

# SUR

## in English

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March 23rd to 29th 2018  
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News	2	What To Do	49
Comment	24	My Home	55
Lifestyle	26	Sport	58
Food & Drink	40	Classified	63
Health & Beauty	44	Pastimes	70

### Running into the reservoirs

The recent rain has revived springs and streams, bringing the sound of water back to the mountains **P2&3**



# Ambassador says UK expat rights are safe for the Brexit transition

Simon Manley has been on the Costa to talk to British residents about their future in the EU

The British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, was in Mijas and Manilva on Thursday to attend meetings with British residents on the Costa del Sol. At the Mijas event, organised by the Brexpat organisation, Manley reassured British residents that rights will be maintained throughout the transition period that is due to begin in March next year and end in December 2020 when the UK will



Simon Manley.  
:: T. B.

finally no longer be a member of the EU.

Referring to David Davis and Michel Barnier's press conference in Brussels on Monday, which announced that a Brexit transition deal had been agreed, he claimed that this was a major step forward and significant progress had been made. The Ambassador then went on to a second meeting with British residents held in Manilva. **P5**



## FLEETING VISIT FROM THE CHINESE PICASSO

Work by Qi Baishi has been exhibited outside Asia for the first time in a three-day show at Malaga's Jorge Rando museum **P49**

The opening of the exhibition was attended by a delegation from China. :: SALVADOR SALAS

**Footballer Isco invests in his hometown** and plans gourmet market and shopping centre in Arroyo de la Miel building **P9**

**Banderas and Picasso in one skin** at the premiere of the National Geographic Genius series at the Cervantes theatre **P34**

**Refereeing in crucial Belgium-Spain rugby clash** to be investigated after claims of deliberate bias **P62**

## Mijas council warns that A7 footbridge is in danger of collapse

The government has been urged to repair the bridge near the IPV Palace hotel that is half in Mijas and half in Fuengirola **P10**

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The volume of water still flowing into the Guadalhorce, Verde, Guaro and Genal rivers means the reserves will continue to increase for a while to come

by I. LILLO

**MALAGA.** You can almost hear the land sighing with relief. After months of concern about the lack of water, just three weeks of heavy rain have provided up to 511 litres per square metre in places such as the higher area of the Guadiaro river, which is the natural boundary between the provinces of Malaga and Cadiz. More than 466 l/m<sup>2</sup> of rain also fell in Pujerra, in the Serranía de Ronda, and over 400 at Los Reales, in the Estepona mountains.

This rainfall has recharged the springs and filled rivers and streams. Reservoir levels are rising again: those in Malaga province have recovered about 120 cubic hectometres. La Concepción is almost completely full, and fears of drought in La Axarquía have been relegated to the past, thanks to the water now in La Viñuela.

The extra water that is still flowing in the Guadalhorce, Verde, Guaro and Genal rivers and their tributaries will ensure that the reserves continue to increase in the coming days. Rivers and streams have come back to life have become an unexpected tourist attraction, with hundreds of people heading into the countryside every weekend to enjoy the sight.

La Concepción reservoir, which supplies 11 municipalities on the western Costa del Sol (Marbella, Estepona, Ojén, Istán, Casares, Manilva, Mijas, Fuengirola, Benalmádena, Benahavís and Torremolinos) is mainly fed from the Río Verde, although since 1995 it has also received water from three tributaries, Guadalmina, Guadalmasa and Guadaiza, which on average provide around 60 per cent of its supply.

Situated between Marbella and Istán, this reservoir is unusual because it is so small that it empties at almost the same rate as it fills. In fact in the past three weeks it has gone



The Fuente de los Cien Caños in Villanueva del Trabuco is the source of the river Guadalhorce. by FERNANDO TORRES

## Filling up the reservoirs

Rivers and springs have come back to life in the last few weeks, stocking up the reservoirs and attracting visitors

from being half-full to over 93 per cent, and last Friday the sluice gates had to be opened so that some of the water could be released before the heavy rainfall forecast last weekend.

A couple of weeks ago it was decided to open the spillways of the Guadaiza river because of the amount of water it contained. They were closed again afterwards to stop it flowing into the already-full reservoir. The water from the three tributaries is a boon during periods of drought, when the Río Verde almost dries up, but when it rains very heavily, as it has done recently, the volume needs to be carefully monitored to make sure the reservoir doesn't overflow.

La Concepción, which was built in 1972, might be one of the smallest reservoirs in the province (it can only hold 62 cubic hectometres) but it receives more water than any other, even in dry periods. There were plans to enlarge it, but they were shelved during the economic crisis and have not yet been recovered.

### Axarquía

The source of the Guaro river, in the municipality of Periana, provides most of the water to the Vélez basin. After the recent heavy rain, it is looking impressive. Water is flowing fast from the mountains, through a river which crosses the village on its way to the reser-

voir. The Guaro receives water from its tributaries - the Sabar, Benamargosa and Salia - as it heads towards La Viñuela, the biggest reservoir in the province. In years when there is heavy rain local people are obliged to put sandbags into place in case it overflows.

La Viñuela reservoir, which shares its name with the municipality in which it is located, can hold 165.4 cubic hectometres. There are also eight smaller dams, built to collect and contain water from other rivers such as La Cueva, Solano, Seco, Alcaucín, Bermuza, Almanchares, Granados and Rubite. These are tributaries on both sides of the Guaro and there is also the Arroyo de la Madre

stream, which has been artificially incorporated into the Almanchares.

Work didn't start on the reservoir until 22 October 1982 and it was completed in 1989, although it wasn't completely filled for the first time until 1998. It stands 230 metres above sea level, is 90 metres deep and covers an area of 565 hectares.

