBER

Construction

Building starts again

Experts predicted that 2017 would be a record year for new construction on the Costa del Sol, following the economic crisis. In Malaga, the council announced that it had approved projects worth around 500 million euros, and in Mijas there was over 40 per cent more invest-

ment in construction than in 2016.

Drought

Warnings of water saving measures

After four dry years and lower than average rainfall, the situation was deemed serious enough for the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, to announce that measures to save water would be introduced if the situation did not improve. She also called on the central government to carry out projects which have been outstanding for some time and never completed, such as the pipeline from the Iznájar reservoir in Cordoba to the northern Antequera area.

DECEMBER

Merger of property giants

Mega-shopping centre still set to go ahead

British company Hammerson, which owns major shopping and retail centres in the UK such as The Bullring in Birmingham, Brent Cross (London) and Highcross (Leicester) announced that it was to acquire the Intu group, one of its biggest competitors, to create a giant property business worth billions of pounds. The new group will continue with plans to build the biggest shopping and leisure centre on the Mediterranean, north of the Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos.

Prestigious award

Best luxury hotel in Spain

The Vincci Selección Aleysa Boutique & Spa in Benalmádena was named the best luxury hotel in Spain in the Trivago Awards. The hotel, which has 35 rooms and around 60 employees, was praised by clients for the "warmth" of the staff and the "quality" of the services. The mayor of Benalmádena, Victor Navas, described the hotel as a national benchmark in its field.

Election in Catalonia

Independence problem isn't going away

In a blow to Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy, independence parties did well in the regional government elections on 21 December. No party gained an absolute majority, but between them the independence supporters have enough seats to govern.

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"I saw prison waiting for me and so I decided to go away," says ex-councillor

Carlos Fernández spoke out for the first time in 11 years, saying his flight from Marbella and recent reappearance in Argentina were parts of a strategy

|| HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. A former Marbella councillor, wanted in Spain on corruption charges, has spoken out in public for the first time about why he fled the country in 2006 and went into hiding.

Carlos Fernández, speaking from Argentina where he was finally found and arrested in September this year, blamed lack of guarantees of a fair legal process in Spain for his reason for evading original arrest 11 years ago.

"I saw that prison was waiting for me and I decided to go away," said Fernández as he was released from a jail in Chimbas, in San Juan province, where he had been held for over three months since being detained by local authorities and while an Argentinean judge was considering Spain's call for him to be extradited.

The ex-councillor, who maintains his innocence, said that in 2006 he had wanted to speak to a judge to



Fernández on being released in Argentina. || M. ARIAS. DIARIO DE CUYO

clarify the situation he found himself in, but seeing that wasn't going to be possible, he decided to leave Spain and wait for the charges against him to expire.

Appeal launched

Last week, a judge in Argentina ruled that five of Spain's original six charges against Fernández relating to corruption had expired under Argentinean law and that only one, linked to a case of misuse of public funds at Marbella town hall called 'Saqueo 2', was still valid

and that extradition could go ahead.

Fernández is free while an appeal is considered, a process that is expected to take several months. In the meantime he must attend court every two weeks.

In Marbella, Fernández's brother Antonio, head of his legal team, has told SUR that his sibling's reappearance was part of a calculated plan to force the Spanish authorities to reveal documents they hold on the case and that several lines of defence are being considered in the event of a trial in Spain.



The ride has spectacular views over the white houses. || C. MÁRQUEZ

New scenic zipline opens over Casares village

The aerial ride, which was voted on by locals, costs 12 euros for a 30 second trip and on January 3 it will be free for residents

|| CHARO MÁRQUEZ

CASARES. An aerial ropeslide has opened to the public in Casares village. The new tourist attraction runs for 300 metres at a height of 80 metres and takes 30 seconds to complete.

Joining the El Chaparral viewpoint terrace at Puerto de la Cruz with the Las Peñuelas area of the village at the end of Calle Molinos, the scenic ride has cost just

over 36,000 euros. A third of this has come from the local town hall and the rest from a regional government tourism development grant. Local residents had voted on the scheme to boost visitor numbers to the hilltop white village.

For the moment the zipline is open only on certain days. It will run on December 29th and 30th and then on January 3rd and 7th. Tickets can be bought from the Blas Infante house and cost 12 euros, with discounts for local residents and larger families. On January 3rd admission is free to local residents. After the holidays, the new attraction will open at weekends.

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A MOORISH THEME FOR ESTEPONA'S LATEST MURAL

The latest addition to Estepona's growing collection of street art is a 600-square-metre interpretation of ancient Moorish culture called 'Evocación Nazarí'. The town now has 51 murals painted onto the walls of different buildings, drawing tourists out of season and to lesser known corners. The new work is by José Fernández Ríos and is in the recently remodelled Plaza Antonia Guerrero.

IN BRIEF

Marbella to outsource parks and gardens

MARBELLA

|| **M.P.** The council in Marbella has announced that it is to outsource the maintenance of its parks and gardens due to a shortage of staff. A contract will be signed with an external company to deliver the service and support existing council workers over a two year period, renewable for three more years. This is the second service that has been put out to tender. Under the previous administration at the town hall street maintenance was also outsourced.

Red Cross to run town's new homeless centre

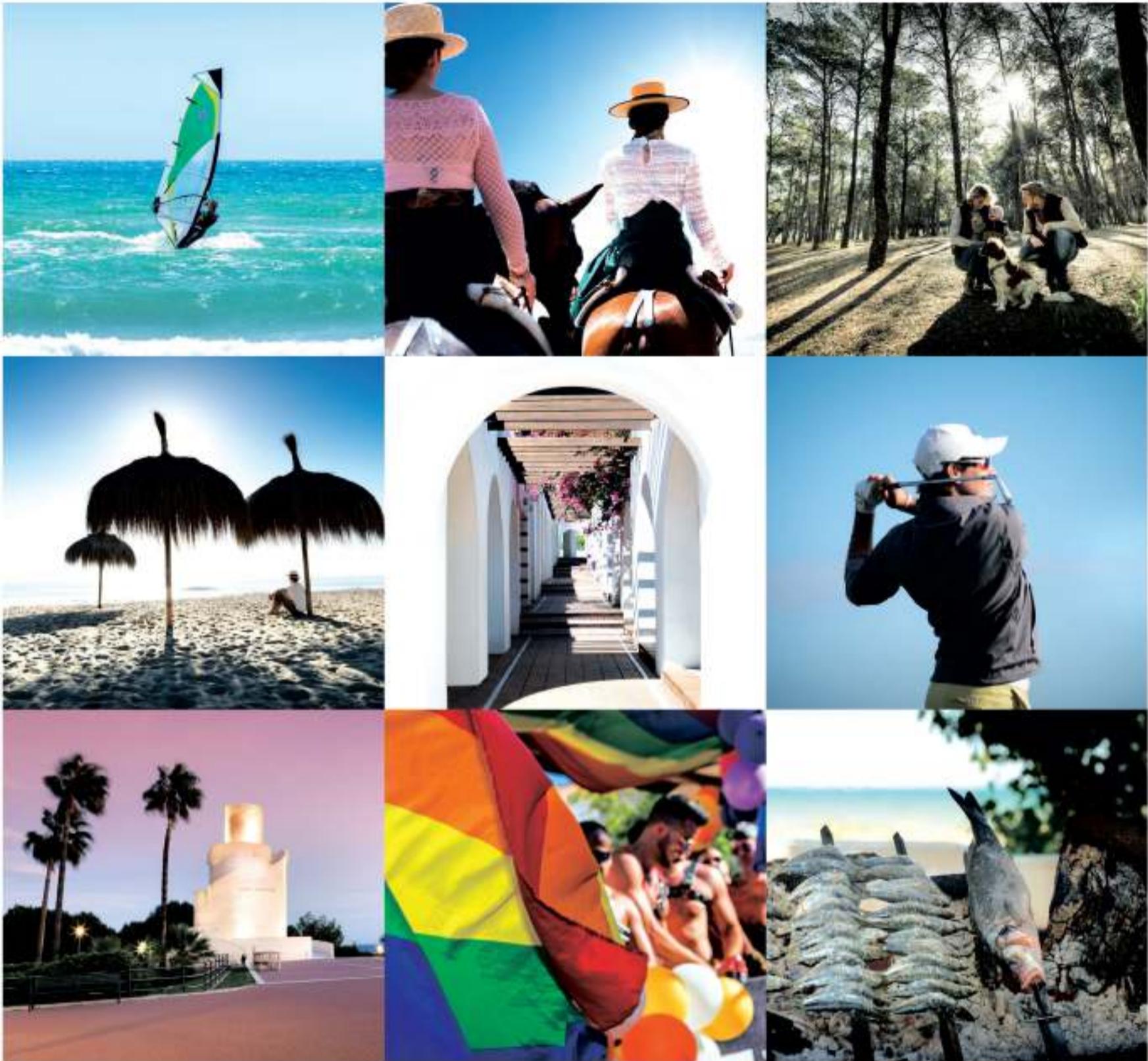
MARBELLA

|| **C.M.** Marbella council has reached an agreement with the local branch of the Red Cross for the charity to run a centre for homeless people in the town. The new centre will be located in the old Miraflores social security centre on Huerta Los Guerra and will provide a complete daytime service offering both emergency and ongoing support. The centre is expected to open in a month and cost just over 300,000 euros a year to run.

Council to get tough on restaurant terraces

MARBELLA

|| **M.P.** A special team of inspectors and police officers is being set up in Marbella to make sure that outdoor terraces don't spread out onto public pavements. Councillors are reacting to increasing complaints that tables and chairs are set up outside areas officially reserved for restaurant, blocking the way of pedestrians in narrow streets. One of the most problematic areas, according to locals, is the Plaza de los Naranjos at the centre of the old town.



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'Tis the season to celebrate in Malaga province

The festivities are not over yet with the New Year celebrations this Sunday night and then the visit of the Three Kings on 5 January

:: DENISE BUSH

MALAGA. Andalucía started celebrating the festive season over a month ago, and throughout the month of December not a day has gone by without an event happening somewhere in the region. The festivities are still continuing with the most recent being the Fiesta Mayor de los Verdiales which took place yesterday.

The ancestral roots of Malaga's verdiales music make it one of the oldest living examples of music folklore in Europe. Every year, just after Christmas, Puerto de la Torre becomes the centre of a huge festival involving numerous verdiales bands (pandas) and lasting for almost twelve hours.

This year, the competition involved 26 pandas. The musicians, some of which wore the traditional, elaborate, flower-covered hats trimmed with colourful ribbons, competed in three categories of music: Montes, Almogía and Comares.

Nativities

Nativity scenes always inspire a bit of competition and attract lots of visitors, especially the huge panoramas created by some of the province's town halls. Of the many worth a visit (there are over 61 scenes in the city alone) is the 'belen' at Malaga cathedral and the one in Malaga's town

hall. The Sala Mingorance in the Archivo Municipal building in the Alameda Principal has a novel belen created from Playmobil figures.

Mollina, near Antequera, meanwhile saw its belen museum, the largest in the world dedicated to the Nativity, officially opened by regional president Susana Díaz.

Live nativities, where townspeople dress up in clothing from biblical times and re-enact the events leading up to the birth of Christ, were held in many towns and villages, with those in La Heradura, Almayate and Comares becoming more elaborate each year.

This year, an original idea by Malaga journalist Antonio Moreno, became an international hit on Twitter. His thread, #HiloDeNavidad reported on the birth of Christ as if it were happening live.

Concerts and choirs

Malaga hasn't gone short of concerts with many churches and theatres hosting orchestras and choirs from all over the world. The Teatro Cervantes in Malaga city has held a series of concerts over Christmas, including one with the Alabama Gospel Choir and Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra.

Shoppers have been entertained in the Plaza de la Constitución in the city with the daily concerts which have included choirs, orchestras and 'zambombas', a traditional instrument typically used to accompany 'villancicos' (carols) at Christmas.

New Year

The festivities continue this Sunday night with 'Noche Vieja', New Year's Eve. It is a tradition in Spain to eat a



The verdiales competition held yesterday in Puerto de la Torre. :: SUR



The Alabama Gospel choir at the Teatro Cervantes in Malaga. :: SUR

grape with every chime of midnight; success will ensure good luck for the coming year. Revellers accumulate in the main square or outside the local church in towns and villages and are sometimes entertained with live music during the wait for midnight.

The chimes are usually followed by fireworks. Many hotels and restaurants on the coast are offering special packages for families on New Year's Eve and Club Hípico de Málaga is holding a party especially for children called 'Hogwarts'.

The consumers action group (OCU) has advised people to be careful when purchasing tickets for special parties, leaving the purchase until the last moment if possible, to avoid cancellations or falsification. If buying tickets online, they should be bought through a secure site accessed through the page created by the organisers of the event.

The Reyes Magos

The festivities may be long over in other European countries but in Spain there is still the visit by the Three Kings to come. The Reyes Magos arrive in towns across the province on 5 January. Many have a novel means of transport such as by boat (La Carihuela), by helicopter or on horseback. They then climb on to decorated floats and parade through the town, usually throwing sweets to the children lining the streets who often are equipped with up-turned umbrellas to catch them.

The 'true' angels of Christmas Eve

The Ángeles Malagueños de la Noche association handed out 3,000 meals and 50,000 kilos of food to the underprivileged in the centre of Malaga

:: JON SEDANO

MALAGA. Numerous people waited hours on Christmas Eve to receive a meal of potato omelette, chicken and vegetables plus some packets of non-perishable foodstuffs.

"Some people have been waiting here all night, others since 6am," explained Antonio Meléndez, the president of the Ángeles Malagueños association.



A large queue formed to receive the food being handed out on Christmas Eve. :: ALVARO CABRERA

The 50,000 kilos of foodstuffs were all donated by people in Malaga. "Those that have the least are usually those that give the most," said one of the volunteers for the association who explained how it has become more of a large family, with many people coming "just to speak to someone and enjoy some company".

It isn't only at Christmas that the group arrange for food for those that are struggling economically; they provide breakfast, lunch and dinner to around 1,000 people every day.

Among the many that need help are the 'invisible people'. They are the ones that try to appear to be living a normal life but have to come to the association in order to eat.

Last year around 1,700 people came and collected 3,000 meals but every year the number of people in Malaga without sufficient means to buy food continues to grow.



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Catalan separatist parties mull over next move as election vote delivers little change

Secessionist groups won a fresh majority in the 135-seat regional parliament but it still isn't clear how ousted president Carles Puigdemont could be reinstated as president

■ SUR

BARCELONA. Last week's election in Catalonia delivered little change to the status quo. Pro-independence parties secured a majority in the 135-seat regional chamber, although anti-independence Ciudadanos emerged as the biggest party, even if some way from taking control.

The election was ordered by central government after the last regional parliament illegally declared independence from Spain. Madrid had invoked Article 155 of the constitution to take back some direct control and call a regional election.

In the final result, votes cast for the parties against independence were narrowly ahead of the separatist parties, however as the distribution of seats favours more pro-independence areas, it was the latter that won the most, taking 70, two over the majority of 68 needed.

To the surprise of many who had been following opinion polls, the Junts per Catalunya candidacy of ousted regional president, Carles Puigdemont, won 34, more seats than its separatist rival, left-wing republican ERC (who won 32). Oriol Junquera's ERC had been expected to do the best of the two. The third secessionist party, anti-system CUP saw its number of seats reduced to four.

In terms of the parties campaigning against independence, centre-right Ciudadanos became the biggest party overall in Catalonia with 37 seats, helped by tactical voting and a big turnout in the more densely-populated coastal areas. However with the addition of the regional MPs of the other parties, there are not enough seats on paper for a pro-union coalition to govern.

Instead the same situation as early autumn remains, with the seces-



Puigdemont speaking in Belgium after separatists repeated their overall majority. ■ EFE

THE RESULTS

70

seats in total won by the three pro-independence parties.

37

seats won by pro-Spain Ciudadanos, but not enough to join with others and form a majority.

sionists most likely to form the new regional government. Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, accepting the result, said that any regional government was acceptable as long as it stayed within the constitution.

This time round there are added complications for the separatist parties due to the ongoing legal action against those allegedly involved in the illegal independence referendum and parliamentary vote in October. Eight of their new MPs are either in jail or absent from Spain.

Carles Puigdemont of Junts per Catalunya is currently a fugitive in Belgium with four other of his ex-ministers. While Oriol Junquera, leader of ERC, is in jail in Madrid while investigations continue, along with two other new MPs.

This week it wasn't clear if the detained MPs would be able to take part in a debate and vote for a new regional president. Neither was it clear who that regional president could be, as Puigdemont, former president and leader of the biggest separatist group would face arrest if he returns to Spain.

On Thursday legal experts dismissed the suggestion that Puigdemont could be invested as president remotely from Belgium.

Under its emergency powers under Article 155, it is now central government's responsibility to summon the new regional parliament to vote on the next Catalan government before 6 February.

Probe launched into Christmas dinner for seconded police that "wasn't fit for criminals"

The interior ministry has launched an investigation after widespread criticism of the quality of the traditional Christmas Eve dinner served to riot police on secondment to Catalonia from across Spain.

Hundreds of officers have been working away from family recently during the suspen-



The controversial meal. ■ R.C.

sion of some of the region's autonomous powers and the recent regional elections, staying

on cruise ships docked in Barcelona.

Police unions have said that "criminals get better treatment", referring to the meal served on the ship Rhapsody.

The special festive dinner included dishes such as spaghetti, croquettes or fried cod and pepper and olive salad, and unions said Christmas meals in prison were much better quality.

Meanwhile, the government has announced that the extra police reinforcements brought into Catalonia will be withdrawn by 30 December.

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King Felipe calls for Spain to "inspire and to evolve"

The Christmas broadcast was seen as holding a conciliatory message this year

by **MARÍA EUGENIA ALONSO**

MADRID. King Felipe VI used his traditional Christmas Eve broadcast to send out a conciliatory message to Spain at the end of a year dominated by secessionist threats in Catalonia.

The king called on the nation to live together in harmony, to talk and to respect the laws and diversity of the country.

Referring to the Catalan political crisis, he urged both sides to avoid any further unilateral actions that would only lead, he said, to "exclusion and confrontation".

The king's message was ea-

gerly awaited, as the last time he appeared in a televised address was in October to directly criticise the Catalan secessionists. This time his speech was more conciliatory, stating that ideas shouldn't "separate or distance families or friends".

He went on to say that he hoped Catalonia would soon recover its position as a leader of the Spanish economy and that the events of the last year had served to demonstrate "the strong commitment of the Spanish people to the democratic Spain that we've all built together".

Speaking from the Salón de Audencias at the Zarzuela palace, the king recalled the successes over the last 40 years, including the end of ETA terrorism and the entry into the European Union, urging Spaniards to not stay still and to be "disposed to evolve" and "to inspire".



The monarch made his speech on Christmas Eve. :: REUTERS

MARK NAYLER
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THE EURO ZONE

CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS?

With every year that passes, Spain's macroeconomic expansion appears increasingly indifferent to the activities of Spanish politicians. Evidence for this was again provided by the Bank of Spain this week, when it announced that Spain's Q4 2017 GDP expansion is likely to be 0.8%; if that statistic proves true, the Spanish economy will have grown at the same rate as it did in the third quarter, despite the Catalanian crisis that has dominated the last three months of this year.

Another figure that came to light this week suggests one reason for Spain's continued GDP expansion: the Spanish tourism industry didn't even need all of 2017 to beat its visitor numbers from 2016. From January to November this year, the country received 77.8 million tourists, compared to 75.6 million throughout all last year. Buoyed up by its world-class tourism industry, Spain has yet to even register the effects of the standoff between its central government

and separatists in Catalonia.

Yet even without those bumper visitor statistics, we shouldn't be surprised that Spain's Q4 growth has probably not been affected by the political chaos of the last three months. A very recent precedent suggests that the Spanish economy - on a macro level, at least - is perfectly capable of running itself while its supposed stewards are busy elsewhere.