### Guadalhorce

One of the main sources of water for much of Malaga city is the Guadalhorce river, which flows from the San Jorge mountains in Villanueva del Trabuco. The spring feeds what is known as the 'Fuente de los Cien Caños', or 100-spout spring, the main tourist attraction in the area, espe-

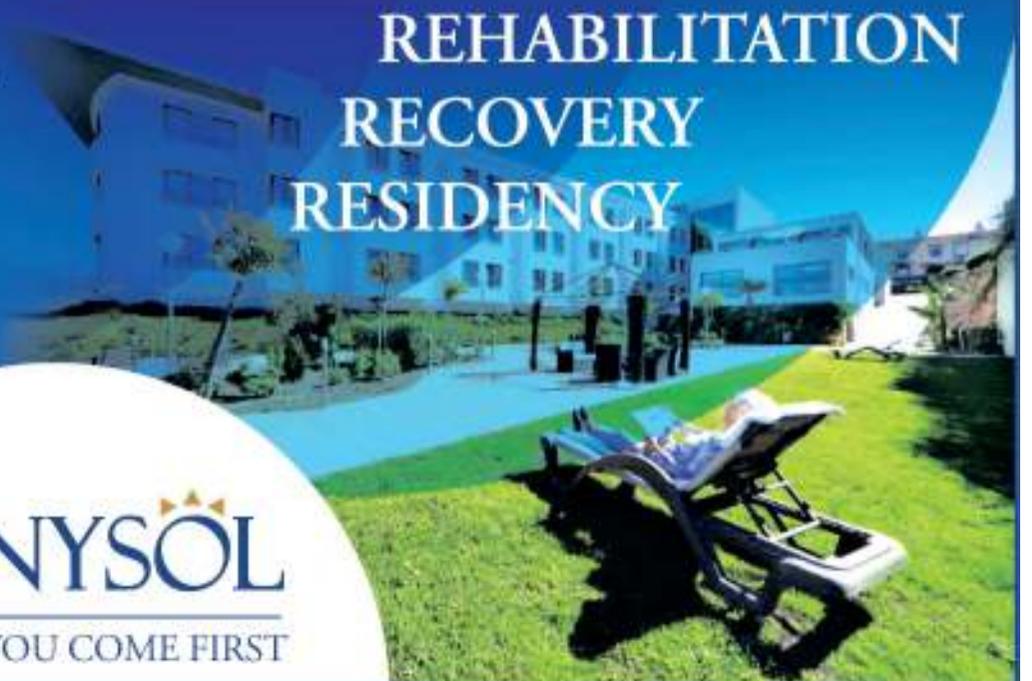
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The source of the Genal river, in Igualeja. :: VANESSA MELGAR



The river Guaro, which flows into La Viñuela. :: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ



The spring in Cuevas del Becerro, whose waters flow into the Guadalteba. :: V. MELGAR



The Río Verde, which supplies La Concepción. :: J-LANZA



Arroyo Molino, tributary of the Río Verde. :: JOSELE-LANZA

cially now that water is flowing fast. The Guadalhorce river contains more water than any other in the province and feeds the reservoir system of Guadalhorce, Conde de Guadalhorce and Guadalteba. It flows through 12 municipalities on its 166-kilometre journey, which also includes the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes gorge, below the Caminito del Rey.

### Serranía de Ronda

In the Serranía de Ronda there are plenty of springs and rivers, which have come back to life with the recent rainfall. The 'Nacimiento' spring is in Cuevas del Becerro, a village on the edge of the Guadalteba region.

The water emerges from the rocks, a beautiful sight especially after heavy rain. From the Nacimiento, the Cuevas river crosses the village and flows into the Guadalteba. It supplies the reservoir of the same name and irrigates agricultural land in the mountains.

The source of the Genal river is in Igualeja, at the entrance to the village. It is classified as a natural monument and special beauty spot (Rincón Singular) of the province. The river gives its name to the Genal Valley, which is home to 15 white villages.

Its waters, which are more abundant after the recent rain and are principally used for irrigation, flow

into the Guadiaro river in San Martín del Tesorillo, which is part of the municipality of Jimena de la Frontera, in Cadiz province. Parts of the countryside through which the Genal flows are extremely beautiful, and in summer there are numerous pools in which to swim.

According to the weather forecasts we have seen the last of the heavy rain for the time being, but the unusual images of plentiful water flowing through the countryside will last for several weeks.

**i** Contributors to this article: **F. Torres, V. Melgar, A. Peláez and M. Pérez.**

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# Body found of Guardia Civil officer swept away in rescue operation

Antequera-born Diego Díaz was attending the scene of an accident in Seville province in which a car came off the road and plunged into a stream

:: JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

**MALAGA.** The search for missing Guardia Civil officer Diego Díaz, 53, was concluded on Tuesday when his body was recovered from the Arroyo Galapagar stream in Guillena (Seville).

More than 200 people had joined the search operation after the officer was swept away by the current as he attempted to rescue a family whose car came off the road and plunged into the stream.

The Antequera-born officer lost his footing as he and a colleague tried to free a man and his daughter from the car they became trapped in after it careered off the



Guardia Civil officers where the body of Díaz (inset) was recovered on Tuesday. :: EFE / SUR



road in an accident. The search effort was made difficult by the heavy rainfall that blighted much of the region and caused over 30 incidents in Malaga province over the course of the weekend.

The operation had to be suspended on Monday because of reduced visibility and flooding but

upon its resumption on Tuesday morning when the water levels fell, Díaz's body was found 300 metres from where he was last seen.

### Days of mourning

In Guillena, where he had been stationed since 2001, the town hall approved a motion to name him an adoptive son on Tuesday. Meanwhile, both Guillena and Antequera observed three days of mourning.



Police horses and dogs have been brought in to help. :: SUR

# Search resumed for missing Torremolinos man

:: A. FRÍAS / J. CANO

**MALAGA.** Around a hundred people, among them professional emergency service personnel and volunteers, renewed their search on Monday for a man missing from Torremolinos for over two months.

Antonio Ortega, who has a mental illness, disappeared on 22 January while walking his dog. The dog was found two weeks later near the Churriana motorway tunnel which leads police to believe that he most likely headed for the Tor-

remolinos mountains.

This is where search efforts are focused, with police horses and dogs deployed to the comb the area, including areas previously searched.