SUR readers will remember well the farce that was Spanish politics last year. Following an inconclusive general election in December 2015, Spain went for ten months of 2016 without a government. We saw it all: cross-party deals being attempted before collapsing, party leaders vilified for their failure to compromise, the resignation of PSOE leader Pedro Sanchez (cannily timed, as he's now back in charge of the Socialists) and the holding of a second election to sort out the mess. During these lost ten months, no one was passing any new economic legislation or "running" the Spanish

economy. The result? Spain posted GDP growth of 3.2% in 2016, in line with the most optimistic forecasts and at double the eurozone average.

Catalonia has fared less well than the country its secessionists want to divorce. Since former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont held an illegal independence referendum on October 1st, around 3,000 companies have moved their headquarters away from the north easterly region. In October, business creation was down 14.3% in Catalonia compared to the same month a year earlier - its worst result in that sphere since 2011. Tourism has been hit too: at the beginning of November, bookings had fallen 20% since the October 1st vote.

Certainly, statistics such as these make you wonder about the secessionists' claim that Catalonia would be economically better off without Spain. Meanwhile, the latter's economy can look after itself while Spanish politicians fight amongst themselves.

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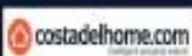
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Malaga wins its biggest lottery prize

Winning tickets worth 128 million euros were sold by an office in Calle Mármoles



ANTONIO M. ROMERO

Twitter: @amontillaromero

MALAGA. The tears of sorrow shed just over a month ago in La Trinidad district over the death of one of its most famous residents, Chiquito de la Calzada, turned into shrieks of joy last Friday, when people in this densely-populated working class district of Malaga city discovered that they had won millions of euros in the Christmas Lottery, which is known as 'El Gordo'.

The winning ticket was number 71198, drawn in the traditional National Lottery at the Royal Theatre in Madrid. Tickets sold by office number 59 in La Trinidad won 128 million euros; a figure to which a further 800,000 euros have to be added from 'décimos' sold by two other offices, one in Calle Santa Marta, in Cruz del Humilladero, and the other in Avenida de la Luz. Altogether, 128.8 million euros were won by people in Malaga, the biggest El Gordo prize in the city's history.

It is five years since a first prize in the Christmas Lottery was won in Malaga, and the winners had to wait until 11.55am before the two children from San Ildefonso school, Youssef Salhi and Noelia Katuska, sang out number 71198. That number had been bought by people all over Spain and it caused a 'tsunami' of joy in the area around Calle Mármoles in Malaga. The lottery ticket office called La Biznaga, which has been run for 25 years by Catalina Durán, known as Lina, sold 320 'décimos' (32 series) of the winning number to people from La Trinidad and other districts of the city, and history will show the typical images of bottles of champagne, hugs, emotion, kisses, tears of joy and plans for the future, as the news sank in that they had won.

A councillor won, too

Ticket number 71198 also brightened the lives and Christmases of workers in El Perchel and the Carretera de



The owners of La Biznaga ticket office and residents of La Trinidad celebrating their win. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Cádiz districts of the city. In the former, the 02 Centro Wellness gymnasium had 25 'décimos'. Seventy were bought in the old Tabacalera building, and staff in the Mobility Department of Malaga city hall won 28 million euros. Luck also knocked at the door of the councillor for Mobility, Elvira Maeso, who had bought a 'décimo' of the ticket which went on to win the first prize.

In these situations there is normally a hero, somebody who chose the ticket number. In the case of the Mobility Department his name is Manolo, although he prefers not to give his surname. He bought 71198 from the lottery office of his mother, Lina. It was just a gesture, he said, sharing a ticket number as a way of maintaining traditional Christmas customs, but on this occasion it filled his fellow workers with joy. Well, most of them; on this occasion three of them had decided not to take part in the lottery.

Fifth prizes

El Gordo also paid a visit to the Santa Marta district in Cruz del Humilladero, where the Fray Leopoldo ticket office sold a 'décimo' - 400,000 euros - the same amount as the office num-



El Gato Negro sold a fifth prize worth 60,000 euros. :: SALVADOR SALAS

THE FIGURES

128,914,000

euros were won in Malaga province in the Christmas lottery, including El Gordo (the first prize) and four fifth prizes.

75,213,420

euros is the total amount of 'décimos' sold in Malaga - a record figure. In terms of prize money, the Christmas lottery paid out 53.7 million euros more in the province than the total spent by people buying tickets.

ber 40 in La Luz district. 1

As well as the first prize, four of the fifth prizes totalling 114,000 euros were also won in different places in Malaga province. The biggest win, 60,000 euros, was for number 18065 and was sold by the office called El Gato Negro, one of the longest-established in the city, whose clients bought ten 'décimos' of that number.

In Marbella, ticket number 58808 resulted in a win of 6,000 euros for a 'décimo' sold at Venta Los Pacos, on the famous Golden Mile, where there is a tobacconist.

"The number was selected by the machine. We don't normally sell many lottery tickets, but this time we sold that one," say staff there. Also in Marbella, the tobacconist in Calle Tirso de Molina, in Nueva Andalucía, sold ticket number 00580, which won another of the fifth prizes, worth 6,000 euros. A 'décimo' for the same number was also sold by a terminal at La Verónica shopping centre in Antequera, an office in Calle La Bola in Ronda, 'El Axarco de Oro' in Calle Calzada in Torrox and in the kiosk at Tribuna de los Pobres in Malaga city.

Three 'décimos' were also sold for ticket number 22253, two of them in Malaga (in Calle San Bartolomé, in El Molinillo district, and at Esla, in La Virreina), and one in the shopping centre in Rincón de la Victoria.

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Governor praises Gibraltarian unity and harmony in his televised Christmas message

The governor said he had felt humbled in the past year by the unity of purpose and compassion of 'Team Gibraltar'

BY DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. In his Christmas message this year the Governor of Gibraltar, Lieutenant-General Edward Davis, reflected upon the unity and harmonious coexistence among people on the Rock. "My thoughts gravitate, as ever, to the power of Gibraltar's inclusive, respectful and generous multi-faith and multicultural Community. It is something wonderfully reassuring and uplifting to be a part of; and

something that must not go unheralded, as I believe it offers an enlightening example of what makes a positive difference to our beautiful yet troubled world – unity," he said.

"The source of the power of Gibraltarianness became vividly apparent to me during this year's National Day Celebrations when we commemorated the brave and inspired Referendum Generation of 1967...it struck me that Gibraltarianness draws its power from its respected and celebrated heritage. A heritage that is inclusive and reconcilable. A heritage that gives Gibraltar its identity, its belief and its ambition."

His Excellency went on to say that in the past year there have been many times when he had felt humbled by the power of Team Gibraltar's unity of purpose and compassion, but he

especially highlighted Gibraltar's "extraordinary contribution" to the UK's response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which devastated huge swathes of the Caribbean. This ranged from the Gibraltar government's donation of ten all-terrain vehicles, to three days of non-stop harbour and airport operations, the provision of food and building materials by the Rock's business community, and the collection of clothes by local Scouts.

"Everybody did their bit," he said, "because Gibraltar knows, through shared experience, that the only way you get through hard times is to stand together. Misfortune may befall everybody; but good fortune favours a Community that thinks of the collective before the individual."

The governor also paid tribute to army, police and medical personnel.



The Governor of Gibraltar :: SUR

IN BRIEF



Fleur Hassan-Nahoum. :: F.H.-N.

New deputy mayor of Jerusalem is Gibraltarian

GIBRALTAR

BY D. BARTLETT A Gibraltarian lawyer, who is the daughter of former chief minister Sir Joshua Hassan, has been appointed deputy mayor of Jerusalem after serving as a member of Jerusalem City Council since May last year.

In the past, Fleur Hassan-Nahoum has been a campaign direc-

tor for the World Jewish Relief humanitarian agency and, as a strong supporter of women's rights, she has spoken out in the past about the need for women in Jerusalem to have greater political representation.

With regard to her appointment as deputy mayor, Mrs Hassan-Nahoum, whose sister is an independent MP in Gibraltar, posted on Twitter that she will work hard for the good of Jerusalem, "our eternal capital."

New Year Classical Concert on Thursday

GIBRALTAR

BY D. BARTLETT The traditional New Year Classical Concert will take place at the John Mackintosh hall Theatre on Thursday, 4 January, at 8.30pm. It will be performed by the European Sinfonietta, conducted by Wouter Padberg. Tickets cost £20 and can be acquired from Sacarellos's Coffee Shop in Irish Town, the Silver Shop at 222 Main Street, the Gibraltar Philharmonic Society (by phoning 200 72134) or at www.philharmonic.gi.

Successful search and rescue operation

GIBRALTAR

BY D.B. Two Spanish men are safe and well after being rescued when their yacht was reported in difficulties close to Gibraltar. The incident occurred during the evening of 21 December. At 11.05pm the yacht was located, but nobody was on board. In a subsequent search two people were spotted drifting at sea; they were recovered and brought to land, and after being treated for hypothermia in hospital, they were able to return to their families.

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Armchair animalistas 'pass the buck'

On Christmas Day, ADANA the Estepona dog rehoming centre, was happy to be able to welcome so many volunteers to help clean the pens, walk our dogs and help give them their special Christmas Dinner, paid for by a donation from a generous benefactor.

How sad, then, that as well as all the goodwill, we received messages from a couple of disgruntled members of the public asking why we had not taken action over the case of serious abuse of dogs in the El Padrón area of Estepona.

First of all, it has to be said that ADANA was only made aware of this abuse after people living nearby and others had actually seen the poor dogs at first hand. Nobody actually contacted ADANA to tell us about it. But if they had done so, ADANA could have done no more than any member of the public. People need to be aware that ADANA is not a Spanish version of the RSPCA. We have no inspectors with powers to enter premises and remove dogs. Which raises the question: why did none of these people who had witnessed the abuse not made a formal denuncia to the authorities, in this case the Guardia Civil or its animal protection branch, Seprona?

'Complaints' had been made to the police, we were told, but no action taken. The fact is that until someone is prepared to make an official complaint in the form of a signed statement, no action CAN be taken.

So instead of doing the right thing, a few people criticised ADANA for not acting. It seems to be all too common these days, passing the buck, expecting someone else to take action on your behalf. ADANA is used to these 'armchair animalistas', as we call them, people who ring us and tell us what dreadful things they have seen but won't do anything themselves.

ADANA is a small charity which at any one time cares for, and finds homes for, over a hundred unwanted dogs. We wish we could do more to intervene in these cases of cruelty and neglect but we as an organisation simply can't. We don't have the power.

So my New Year's Wish would be that every one of us becomes more aware of our personal responsibility to act in the face of evil and not pass by on the other side and leave it to others.

MARY PAGE, PRESIDENT ADANA
BY EMAIL

Catalan indecision
affects us all

It is hard to imagine that we might be in for another several months, indeed years, of the stand off in Catalonia between people that want to be free of Spain and people who believe that they are already free in Spain.

None of us in Spain can live unaffected by these pressures. It seems most unfair that a small portion of our country can hold such immovable opinions that could drag down all of us.

But of course it is not just one small group but two. On one hand we have the Catalan people who want to go it alone - they say the further from Barcelona you live in Catalonia and the more grandparents you

have with 'native' Catalan surnames, the more likely you are to vote leave. On the other hand we have a hard core of people in Madrid who believe that the Spanish constitution can never be changed ever. I am too scared to think what their common characteristics might be.

Either group is a long way from us both in geography and in personality, so it is time we all stood up and did what it is that we are constantly being told we should all do as good citizens: Be tolerant, accepting and multicultural.

Our wonderful lives here in Andalucía are too precious to have many more months of this Catalan indecision.

J. PÉREZ BLANCO
MARBELLA

New Year's revolution

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Two thousand and eighteen has a nice ring to it; let's hope it's a good sign and the new year brings us all joy and wonder in equal measure. As is the custom at this time, I thought I'd offer some predictions for the next twelve months.

In the world of politics, Donald Trump will continue to approach the delicate nuances of international diplomacy using the tried and trusted bull/china shop technique favoured also by Boris Johnson. People who may or may not be wearing home-made pink hats by this point will look on aghast, either whimpering or screeching - depending on their lifestyle choices - 'I literally can't believe this is literally happening! Literally!' Then they'll all go home.

The Brexit process will grind on as excruciatingly as Manchester United's footballing development - ostensibly making progress but not offering any tangible or worthwhile results. The faces of Theresa

May and Jose Mourinho will sport identical bewildered-yet-doggedly-determined expressions until they're eventually sacked or, alternatively, keel over in a heap calling out for their mothers.

Talking of sport, cyclists will continue to go about their business with little clouds of suspicion hanging over their heads like those sad people in the old cartoons used to have hovering just above them. Footballers will show all the grace and charm we've come to expect, wear the word 'respect' on their shirts while showing none to anybody including themselves and point to the skies after scoring a goal, presumably confusing 'heaven' with 'haven' in a botched attempt to show their accountants where to send the old spondulicks. England will flatter to deceive at the world cup and lose in the last sixteen.

As far as social media is concerned, echo chambers will become ever more prevalent as people con-

tinue to unfriend anyone who says anything remotely out of kilter with regard to their narrow world view. This means that by the end of the year only those who like the same foodstuffs will remain virtually connected and TwitFace will consist solely of pictures of the same six dishes being interchanged between friends, each sect unaware that that are five other plates of food doing the rounds among groups of people they'll never come across unless they bump cars in a supermarket car park somewhere.

Finally, in music, Ed Sheeran will hold the top one hundred chart spots for the next twelve months and beyond, continuing to delight us with tales of how his bed sheets smell and dueting with anyone whose flagging career needs a bit of a boost - so, be sure to look out for ear-pleasing Trump, May and Mourinho collaborations from the ginger warblemeister in 2018.

A very happy new year to you all.

PACHI



Putting off the kilos

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

Although the link between cancer and obesity is more than proven scientifically, it seems that people still don't recognise the importance of reducing kilos in order to lengthen life. While in the so-called Third World, people continue to die of hunger, in the more developed nations the grim reaper grabs hold of fat and ends many lives ahead of time.

The medical director of oncology at the Carlos Haya and Clínico hospitals in Malaga, Emilio Alba, spelt it out a few weeks ago; obesity is the second biggest cause of cancer worldwide.

Many of those tumours could be avoided by eating healthier food and doing more exercise to

reduce weight and calories. The problem is that many people don't lift a finger and stuff themselves with fattening products. Based on the data we have available, being sedentary kills more often than going to war. Those who spend their days stuck on the sofa are much more at risk of suffering from cancer, a heart complication or a metabolic disorder. They are cannon fodder for illnesses that could be avoided.

Our organism, a perfect machine indeed, is constantly under attack from our own imperfections. By going against advice we are doing it no favours. As it always seems somebody else's problem or misfortune, we continue to go from bad to worse.

The good news is that there is

a solution. There is a way out but we have to make an effort and, on one hand, eat better and make use of the Mediterranean diet and, on the other hand, practice something as simple as going for a daily walk at a pace a little less slower than a tortoise. It's worth knowing that, as Doctor Alba has highlighted, physical exercise and a healthy diet are as important in the fight against cancer as are drugs and treatments.

We must overcome the idea that running is for cowards and build sport into our daily lives. Go to work on foot, don't forget that in buildings, as well as lifts, there are stairs to go up and down on, give the sofa a rest or do a quick morning circuit of the gym. All these are habits that can have a positive effect on our health.

The icing on the cake would be if we also consumed more fruit and vegetables than processed meat, shop-bought pastries and sugary drinks.

So there you have it; move around more - it's better to spend the money on shoes than on medicine.

SUR English

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New Year's resolutions: a 4,000-year-old pledge to self-improvement

It is believed that the Babylonians were the first to make New Year's resolutions around 4,000 years ago, and people all over the world have been making, and breaking, them ever since.

== TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. As the old year comes to a close and we begin to embrace the new one, many of us will be thinking about our New Year's resolutions, even though the majority of them will have fallen by the wayside by the second week of January.

A New Year's resolution is a tradition most common in the Western Hemisphere in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait to accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their life in the year ahead. Resolutions come in many forms and are usually undertaken to help one quit a bad habit such as smoking, while others make pledges to develop a positive approach to a strict exercise programme or learning a new language.

Religious parallels

During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashanah, one is to reflect upon one's wrongdoing over the year and seek and offer forgiveness. The concept, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.

It is believed that the Babylonians were the first to make New Year's resolutions around 4,000 years ago, and people all over the world have been making, and breaking,

them ever since. New Year's Day celebrations began in pre-Christian times, beginning with the Babylonians, who celebrated the New Year in March. March was a logical time for the New Year because spring begins and crops are planted. But the Babylonians had a greater motivation to stick to their promises than what we have today, because keeping their promise would mean that their gods would bestow their grace on them throughout the course of the following twelve months.

The practice carried over into Roman times with worshippers offering resolutions of good conduct to the two-faced deity named Janus, the god of beginnings and endings who looks backward into the old year and forward into the new one. January is named after Janus, also the patron and protector of bridges, gates and doorways, and the Romans believed good luck would bless those who touched his head.

The Romans usually made resolutions with a moral flavor, but when the Empire accepted Christianity as its official state religion in the fourth century, the Feast of Circumcision began to be celebrated on January 1. The circumcision of Jesus has traditionally

88 per cent of those who make New Year resolutions fail because they set themselves unrealistic goals

been seen as the first time the blood of Christ was shed, and thus the beginning of the process of the redemption of man.

Early Christian beliefs

Early Christians believed the first day of the New Year should be spent reflecting on past mistakes and resolving to improve oneself in the coming year. During watchnight services, many Christians prepared for the year ahead by praying and making these resolutions.

During the Medieval period, the Knights took the Peacock Vow. Supposedly, one by one, during the last feast of the Christmas week, the knights would place their hands on a roasted peacock and recommit themselves to the ideals of chivalry.

These noble birds perfectly represented the splendour and majesty of kings and their plumage was considered the richest ornament with which they could deck the crowns.

The Puritans

In the 17th century, the Puritans avoided the indulgences associated with Christmas and New Year's celebrations and they even avoided using the name January, instead, referring to it as the First Month.

The Puritans urged people to avoid the revelry and spend their time reflecting on the past year and contemplating the year to come. In this way, they adopted the old custom of making resolutions, but they were enumerated as commitments to better employ their talents, treat their neighbors with charity, and avoid their habitual sins.

The American revivalist preacher, philosopher and Protestant theologian, Jonathan Edwards, comprised a list of 70 resolutions on various aspects of life. These included never speaking anything but the pure and simple verity, never to speak evil of anyone, and to always maintain and establish peace.



The tradition of making resolutions is 4,000 years old. == SUR

Today, little has changed, but rather than making promises to gods, we make promises to ourselves. Since we cannot possibly rain the wrath of the gods down on ourselves as punishment for not keeping our promises, it need not surprise us that sooner or later we fail in staying true to our words.

Today, little has changed, but rather than making promises to gods, we make promises to ourselves. Since we cannot possibly rain the wrath of the gods down on ourselves as punishment for not keeping our promises, it need not surprise us that sooner or later we fail in staying true to our words.

Choosing realistic goals

A study carried out by the University of Bristol involving 3,000 people showed that 88 per cent of those who set New Year resolutions failed, despite the fact that 52 per cent of the study's participants were confident

of success at the beginning.

The most common reason for participants failing their New Year's resolutions was setting themselves unrealistic goals and not keeping track of their progress, while one in ten respondents claimed they simply made too many resolutions.

So, when we have finished singing Auld Lang Syne -and bid farewell to the old year at the stroke of midnight - we should remember that when resolutions are too ambitious, we become discouraged when we fail and ultimately give up altogether.

It is claimed that resolutions are made to be broken, although we often rely on this premise to justify our failings.

So instead of making hard-line resolutions this year, try small, incremental resolutions, for they will have a much greater chance of creating real lifestyle change.

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SOCIETY SCENE

Helping others is what Christmas is all about

Charity fairs, fundraising dinners and collecting for the homeless; clubs and schools have been working hard to make sure no one was left out this Christmas

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

La Cala Lions Winter comfort for the homeless

Julie Barry, the President of the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, recently presented Martha Lucia Rivera Ávila of Lux Mundi with a collection of men's and ladies' underwear and socks for the homeless people of Fuengirola.

These brand-new items were all donated at the Lions Christmas Party and their Shop Volunteers' Lunch, both held at El Olivo restaurant in La Cala. They were collected in response to an appeal from Lux Mundi which receives frequent donations of outer wear for the local homeless, but rarely receives any underwear or socks. Lux Mundi, located at Calle Nueva 3 in Fuengirola (telephone 952 47 48 40), will always welcome any donations of underwear or outer wear to help the homeless.

The Lions Charity shop (in Calle Torremolinos 12) now has a wide selection of high-quality winter clothes available at very reasonable prices. They also urgently need some more volunteers any time between Monday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. The shop's telephone number is 677 059 061.

British International School Marbella

Christmas charity fair

Parents, teachers and children helped raise more than 1,000 euros for charity during a Christmas Fair at the British International School of Marbella last week. Father Christmas made an appearance during the event, which also featured a number of stalls, a raffle and pony rides.

The money raised is being donated to the charity Hogar Betania, a hostel run by volunteers that cares for homeless people in La Línea. Emma Watkins, head of administration at the BISM, offered "a great big thank you to everyone who helped with the fair".

In addition to the funds raised, 118 presents were collected for underprivileged children who use the charity. After the Christmas Fair, some teachers made their way to Hogar Betania to give the presents to volunteers who will deliver them to locals on 6 January.

As well as looking after the homeless, the charity also provides food to about 520 underprivileged families and tries to put local young people into apprenticeships.

Age Concern Estepona / Manilva

A thank you to the volunteers

Age Concern, Estepona and Manilva, has had a hectic year with the separation of San Pedro and Marbella into new Age Concern organisations, the establishment of strong working links with the Duquesa Charitable Society of Saint George in Sabinillas, and the increase in the number of complex cases referred to them.

They admit that their volunteers



Children and parents at one of the stalls at the BISM fair. :: SUR



La Cala Lions Christmas party. :: SUR



The Soroptimists preparing parcels with Red Cross members. :: SUR

and supporters have been invaluable and held a lunch for them recently at El Hatillo in Estepona.

Volunteers are always welcome at Age Concern; if you are interested in becoming one or need some help yourself, email ageconcernestepona@gmail.com or call the help line on 650 163 928. Please note this number is not for emergencies.

Soroptimist International Helping families in Mijas

Soroptimist International Costa del Sol prepared 180 special festive season parcels at the Red Cross for families in need in Mijas. The association raised funds at the Christmas Market in Centro Idea and received donations from the Malaga CF supporter's club La Peña de Dinamarca, and the Danish Church Margrethekirken.

"We have been collaborating with the Red Cross in Mijas for seven years and are very grateful for the fantastic donations from our contacts - they make it possible to help the local families," said Daphne Theunissen, treasurer of Soroptimist International Costa del Sol, who also thanked the GM Cash&Carry in Mijas for giving the association good prices to buy all the products that went into the parcels. The parcels were handed out just before Christmas.

Soroptimists are professionals and business women who work together at local, national and international levels to educate, enable and empower women and girls with an aim to improving their lives. Soroptimist International Costa del Sol is part of a strong international network of around 75,000 women in 132 different countries. Visit www.soroptimist.es or search 'Soroptimist International Costa del Sol' on Facebook.

What are you up to?

If you are involved in a club or association and planning events, trips or activities that would be of interest to other readers of SUR in English, we would love to hear from you:

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MINDY BURROWS



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

29 DECEMBER 1170

The death of Thomas Becket, the 'turbulent priest'

Saint Thomas of Canterbury is perhaps one of the best known martyrs of today, with a complex and tragic tale of religion, friendship, and betrayal leading to his canonisation and the celebration of this day, 29 December, as his Saint's Day.

Thomas Becket became Lord Chancellor in 1155, as then Archbishop of Canterbury Theobald of Bec, recommended him for the post to King Henry II after serving as Archdeacon of Canterbury for a year. As part of this role, Becket had to foster the King's son, Henry, for some time and the younger Henry was reported to have said that he was shown more fatherly love in one day from Thomas Becket than his father showed him for his entire life. His kindness was not unnoticed by others, being described as "sweet and

pleasant in conversation, amiable in his manners" by a monk of Canterbury who worked with Becket.

It was during Becket's time as Lord Chancellor that he and Henry II's friendship began. When Becket was made Archbishop of Canterbury on 23 May 1162, following the death of Theobald, the king hoped that their close, personal friendship would mean that the new archbishop continued to put the royal family first, ahead of the church. There was fierce opposition from within the clergy at this choice for the new Archbishop of Canterbury as Thomas Becket was not a monk. Nevertheless, the king was insistent and the members of the church reluctantly accepted.

However, giving his close friend and confidante a position of power within the church did not go as well for King Henry II as he had



Becket and the church dedicated to him in Salamanca. :: WIKIMEDIA

intended. After becoming archbishop, Becket renounced his former life of pleasures and became a serious, simply-dressed cleric. Within this great change, he stopped aiding the king and putting the royal's interests first and started championing ecclesiastical rights.

A rift grew between the former friends and Becket resigned his chancellorship. Henry II attempted to influence the other bishops against Becket in October 1163 when he sought approval of the traditional rights of the royal government in regard to the church.

He received approval from every bishop except Becket.

In 1170, Becket excommunicated three bishops who crowned Henry the Young King, a job done by the archbishop. He then went on to excommunicate his opponents within the church. Upon hearing this, King Henry was furious and uttered his immortal words "will no one rid me of this turbulent priest" (although his exact words are subject to debate), and four knights set out to confront Becket. When he refused their demands to go to Winchester to meet the king, the knights

assassinated him.

After his death, people began venerating Thomas Becket as a martyr and he was canonised by Pope Alexander III in 1173. In 1174, Henry made a pilgrimage to Thomas Becket's tomb and publicly wept and repented.

There are several churches and chapels dedicated to the 'turbulent priest' in Spain, including the Iglesia de Santo Tomás Cantuariense in Salamanca and the Vegas de Matute church in Segovia.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Cura	Priest
Mártir	Martyr
Traición	Betrayal
Arzobispo	Archbishop
Capilla	Chapel
Peregrinaje	Pilgrimage
Caballero	Knight
Monje	Monk
Fidelidad	Loyalty
Arrepentirse	To regret
Excomulgar	To excommunicate
Venerar	To worship
Santo	Saint
Consagrado	Consecrated
Santuario	Shrine
Asesinar	To assassinate

THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL

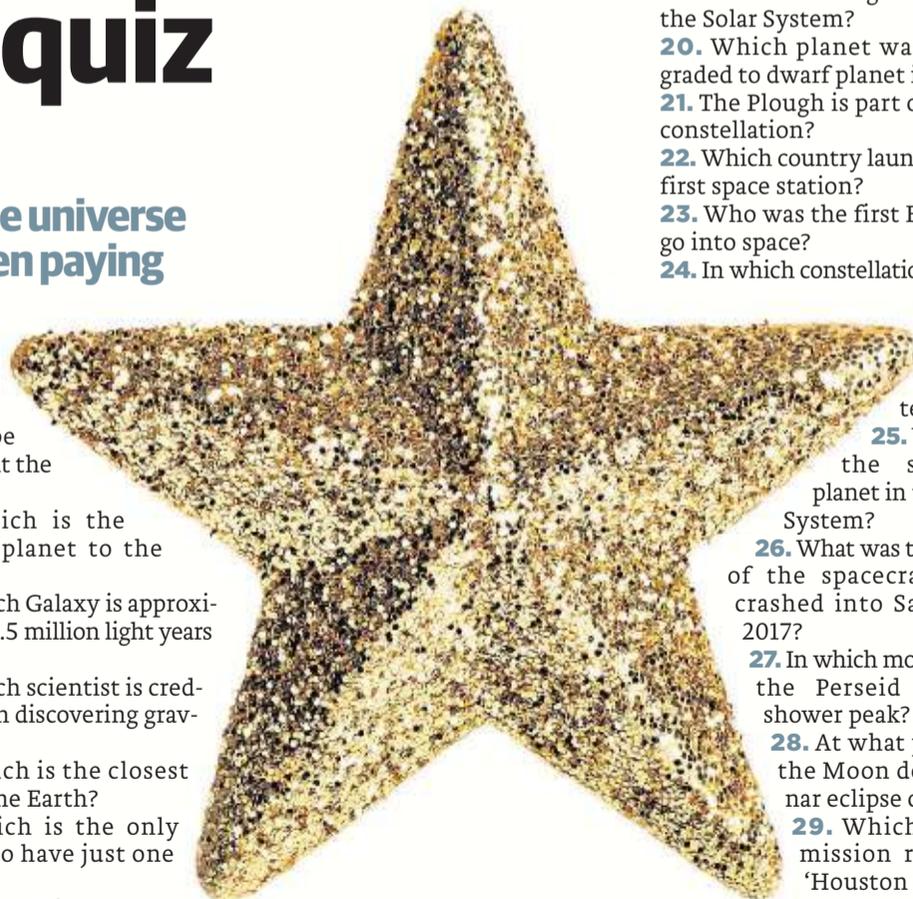


A festive quiz

Test your knowledge of the universe and whether you have been paying attention this year!

1. What is the furthest planet from the Sun?
2. Which is the largest planet?
3. What is the proper name for the North Star?
4. Which is the brightest star in the night sky?
5. Which is the 'Red Planet'?
6. Which was the last mission to land on the Moon?
7. Approximately how far is the Sun from the Earth?
8. In which month does the Spring Equinox occur?
9. What was the name of the first space satellite?
10. Which planet has two Moons called Phobos and Deimos?
11. Between which two planets is the main asteroid belt?
12. Who was the first person to

13. use a telescope to look at the stars?
13. Which is the closest planet to the Earth?
14. Which Galaxy is approximately 2.5 million light years away?
15. Which scientist is credited with discovering gravity?
16. Which is the closest star to the Earth?
17. Which is the only planet to have just one moon?
18. On which planet would you find The Great Red Spot?



19. Which is the largest moon in the Solar System?
20. Which planet was downgraded to dwarf planet in 2006?
21. The Plough is part of which constellation?
22. Which country launched the first space station?
23. Who was the first Briton to go into space?
24. In which constellation would you find the star Betelgeuse?
25. Which is the smallest planet in the Solar System?
26. What was the name of the spacecraft that crashed into Saturn in 2017?
27. In which month does the Perseid meteor shower peak?
28. At what phase of the Moon does a lunar eclipse occur?
29. Which Apollo mission reported 'Houston we have a problem'?
30. Which planet has a moon called Titan?

Quiz answers

1. Neptune
2. Jupiter
3. Polaris
4. Sirius
5. Mars
6. Apollo 17
7. 93 million miles
8. March
9. Sputnik 1
10. Mars
11. Mars and Jupiter
12. Galileo
13. Venus
14. The Andromeda Galaxy
15. Isaac Newton
16. The Sun
17. Earth
18. Jupiter
19. Ganymede
20. Pluto
21. Ursa Major or Great Bear
22. USSR
23. Helen Sharmman
24. Orion
25. Mercury
26. Cassini
27. August
28. Full moon
29. Apollo 13
30. Saturn.

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IN THE FRAME

JENNIE RHODES
✉ rhodes.jennie@hotmail.com

Lots of love and hugs for good causes

Steffi Goddard Artist

LoveHugs has been raising money for charities in Spain and the UK for over a decade

Steffi Goddard invited people at the last evening of the Acompalia art exhibition in Motril on 16 December to decorate a heart which will form part of a bigger painting to be donated to the charity. For each heart she asked for a donation which will also go to the palliative care organisation.

Steffi started the idea of LoveHug over 10 years ago and soon had the idea to use her creations to raise money for charity. She explains that this will be her fifth LoveHug charity project and first in Spain.

The artist has worked on three such projects; two for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and one for the Eve Appeal, which raises money and awareness of the five gynaecological cancers (ovarian, womb, cervical, vaginal and vulval).

The artist also designs her own LoveHugs to sell and for each design sold she donates a percentage of the sale to a chosen charity. This year that charity is Acompalia.

LoveHugs

Steffi explains that she has been using her "passion for art and painting" to raise money and awareness for various charities. Her first project, for The British Heart Foundation, was when the idea of community LoveHugs was born.

"I designed a very large LoveHug to be painted at a community event by anyone who made a donation to the charity," she



LoveHug canvas auctioned for the BHF. :: STEFFI GODDARD

Making art for Acompalia

✉ J. RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR Steffi Goddard isn't the only artist who supports the work of Acompalia. In fact a whole host of international artists based in Granada province and beyond, back the charity which is based in the province. La Alpujarra region of Granada, which is made up of a series of mountain villages, such as Lanjarón, Capi-

leira and Órgiva, is a magnet for artists from all over Europe.

Other well-known names who are based there and who support Acompalia's work include Kitty Harri whose sculpture garden is familiar to many people in Malaga and Granada, as well as Annabel Keatley who runs a gallery and shop in Almuñécar and who hand makes paper.

says. When the canvas was complete, she explains, it was auctioned to raise more funds and the image went on to be used for merchandising and promotion.

"The event was so successful, I have since designed and organised the painting of a further three community LoveHug paintings," she adds. Others have been donated to The Heatherwood Hos-

pital cardiology department in Ascot, Berkshire, The Eve Appeal, and the painting now hangs in the UCLH Clinical Research Facility of the Royal Marsden Hospital in London.

An unplanned move

Steffi and her husband, Steve, moved to Spain permanently in 2009, having bought an old farm-



Steffi uses her passion for art and painting to raise money for different charities

house in Sabariego, Jaén, in 2005. But Steffi says, the house "needed a complete reform" before the couple could live out here.

She explains that their decision to move to Spain came from finding an old cortijo that they "fell in love with" and decided to restore it: "It was joint idea and when we found the house we both had the same vision for it."

Moving to Spain wasn't really something that Steffi and Steve had thought about before but when they found the cortijo they both knew that it was meant to be. "It was a moment of serendipity when we found Cortijo Las Salinas," says Steffi, adding that the couple plan to stay here for the foreseeable future.

Family

They have since been joined in Spain by their son, Jamie, and his wife Bianca who came to the country with plans to continue to travel but when they discovered that they were expecting their daughter, Teegan, they also decided to stay. "Teegan is my first grandchild," Steffi, the doting grandmother, beams, clearly delighted about her son and daughter-in-law's decision to stay nearby.

Steffi, 46, is originally from London and has been painting for over 30 years. She says that she has "collaborated on corporate installations, organised many art projects for schools and art groups and have led fundraising art projects for charity events".

"I am inspired by the landscape and the realities of nature," she says. She works with oil paints or watercolour. "Colours are like words for me," she says, adding, "I love living in Spain for many reasons and I would say the light on the land and sea has made my work more exciting due to the colours I now bring into my work."

Steffi has exhibited and taken part in a number of exhibitions, including her own, as well as art fairs both in the UK - mainly in Berkshire - and since moving here in Spain, notably at the Marbella Art fair and her own exhibitions.

i Further information:
www.lovehugs.co.uk

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GARDENING

Fuchsia paniculata

There are over a hundred species of Fuchsia across the world ranging from ground cover to shrubs and trees

The Fuchsia genus is native to Tahiti, New Zealand and the West Indies as well as Central and South America. Millions of years ago these countries were all part of the land mass known as Gondwana and when it started to divide into continents and drift apart, the fuchsia genus began to develop into the

over one hundred different species recognised today. The genus includes ground hugging plants, shrubs and trees; some very different than the Fuchsia that most gardeners are familiar with.

Fuchsia paniculata, native to Mexico and Panama, is

one such species. It has panicles of pendulous pink or purple flowers which are followed by edible, black berries in the late autumn. In ideal conditions it can grow to reach 6-8 metres tall by 3-4 metres wide but can be chopped back hard to keep it a more manageable size.

The best time for pruning is the early spring as the flowers form on the new growth. F. paniculata is deciduous and from spring until late autumn will have glossy, green leaves which sometimes have red veins and stems. In milder climates it may keep its leaves and will possibly flower all year round.

Like most species of Fuchsia, F. paniculata is not hardy, although it will withstand short periods of frost. It is not drought resistant either, and will need regular watering during the hottest months. The best situation for this attractive shrub is somewhere where it will receive some dappled shade during the summer and protection from strong winds and frost in the winter. It will also need lots of space to attain its full potential.

As mentioned before, F. paniculata can be cut back hard in early spring which is a good time of the year to also cut out some of the old wood to encourage plenty of new growth and ensure lots of flowers.

Propagation is by seed or soft wood or semi-ripe wood cuttings taken during the growing season.



Fuchsia paniculata and the winter berries (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

READER'S PHOTO



:: JENNIE GILES

A LATE BLOOMER

SUR in English reader Jennie Giles sent in this photo of a camellia which is continuing to bloom despite it being nearly January. Many people have sent in photos of spring bulbs already blooming and a couple of months ago, an apple tree with blossom.



:: ANN PENNINGTON

FOOD FOR THE BIRDS

Quince are great for making jams, adding to stewed apples and the Spanish favourite, 'carne de membrillo' which is a sweet, thick jelly sliced and eaten with strong cheese. Alternatively, leave them on the tree and watch the birds feast on them.

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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While Bermuda may look like one island, it is in fact an archipelago made up of more than 120. ::

GOTBERMUDA.COM



ANDREW FORBES

✉ Twitter: @andrewforbes

The room sparkled with refracted light, creating colourful reflections from the elegant crystal perfume bottles that filled the antique cabinets and covered the polished mahogany tables. Beside me the shelves of an alcove were laden with cobalt blue bottles filled with essential oils and essences evocative of these island - cedar, jasmine, magnolia, Easter lily; even salty sea spray.

Island scents

The Bermuda Perfumery, founded in the 1920s, is housed in a historic colonial building in the Unesco town of St George, one of the oldest settlements in the Americas. My curiosity drew me in, beyond the building's white-washed walls and pastel-coloured shutters, to the low-beamed ceiling of the ground floor. I had entered the compelling world of fragrance.

Within a small cedar box, I saw a perfume bottle with the patina of age. Embossed in the glass were four words, one above the other: Piesse and Lubin London. As I examined the vintage bottle, a fresh scent was sprayed onto a brilliant white testing strip, and the air became filled with the scents of citrus, orange blossom, and the allure of musk. I am told this is the fragrance 'Mary Celestia'. The perfumer begins telling me a story; I am about to be captivated by one of the island's most extraordinary stories.

St George is chockful of British colonial charm dating back to the 17th century: the narrow streets and lanes are lined with white-washed buildings, punctuated by a few pastel-coloured homes of peppermint green, warm peach and aquamarine. All have one thing in common - white terraced roofs, that I believe are unique to these islands. Glistening like icing on a wedding cake, they are more than just an architectural oddity, but an effective means for residents to capture valuable rain water for storage throughout the year.

A history lesson

This area is where Bermuda's history really began. The small group of islands are said to have been discovered by accident in 1505 by the Spanish explorer Juan de Bermúdez, who was sailing from the Andalusian port of Cadiz towards Mexico. Although he was to give his name to the islands, they were not to be settled for another century. It was the Brits that took the islands, when Admiral Sir George Somers in 1609 steered his trading vessel Sea Venture onto one of the islands reefs to prevent it being sunk during a storm. Once safely on land the crew were to build new ships from the island's

abundant cedar trees. Yet some of the sailors stayed behind to make Bermuda their home. In 1612 the town of St George was established and the rest, as they say, is history.