Searches are also ongoing on a daily basis around Churriana, Alhaurín de la Torre and Benalmádena.

At the time of his disappearance, Antonio, 32 and 1.8 metres tall, was wearing a white sweatshirt with a red hood, black tracksuit bottoms and blue trainers.



Antonio Ortega

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# "Citizens' rights will be maintained throughout the transition period"

Simon Manley, the British Ambassador to Spain, visited the Costa del Sol on Thursday to take part in Brexit talks

## TONY BRYANT

**MIJAS.** On a visit to the Costa del Sol this week, Simon Manley, the British Ambassador to Spain, promised that the government's priority throughout the Brexit negotiations has been, and always will be, the citizens. He also gave his assurance that "rights will be maintained throughout the transition period".

He claimed that the government had listened to the concerns that have been raised and said that it was those issues which have formed the way in which it has handled the negotiations.

The ambassador and regional consul, Charmaine Arbouin, hosted two talks about Brexit on the Costa del Sol on Thursday. The talks are part of the efforts made by the British Embassy and Consulates in Spain to ensure that the concerns residents raised around subjects like residency rights, healthcare and pensions are understood by the UK negotiating team and reflected in their discussions with their EU partners.

The meeting, which was held in the Avanto Restaurant in La Cala de Mijas, was chaired by Anne Hernandez, President of Brexpat in Spain, the Mijas-based platform that offers advice and information about the effects of the forthcoming Brexit.

The British Ambassador began by thanking Brexpat, in particular for the manner with which they have worked with the embassy from day one, which he said had been "genuinely collaborative, transparent and honest".

Referring to David Davis and Michel Barnier's press conference in Brussels on Monday, which announced that a Brexit transition deal had been agreed, he claimed that this was a major step forward and significant progress had been made.

"Back in December, we came to the first big agreement on the terms of our departure from the EU. This was an agreement that, amongst



Simon Manley covered citizens rights during Thursday's meetings on the Costa del Sol. :: TONY BRYANT

**"It's called a transition period because it is taking us from our status as a member state of the EU"**

**"We reached an agreement that effectively protects the rights of British expats already living here in Spain"**

other things, covered the issue of citizens' rights: we reached an agreement that effectively protects the

rights of British expats already living here in Spain and Spanish residents in the UK," he said.

The ambassador pointed out that once this is turned into a draft legal treaty, it will be the legal basis for continuity of expats rights as residents here in Spain, just as it will be for Spaniards living in the UK.

He claimed the government has been working tirelessly on what the British prime minister calls the implementation period, or the transition period, the period that will start when the UK leaves the EU next March and continues until Decem-

Bremain in Spain claim Theresa May is 'boxed into a corner'

## TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** When David Davis appeared at a press conference in Brussels on Monday, to announce that a Brexit transition deal had been agreed, there was a general acceptance that significant progress had been made.

However, Bremain in Spain, a group campaigning for the UK to remain in the EU, claims that British prime minister, Theresa May, has simply "boxed herself into a corner".

Sue Wilson, Chair of Bremain in Spain, said: "The news that nothing will change for those exercising their EU citizenship rights during transition was welcome but there was little else to smile about. Davis implied that all citizens' rights issues were settled. However, the same important issues are outstanding now that were outstanding back in December. Nothing has changed, including the level of insecurity we all feel."

ber 2020.

"It's called a transition period because it is taking us from our status as a member state of the EU to a future relationship with them. That period, to put it very simply, will be a period in which the rules of the EU will continue to be observed in full," he concluded.

The second meeting was held in Manilva on Thursday evening, when a panel of experts was set up to answer questions from residents.

## British Ambassador to be honoured at annual provincial awards

### A.M. ROMERO

**MALAGA.** The British ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, is to be given an award by the Malaga Diputación provincial authority in recognition of his work in strengthening relations between

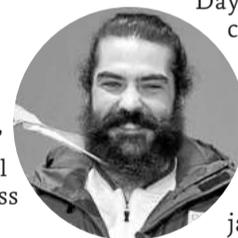
the United Kingdom, Malaga and the Costa del Sol.

President of the Diputación, Elias Bendodo, highlighted that this autumn Malaga will host the 30th annual Hispanic-British forum, drawing representatives

from both countries' business and political communities to discuss bilateral relations.

The award will be given to Manley at a ceremony to be held in the village

of Monda on 26 April, which is designated as Malaga Province Day. Each year the provincial authority chooses a different town or village to host the awards event.



Regino Hernández

Also among those to be awarded gold medals this year will be Mijas Olympic snowboard hero, Regino Hernández and the El Sol de Antequera newspaper.

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The vandalised and incomplete building near the Costa del Sol hospital by the A-7 motorway. :: JOSELE-LANZA

## New law courts will be in building seized in Malaya corruption case

The future site is an incomplete hotel outside Marbella by the A-7 that is set to be given to the local council as compensation for money lost in the fraud

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

**MARBELLA.** The Junta de Andalucía regional government, which is responsible for running court buildings, has announced that it has accepted Marbella council's offer for it to use a part-finished building to combine the disparate court sites around the town.

The building, alongside the A-7 near the Costa del Sol hospital, is a familiar site to locals due to its sorry state of repair. If all goes to plan, it will be given to the council as part of compensation for money defrauded by the disgraced former head of planning at the town hall, Juan Antonio Roca, in the infamous Operation Malaya corruption case.

Last year the council said it wanted to hand over the building, originally destined to be a hotel but built illegally, to the Junta. Courts in Marbella are currently spread out across three sites.

Announcing that the Junta had accepted the deal with the town

hall, Rosa Aguilar, regional minister for Justice and Interior, said, "This is a moment of enormous satisfaction for this ministry, as it is an essential step forward for a town as important as Marbella at last getting the court facilities it needs."

The arrangement is part of the complex deal between Marbella council and the Spanish tax agency whereby the town is receiving assets seized from Juan Antonio Roca in order to write down council debt with Madrid. The central government still needs to approve the final transfer of the building to the council.