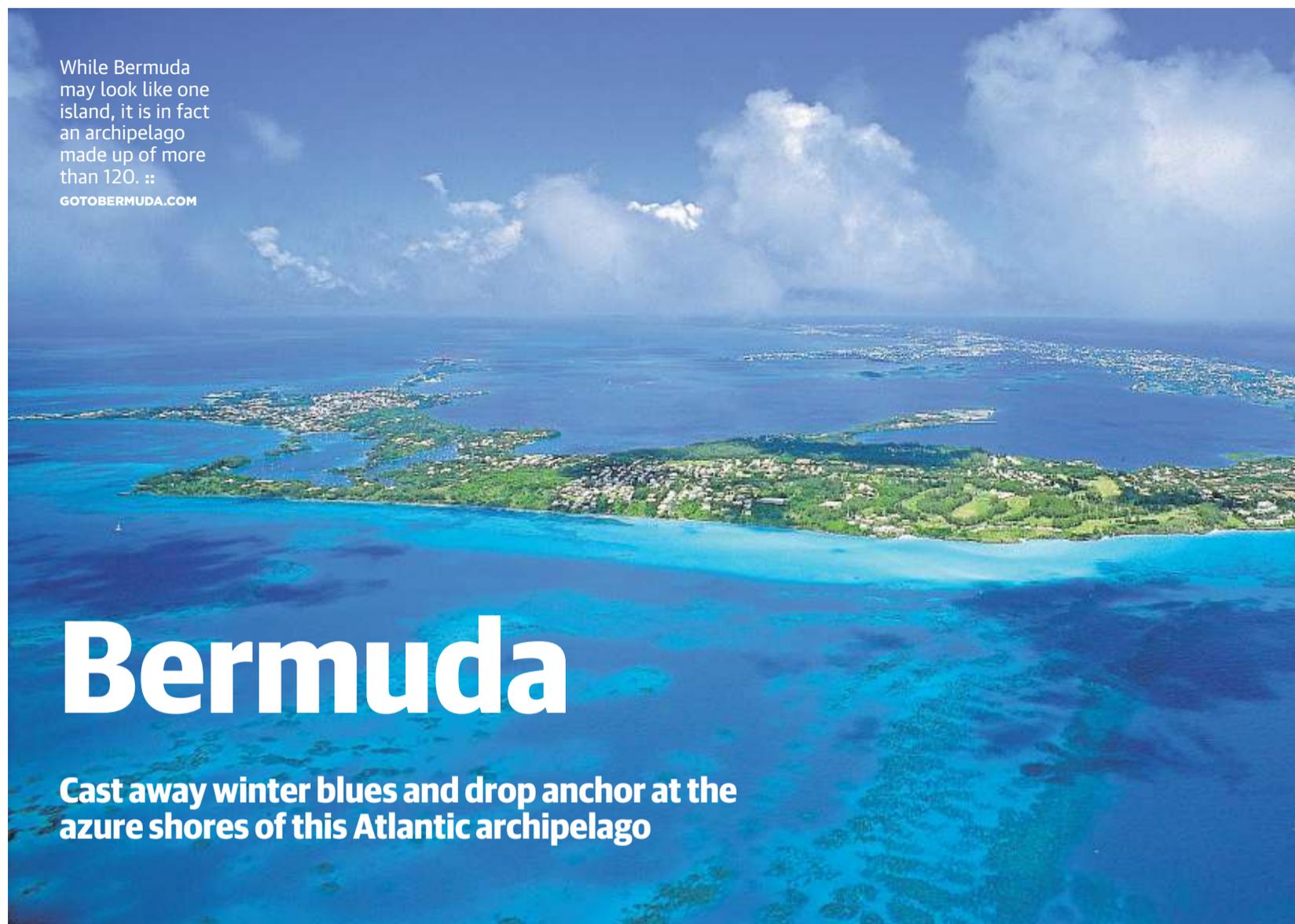
Yet a holiday on Bermuda isn't just about the tales of shipwrecks, pirates, the infamous Bermuda Triangle or British colonial history. The chances are that the biggest draw for visitors remains the fine, coral pink sandy beaches of this cluster of beautiful Atlantic islands. Close to St George is Tobacco Bay, a truly stunning coastline of craggy limestone rocks sheltering tiny sandy coves. They are idyllic and even more so when enjoyed sit-

ting on a romantically ramshackle wooden pier, your feet in the warm, clear water while you sip a signature Dark 'n Stormy Bermuda cocktail made from the island's famous Gosling's Black Seal Rum.

Island adventures

There's something so enchanting about an island holiday - the notion of escaping from reality, ensconced in a secluded private world. Yet modern day castaways demand more than just cocktails and sunsets for a perfect island holiday - a fact that Bermuda understands well.

Across the island are family-run



Bermuda

Cast away winter blues and drop anchor at the azure shores of this Atlantic archipelago

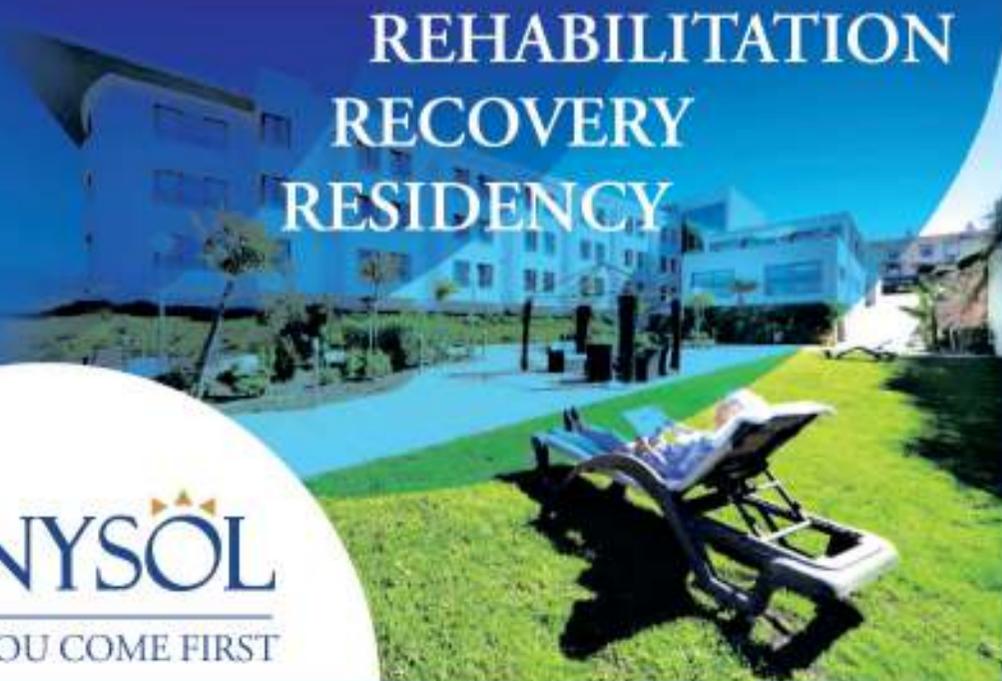
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taxis and mopeds as the most popular way to get around. Yet that has all changed now with the introduction of these super-cool twin seaters that make navigating the island's winding lanes and highways one of the highlights of a trip.

Bermuda feels like a village. As you drive the highways expect to see residents waving at each other, and tooting their horns in recognition. It's a relaxed, laid-back vibe that is pure Bermudian, and all the more enthralling as part of a culture that is a fascinating mix of British and American, old and new, rich history and a modern economy.

Viewed on a map, Bermuda appears shaped like a fish hook; and although one might think of it as one island, the truth is that the archipelago is made up of more than 120. The handful of main islands are connected by road bridges and a causeway so, for the adventurous Twizy explorer, that means there's plenty to discover from Somerset Village and the Royal Naval Dockyard in the west, through the central parishes and the stunning South Shore, to historic St George in the East End.

It was in St George that I had parked up my Twizy electric car, and started wondering the historic lanes, falling upon the Perfumery where I was enthralled by the Mary Celestia scent.

Mary Celestia

As I inhaled the fresh fragrance of grapefruit and bergamot, I listened to the extraordinary story of this Bermuda perfume. The Mary Celestia was running the blockade of the US Civil War in the 1860s when it was hit by a Tempest-style storm and sank near South Shore, Bermuda. Despite a manifest stating a cargo of food, uniforms and munitions, the ship was in fact also



Bermuda very much has a village feel. :: SUR



South Shore beach. :: GOTOBERMUDA.COM

carrying luxury items from Europe. These included wine, as well as fine perfume from Piesse and Lubin London – a luxury perfumery that was once found on Bond Street.

Fast forward some 150 years and divers have recovered cargo from the wreck. Although the wine brought back from the seabed was spoiled, the seal on a perfume bottle was intact – a small air bubble

remained in the bottle as it would have been when it was packaged in the 1860s.

The perfume bottle was taken to the Bermuda Perfumery, and shared with the owner Isabelle Ramsay-Brackstone, who is the head perfumer of Lili Bermuda. With the help of contemporary scientific equipment in the US, it was possible to ascertain the ingredients of the scent. Although some

elements are no longer available, remarkably, the scent has been recreated, and christened the Mary Celestia eau de parfum.

It's an elegant metaphor for Bermuda – islands where life is irrevocably tied to the oceans, where the culture is mix of Europe and the Americas, and where colonial history blends with contemporary life. Like this beautiful scent, Bermuda is captivating.

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THE INSIDER GUIDE

Bermuda



Tobacco Bay.

:: ANDREW FORBES

Bermuda, a British Overseas Territory, is an Atlantic archipelago of sub-tropical islands famous for beaches of fine, coral-pink sand and clear azure waters - and plenty of British colonial charm.

STAY:

Rosedon Hotel

This quintessentially Bermudian property will quickly immerse you in the pace of island life. The feel is homey, friendly and boutique. Expect restored original features, elegant furnishings and contemporary amenities such as free Wi-Fi, flatscreen TVs, and A/C.

Afternoon tea is served each day for guests on the veranda; whilst the Huckleberry Restaurant, open to non-residents, has a menu inspired by the American south, Mediterranean and local Bermudian flavours.

Rosedon.com

The Loren

This stylish, contemporary resort recently opened on Pink Beach. This is the choice for a thoroughly upscale castaway experience, with luxury guest suites and villas with oceanfront terraces or balconies that look out across the endless blue of the Atlantic. The Loren Hotel is also close to the prestigious Tucker's Point Golf Course. Chef Tim Sullivan is the



RosedonHotel.

talent in the kitchen, serving the fine-dining Marée Restaurant open to non-residents.

TheLorenHotel.com

Holiday Rentals

Bermuda is mixing things up in the accommodation sector, with a wider range of registered property rentals available for guests in 2018. A dedicated portal is available to search oceanside homes, apartments as well as cottages like 'The Loft' in the heart of historic, Unesco St George.

BermudaRentals.com

Grotto Bay Beach Resort & Spa

The all-inclusive Grotto Bay Beach Resort & Spa offers smart accommodation in a landscaped, oceanside setting. Holidays include casual and fine dining, an English-style afternoon tea, theme night buffets and all drinks. Activities such as tennis and watersports are covered too.

GrottoBay.com

EAT:

The Flame

This oceanside, family-style casual diner is the place for a truly authentic Sunday brunch of a Bermuda codfish breakfast, with delicious homemade sweet butter onion sauce (or fried tomato sauce), boiled potatoes, sliced banana, avocado and hard-boiled eggs.

Facebook.com/TheFlameBermuda

Art Mel's Spicy Dicy

Eat like a local: try a fried fish sandwich! Near to Hamilton is this popular hole-in-the-wall eatery offering generous sweet raisin bread sandwiches of crispy fried fish, with plenty of homemade tartar sauce or coleslaw. Tastes even better with a can of local ginger beer.

Swizzle Inn

Probably Bermuda's oldest and best known pub, and said to be the place where the island's signature cocktail, the Rum Swizzle was created. It's close to the airport, so a good place to stop off for a final tippie before boarding a flight home.

SwizzleInn.com

Marcus'

This is the elegant and smart cocktail bar and restaurant by renowned chef Marcus Samuelsson. Innovative modern cuisine, complemented by a dynamic bar where you can enjoy live music. Fabulous setting with eye-popping contemporary art that competes for attention with the spectacular views - part of the Hamilton Princess resort.

TheHamiltonPrincess.com/dining/marcus/

Tobacco Bay Beach Bar & Restaurant

In a stunning location, an area of outstanding natural beauty, is this cool bar restaurant. It's the place to go for a relaxed Bermuda beach vibe. Great outside deck overlooking the bay; simple, tasty family-friendly fare and great cocktails. Order a frozen Dark 'n Stormy with local Gosling's Black Seal rum - so refreshing!

TobaccoBay.bm

Mickey's Beach Bistro

Part of the smart Elbow Beach Resort, this oceanside beach bistro is where you can dine in style with

sand between your toes. Lots of local fish specials as well as international favourites. Enjoy live music after dinner at the resort bar open to non-residents.

ElbowbeachBermuda.com/Dining

DO:

Stand-Up paddle boarding

Explore the unique ecosystem of Bermuda's mangroves from a unique perspective - on a stand-up paddleboard. Local expert Ian Bridges of BermudAdventure curates a range of watersports experiences for guests, depending on expertise, fitness and interests.

www.facebook.com/BermudAdventure



Cave spa.



Marcus'.



Paddle boarding.

Jet Ski Safari

Combine the exhilaration of riding a jet ski with the chance to swim with turtles. You also get to see a shipwreck and pass through the tip of the infamous Bermuda Triangle. Groups are small, so if you want to get wet and wild you can go up front with the lead guide, while those at the back can take it easy.

KSWatersports.com

Catamaran Sailing Cruise

Enjoy the beautiful Atlantic waters of Bermuda in style, aboard the 34-foot 'Happy Cat' catamaran with a Gosling's dark 'n stormy cocktail in hand. Captain Richie offers tailored sailing and snorkelling itineraries, while Maureen looks after guests with finesse.

SeasplashBermuda.com

Cave Spa

Within the grounds of the Grotto Bay Beach Resort are spectacular caves. One is open for cave swimming, and the other, Prospero Cave, is a luxury spa, with private cabanas floating on the cave lagoon. Discreet lighting highlights the spectacular natural features and the clear lake water - making a massage treatment unforgettable!

GrottoBay.com/Spa_Natura-Cave-Spa

Twizy - the ultimate rental vehicle

Until recently, visitors to Bermuda could only rent mopeds (not cars). New for 2018 are the Twizy electric cars, available for rent from Current Vehicles. Compact twin seaters that are great fun to drive!

Currentvehicles.com

TRAVEL:

For more trip planning ideas, visit Bermuda's official website.

GoToBermuda.com



Twizy electric car.

DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Some of the most unusual celebrations are in the Sierra Nevada . :: SIERRA NEVADA



Cordoba on New Year's Eve. :: VOCENTO

Andalucía says farewell to 2017

TWO DAYS IN CORDOBA AND SIERRA NEVADA

Car + walking

Journey time: 1 hour 30 minutes to Cordoba and the Sierra Nevada from Malaga. New Year's Eve celebrations: 6 hours.



JAVIER ALMELLONES

When the year comes to an end in Andalucía nearly every local authority organises a celebration, but the ones in the principal cities of the region, such as Seville, Cordoba, Malaga and Jerez, are particularly spectacu-

lar. The celebrations take place outside in the streets from the final minutes of 2017 until well into the morning of 2018.

Among all the provincial capitals in Andalucía, where the biggest festivities take place, the New Year celebrations in Cordoba are particularly outstanding.

In this caliphal city people traditionally gather in the Plaza de las Tendillas, in the historic centre, and different activities are organised as a prelude to the traditional ringing of the bells to mark the arrival of the New Year.

In the hours before midnight there are children's attractions, music performances, street parades and even bell-ringing especially for the youngest members of society.

Later, after 10.30pm, the focus is on music, and the midnight bells are broadcast live by Canal Sur television.

After welcoming the New

Year, balloons will be released and there will be a firework display.

In eastern Andalucía, there are some unusual ways of saying farewell to the old year, such as in the Sierra Nevada, in Granada province, where the ski resort not only celebrates the traditional bell-ringing in the Plaza de Andalucía but also organises activities especially for children in the hours beforehand. For example, this year there will be a race on the Borreguiles ski run.

The transition between one year and another is also marked in a very special way in the town of Coin, in Malaga province, where the council organises a type of 'carnival' in the emblematic Plaza Bermúdez de la Rubia. Every year local people and visitors put on fancy dress, which is nearly always on a theme associated with the year which is just ending, and a mass party takes place in the streets of this town in the Guadalhorce Valley.

Other towns and cities where it is especially enjoyable to see in the New Year are Jerez de la Frontera and Puerto de Santa María in Cadiz province, Huelva and Seville.

QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Cordoba

◀ **the Mosque-Cathedral**
The city's most emblematic monument, it contains a Muslim mosque and a Christian cathedral in the interior. Calle Torrijos, 10. 14003 Cordoba.

◀ **Real Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos.** A former Moorish fortress situated in the historic centre of the city. Caampo Santo de los Mártires, s/n, 14004 Cordoba.

◀ **Synagogue.** A historic Jewish synagogue in the centre of Cordoba. Calle de los Judios, s/n 14002 Cordoba.

What to see in Granada

◀ **Sierra Nevada.** Ski resort situated just a few kilometres outside Granada. Calle de la Virgen de las Nieves, 3. 18196 Sierra Nevada, Granada.

◀ **The Alhambra:** A citadel from the time of Al-Andalus, now considered one of the most important monuments in Spain. Calle Real de la Alhambra, s/n, 18009, Granada.



Sierra Nevada
Granada

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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



PAUL SAAD / FLICKR

When the time comes to usher in the New Year, danger is not usually an associated theme. However, in the neighbourhood pictured, it's best not to even wander the streets on New Year's Eve.

This is because of a relatively-recent tradition which sees large appliances being thrown out of windows or off high-rise towers as the bells chime.

Pedestrians are scarce at this time of year and yet around a dozen still fall victim to flying ob-

jects, such as refrigerators, TVs, microwaves and sofas, which are stockpiled for months beforehand, especially for the occasion.

Police will circle high-rise buildings in the approaching weeks, trying to spot caches of appliances on rooftops. Meanwhile, on the

ground, health authorities are busy distributing first aid kits to community members and giving basic injury training.

This downtown district, thrown into delinquency since the 1990s and the end of white minority rule, gives its name to the iconic



tower to the left of the picture.

Built in 1971, at 269 metres, is the tallest structure in the continent and it was also the tallest in the hemisphere until 1978, when it was surpassed by the 270-metre Mount Isa Chimney in Queensland.

If you know where this is, you could win a prize.

Please send the name of the district (and therefore tower) plus that of the city by email to english@diariosur.es. Only entries with a delivery address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed the Stockholm Concert Hall which hosts the annual Nobel Prize Awards. Congratulations to Chez Brooks in Benalmádena Costa who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. Y. R. E.

Four months ago I started renting a property in Spain. The owner has recently told me that it is necessary to carry out some repair works in the house. However I don't want him to because I am expecting visitors for Christmas including my daughter, who is coming from the UK with my granddaughter, who is only a

few months old. If the owner carried out the works, it would be a great nuisance for us. Am I obliged to put up with the works that the owner wants to carry out?

If the works cannot be postponed until the end of the rental contract, you will have no other option than to bear them, as long as they are necessary, being repair or maintenance works. Nevertheless, if the duration of the works is more than 20 days you will be entitled to a rent reduction, proportionate to the part of the property that you will not be able to use.

REF. T. S. L.

I separated three years ago and my daughter, who is seven years old now, has always gone with his father to spend the weekend every two weeks without any kind of problem. However, since my ex husband has a new partner, my daugh-

ter does not want to go with her father, she always starts crying and she has even shut herself in her room when my husband has come to pick her up. I once asked her the reason why she does not want to go with him, and she said that it was because his partner treats her very badly. I am not sure if this is true, but she does not have any reason to lie. In view of the situation, do I have to oblige my daughter to be with him when she really doesn't want to?

You cannot prevent the visits without a judicial authorisation, as if your husband reports you, you could be sentenced. You will need to ask the court for the modification of the visiting arrangements and for a medical check of your daughter, so that the judicial psychologists determine the reason for her behaviour and that it is not incited by you.

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AROUND MALAGA

A green paradise known as the Genal Valley

JAVIER ALMELLONES

Despite covering an area of 485 square kilometres, divided between 15 different municipalities, the Genal Valley is one of the least densely populated areas in Malaga province. That does not, however, mean that it lacks tourist attractions. In fact its territory, which is like a long green corridor linking Ronda with the Campo de Gibraltar, has a great deal to offer, especially for people who enjoy being in direct contact with nature.

This sub-region of the Serranía de Ronda is at the same time divided into two separate areas, called the Upper (Alto) and Lower (Bajo) Genal.

The first of these includes the villages of Faraján, Cartajima, Alpandeire, Júzcar, Atajate, Pujerra, Igualeja and Parauta.

Although much of the countryside is covered with an immense area of chestnut woods, there are also rocky karst mountains as a contrast. Almost all of these villages are on the Fray Leopoldo tourist route.

Meanwhile the Bajo Genal area comprises the villages of Benadalid, Benalauría, Algatocín, Benarrabá, Gaucín, Jubrique and Genalguacil, which are situated between the Sierra Bermeja, Guadiaro Valley, Los Alcornocales and the Campo de Gibraltar region.

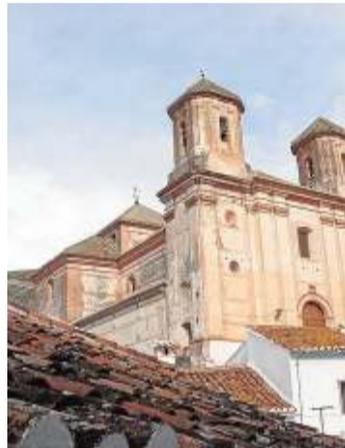


Algatocín is one of the villages in the Bajo Genal. :: J.A.

Alpandeire

Devotion. Many of the tourist attractions in this part of the Alto Genal are based around a saintly friar called Fray Leopoldo, who was born in this village. In fact, you can visit the house in which he was born, and see some of the sculptures which have been erected in tribute to him. Alpandeire is also known for having one of the biggest churches in the area, dedicated to San Antonio de Padua, which is nicknamed 'the cathedral of the Serranía.'

What to see: The church of San Antonio de Padua and the house in which Fray Leopoldo was born.



Igualeja

Chestnuts. Together with Parauta and Pujerra this village is one of those with the greatest area covered by chestnut woods, which are now one of its principal sources of income. Its terrain is crossed by what many consider the first steps of the Genal river, whose source is just a few metres from the village centre. In addition to seeing the church and chapels, it is well worth exploring the surrounding countryside by following some of the official walking routes.

What to see. The source of the Genal river, the church of Santa Rosa de Lima and the chapels.



Júzcar

Blue. Known in recent years as the 'Smurf village' because it was used for the world launch of some of the Smurf movies, Júzcar is a charming little village with an interesting historical heritage and some stunning scenery. Apart from the village itself, which has been painted 'smurf blue' for years, it is worth finding out more about the history of the Royal Tin Factory or following one of the walking routes through the karst mountain area known as Los Riscos.

What to see: Ribera del Genal, Los Riscos and the church.



Benalauría

Enterprise. This village in the Bajo Genal is characterised by the entrepreneurial spirit of its residents, who for years have been creating new businesses via rural tourism or producing artisan preserves and jams. It is a traditional white village with evident traces of its Moorish past, and it is home to one of the most important folk museums in Malaga province, inside what was once an old mill.

What to see: The oldest part of the village and the folk museum.



Genalguacil

Art. This village, which has a population of barely 500, has made a name for itself in the world of art thanks to its 'Art Encounters', an initiative which brings artists from different disciplines there every two years. During a fortnight, they create new works which are then put on display in the streets. Because of this the village, which is like an open-air museum, boasts a collection of over 100 works of contemporary art, ranging from murals to sculptures.

What to see: The works of art in the streets, the San Pedro church and Los Reales de Sierra Bermeja.



Gaucín

History. The main tourist emblem of this village stands on a hill above the historic centre. A large part of the 'Castillo del Águila' castle has been preserved: it is a fortress from which there are wonderful views over the Serranía de Ronda and the Campo de Gibraltar. According to historians, this is where Guzmán El Bueno died during a siege of the castle; he is one of the most famous figures from the time of Al-Ándalus.

What to see: The six-spouted fountain, the castle and the Santo Niño chapel.





A way of making food and friends

'Welcome to UMA' recently organised an Andalusian cookery workshop for students



MALAGA. It can come as a great shock to move to a country you don't know, and one which has a different culture, and it can sometimes also lead to loneliness. That was what the Department of Internationalisation team at Malaga university were thinking, when they set about finding a way of helping students to make friends. Together with the Welcome to UMA office, they recently came up with the idea of organising an Andalusian Cookery Workshop.

Those who attended this workshop were international students who had come to



The students, cutting bread to make the famous 'porra antequerana'. :: P. PINEDA



study at Malaga University, and who were mostly on their own. Through this workshop they not only learned to make typical Andalusian dishes, but

also learned more about the culture of the region and, at the same time, met other people who, like them, are a long way from home.

The workshops and events of this type which are organised for international and Erasmus students are

free of charge and are always a great success. On this occasion there was only room for 30 people to attend, but sources at the Welcome to UMA office say they received more than 300 applications.

The workshop was held at La Mesa

Malaga, and the students were of many different nationalities, having come from countries such as Namibia, Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, France, Lithuania, Mexico, Italy, Belgium, the USA and South Korea.

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The recipes they learned to make were 'porra antequerana', fried aubergines with molasses and potato omelette. These dishes were chosen because they are the simplest ones but at the same time are most typical of the gastronomy of Andalucía. Although many of the students found it rather difficult to turn their 'tortilla' over, the laughter this produced created links of friendship between them and that, of course was one of the objectives.

Two who were already friends, Ana and Maryam, signed up for the workshop to get to know more people and, especially, to learn to cook Spanish food. "I wanted to learn to make local dishes, because I thought it would be a fun thing to do and also it has been a good way of meeting people," said Ana. "It also helped that it was free. Other Spanish cookery courses cost money," added Maryam.



Those who attended the workshop learned to make 'tortilla' and other dishes. :: P. PINEDA

The students learned how to cook potato omelettes, fried aubergines and 'porra antequerana'

The workshop was for 30 people, but more than 300 students applied to take part

After cooking the dishes, the students were able to enjoy eating them and they were also given a book of the recipes so they can make them at home.

DA BRUNO

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A. J. LINN

MENU TECHNOLOGY



When press baron Robert Maxwell (RIP) launched the first genuinely pan-European daily newspaper, The European, in 1989, he tested out pilot issues using techniques unknown until then. For some reason Marbella was a test site and I remember having my eye movements filmed as I scanned the pages. This groundbreaking technique enabled analysts to determine the level of interest a page or an article created for the reader. These days the practice is in general use and you mostly do not know you are being filmed. Shop windows and staged spectacles are fair game. So are restaurant menus.

Nowadays we should not perhaps be surprised to learn that there is a job speciality known as menu engineering. These experts advise restaurants how to design the most attractive menu that will improve profitability. A US study of 6,400 menus has demonstrated that, among other things, the dish a restaurant wants to promote most should be featured in the top right-hand corner, preferably inside a box outline. Sections should never have more than seven items listed, five is better, and three optimum. Flying in the face of common practice, the most expensive dishes are best shown first so the ones coming below will look reasonably priced. Obviously a heavy

menu with a solid-looking binding creates the impression of quality, but this will go to waste if the typeface used is not the correct one. Stay away from pictures of the food, as studies show that this can cause disappointment when the dish arrives looking nothing like its photo. Adopting these guidelines has been shown to increase profits.

It is worth mentioning that a dish described as entrecote of grass-fed organic Angus beef from Mr Josh Reynold's farm, served with thick-cut local potatoes flavoured with thyme will sell more readily than Angus steak with fried potatoes.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Juvé & Camps Cinta Púrpura Reserva Brut

Cataluña produces the best cava, but often the bigger the producer the less value you get for your euro. Juvé & Camps is a long-established family business and its wines are among the best value anywhere. This is not their cheapest but well worth €11. Two years in bottle.



No beating bubbles to welcome in the new year

Cava is a versatile drink that goes well with many foods as well as being an ingredient in cocktails

MANU BALANZINO

MALAGA. There is no good party without the sound of corks popping, and the most traditional drink at this time of the year is a bottle of fizz: champagne or cava.

Cava is made in three areas in Spain: Catalonia, Valencia and Extremadura. It is produced from Xarello, Macabeu and Parellada grapes which give it considerable versatility as was demonstrated in the Cava Mixology Competition recently. The competition was held in the 1870 restaurant in San Pedro de Alcántara and semifinalists Xavier Almeida and Víctor Varela, made two cocktails each with cava.

Besides being used in cocktails, cava is extremely versatile in the kitchen. Aitor Perurena, chef at the 1870 restaurant, uses cava in both cold and hot dishes on his menu. Sea bass in cava is a classic but he also incorporates cava into traditional dishes such as gazpachuelo and a smoked sturgeon tartare with cava.

Cava is the classic choice for making a toast but it can also be drunk as an aperitif as the bubbles help to activate the appetite. The aged cavas (crianzas) go perfectly with meat and stews while the delicate rosé cavas are ideal to accompany fruit or desserts and are perfect with chocolate and praline as well as dried fruit.



Cava is a perfect drink to toast the New Year. :: SUR

THE WINNING COCKTAILS

Victor Varela

INGREDIENTS

2cl Tanqueray Ten gin, 2cl Ventura 27 (Dimobe) vermouth, 2cl elderflower cordial, 1cl Campari, 6cl Cava Rosado Brut Nature, a dash of orange blossom water and strawberry pearls and orange rind to decorate.

METHOD

Mix all the ingredients together in a cocktail shaker with ice and serve in a cava glass with a wide mouth so that all the aromas can be appreciated. Top up with ice cold cava and the dash of orange blossom water. Decorate with strawberry pearls and a twist of orange rind to add perfume.

Xavier Almeida

INGREDIENTS

2cl gin, 2.5cl homemade lemon or other citric herb liqueur, a splash of Palo Cortado sherry, Cava Gran Reserva Brut Nature

METHOD

Inspired by a classic cocktail with a citric and aromatic touch. Mix the gin with the homemade citric liqueur with a few cubes of ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake it well to chill it and then pour into a cava glass. Top up with Gran reserva cava, preferably over 30 months old. Add a dash of Palo Cortado sherry and serve.



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Health centres have helped over 8,600 people to give up smoking

Advice given by GPs, nurses and in therapy sessions is proving successful in assisting smokers to overcome their addiction to tobacco

:: **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MALAGA. For anyone who wants to give up smoking, determination and strong will is important, but the advice given by GPs, nurses and in therapy sessions is also very effective in helping people to overcome a dependence on tobacco.

In the first ten months of this year, a total of 8,686 people successfully managed to stop smoking at health centres in Malaga province, and this was 0.8 per cent more than in the same period last year.

Smoking is the main preventable cause of death. Every year in Andalucía about 10,000 people die because of this addiction. Smoking has major negative effects on health. It is the principal cause of mouth and lung tumors, and also leads to cardiopulmonary and respiratory illnesses.



Staff from the health centres which have received bronze level accreditation. :: SUR

To tackle this problem, the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Health has set up an anti-smoking plan known as PITA (Plan Integral contra el Tabaquismo), to try to encourage teenagers not to smoke, reinforce medical assistance for

smokers who want to give up, provide extra training so that medical professionals can actively help them to do so and generate further research in this field.

The Malaga-Guadalhorce health district is a pioneer in designing

and developing health programmes at medical centres in Andalucía. It was in this area that the first PITA plan was put into effect, between February 2006 and December 2013.

Some of the methods which are

Bronze accreditation for six smoke-free health centres

The health centres at Alhaurín de la Torre, Capuchinos, El Palo, La Luz, Miraflores de los Ángeles and Victoria, which are all part of the Malaga-Guadalhorce health district, have now received bronze level accreditation from the Andalusian Network of Health Services and Smoke-Free Spaces (RASSELH), which distinguishes the medical centres which meet exacting standards in their continued work of tackling tobacco addiction.

The RASSELH is part of the Global Network For Tobacco-Free Health Care Services (ENSH), which is internationally famous and has been fighting for a long time against tobacco and the industry which promotes it.

used under the PITA plan to help people stop smoking and encourage others not to start, are a plan of communication, additional basic and advanced training for health workers, an attention programme for smokers at their local health centres, promoting good health in the workplace, and a variety of preventive and awareness activities in the community.

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"We should never think that if we have cancer it's our own fault"

María Blasco
Scientist and director of the National Centre of Oncology Research

María Blasco is the head of the CNIO, situated in Madrid. :: SALVADOR SALAS



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ALBERTO GÓMEZ



✉ En Twitter: @Agalmendres

The head of the CNIO is critical of cutbacks in the State Research Plans and says more people should become involved in the fight against cancer

MALAGA. She worked alongside Carol Greider, winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, and since 2011 she has been running the National Centre for Oncology Research (CNIO). María Blasco, who is from Alicante, is still enthusiastic about her work, even though she has been studying cancer for nearly 30 years now and is considered one of the greatest experts on the disease in Europe.

Blasco, who was tutored by Margarita Salas, under whose guidance she obtained her doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biology

Cancer and ageing

"We believe that if we can find out why ageing occurs we will also understand the origin of cancer"

Clinical trials

"In Spain nowadays there are more trials with patients to test new drugs against cancer"

Cutbacks

"Spain is even below the European average in terms of funding for research"

at the Autónoma University in Madrid, insists that the government should invest more on researching this illness which, she says, still brings with it a certain sense of taboo, a fear "which we will only lose when we find a way of stopping tumors."

Although she supports the idea

of individuals being involved in the fight against cancer, and she stresses the importance of finding private donors to finance clinical studies and projects, Blasco doesn't mince her words when talking about the cutbacks imposed by the government in the State Research Plans: "Research is the only way of finding new treatments in the future for illnesses which are killing us now," she says.

-What does ageing have to do with developing cancer?

-Cancer is an illness associated with the ageing process. There can be cancer in childhood, but it is rare in comparison. We believe that if we could find out why ageing happens we will also understand the origin of cancer, among other illnesses whose possibilities of development increase with age.

-How would you describe the fight against cancer and treatment for it in Spain at present?

-In terms of research, Spain is a leading country. For example, the National Centre for Oncology Research, which is in Madrid, is one of the five best cancer research centres in the world.

-How have the cutbacks affected the research objectives?

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–They have affected them a great deal. There is much less money available now in the State Research Plans, which are the ones which distribute the funds between the researchers depending on the merits of their projects and proposals. There have been more cutbacks again this year, but it is not only a question of money; there is now less flexibility when contracting researchers, and that is creating a difficult situation in some centres of excellence in this country, such as the CNIO, for example.

–In this country, do people still believe you have to go to the USA, to Houston, for proper treatment?

–Maybe so, because traditionally in Spain there have been fewer trials using patients to test new drugs against cancer, but that is changing now. These days, in many hospitals here the patients have access to these clinical trials with new drugs. In Malaga, in fact, the CNIO collaborates through the David Olmos group; he is an expert on prostate cancer, and sees patients in Malaga as well as Madrid. Dr Olmos also has his own research group at the CNIO.

–It has been said that cancer has now become an epidemic. Would you agree with that?

–It is an illness whose frequency is going to increase as people get older because, as I said earlier, age-

ing is the greatest individual risk factor for developing cancer. An elderly population will produce more cases than one with a majority of younger people.

–What may be causing the high frequency of cancers? Climate change, artificial colouring and preservatives in food, manipulated foods, tobacco, alcohol, ageing...?

–Ageing, without a doubt, but the negative impact of habits like smoking and an unhealthy diet is also very important. There is a long list of things we can do to try to reduce the risk of cancer, and they are recommended for everybody, but what we should never do is think that if we get cancer it's our own fault. Cancer is an illness associated with ageing but its origin can also be random. The combination of genetic alterations which occur with age can mean that some people have cancer and others don't.

–What do you think about the role of philanthropy among civil society in funding research? There has been some controversy, such as in the case of Amancio Ortega.

–I trained as a scientist in the United States and in Spain. In the US I was in one of the best centres of research into molecular biology and it was mainly funded by

Treatments

“We need to introduce new treatments and combine them with the standard ones”

Personnel

“I would like there to be fewer problems when contracting research staff”

Innovation

“Malaga could become a hub for innovation in research if it had the money and facilities”

money from donors. I believe it is very important that governments support research to the maximum, and in that respect Spain is lacking in contrast to Germany or the Scandinavian countries. In fact, Spain is even below the European average. Having said that, I don't think the public should turn their backs. Research is for the common good, it's something for everybody. It is the only way that in the future there will be new treatments against illnesses which are killing us nowadays. That's why at the CNIO we have launched an initiative for individual philanthropy which we are calling 'Friends of the CNIO'. The objective is to open

our doors to people who want to lend a hand. Through our website they can contribute to the research and that enables us to retain and attract scientific talent; the more friends we have, the less we will depend on political ups and downs. I would like to show Amancio Ortega round the CNIO and tell him what we do. I believe he would like to know that in Spain we have one of the finest cancer research centres in the world.

–Is cancer still a taboo subject in our society?

–People with the illness aren't rejected, but the word cancer is still taboo. It still makes us afraid. Research is the only way we will be able to remove fear of the word cancer.

–What is your opinion of the standard treatments in the fight against cancer?

–I believe they are useful but we need to introduce new treatments and maybe even combine the new ones with the standard ones. The objective has to be to eradicate tumors, and in that sense even all the tools we have aren't enough.

–What percentage of the population in Spain could have cancer in 2020?

–I don't know the number, but cancer is an illness which becomes more common after the age of 40 or 50. Fortunately, we are living

longer now, but that also increases the incidence of cancer.

–Do you have an ideal with regard to the fight against this type of illness?

–All the researchers who are working to put an end to cancer have the common ideal of finding things which will enable there to be more effective treatments in the future.

–Are you satisfied with your time heading the CNIO? Is there anything you would like to change?

–As I said, the CNIO is one of the finest cancer research centres in the world. We have taken important steps in innovation, agreements with the pharmaceutical industry... as an example, I would like there to be fewer problems when contracting research staff.

–Do you believe Malaga could become a hub for innovation in research into illnesses?

–Malaga is a wonderful city. Its cultural facilities and museums makes it a strong rival to Madrid or Barcelona. Malaga could also be a hub for innovation in research, because I'm sure that many scientists from all over the world would be delighted to come here to work. For that, though, the professionals would need three things: enough money to carry out research, good facilities, and support and freedom to research the most important subjects.

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Some of the maintenance team, in one of the 5,000 square metre rooms. :: V. MELGAR

The entrails of the hospital



More than 30 professionals work every day on ensuring that everything in the new Ronda hospital runs smoothly

RONDA

Juan Ocaña and Javier García could be described as the Serranía de Ronda hospital's doctors. They go there every day, examine the equipment and control its vital signs so that everything works correctly and the medical staff can attend to the patients from Ronda and the surrounding area. Their work is discreet and silent, but is essential in making the whole system possible.

These two engineers run the Maintenance Unit of this new hospital and also the health centres in the town, but it is the hospital beside the road from San Pedro Alcántara which takes up most of their time. It has been almost 100 per cent open since April, when everything was transferred from the old hospital, which was then closed down.

As well as Ocaña and García, more than 30 other people work in the maintenance unit, as well as others from outside companies.

They are responsible for making sure there is electricity, water and heating, repairing doors, windows and lifts, controlling the air

quality, the temperature in the operating theatres, using renewable energies such as solar energy, operating a special system to transport samples and documents, administering medicinal gases... an endless list of necessary tasks, in fact, to keep this great machine running smoothly.

20,000 control points

From their office, thanks to a centralised system, Juan and Javier manage more than 20,000 control points, ranging from the temperature in a patient's room and a fridge containing medication, to the point which monitors a blood sample's location on its way to the laboratory, the escalators and every piece of medical apparatus.

This office is in an adjoining building and access to it is restricted. It is from here that the conduits of the different supplies start, and make their way into the entrails of the new hospital: rooms, corridors, stairs, escalators, with thousands of kilometres of cables, pipes and conduits which form part of the

great machine, equipment which those responsible for maintenance know like the back of their hands.