## Public consultation starts on A-7 improvements east of Marbella

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

**MARBELLA.** The government has started the public information phase of its planned improvements to the westbound carriageway of the A-7 motorway in the stretch east of Marbella centre.

The 3.8-million-euro project aims to improve road safety with new slip roads and a service road

alongside the existing two-carriageway coastal motorway. The road is considered dangerous as vehicles entering it join fast-moving traffic.

The project covers three parts; a service road and extra filter lane between the El Rosario and Los Monteros turn offs; an extra filter lane between Altos de Marbella

and the Rio Real exit; and a service road and slow filter lane between between the Torre Real turn off and kilometre 184.5 of the road.

An extra million euros on top of the 3.8 million destined for the work will go on compulsory purchase of land and security staff on the site.

Most of the almost 33,000 metres of land to be used belongs to Marbella council however eight private owners are also affected, including a local golf course that will lose 3,000 square metres of the land it owns.

## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Expat Investment Claims



## Seeking compensation for mis-sold SIPP's or QROPS



Compensation is potentially available for investors. SUR

**COSTA DEL SOL**

British expats who have lost all or some of their retirement capital after being mis-sold pension schemes are potentially able to claim for compensation.

Many British expats in Spain transferred their pensions to Self Invested Personal Pensions (SIPP's) and Qualified Recognised Overseas Pensions (QROPS). For many, however, the consequences have been disastrous and have resulted in a complete loss of retirement capital and income. Others have been more fortunate and only lost some of their capital and income.

A new venture in Spain, Expat Investment Claims, has partnered with Legal Force, a UK regulated claims management specialist, to assist expats make claims for compensation for their losses.

In a test case on 19 January, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme said it would compensate investors who joined schemes set up by certain providers.

"This opened the floodgates for expats to claim," said Peter Butler, regional director of Expat Investment Claims.

"The scale of the losses is not the issue. The fact is that a large percentage of British expats were mis-sold SIPP's and QROPS,"

he added. "Compensation is potentially available for these individuals."

What happened? Clients were encouraged to transfer their existing pension arrangements into SIPP's and QROPS on the promise of greater returns and more control over their pension funds. In many cases, the clients did not have investment experience, the advice was not regulated, the advice was unsuitable, the fees were not disclosed and the risks were not explained.

Pensions in the UK are highly regulated investment products and only qualified professionals are given permission by the Financial Conduct Authority to advise on them. Most advisers in Spain did not have the correct qualifications or permissions and should not have been advising expat clients.

"More generally, if any poor advice concerning SIPP's and QROPS left you worse off, you may be able to make a complaint and receive compensation," said Butler.

For further information visit [www.expatinvestmentclaims.com](http://www.expatinvestmentclaims.com) or email [info@expatinvestmentclaims.com](mailto:info@expatinvestmentclaims.com).

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# “We have seen an increase in British buyers in the last year”

**Javier Ballester**  
Managing director of Taylor Wimpey España

The developer has just strengthened its collaboration with La Cala Golf, raising its investment to 166 million euros

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

**MIJAS.** Javier Ballester is the Spanish director of the British developer Taylor Wimpey. After reporting a 125-million-euro investment in La Cala Golf under a year ago, last week it was announced that the investment would be increased further, to 166 million euros, to build 1,000 new homes in Mijas. Ballester is encouraged by the firm's good relationship with Mijas town hall

and the growth potential of the Costa del Sol.

**How did the idea of joining forces with La Cala Golf come about?**

As part of our investment strategy we were looking for landowners who weren't developers, but who were willing to provide the land so that we didn't have to pay for it. In exchange the owner receives, not just the value of the land but also part of the future profits of the development. La Cala Golf offered us this possibility. The location, the seriousness and the quality we found made us decide on this project.

**Why have you chosen Mijas for your new housing development?**

The Costa del Sol in general is an area that we have spent a lot of time working in and where we hope to

continue working for years to come. La Cala Golf is located in Mijas and Mijas is on the Costa del Sol.

**How is your company's relationship with local government?**

Very good. This is a golden age for property developers and the council is setting us realistic requirements.

**Why has Taylor Wimpey increased its investment to 166 million euros from 125?**

We are now developing the fourth project with La Cala Golf and as we have seen an excellent working relationship between the two businesses we have decided to extend the partnership.

**Do you think that you might invest more in the future?**

We are currently talking about de-



Javier Ballester is confident sales will continue, despite Brexit. :: I. G.

veloping 600 properties together. That means several years of work and we have to look carefully at what is ahead of us, but I think that it is very likely.

**That investment, from a British company, would come after Brexit. Are you worried about this change?**

The British market represents only 20% of our market, although we have also seen an increase in Brit-

ish buyers in the last year. Whatever happens, British investors will not stop just because of Brexit; if they did it would be due to an unfavourable exchange rate and that would be circumstantial.

**What do the new homes being built offer that's different from other developments?**

They are houses with modern design and specifications. They will



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## Luxury resort chain Ikos to invest 150 million euros in Estepona in first venture in Spain

The company has purchased the Princess Costa del Sol hotel which it will convert into an all-inclusive resort for exclusive clients

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** Luxury firm Ikos will embark on its first Spanish venture with a 150-million-euro investment in Estepona.

The group announced on Monday that it had purchased the four-star Princess Costa del Sol hotel which will be converted into an all-inclusive luxury resort. It is hoped that it will receive its first guests in 2020.

“Ikos Andalusia will open its doors in 2020, with the objective of becoming the best all-inclusive resort in the country,” said the group which aims to implement its Ikos



The front of the current Princess Costa del Sol hotel. :: SUR

Infinite Lifestyle experience. “This is a concept which has recently been recognised as number one in the world in the all-inclusive category, according to TripAdvisor.”

The group has revealed that Ikos Andalusia, as it will be called, will have more than 400 rooms and suites distributed across seven buildings. The complex will also have

70,000 square metres of gardens and other leisure areas which back onto the sea.

Eight restaurants will make up the resort's gastronomy offering which will be in addition to “a wide variety of sports installations, a theatre, 4,000 square metres of heated swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor, and a spa”, it said.

**Exclusive luxury**

The resort will also offer services for exclusive clients who demand more than luxury. This comes under the Ikos Deluxe package which includes private pools and concierge service.

“Estepona has always been a destination for those looking for the perfect combination of sun, sea, a unique lifestyle and culture. We are delighted to be launching our exclusive experience in Spain,” said the company's new region representative, Luis Herault.

## Estepona town hall to reimburse 95% of the construction tax for the new Russian church

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

**ESTEPONA.** The PP-led council at Estepona town hall last week approved a notion to reimburse 95% of the ICIO (construction, installations and building works tax) on the future Russian church to be built in the area.

Taxation councillor Manuel Aguilar argued that the church was a not-for-profit association and so met all of the criteria for a rebate.

The opposition parties (PSOE, IU and CSSP) abstained in the vote, arguing that the future church was not in the public interest nor did it have any links to the community in Estepona.

Estepona town hall has already given the land in the Arroyo de las Cañas area to the church for 75 years.

also be built so that they offer views over this amazing area. As if this wasn't enough, the houses developed alongside La Cala will come with an exclusive card that will offer discounts and offers at La Cala golf courses, La Cala hotel, spa services, restaurants...

**Are you not worried that a new housing bubble will burst? Is this new investment sustainable?**

We are still very far from the production levels and the house prices of properties pre-crisis. And credit providers are being more demanding with buyers. At the moment it doesn't seem as if there's a bubble. We're convinced that we are making a sustainable investment. La Cala Golf is possibly the largest golf resort in Spain and has deserved prestige.

**Is there a lot of interest in the new properties?**

We are very happy with our current sales. The buyers are mostly northern Europeans: English, Irish, Scandinavians, Belgians, Dutch. As I've said, we're starting our fourth development with La Cala since we first signed our agreement four years ago. We have sold around 80 houses per year and we hope to maintain this rate in the coming years.

## Footballer Isco to invest in revamp for central Arroyo building

The Real Madrid star has bought the upper level of the San Juan centre, as well as several premises on the ground floor

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**BENALMÁDENA.** The San Juan building in Arroyo de la Miel has a new investor. Real Madrid midfielder Isco Alarcón has gone back to his roots and purchased the building's top floor as well as a number of ground floor premises.

Although the investment plan is far from definitive, it is understood that the intention is to boost to the local economy by expanding the existing building with the addition of a second floor, creating a new gourmet market and attracting new high-end shops to the area.

Sources close to Isco told SUR that the player is "excited" to "give



Interior of the San Juan shopping centre in Arroyo de la Miel. :: SUR

something back" to the area where he grew up.

While the project is still in its early stages, Isco's representatives have already assessed the building, which was built in 1980 and home to some of the area's most popular restaurants, La Alternativa and Casa

Emilio.

They have also met with local council representatives regarding the necessary changes to the urban development plan (PGOU) to allow for an additional floor. It is understood that this shouldn't be an issue, due to the public's interest in

the project but a potential obstacle could be the building's pillars and whether they can support an extra floor. In the event that they can't, the project would go ahead without an additional level.

**Parking**

Another key to the project is car parking facilities. For this reason, Isco and his family have expressed their interest in the Pueblosol car-park which has been out of use since its owners, Tremon, had a disagreement with the previous contract holders last year. The car park has a capacity for more than 800 vehicles and is close to the future shopping centre in the centre of Arroyo de la Miel.

**Unanimous support**

Few projects in Benalmádena have unanimous support but this one appears to have the backing of many businessowners in the area, as well as the mayor.

Victor Navas (PSOE) said on Wednesday that he believed the project was "one of the most significant in the area for years" and that the council would "speed up the processes" to help make this a reality.



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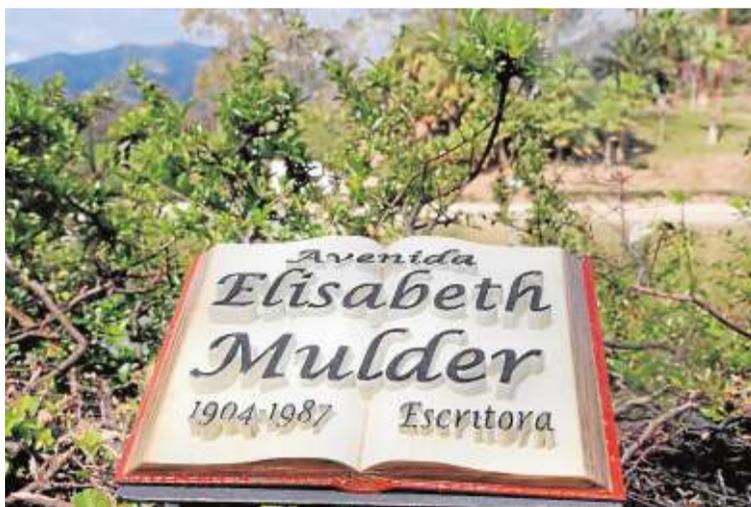
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## Benalmádena honours ten female literary figures

:: TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** Benalmádena town hall has christened the walkways in La Paloma Park with the names of ten of Spain's most celebrated twentieth-century female writers. Ten hand-painted plaques - designed to look like open books - have been installed on the walkways, each one inscribed with the name of a recognised literary figure. These include María Zambrano, Concha Méndez, Ángeles Santos, Elizabeth Mulder and Teresa León Goyri. The women, all part of the artistic movement known as the 'Generation of 27', were chosen for their notable contribution to Spanish culture and their commitment to equality for women.

As part of Benalmádena town hall's commitment to effective equality, the project is designed to promote fairness and to give prominence to women and their rights.



Walkways have been named after celebrated female writers. :: SUR

The inauguration was attended by the mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, who said: "We must acknowledge the great efforts and achievements harvested by these

illustrious pioneers in the struggle for equality. We will continue to do as much as possible in order to highlight the ground-breaking achievements they secured."