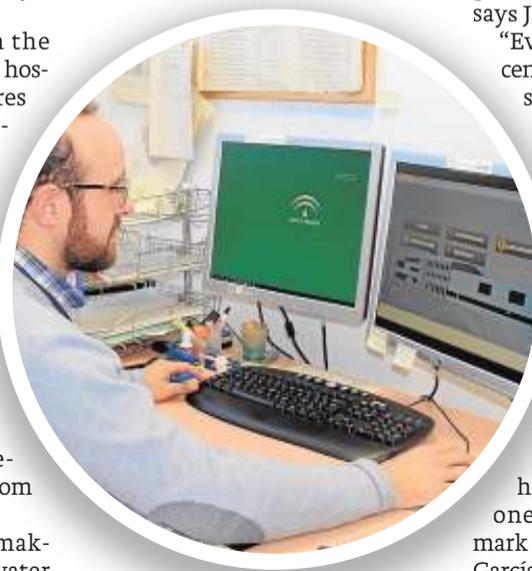
"Electro-medicine also depends on us; every electro-medical team that has contact with the patients, such as radiology, anaesthetic tables, multiparameter monitors," says Javier García. "When someone is having an operation under general anaesthetic they aren't breathing for themselves, and we control that equipment. We take care of everything, so that the patient only has to think about getting better and the medical staff can concentrate on looking after their health," he explains.

With regard to the electricity, the new hospital receives a supply from two sub-stations, in case one fails. "In an operating theatre, even the scalpels are electric. If there is a power cut, that's a problem. Or, for example, any change of temperature during an operation can have consequences for the patient. We make sure that everything that people see looks normal, and a great deal of work goes into that," says Juan Ocaña.

"Everything has to work 100 per cent, because lives depend on it," says Javier. "But my mother still keeps saying she doesn't know what an engineer does in a hospital."

With regard to renewable energies, the new hospital in Ronda is a pioneer and will be awarded its certification in 2018, along with some others. For example, 30 per cent of its hot water is generated from solar panels.

"We have gone from a hospital built in the 1970s to one which is already a benchmark in Andalucía," say Ocaña and García who, like everyone else who works there, focus 365 days a year on the health of others.



The hospital has a centralised system. :: V. M.



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EXHIBITIONS

JM Galería

Malaga. Until 1 January. *Duquesa de Parcent 12.*
The exhibition consists of photos, paintings, drawings and sculptures by various artists.
www.galeriajm.com or email: galeria@galeriajm.com

José Luis García Guirado

Malaga. Until 5 January, *Colegio Oficial de Aparejadores de Málaga.*
The collection of sculptures and works by José Luis García Guirado are inspired by characters from major works of art by artists such as Klimt, Goya, Picasso and Miró among others.



Subconscious, Museo Picasso

Pat Graham

Malaga. Until 5 January. *Centro Cultural Provincial María Victoria Atencia.*
American photographer Pat Graham is exhibiting a collection of his photos taken with a polaroid camera. The theme of 'Pasado perfecto' as the exhibition is called, is urban cultures.

Subconscious in a box

Malaga. Until 7 January. *Museo Picasso.*
Youngsters and woman at risk have contributed their creative talents to an exhibition at the Picasso Museum. 'El cajón del subconsciente' consists of many little boxes which contain the artist's subconscious thoughts. Some examples are conceptual, others more emotional.

Picasso, Ventana Abierta

Malaga. Until 7 January. *Fundación Picasso, Casa Natal.*
An exhibition of works completed by students who have attended the educational programme 'Arteterapia'. The aim of the programme is to assist the social rehabilitation of patients between 30 and 58 years old with mental health problems.

Francisco Leiro

Malaga. Until 7 January. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
An exhibition of sculptures completed over the last decade by Galician artist Francisco Leira whose work reflects fragility and human vulnerability.

Dance Practice

Malaga. Until 8 January. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
The video entitled Dance Practice was made in 1995 by Douglas Gordon, Jonathon Monk and Dave Allen. It shows a mix of music and dance, combining the music of the 60s with contemporary art.

Madame Butterfly

Malaga. Until 10 January. *Museo Automovilístico y de la Moda, Edificio Tabacalera. 10am-7pm. Closed Mondays.*
The seasonal exhibition at the museum is entitled 'Madame Butterfly' and is a dedicated to the luxury of fashion from an era when Oriental style was in vogue. Open 10am-2pm on 31 December.

Playmobil nativity scene

Malaga. Until 12 January. *Salas Minigorance, Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal.*
The Association 'Click Clack' have set up a complete nativity scene using 3,000 Playmobil figures and 20,000 pieces including the scenery etc in total.

Bad Taste

Malaga. Until 14 January. *La Térmica, Avda de Los Guindos, 48.*
The exhibition forms part of the Festival de Cultura Basura. 'Suburban culture' take centre stage accompanied by conferences and prose by the filmmaker and writer John Waters. ➤

The Wise Men are coming

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The whole of the Costa del Sol, along with the rest of Spain, is gearing up for the traditional procession of the Three Kings, the final event of the Spanish festive calendar.

The Cabalgatas (parades) are headed by Los Tres Reyes Magos (Three Wise Men), who throw sweets to the thousands of spectators who line the routes along which the procession embarks.

The parades, which take place on Friday 5 January, will include elegantly-decorated floats carrying Gaspar, Melchor and Baltasar, accompanied by an array of biblical and Disney characters.

All of the processions begin in the afternoon and embark on a three or four hour journey through the main streets of the town.

The procession in Nerja will begin in the Parque Verano Azul at 5pm and finish at the Casa Consistorial.

In Vélez-Málaga, the parade will commence at 6pm from Plaza de las Indias, while in Rincón de la Victoria, the procession will leave Los Rubios at 4pm and continue to La Cala del Moral.

Torre del Mar's event will start



The Three Kings will visit the Costa del Sol on Friday. :: SUR

at 5pm in Calle Manuel Azuaga, while Malaga's grand parade begins in Avenida Cervantes at 6pm and finishes in Plaza de la Merced.

Two processions will take place in Mijas. The first will leave the Campo de Fútbol de Las Lagunas at 4pm and another will set off from Plaza Virgen de la Peña in Mijas Pueblo at 4.30pm.

The Three Kings will leave Tor-

remolinos town hall at 5pm and continue to the centre of the town, while Coin's parade will leave Montesol at 6pm and finish in the Plaza Alameda.

Other parades will include those in Fuengirola, starting in Calle Mallorca at 5.30pm; Marbella, 6pm from Avenida Severo Ochoa; and Estepona, starting in Avenida Andalucía at 5pm and finishing at El Orquidario at 8pm.

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EXHIBITIONS

Buren at the Cube

Malaga. Until 14 January. *Pompidou Centre, Malaga port.* Daniel Buren, the artist who created the iconic design on the 'Cube' at the Pompidou Centre, is exhibiting more of his work.



Daniel Buren, Malaga

Jaime Sordo

Malaga. Until 14 January. *Sala de La Coracha, Museo del Patrimonio Municipal, Pase de Reding.* Free. In the annex to the MUPAM is an exhibition of contemporary photographs from the collection Los Brazaes belonging to businessman Jaime Sordo. The exhibition is entitled 'Escenas: acción y representación' and includes work by Pierre Gonnord, Per Berclay, Regina José Galindo and many others.

Baroch Art

Malaga. Until 14 January. *Palacio episcopal, Plaza del Obispo.* Over thirty pieces of religious art from all over Spain are on display. The artists' styles differ in subtle ways with some preferring a more reverent, contained manner of depicting religious figures while others display exuberance.

'Picassiano'

Malaga. Until 21 January. *Casa Natal de Picasso, Plaza de la Merced.* The exhibition entitled 'Guernica y Otros Desastres' aims to bring a new approach to Guernica, Picasso's mural showing the horrors of war, on the 80th anniversary of the bombing of the village.

Rubén Guerrero

Malaga. Until 28 January. *Centro de artes Contemporáneo.* The 'Familias Mínimas (Rojo, amarillo y azul)' exhibition features 11 paintings of places, buildings, and words.

Christmas greetings from Picasso



The watercolour with the Christmas greeting. :: NIÑO SALAS

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. In the Museum of Malaga, in the last room and on a wall at the back, is a small watercolour by Pablo Picasso. It is one of the museum's most prized possessions, and not only because it is signed by the famous artist.

The 10 X 15cm painting is a very early portrait by Picasso, an original and unique composition called 'El Viejo de la Manta' (The Old Man in the Blanket). Picasso completed it and sent it to his teacher, Antonio Muñoz Degraín in December 1895. The old man in the picture was none other than Picasso's own father, José Ruiz Blasco who was ill with a bad cold at the time.

Although this painting is not commercially available, it is believed to be worth around one million euros, having been

INFORMATION

► **Where.** Museo de Málaga.

► **When.** Permanently on display.

Painted when the artist was just fourteen years old. Picasso had by then moved from Malaga to the rainy town of La Coruña where his father had a job teaching drawing in the secondary school.

In the bottom right-hand corner of the painting is the message "To my dear D. Antonio Muñoz Degraín, I send you this Christmas present, affectionately P. Ruiz Picasso. 12/95".

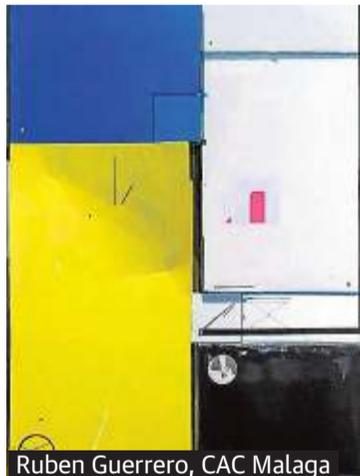
The watercolour forms part of the museum's permanent collection.

Paco Cabello

Malaga. Until 2 February. *Fundación Unicaja, Mon-Fri -8pm.* The Unicaja Foundation will be holding an exhibition of works by the sculptor Paco Cabello.

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Until 25 February. *Cruz del Molinillo, 12* A temporary exhibition entitled 'Nacerán Nuevas Auroras' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events. For more information email: kontakt@museojorgerando.org.



Ruben Guerrero, CAC Malaga

Roberto Matta

Marbella. Until 26 May 2018. *Museo Ralli, Urb Coral beach.* Temporary exhibition of the Chilean artist Roberto Matta of surrealist abstract art. His works represent his own vision of the world and art through the invisible, the psyche, the cosmos, without losing reference to his origins or nature. Tel 952 85 79 23 / marbella@rallimuseums.org

The Stones and The Beatles

Malaga. Until 18 June. *La Térmica, Avda de Los Guindos.* 'Rival' photographers Terry O'Neill and Gered Mankowitz immortalised some of the most important bands in history including The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. An exhibition of some of their photos is on show in La Térmica until June.

Mijas Photography Group

Mijas Pueblo. Until 7 January. *Casa Museo de Mijas* A collection of photos taken by a group international photographers.

Alfredo Opisso

Mijas Pueblo. Until 10 January. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.* An exhibition of works by Alfredo Opisso.

Colores en Navidad

Almuñécar. Until 7 January. *Casa de la Cultura.* Paintings, sculpture and prints by artists Marikilla Cascos, María Ángeles Raya, Pepe González, José Cabrera, Doris Pizarro, Paco Ariza and Sagrario Peramos. Organised by Asociación Arte-Sur.

MUSIC & DANCE

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes 3 January, 8pm. The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing works by F. von Suppé, J. Strauss, G. Verdi, F. Lehár, A. Vives, F. Chueca, R. Chapí, F. Moreno Torroba and T Bretón among others. With soprano Berna Perles and the Coro de Ópera Málaga choir. Conducted by Manuel Hernández Silva.

5 January, noon; 6 January 6.30pm, 9pm; 7 January, 5.30pm, 8pm. The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing magical music from Disney.

Diana Navarro

Torremolinos. 30 December, 8pm. *Teatro Cervantes.*

The Malaga singer will be in concert as part of her sixth album 'Resiliencia' tour.

The Wall Bar

Malaga. *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.* 29 December: Constanza & Javier. Jazz duet. 30 December: Hermanas Sister. Funk and international jazz.

City centre concerts

Malaga. *Plaza de la Constitución.* 29 December, 7pm. Zambombá Hermanas Alarcón. 8pm. Antonio de Verónica. Zambombá de la Familia Sánchez Cortés.

Traditional carol concert

Malaga. 29 December, 8.30pm. *Malaga Cathedral.* Free. The Canasteros choir will be singing Spanish villancicos (carols).



Alfredo Opisso, CAC Mijas

Kishinau Opera Orchestra

Estepona. 30 December, 9pm. *Auditorio Felipe VI.* State Philharmonic Orchestra of the Opera Kishinau will be performing works such as La Bohème by Puccini and Sleeping Beauty by Tchaikovsky. Tickets: www.auditorioestepona.com

European Sinfonietta

Gibraltar. 4 January, *John Mackintosh Hall Theatre, 5.30pm for children, 7€; 8.30pm adults 10€.* The European Sinfonietta, conducted by Wouter Padberg. Compositions by the Strauss dynasty. The concert for children will include a draw. Winners will be able to conduct and instruments will be supplied so that they can play along with the orchestra. Tickets for the concert for children are free of charge for kids and their families from City Hall, Mario Finlayson National Art Gallery. Children's ID

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Kishinau Opera Orchestra, Estepona

cards must be shown. Tickets for evening performance £20 from Scarello's Coffee shop, Silver Shop or tel: 200 72134. www.buytickets.gi

Concert for the Kings

Sotogrande. 4 January, 8pm. *Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Merced*
 The soprano Lourdes Martín-Leiva and the tenor Luis M^a Pacetti will be accompanied by the pianist José Manuel Padilla in this grand gala concert.

CHARITY

Cruz Roja Española

Moclinejo. 29 December, 8pm in the church in El Valdés. 30 December 7pm in the Sala de exposiciones Moclinejo.
 Two concerts each with an entry fee of one toy, new or nearly new. The donated toys will be distributed to underprivileged children by the Red Cross.

EVENTS

Christmas market

Torremolinos. Until 3 January. Av. Palma Mallorca.

The Christmas market in the Avda Palma de Mallorca is open from 10am-4pm and 4.30pm-9pm.

Papá Noel Village

Torremolinos Until 4 January. Plaza Costa del Sol.

The Father Christmas village will be open every day from 11am until 2pm and 5pm until 9pm. Next to the village will be free children's activities and workshops.

Nocturna Verde race

Mijas. 30 December, 6pm. Plaza Virgen de la Peña.

Registrations for the nighttime race at www.dorsalchip.es and more information at www.nocturnaverdemijas.blogspot.com
 Organised by Alegria de La Huerta Andaluza and Mijas town hall.



Seeing in the New Year

by **TONY BRYANT**

TORREMOLINOS. Residents and visitors in Torremolinos will enjoy a New Year's Eve extravaganza in the Plaza La Nogalera on Sunday 31 December.

This will be the third consecutive year the party will be held in the centre of the town and a huge marquee has been erected in the square to accommodate the hundreds of revellers expected to attend the event.

Organised by the town hall, the party will begin at 11pm, when party-goers can enjoy festive music, and refreshments from the bar, before the main event which begins at midnight.

Entrance to the party is free and attendees will receive a party pack on arrival. Grapes will also be supplied to be consumed during the twelve strokes of midnight, reputedly to bring luck and prosperity throughout the coming year.

The party will get into full swing after the New Year has been seen in, when revellers will enjoy live music provided by two popular Spanish rock bands.

Motril-based band Kassia will get the show started with their energetic style of progressive rock



Hundreds of revellers enjoy last year's end of year party. :: SUR

music. The band, which has been together for seven years, performs popular hits of bands such as Iron Maiden, ACDC, Metallica and U2.
 The party will continue with the pop medleys of Malaga band, The Money Makers, one of the most popular cover bands in the area.

The band plays a repertoire of hits from the 1950s to present day;

each medley ranging from 10 to 12 songs from each decade, so they will offer something for all musical tastes.

The event is expected to be well attended, so early arrival is advised. All of the bars and restaurants in the square will also be open and in the party spirit.

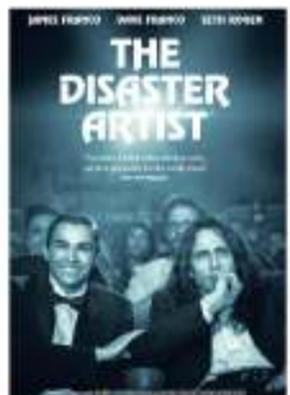
For more information, see www.torremolinos.es



MOVIE LISTING
 From Friday 29th to
 December
 Thursday 28th January



ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



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Director James Franco
 Starring James Franco and Dave Franco
 DRAMA - 104 min.



Friday 29 and Saturday 30: 16:15, 18:20
 Sunday 31: 16:15, 18:20
 Monday 1: 20:30
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 16:15, 18:20



JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Friday 29 and Saturday 30: 15:45, 18:00
 Sunday 31: 15:45, 18:00
 Monday 1: 17:45
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 15:45, 18:00



STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI

Friday 29 and Saturday 30: 15:30, 20:10, 22:30
 Sunday 31: 15:30
 Monday 1: 17:45, 20:10, 22:30
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 15:30, 20:10, 22:30



THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Director Michael Gracey
 Starring Hugh Jackman and Zac Efron
 ACTION - 99 min.



Friday 29 and Saturday 30: 16:00, 18:15, 22:45
 Sunday 31: 16:00, 18:15
 Monday 1: 17:45, 20:15, 22:45
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 16:00, 18:15, 22:45



FERDINAND

Friday 29 and Saturday 30: 15:50
 Sunday 31: 15:50
 Monday 1: 17:45
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 15:50



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Friday 29 and Saturday 30: 20:10
 Monday 1: 20:15
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 20:10



WONDER WHEEL

Friday 29 and Saturday 30: 20:30, 22:45
 Monday 1: 22:45
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 20:30, 22:45



COCO

From Friday 29 to Sunday 31: 16:00
 From Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4: 16:00



EVENTS

San Silvestre race

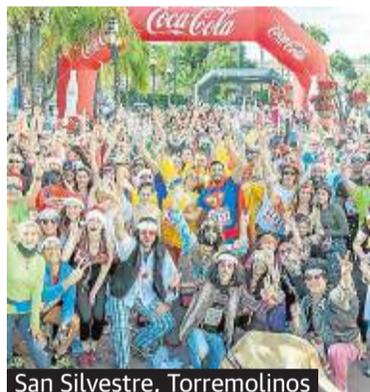
Torremolinos. 31 December, 10.30am. Town hall.
The third Carrera San Silvestre is non-competitive and is for charity. Entry is one kilo of non-perishable foodstuffs. Bibs are being given out from 10.30am with the race starting at noon. It will be run through the town, a distance of 4km in total. Runners are encouraged to dress up; the best costume will win a prize. Registration: Tel 952 379 630 / 636 004 257
www.torremolinos.es

Discover the moon

Yunquera. 30 December, 7pm. Astrolab. 12€.
See the moon through a giant telescope to make the last night of the year an unforgettable experience. Suitable for children over six. Wear warm, waterproof clothing. To book tel: 952 482 173 / 658 664 380 or go to: www.astrolab.es

Route of the recycled trees

Mijas. Until 6 January. 1€.
A map of the route is available from the tourist office, Folk museum and some shops at the cost of 1€. The proceeds go to the La Alegría de La Huerta Andaluza charity.



San Silvestre, Torremolinos

Trip to see Three Kings parade

Fuengirola. 5 January departing 2.25pm from bullring and 2.30pm Feria ground. 15€
Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola. C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840

Trip to Arcos de la Frontera

Fuengirola. 5 January departing 7.55am from bullring and 8pm Feria ground. 36€
The town balances atop a rocky limestone ridge. Included in the ticket price is transport, a guided tour and lunch in a local restaurant.



Virtual reality goggles. :: SALVADOR SALAS



Autographs for young basketball fans. :: SUR

Tailor-made for the kids

:: PABLO MARINETTO

MÁLAGA. The Muestra Infantil de Málaga (MIMA) show has over 60 activities both fun and educational for children.

This year, the Museo Casa Natal de Pablo Ruiz Picasso, the Colección del Museo Ruso de San Petersburgo and the Centre Pompidou have cultural workshops to help children enjoy and learn about art.