The bronze statue was made in 1972. :: JOSELE-LANZA

## Venus heads out to sea

:: NIEVES CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** Marbella's bronze statue of a waterskiing Venus could soon be on the move.

The Plataforma de los Espigones Transitable has reached an agreement with the town hall for the statue, made in 1972, to return to its original location by the sea.

Viability studies will soon be carried out to assess the possibility of relocating the statue from Glorieta de la Fontanilla to the

round breakwater on El Faro beach.

The statue was moved from the breakwater in front of El Faro beach to its current location when the majority of the pedestrian-access breakwaters were removed in 1991.

The statue is just one of several proposals put forward by the platform which is calling for a return to these breakwaters which were first in place in the early 1970s and protected the resort's beaches but also provided a social space for residents.



The new 'closed' sign that is only visible on the Mijas end of the bridge, which is still being crossed. :: I. G.

# Mijas council warns that A-7 footbridge is at risk of "collapse"

A spokesperson for Ciudadanos in Fuengirola, has also written to the government demanding urgent action on the structure which is still being used by pedestrians

**:: IVÁN GELIBTER**

**MIJAS/FUENGIROLA.** "At risk of collapse." That is how a Mijas councillor has described the state of a footbridge over the A-7 motorway by the Fuengirola welcome sign, near the old Hotel Beatriz Palace and the BP petrol station. The southern end of the bridge is in Fuengirola and the northern side is in Mijas district.

The Mijas councillor for Infrastructure, José Carlos Martín (of Ciudadanos), was speaking after receiving the results of a report he ordered on the state of the bridge. The report describes the condition of the bridge, which is the responsibility of the national government, as "terrible" and "at risk of collapse".

"No one has said that it's going to fall down tomorrow, but if we don't undertake works on the bridge

now, things will only get worse in the medium term," he told SUR on Monday.

Martín also said the bridge was an eyesore in an area popular with tourists. "It gives the impression that we have old and crumbling infrastructure, and that should be rectified," he added.

The Spanish government recently undertook a programme to assess and repair several of the footbridges on the A-7, but Martín says that this particular bridge was overlooked.

The Mijas councillor said that he would send a letter to Madrid this week, to add to the complaint from the spokesperson for the Ciudadanos party in Fuengirola, Javier Toro, that has already been sent. In his letter Toro highlighted the issues of corrosion on the bridge and stated that the situation is getting worse. The government responded by saying that it was "looking to undertake maintenance work in the local area".

Meanwhile a sign has appeared this week prohibiting pedestrians from using it, however this is on the Mijas end and not the Fuengirola end and only in Spanish. It has not been cordoned off and pedestrians are continuing to use it.

The issue of footbridges in disrepair is not a new one. A few months ago, the Socialist MP Miguel Ángel Heredia highlighted a similar issue with a bridge in Marbella. He explained that the bridges see a lot of use from local residents and tourists as they connect residential areas to the beach, the coastal path, the Costa del Sol Hospital and many other places. In their current condition, said Heredia, they are a danger to their users.



Corrosion is the main problem facing the bridge. :: I. G.

HERE AND THERE



A super yacht in port near the site of the new berths. :: SUR

## Malaga port to build marina for super yachts

**MALAGA**

**:: I. LILLO.** A project to convert the quayside next to Muelle Uno shopping centre in Malaga's port into a marina for luxury super yachts took a further step forward this week. The scheme, first reported

by SUR in English, has been put forward by several investors who see Malaga as one of the major port cities for leisure traffic connecting the Mediterranean with the Caribbean. The new berths will be able to accommodate up to 40 boats between 30 and 100 metres in length and up to 20 metres in height. The investors now have three months to present plans.

## Work starts on busy road by Fuengirola's feria

**FUENGIROLA**

**:: I. GELIBTER.** The renovation of Calle Romería del Rocío, near the Fuengirola showground, began this week. The works on this busy residential street include a complete revamp of the street and all of its infrastructure, including drainage, sewers, services, drinking water, electricity, telephone lines and street lighting.

## Council to legalise homes in Pueblo Don Silverio

**MIJAS**

**:: I. G.** There was good news for residents of the Pueblo Don Silverio estate in Mijas last week. The Mijas councillor for Urban Planning, Andrés Ruiz, has told residents of 47 houses in the area between Mijas village and Fuengirola centre that they are finally to have their homes integrated into the municipality's urban plan and therefore legalised.

For almost 20 years these residences have been in legal limbo as the area wasn't laid out in accordance with urban plans at the time.

The council will also gain some land for public use and nearby business and industrial properties will be legalised too.

## Beach bars along Mijas Costa are finally legal

**MIJAS**

**:: I. G.** Mijas council has announced that the chiringuito beach bars along the coastline of the municipality are finally on the point of being legalised following 35 years of uncertainty. Many of the traditional beach establishments on the Costa del Sol have been outside planning law for some time and didn't feature on town plans, preventing owners investing. Mijas will be one of the first areas to see the almost 30 chiringuitos' status normalised as the council has adapted its own master town plan. The final stage, approval by the regional government, is expected to be a formality.

## Pet-friendly taxi hits the streets of Mijas

**MIJAS**

**:: I. G.** A taxi specially adapted for pets has taken to the streets of Mijas. The vehicle that is driven by taxi driver Concha Cano has a special area with a harness for pets, which means owners can use it without bringing the animals' customary carrying case. So far Mijas is one of very few places in Spain with this service. Other places are Marbella, Madrid, Barcelona and Zaragoza. The driver said she is delighted as she is an animal lover.

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## HERE AND THERE

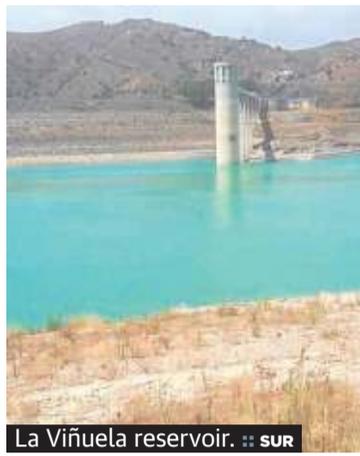
**La Viñuela water restriction lifted****AXARQUÍA**

:: **A. PELÁEZ.** The Axarquía's subtropical fruit sector breathed a sigh of relief on Wednesday morning when the Junta de Andalucía officially lifted the water restrictions which growers in the area had been dealing with since December 2017.