The latest technology can be tried out in the 'Gamer Camp' area and stand which has video games and computers but also virtual reality goggles which are prov-

DETAILS

▶ **When.** Until 4 January from 11am until 9pm except 31 December and 1 January.

▶ **Where.** Palacio de Ferias y Congresos, Malaga.

▶ **What.** More than 60 different activities for children aged from 4 to 12 years.

▶ **Tickets.** 8€ for 4-12 years. 4€ for adults and 3€ for pensioners.

ing to be very popular.

Also new this year is a Magic workshop and an ice-rink and the ever-popular face painting, crafts, trampolining and bouncy castles haven't been left out.

The police have brought along one of their patrol cars and a motor bike so that budding young police officers can see what being a policeman feels like and the Fundación Unicaja basketball team have a practice area with hoop. Various members of the famous basketball team will be at the show to sign autographs.

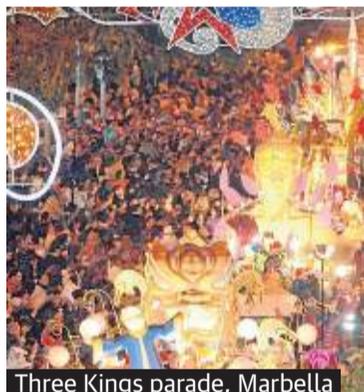
More information: Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola. C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840

Trip to Murcia

Fuengirola. 13, 14, 15, 16 March departing 6.55am from bullring and 7am from fairground.
Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840

Dinner and dance

Alhaurín el Grande 5 January, 7.30pm. Alhaurín Golf and Country Club. 35€.
Three-course meal with entertainment by Lynne Gaskell. Tickets: Martins newsagents in Alhaurín el Grande and from the Alhaurín Golf Club Pro Shop.



Three Kings parade, Marbella

O. V. FILM

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only.

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C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
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Final Portrait: 17.00, 20.20, 22.00.
Downsizing: 20.05.

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
The Greatest Showman: 12.15, 16.00, 18.15 (every day)

Cinesur Miramar

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

Star Wars: The Last Jedi: 12.00, 16.00, 19.00
The Greatest Showman: 112.10, 16.30, 18.45, 21.00, 23.15)

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For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle: 15.45, 18.00 (every day except Mon); 17.45 (Mon).

Murder on the Orient Express: 20.10 (Fri, Sat, Tues-Thurs), 20.15 (Mon).

Ferdinand: 15.50 (every day except Mon); 17.45 (Mon).

Coco: 16.00 (every day except Mon).

Wonder Wheel: 20.30 (Fri, Sat, Tues-Thurs); 22.45 (every day except Sunday).

Star Wars: The Last Jedi: 15.30, (every day except Mon); 17.45, (Mon); 20.10, 22.30 (every day except Sun).

The Disaster Artist: 16.15, 18.20 (every day except Mon); 120.30 (Mon).

The Greatest Showman: 16.00, 18.15 (every day except Mon); 17.45, 20.15 (Mon); 22.45 (Fri, Sat, Mon-Thurs).



Visit to Murcia, Fuengirola

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León.
Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Pitch Perfect 3: 14.15 (Sat, Sun, Tues).

The Disaster Artist: 14.10 (Sat, Sun); 18.30 (Tues).

The Greatest Showman: 17.10 (every day); 21.45 (every day except Sun); 00.00 (Fri, Sat).

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle: 15.45 (Fri-Sun, Tues-Thurs).
Saw XIII: 12.40 (Sat, Sun).
Star Wars: The Last Jedi: 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.30 (every day except Mon); 19.30, 22.30, (every day except Sun).

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"We have a very good atmosphere in the camp"

Fernando Estévez Marbella FC head coach

The coach, who is a casualty doctor by day, assesses the season so far and outlines his hope for the second half to come

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. One word sums up Fernando Estévez perfectly: level-headed. At just 38 years of age, the Marbella head coach has shown since his arrival at the club that with careful planning, hard work and humility, he could turn the side into one of the favourites for promotion to Segunda.

The coach from Capileira (Granada), who is a casualty doctor by day, has taken the side he inherited earlier in the year to within three points of top spot (and the same total from Marbella's record haul in the first half of the season) on a third of the budget assigned to the team last season.

While survival would have been a realistic expectation, the side currently sit third in the Segunda B IV table. "Head in the sky with feet on the ground," as they say...

-Did you ever think you'd be third at this stage of the season when you were looking at the side during pre-season?

-Obviously not. But we were ambitious and we had to be to convince players to sign for us, even if we only had a modest budget. However, once the action started, we realised that we had possibilities to be competing at the top end of the table.

-Talk of getting 45 points then looking upwards is very nice and all but we're not buying that anymore. In your head does the team need to at least qualify for the Copa del Rey now?

-We are ambitious. At the end of the season, our objective is to be up there near the top. We're not going to hide that our current position makes us very proud. I think in the second half of the season we need to aim high. But of course we have our feet on the ground and this is what I keep drilling into the players. From outside, the expectation will be to avoid relegation because of the budget we have, so once we achieve that, then we can look to the next objective. If football teaches us one thing, it's that you can only take things one week at a time.



Estévez watches his side during a training session. :: J. R.

-What has been the key to keeping pace with the leaders?

-Togetherness in the changing room, commitment and believing in what they're doing. We have a very good atmosphere in the camp. They're all pushing in the same direction. It's a team with a capital 't'.

-You're a big believer in coaching. What role does that have in creating a good team?

-The degree of success depends on the unity of the team and the players. I think recruiting players that fit a certain profile is just as important as anything on the training ground. It is another way of creating a strong unit.

-Which have been your best and the worst moments since becoming Marbella boss?

-The worst was the red card against Betis. We had come off the back of back-to-back defeats, we were losing 1-0 at their ground and then with a man less, we were really up against it. That was tough. Then to come back and gain a point, I think that was a turning point for our team because we showed we could fight adversity.

The sweetest moment, I think, was last week's win in Villanueva de la Serena [Marbella won 4-0].

-I asked about the toughest time and you only spoke about the sporting side. The club's president is still in prison...

-I only talk about what happens on the pitch, nothing else.

-With the team doing well, why have we not seen the ground more than half full?

-I don't know. This is something we all need to look at and try to improve. Hopefully the ticket promotions for the second half of the season will get more people in.

-Do you think three new signings would be enough to help seal promotion?

-We're not going to discuss signings until players leave. If they go, some will come in. But for me the most important thing is to keep the group together. We don't want to change something that's working. The best signing would be Javi Romero returning from injury.

-What message do you have for the fans?

-I wish everyone good health at this time and I hope that we can give them happiness in 2018 with a team that continues to develop together.

Under fire Malaga head coach Michel gets full backing of sporting director

With the departure of Emanuel Cecchini, the club can look to further bolster the midfield in January

:: ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Despite a renaissance of sorts in the past month, back-to-back defeats to Real Betis and Deportivo Alavés leave Malaga in the relegation zone and many fans questioning the management of head coach Michel.

However, this week, the former Real Madrid midfielder received the backing of sporting director Mario Husillos who gave a resounding "sí" when asked if Michel would still be in the hotseat when the players returned to training on Thursday.

That is how it proved to be and the sporting team are looking to further reinforce the squad having already brought in defender Ignasi Miquel (who made his debut against Alavés) and midfielder Manuel Iturra.

A deal for Emanuel Cecchini to join Mexican side Club León on



Michel with Juanpi. :: Ñ. SALAS

loan has been agreed, creating a vacancy in the squad which is expected to be filled by another central midfielder.

Another forward could still be brought in but that would depend on the club's ability to offload the likes of Cenk Gonen, Cifu and possibly Jony, Youssef En-Nesyri and Esteban Rolón.

January will be a key month for the Blue and Whites with upcoming fixtures against fellow strugglers Espanyol, Getafe, Eibar and Girona.

New Academy project "still on track" despite approaching January deadline

:: A. GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Noises coming out of Malaga CF following its annual shareholders' meeting are that the long-awaited Academy project will still go ahead despite doubts over the impending deadline imposed by Malaga city hall.

A note published after the meeting explained that the first phase of construction would begin in January, complying with the deadlines stated. This is despite the club not having chosen a construction company to carry out the job.

The club, which posted a healthy state of finances including a 10.7-million-euro surplus generated by the sales of Pablo Fornals, Sandro Ramírez and Ignacio Camacho, declared the 4.5 million euros from the sale of land at El Viso as well as the seven-million-euro budget put aside for phase one of construction.

The new complex, which will be located in the Arraijnal area of Malaga, close to the airport, will boast four pitches - two grass and two artificial- as well as various complementary facilities. The fourth pitch, an addition made before the summer, has contributed to the increase in projected costs.

The construction of the Academy, which has been in the pipeline for seven years, will, if this statement is to be believed, get under way imminently but many fans will be waiting to see it before they believe it.

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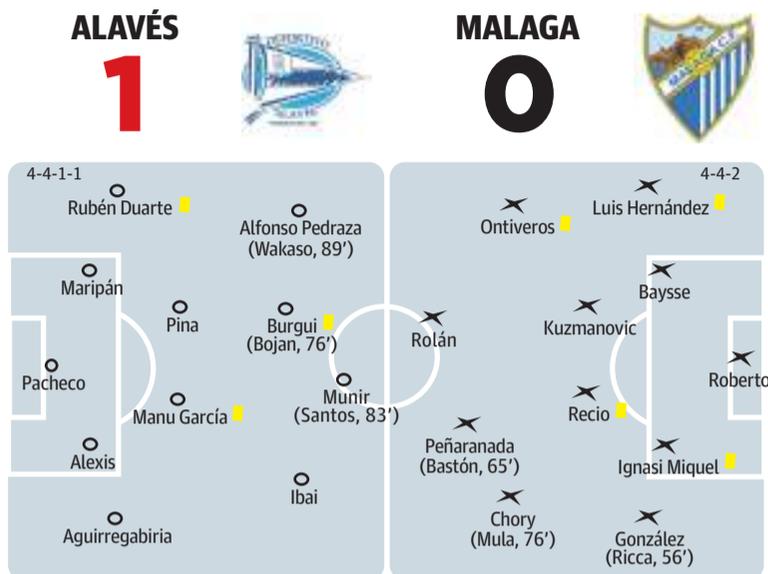
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Unused substitutes: Sivera (GK), Laguardia, Dani Torres, Medrán.

Unused substitutes: Prieto (GK), Cifu, Rolón, Keko.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

46% / **54%**

ALAVÉS / **MALAGA**

1	Goals	0
10	Total shots	7
6	On target	2
4	Off target	5
4	Corners	4
8	Offsides	0
14	Fouls committed	15
3	Yellow cards	4
0	Red cards	0

Goals: 1-0 Munir (60').

Referee: Alfonso Álvarez.

Venue: Estadio Mendizorrosa (18,733 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY
17

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	45	17	14	3	0	45	7
★ 2. Atlético	36	17	10	6	1	25	8
★ 3. Valencia	34	17	10	4	3	36	17
★ 4. Real Madrid	31	16	9	4	3	30	14
■ 5. Sevilla	29	17	9	2	6	20	22
■ 6. Villarreal	27	17	8	3	6	24	20
7. Eibar	24	17	7	3	7	22	29
8. Getafe	23	17	6	5	6	22	16
9. Real Sociedad	23	17	6	5	6	31	29
10. Girona	23	17	6	5	6	21	26
11. Celta	21	17	6	3	8	30	25
12. Athletic	21	17	5	6	6	18	19
13. Leganés	21	16	6	3	7	12	14
14. Betis	21	17	6	3	8	25	31
15. Espanyol	20	17	5	5	7	14	21
16. Levante	18	17	3	9	5	15	22
17. Alavés	15	17	5	0	12	13	25
▼ 18. Deportivo	15	17	4	3	10	19	34
▼ 19. MALAGA	11	17	3	2	12	13	31
▼ 20. Las Palmas	11	17	3	2	12	13	38

Results

Levante-Leganés	0-0
Getafe-Las Palmas	2-0
R. Sociedad-Sevilla	3-1
Eibar-Girona	4-1
Alavés-MALAGA	1-0
Betis-Athletic	0-2
Espanyol-Atlético	1-0
R. Madrid-Barcelona	0-3
Valencia-Villarreal	0-1
Deportivo-Celta	1-3

Fixtures

Atlético-Getafe
Valencia-Girona
Las Palmas-Eibar
Sevilla-Real Betis
Leganés-Real Sociedad
Barcelona-Levante
Athletic-Alavés
Villarreal-Deportivo
Celta Vigo-Real Madrid
MALAGA-Espanyol

Major setback in relegation 'six-pointer'



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

The Blue and Whites go into the winter break four points adrift and look headed for Segunda

MALAGA. Malaga's hopes of survival were dealt a major blow as they lost 1-0 in a relegation 'six-pointer' against fellow strugglers Deportivo Alavés last Thursday night.

Because of suspensions for Adrián and Roberto Rosales, head coach Michel was forced to pick an unfamiliar looking side with Luis Hernández filling in at right-back and Ignasi Miquel making his debut at centre-half. In the middle, Zdravko Kuzmanovic's recovery from injury was accelerated and he was given a start.

The makeshift line-up, in truth, played like a group of strangers and



Ibai and Pina celebrate the win in front of a dejected Recio. :: AGENCIA LOF

never looked likely to come away with any points.

Alavés almost drew first blood when Ibai Gómez's floated free kick was met by the head of Manu

García who drew a top save from Roberto despite being flagged off-side.

As early as the 11th minute, on-loan Barcelona forward Munir El

Haddadi, started to make himself a thorn in Malaga's side. His shot, which would be the first of many in his personal duel with Roberto, was blocked by the legs of the

keeper from a tight angle.

Sloppy defending let Munir in again just five minutes later, but Roberto again won the battle, blocking the effort with his thigh.

The hosts' wastefulness was a gift for Malaga who, despite lots of endeavour, showed a distinct lack of quality in the final third with Pacheco never overtly troubled.

It was far from third time lucky for Munir in the second half when he hit the bar from five yards out after Roberto spilled the ball into his path.

It looked like it wasn't going to be his night when he lobbed the ball over Roberto from a long ball and the ball trickled past the far post.

However, on the fifth time of asking, the striker eventually got the breakthrough goal, confidently volleying into the bottom left corner from the penalty spot.

Despite having more than half an hour left on the clock, Malaga were unable to create any chances of note. The winter break comes as welcome respite with the side now four points from safety going into a key run-in of fixtures.

They return to league action on 8 January as they take on another of the league's bottom boys in the form of Espanyol, at La Rosaleda.



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
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How the tables have turned!

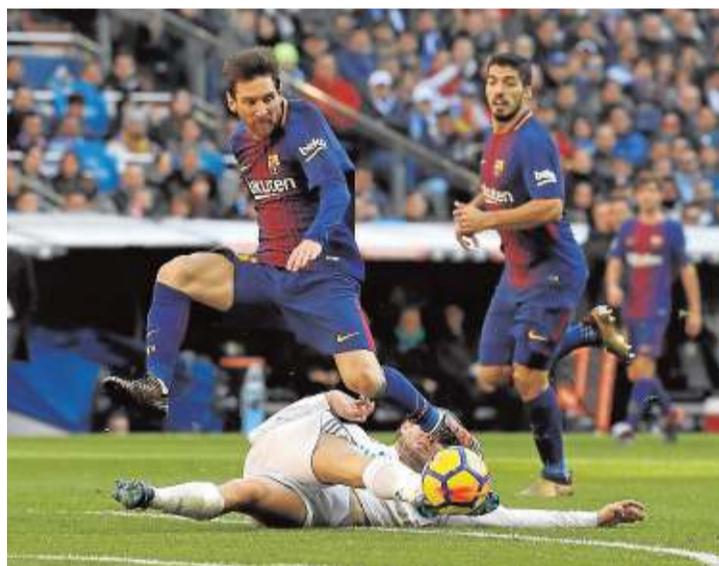
Ernesto Valverde's management has shattered the domination Real Madrid had over Barcelona last year

Nobody was disagreeing with Gerard Piqué when he declared: "In the nine years I've been here, it's the first time I feel inferior to Madrid."

This was August when Real Madrid added the Spanish Super Cup to the enviable collection of trophies won in the year 2017. Barcelona were just a sparring partner over the two rounds of the clash of the Spanish heavyweights.

Spin forward four months and the domestic gap between the two is so immense, only Zinedine Zidane claims the title isn't already won.

Barcelona are fourteen points ahead of Real who sit fourth and nine points above their nearest challengers Atlético. So what's



Kovacic had a torrid time of it against Messi. :: EFE

happened?

For me it all comes down to the management of Ernesto Valverde. His achievement could be right up there with those of Pep Guardiola and Luis Enrique - maybe even greater.

It's also down to Zidane losing sight of what made him so refreshing when he first sat in the Bernabéu dug-out.

Valverde has managed against the odds. Neymar was sold, his replacement Ousmane Dembélé was

crooked early on and Luis Suárez has taken three months to crank up his engines.

Some are coaches, some are managers and Valverde has proven to be both. He's coached his team to make the most of what they have and they boast the best defence in La Liga. He's managed to squeeze the best out of a severely limited squad by using his imagination. An example of this is replacing Andrés Iniesta in all but one of his starts, often replacing him with the least obvious player.

In contrast Zidane seems to have lost the edge that has won him so many trophies since he took over two years ago. His trademark has been selecting on current form and ability rather than reputation and past achievements. He ditched the likes of Danilo and James Rodríguez, preferring squad players like Dani Carvajal and Casemiro.

The Clásico wasn't his finest hour. In fact it was possibly his worst hour and a half since taking control. The question was who would take the one vacant midfield role? Nobody

expected the answer to be Kovačić.

For the opening 45 minutes Zidane's plan worked as the Croatian rotated between babysitting duties on Sergio Busquets and Lionel Messi. As the second half started, Zidane appeared to have instructed his players to slow the pace down a little. The momentum was lost, Barça scored and suddenly Kovačić looked like a player who hadn't started a Liga game since September.

It called for decisive management, a clarity of thought, snap decisions. "Get Isco on, get Bale on," cried the pundits.

As Zidane considered, his team dithered, Carvajal was dismissed for handball and Barça went two up. He threw on a defender and the Bernabéu, for once, questioned his wisdom.

In conclusion, as we take a winter break, Valverde has made far more right decisions than wrong ones and Zidane has uncharacteristically made a few wrong ones.

I was a little concerned to switch on Spanish TV this week to see Zidane throwing himself off a Dubai skyscraper. Surely things aren't that bad?

As he flew through the air (attached to a harness) I'm sure he was seeking clarity of mind to regain his previous superhero powers.

Ángel María Villar definitively dismissed as head of Spanish FA

The suspended RFEF chief is alleged to have breached regulations when putting himself forward for reelection

:: AMADOR GÓMEZ

MADRID. The Tribunal Administrativo del Deporte (TAD), the Spain's administrative court for sport, last Friday dismissed Ángel María Villar as president of the

Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), a post from which he was suspended for a year following his arrest in July on allegations of collusion, embezzlement and falsifying documents.

The decision was taken after the TAD considered Villar to have jeopardised the upcoming elections for RFEF president by putting publicly forward his candidacy for reelection despite being president of the managing committee. "Those who submit their candidacy to be part of the governing body may

not be members of the management committee," the laws state.

On 6 April, Villar signed a letter that was addressed to all regional presidents and it labelled him as a pre-candidate for the elections for the RFEF presidency. The tribunal court has found that this act would in fact break the law.

The ruling means that acting RFEF president, Juan Luis Larrea, also takes over as president of the managing committee and is charged with calling new elections before 29 January 2018.



Villar will appeal the decision. :: EFE

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SPORT IN PICTURES



▲ **Lawn bowls.** Mijas Bowls Club recently hosted its annual Christmas Draw with all members in festive dress. The overall winners were Geoff Hutton, Steve Ward and Val Allard each receiving a chocolate Santa and gift. Val also won best festive dress in her Mother Christmas outfit. :: **SUR**



▲ **Cycling.** La Cala de Mijas will host the start line for the Vuelta a Andalucía cycling race on 14 February 2018, it was announced last week. The starting pistol will be fired at 11.15am on Calle Marbella with riders heading in the direction of Las Lagunas, up to Mijas Pueblo. :: **I. GELIBTER**



▲ **Golf.** San Pedro-born golfer Azahara Muñoz has finished 2017 in the top three on the Ladies European Tour, behind compatriot Carlota Ciganda, who finished second, and Brit Georgina Hall - the overall winner. Hall took home a total of 368,934 euros in winnings, compared to Muñoz's 111,749. Muñoz, however, spent much of the season on the North American LGPA Tour. :: **AFP**

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▶ **GINS.** Despite many members heading home for the festive season, Golf International Nerja Society still managed to get some competitive action in ahead of Christmas. At Añoreta (pictured), the winner overall, with a good score of 33 points, was Bev Legg, just pipping Frank Stockton by one point. :: **SUR**

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Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
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Railway Station	902240202
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Taxi Service	952774488
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Town Hall	952761100
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Town Hall	952485900
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Taxi	952478288
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Town Hall	952548400
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Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
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MSC Orchestra	06/01	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Norwegian Spirit	12/01	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
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Nerja: Cáritas 11.30am 2nd Thurs.
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Nerja: 952533373. **www.nerjanadfas.org**
De la Frontera: San Roque Club.
www.nadfas-delafrontera.org **Gibraltar:**
gibdfas.webs.com **Benahavís:**
 663459103. **www.benahavisdfas.com**

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MISSISSIPPI COASTERS
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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
A slow but hopeful start to the year may see you somewhat underwhelmed. Happy things will start to happen soon.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Some delays are due to others not doing what they should. Try not to get frustrated. Build up your confidence by getting organised on paper.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
A meeting that seems special to you may throw up all sorts of strange and unknown thoughts.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
In seeking that new experience, travel to somewhere familiar will help. Be yourself and express what you need to.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
What is it that you have always wanted to try but never allowed the time for? Take what's buzzing around in your head and use it to start a fun journey.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Some ideas and plans may, right now, seem impossible. Just be ready to give them a chance while they are on offer.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Having fun may, at times, seem frivolous. Put that aside, it is in this area that success will strike.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Being with people who are optimistic and creative is all that you need to get your own ball rolling.

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Find out what new things are on offer for you in this New Year. Seek the direction that is good for both your heart and your body.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Some travel gives the chance to meet up with those on your wavelength. That is all you really need, isn't it?

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A thoughtful and hesitant start to this New Year is probably due to a lack of confidence in one area.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Start trusting your instincts more and pay less attention to the 'doom and gloom' merchants!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11275



Across

- 1 Pass on to posterity that the worker has fallen (4,4)
- 5 The company is stable (4)
- 9 Dramatic deeds? (4)
- 10 They shouldn't have to crane their necks very often? (8)
- 11 Not the last of the fine ale - the last! (5)
- 12 General way to expand (7)
- 13 Certainly not a public company (6,7)
- 18 Apparently no noble, no match! (8)
- 19 The gambler's boat? (4)
- 20 I.e. start to be a performer (7)
- 21 The gear I had was stiff (5)
- 22 One expects to see them in a row (4)
- 23 The sitting member won't have such a reputation! (6)

Down

- 2 Attribute to a writer (7)
- 3 Praised for loss of hope (7)
- 4 Paper-pale? (5,2,1,5)
- 6 Operative as a member of a posse (2,5)
- 7 Presumably the male teacher should have it! (7)
- 8 The language used by 51 in a battered cage (6)
- 13 Singer upset parson - took ring (7)
- 14 One wouldn't expect a teacher to make one! (7)
- 15 Join silent order (6)
- 16 Insinuated the mischievous child didn't tell the truth (7)
- 17 The nervousness of numbers receiving the charge (7)

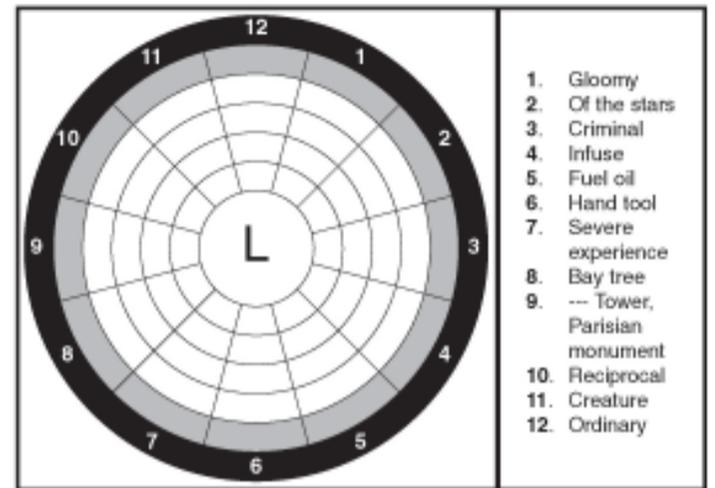
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

6			4					7
8	4		3					5
				7				1
								3
	1	2	9					
5			2	6		1		8
	5	8						9
			5	4	3			7
3								

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter L in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British sports commentator.



- 1. Gloomy
- 2. Of the stars
- 3. Criminal
- 4. Infuse
- 5. Fuel oil
- 6. Hand tool
- 7. Severe experience
- 8. Bay tree
- 9. --- Tower, Parisian monument
- 10. Reciprocal
- 11. Creature
- 12. Ordinary

THE WORDPUZZLER

S	C	R	A	W	R	A	S	P	Y
S	H	O	C	K	L	E	M	M	I
A	A	V	U	L	E	L	I	U	D
P	L	A	T	E	N	S	E	M	O
R	O	M	E	V	E	H	O	R	A
G	O	R	W	I	N	E	A	T	L
A	K	L	A	B	Y	R	I	S	K
P	I	N	T	E	R	R	A	B	E
U	N	V	E	R	E	Y	E	R	D
N	G	E	R	M	I	E	L	O	F

CAN you identify the words that may precede glass from the clues listed below?

- 1. Adam's ale
- 2. Facial feature
- 3. Pawn
- 4. Eighth of a gallon
- 5. Crockery item
- 6. Secret agent
- 7. Appearing
- 8. Fermented grape juice
- 9. Sever
- 10. Fortified fermented grape juice

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

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- Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol
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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 Almirajara** (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network
- HeartfmSpain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news
- Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda
- Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories.
7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Puebla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1
From where are orange trees assumed to have originated?

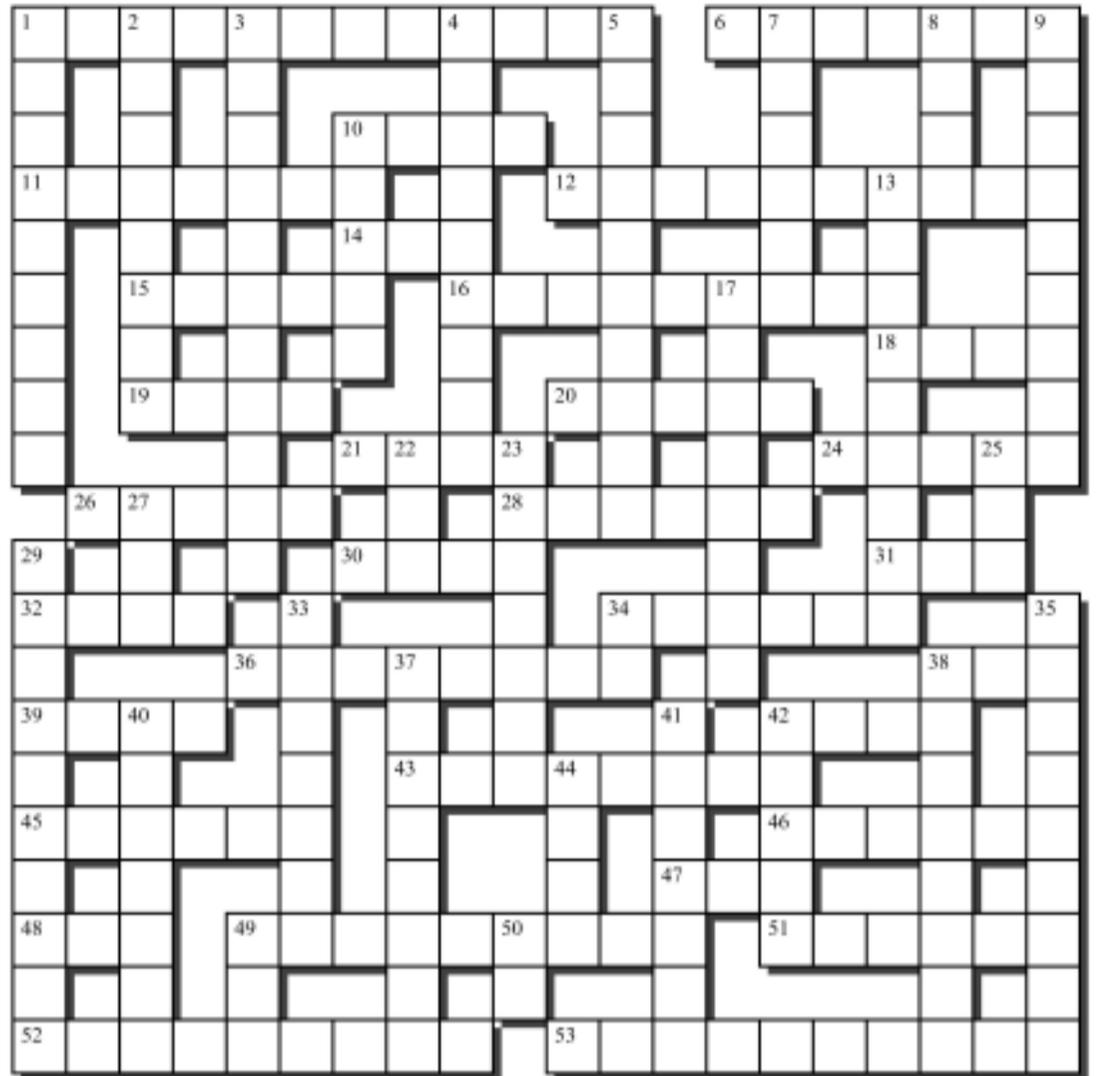
- 1. Mexico/Peru
- 2. Spain/Italy
- 3. Iran/Iraq
- 4. India/China

QUESTION 2
What is the actress Sigourney Weaver's birth name?

- 1. Flavia
- 2. Margaret
- 3. Susan
- 4. Elizabeth

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1) To regret (12) | 1) Pleasant (9) |
| 6) Chapel (7) | 2) He gives up (8) |
| 10) Prima donna (4) | 3) Pilgrimage (11) |
| 11) Tile (7) | 4) You invest (9) |
| 12) Condensed (10) | 5) To excommunicate (10) |
| 14) He laughs (3) | 7) To ventilate (6) |
| 15) Priests (5) | 8) Moon (4) |
| 16) They recover (9) | 9) Archbishop (9) |
| 18) Three (4) | 10) Back (5) |
| 19) Donkey (4) | 13) Shrine (9) |
| 20) High-pitched (5) | 17) Sloe berries (8) |
| 21) Laughter (4) | 22) I will go (3) |
| 24) Saint (5) | 23) Friendship (7) |
| 26) Monk (5) | 25) Uncle (3) |
| 28) Martyr (6) | 27) Wave (3) |
| 30) I ordered (4) | 29) Consecrated (10) |
| 31) Gone (3) | 33) Arrival (7) |
| 32) Geese (4) | 34) Ace (2) |
| 34) Assault (6) | 35) Knight (9) |
| 36) Planets (8) | 37) Novel (8) |
| 38) Aunt (3) | 38) Betrayal (8) |
| 39) You are (subj) (4) | 40) Murderer (7) |
| 42) Worse (4) | 41) To worship (7) |
| 43) Stained glass window (8) | 42) To pay (5) |
| 45) War (6) | 44) Root (4) |
| 46) Great! (6) | 49) I fell (3) |
| 47) It was (3) | 50) To go (2) |
| 48) Like that (3) | |
| 49) To canonise (9) | |
| 51) He resides (6) | |
| 52) Opposition (9) | |
| 53) Turbulent (10) | |



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: She was christened Susan Alexander Weaver although her father wanted to call her Flavia (her brother is called Trajan), because of his passion for Roman history. She changed her name to Sigourney after the character Sigourney Howard in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," in 1963.

Answer 2: Susan Asia, and that they were first cultivated in China around 2,500 BC.

Of interest: The orange is unknown in the wild state; it is assumed to have originated in southern China, northeastern India, and perhaps southeastern Asia.

Answer 1: India/China

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Hand down; 5 Firm; 9 Acts; 10 Giraffes; 11 Final; 12 Enlarge; 13 Secret society; 18 Peerless; 19 Punt; 20 Artists; 21 Rigid; 22 Oars; 23 Standing; Down: 2 Ascribe; 3 Despair; 4 White as a sheet; 6 In force; 7 Masterly; 8 Gaelic; 13 Soprano; 14 Cheater; 15 Enlist; 16 Implied; 17 Tension.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Dismal, 2 Astral, 3 Vandal, 4 Instil, 5 Diesel, 6 Chisel, 7 Ordeal, 8 Laurel, 9 Effel, 10 Mutual, 11 Animal, 12 Normal.

COMMENTATOR: David Coleman.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Water	S	C	R	A	W	R	A	S	P	Y
2. Eye	S	H	O	C	K	L	E	M	M	I
3. Hook	A	V	A	U	L	E	L	I	U	D
4. Flat	P	L	A	T	E	N	S	E	M	O
5. Plate	R	O	M	E	V	E	H	O	R	A
6. Spy	G	O	R	E	I	N	E	A	T	L
7. Looking	A	K	L	A	B	A	R	I	S	K
8. Wine	P	I	N	T	E	R	A	B	E	
9. Cut	U	N	V	E	R	E	Y	E	R	D
10. Sherry	N	G	E	R	M	I	E	L	O	F

Sudoku solution

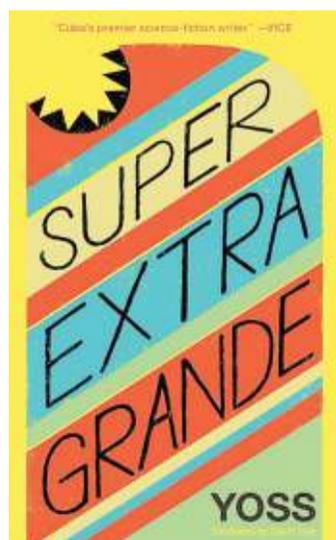
6	2	1	4	8	5	3	7	9
8	4	7	3	9	1	6	2	5
9	3	5	6	7	2	8	1	4
7	8	6	1	5	4	9	3	2
4	1	2	9	3	8	7	5	6
5	9	3	2	6	7	1	4	8
2	5	8	7	1	6	4	9	3
1	6	9	5	4	3	2	8	7
3	7	4	8	2	9	5	6	1

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
 1. ARBENITSE 6CAPILLA 16DIVA
 11. AZULEJO 12CONDENSADO 14RE
 15CURVAS 16RECUPERAN 18TRES
 19ASNO 20AQUO 21RISA 24SANTO
 26MONTE 28MARTIR 30PEPE 31IDO
 22OCAS 34ASALTO 36PLANETA
 38TIA 39SEAS 42PEOR 43VIDRERA
 45GUBERNA 46GENIAL 47ERA 48ASI
 49CANONIZAR 51RESIDE
 52OPOSICION 53TURBULENTO

DOWN:
 1.ORDABABLE 2RENUNCIA
 3.PERFORNARE 4UNIBERS
 5.EXCOMULGAR 7AIBEAR 8LUNA
 9.ARBORISPO 10DORSO 13SANTUARIO
 17.INDRIAS 22IRE 23AMISTAD
 25.TIO 27OLA 29CONAGRADO
 31LEGADA 34AS 35CABALLERO
 37NOVEDOSO 38TRAFICON
 40ASESINO 41VENERAR 42PAGAR
 44RAIZ 49CAI 50IR

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Super Extra Grande Yoss

Set in a distant future, the novel features fabulous creatures - amoebas that cover entire worlds, sensual females that feed on substances from their males' reproductive systems, talking reptiles etc- all of which serve as colleagues, fellow adventurers, teachers, or members of the military high command in the Galactic Commonwealth governing this part of the universe. Jan Amos Sangan Dongo, has a special role in this otherworldly menagerie: He is a veterinarian who specializes in treating enormous animals across the galaxy.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream

C. S. LEWIS

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Welcoming the New Year

It doesn't seem possible that a year has passed since the last New Year's message, but here we are again. Hopefully you all had a great Christmas and are ready for the celebrations on Sunday night. Every town, city and village across Andalucía will have events planned to herald the start of a brand new year, whether it's just swallowing grapes while shivering under the church clock or enjoying a glass of cava in a heated marquee. As usual, this year has brought a mix of good and bad news. The on-going Catalan crisis has

over-shadowed everything else and is going to fill pages in the national press for a good many months yet. However, the most exciting event of the year is still to come, the visit by the Magi on 5 January.

This Sunday make sure you pick twelve of the smallest grapes and have a wish ready for that final stroke of midnight. We wish all our readers a happy and prosperous new year and would love to hear your

news and views.
 Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or simply Tweet them to us @SUR_English





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A bird in danger of extinction spotted at the Río Verde estuary

The crested coot, or red-knobbed coot, is officially classified as being a species which is in critical danger of disappearing altogether

by NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. In the past few weeks the estuary of the Río Verde in Marbella has been playing host to a new guest which was not only unexpected but is also a remarkable sight in Malaga province: a red-knobbed coot, also known as a crested coot.

This bird is a member of a family of rallidae in serious danger of extinction; they are mainly found in Ethiopia and there are very few of them in Spain and Morocco. In fact, in Andalucía they are normally only seen on the Guadalquivir marshes and some lagoons in Cadiz province.

The situation of this species is very delicate everywhere it inhabits, mainly due to the regression of the wetlands and the pressure of hunting, because these birds are sometimes confused with their close relative, the Eurasian coot.



The crested coot spotted on the Río Verde recently. by JUAN CARACUEL

The species is officially classified as being in Critical Danger of Extinction, which is the highest degree of threat to any species, according to the Red Book of Birds in Spain which is produced by the SEO ornithological society and published by the Ministry of the Environment.

It is calculated that in the best of cases there are only 50 to 80 reproducing pairs in this country and the situation in Africa is no better, so

There are believed to be between 50 and 80 reproducing pairs in the whole of Spain

the sighting in Marbella is very unusual indeed.

Juan Caracuel, a member of SEO



Western swamphen, not often seen in this area. by J. C.

Malaga, was able to photograph this lovely bird on 7 December, but other people say they have seen it before and after that date in the same place.

Juan says this is not the first time a crested coot has chosen to spend time at the Río Verde estuary in the winter. The same thing occurred in 2011 and 2013, and he believes that it will probably stay for a few weeks, as it did before. This is long enough for it to enjoy abundant food from

the Río Verde, especially the submerged vegetation and stalks of marshland plants it enjoys so much.

"Once the breeding season is over, these birds go from one place to another to look for food, but without a fixed route. We don't know where they come from, because there's no way we can find out. They may have been in a wetland in Valencia, or Doñana, or even north Africa," explains Juan, who believes the bird in Marbella is probably the only crested coot in the province at present. Two others were spotted a few months ago on the reservoir at Canelada, in Estepona.

His expert eye does not let him down. "There is no way of confusing a crested coot with a Eurasian coot," he says, "because among some other differences it has two red protuberances on its head, and it's slimmer and smaller than the Eurasian variety."

The one on the Río Verde is medium-sized, and about 40 to 45 centimetres long, but Juan Caracuel says it is difficult to know how old it is. "It doesn't appear to be a young bird, though," he says.

The presence of the crested coot is not the only surprise on the Río Verde at the moment. A western swamphen has also been spotted there.

This bird can be seen all over Spain and, although it is not an endangered species as it was in the 1950s, it is unusual to spot them in this region because they do not breed in Malaga province.



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