The announcement came following the heavy rain that has fallen in

the area this month, which has led to the Viñuela reservoir's levels almost doubling, from 35 cubic hectometres before the period of wet weather, to 63.7 cubic hectometres this week.

While the 60 per cent reduction in water availability no longer applies, growers will still not have access to their full supply until May. The announcement also means that the area is no longer at risk of drought and restrictions on domestic supply will not be imposed either.



La Viñuela reservoir. :: SUR

**Villages around Vélez-Málaga to get fibre optic****VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

:: **A. P.** Mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, announced last week that work to install fibre optic to the villages of El Trapiche, Triana and La Zorrilla is due to start in April. The project is expected to take approximately a year to complete and will reach 530 homes in total; 408 in Triana, 71 in La Zorrilla and 50 in El Trapiche. Moreno Ferrer added that Cajiz is also set to get the service.

**Salares to Árchez road repairs to take one month****SALARES**

:: **E. C.** Diputación president Elías Bendodo announced on Monday during a visit that repair work to the MA-4108 Salares to Árchez road will take another month to complete, "as long as climate conditions permit".

Work has already started to repair the section of road which collapsed earlier this month due to the heavy rainfall. The total cost of the repairs will be around 250,000 euros.

**Pioneering initiative allows visually impaired people to touch Holy Week**

A number of Axarquía-based organisations collaborated in the day during which 50 participants visited venues in Vélez-Málaga

**EUGENIO CABEZAS**

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** As preparations for Holy Week reach a climax, a pioneering initiative organised by the Cofradías association of Vélez-Málaga allowed around 50 visually-impaired people to touch 33 images that will form part of next week's processions in the town.

Also collaborating in the activity, which is the first of its kind in Andalucía, were the ONCE foundation, the Mancomunidad de Municipios de la Costa del Sol Oriental-Axarquía and Asociación para la Promoción Turística de la Axarquía (APTA), which provided the tourist train to move participants between the different venues.

The route took in a number of places where images are kept, as well as the town's MUVEL museum, Hermanas Carmelitas convent, San José church, the Los Remedios chapel and Holy Week mu-



Raúl Ruiz, Abel Arcas and Copo at San Francisco church. :: E. CABEZAS

seum (Museo de la Semana Santa).

Taking part in the event was 29-year-old Torre del Mar resident, Abel Arcas, with his guide dog, Copo, a black Labrador. Abel admitted that he was "a huge fan" of Holy Week, despite not being able to see the processions. "Although I can't see the images, I can feel the

sound of the processions, the noise of the people and smell of the rosemary and orange blossom," he said.

Another participant, Raúl Ruiz, 20, only has sight in one eye. He also said that he enjoys Holy Week. "I like El Cautivo and the legionnaires who take part in the processions," he explained.

**Cécile McLorin Salvant to open Almuñécar's jazz festival****J. RHODES**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Organisers of Almuñécar's annual Jazz en la Costa festival have announced that American-born Cécile McLorin Salvant (1989) will open this year's event.

McLorin Salvant has won two Grammy awards; one in 2015 for her album 'For One to Love' and again in 2017 for the album, 'Dreams and Daggers'. She was nominated for a Grammy in 2013 for her second album, 'Woman-Child'.

McLorin Salvant has been described as the "best jazz singer" of

our times by music magazine, Down Beat.

Born to a Haitian father and French mother, the singer was born and raised in Miami, Florida, before moving in 2007 to Aix-en-Provence in France.

The singer will be performing songs from 'Dreams and Daggers' on 17 July, the opening night of the 31st Jazz en la Costa festival.

More information on performers is expected to be announced later this month for the event which will take place from 17 to 22 July in the Parque de El Majuelo in Almuñécar.

**Arrest made months after cars burned out over EMMSA controversy****E. CABEZAS**

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** Guardia Civil officers have arrested a man with the initials B. A. R. as chief suspect linked to the burning of cars belonging to the mother of a Rincón de la Victoria council-

lor last November.

Ezequiel Carnero was the councillor responsible for cleaning company EMMSA, which was at the centre of a vote of no confidence against the previous administration, of which Carnero formed part, at Rincón de la Victoria town hall in June last year.

B. A. R. is also believed to be behind the burning of another car belonging to an employee of the cleaning company.

Staff contracts and management of EMMSA were at the centre of the vote of no confidence.

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## The Costa continues to attract Russian tourism

Visitor numbers from Russia, a market of interest for tourism chiefs, have increased by 11.3 per cent in the last year

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** The Costa del Sol has seen an increase in Russian tourists by 11.3 per cent in the last year. Figures from the Costa's tourist board have shown that around 90,000 people from Russia visited the Costa del Sol last year.

Russian visitors are particularly beneficial because they tend to spend more money and stay for longer than other tourists.

The increase mirrors a trend that has been experienced across Andalucía, which has seen an increase of 15.5 per cent.

According to the regional tourism body: "For Andalucía, Russia is a country of particular interest because the population is around 145 million and its GDP is in the top 10 in the world, with a strong emerging market, including excellent opportunities for growth."



Russian tourists in a Marbella restaurant. :: SUR

## Airlines put 16.1 million seats from Malaga Airport on sale for summer holiday season

:: P. MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** Malaga Airport is going from strength to strength, with 16.1 million seats on sale for this year's high season - 600,000 more than during the same period last year.

The Costa del Sol also now has connections to 136 airports around the world without layovers and 4.7 per cent increase in flights landing in Malaga in recent months.

Given current projections, the airport hopes to operate 94,000 arrivals and departures during the period.

The importance of Malaga Airport is clear not just from the increase in the number of flights but also the increase in new routes and destinations. Qatar Airways has announced a new route linking Malaga with Doha, and the Hungarian airline Wizz Air is due to open new routes to Sofia (Bulgaria) and Katowice (Poland).

Flights to European destinations will be the most common during the period, especially to the UK, and specifically London.

## Malaga gears up for presentation of world's biggest cruise ship

:: P. M.

**MALAGA.** Malaga is preparing to welcome the latest sea giant, the cruise ship Symphony of the Seas. The latest addition to Royal Caribbean's fleet, with a capacity of over 6,700 passengers, will be in the city on Tuesday for its international presentation.

The president of the Malaga Con-

vention Bureau, Francisco Querada, has said that the event was "without parallel in the city's history," as there will over 300 journalists from around the world present and guided tours of the ship.

"It's an excellent opportunity for Malaga as a city, as visitors who come to see the ship will be able to enjoy everything else that our won-

derful city has to offer," he said.

The president of the Malaga port authority, Paulino Plata, was similarly optimistic, saying that "this event is very important for tourism in the city. This event will allow Malaga to gain international attention."

The organisers have arranged a series of events so that locals can also enjoy the presentation of the new ship, which will arrive in Malaga at 6am and will leave at 10pm during a fireworks display. Attractions include a concert by Mr Proper, family games and a raffle.

## ADVERTORIAL Lawbird Legal Services

# Buying Spanish resale property without a licence of occupation: yes or no?

ANTONIO FLORES

As part of the documents any willing vendor needs to have ready for a potential buyer, we find the licence of first occupancy or occupation (LFO), an official certification that the property has been built in accordance with the planning permission received and is fit for living in: it is the duty of any property developer or self-builder to obtain one as soon as the construction has been finalised.

Sometimes however, for different reasons, the LFO is not available but the owner still wants to sell. Unlike the unique system in Valencia, where a person can obtain a second licence of occupation by merely filling out a 'responsible declaration form' (a type of sworn declaration by the applicant that the property complies with applicable regulations regarding its use and building parameters), the rest of property owners in the country do have a significant issue with the lack of this document.

But is it legal to sell under these conditions? The 'qualified' answer is yes: it is legally possible to officially - and legally - transfer title to a buyer, with Notaries and Land Registrars happily witnessing and registering title deeds, respectively. And banks will lend without it.

But this may come at a cost: in some places in Spain, if you don't have this licence you cannot legally live in the property (some

Catalonia cities). In Andalucía, you are not allowed to rent it out and utility supplies could be cut off (and there is no substitute for this document according to regional LOUA law). In Aragon, not having one is a 'fineable' offence - up to 6,000 euros.

It is any buyer's right to be shown one but if it is missing, searches should uncover the reason behind it. It may be that the owner never got around to applying for it, innocently or deliberately (i.e. an extension was built without permission), or that they had it and subsequent legal action saw it revoked, as happened in Marbella with circa 30 thousand properties.

Whatever the reason, a property without an LFO:

- Lacks a relevant document that exists for a reason.
- May hide serious planning irregularities (conversely, having the license is no guarantee of the contrary).
- May potentially - albeit unlikely - be cut off from supplies.
- May potentially - albeit unlikely - attract fines to its owners.
- May be more difficult to sell.

Still, if a buyer is forewarned of all implications and the price is right, a property deal without a LFO can be concluded.

**Antonio Flores is lawyer, founder and director of Lawbird, Marbella. Tel: 952861890. www.lawbird.com**

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## Drug trafficker to be freed this year in historic Malaga Holy Week ritual

After the 259-year tradition was broken for the first time last year, the government have been keen not to get it wrong again

**ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO MALAGA.** Next Wednesday a convicted drug trafficker from Fuengirola will be able to walk free when he is released during the Holy Week procession of the El Rico brotherhood in the centre of Malaga.

The tradition of freeing a prisoner for good behaviour goes back 257 years and is a key part of the city's week-long religious Easter parades. Last year this ritual was dramatically cancelled when it emerged that the Spanish Cabinet, who must agree who will be freed, rejected the proposed name and it was too late



A prisoner (right) being released the last time in 2016. **SUR**

to choose another person. In the end a prisoner was released but not until July and away from the ceremony of Holy Week.

This year the government is taking no chances and the name has been approved well in advance. And

to show support for the tradition, the ministers for Justice and Interior will be in the city for the event.

The man to be freed is currently serving a three-year sentence. Several other places around Spain also release prisoners before Easter.

### IN BRIEF

#### Extra care taken amid Holy Week safety fears

##### MALAGA

**SUR.** Organisers of Malaga's huge Holy Week processions this coming week have been taking extra precautions over crowd safety after a late-night stampede last year narrowly avoided serious injuries.

Police have been told to stop spectators setting up makeshift seating on the pavements in key

areas and blocking the flow of pedestrians viewing or following the processional thrones.

In addition the committee organising the many processions has agreed to let some divert their route from one stretch of road in Calle Tejon y Rodríguez. Here excavation work for a new apartment block means there is an 11-metre sheer drop into a car park space and local authorities were fearful of the safety risk. Others will keep the same route but set a faster pace.

#### Official seating added to Marbella's celebration

##### MARBELLA

**N. CASTRO.** A thousand seats will be put out on the ceremonial part of the route of the Holy Week processions in Marbella this year. The seating, which will be free of charge, is designed to give the formal section of each of the parades a more impressive feel and is accompanied by improvements to the viewing stand for dignitaries.

#### New app to help follow a historic tradition

##### MARBELLA

**SUR.** Marbella council has launched a smartphone app so spectators and participants can keep up to date with the movements of the Holy Week processions through the town. The app is called Semana Santa Marbella 2018 and as well as the routes also includes the closely-followed weather forecast.

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# Goodbye to the Bonsai Museum

The museum, one of only four in Spain, will close down at the end of the summer



NIEVES CASTRO

✉ ncastro@diariosur.es

The council owns the building and has decided to turn it into a library now that the bonsai museum's 25-year concession has expired

**MARBELLA.** The Bonsai Museum in Marbella is an exotic paradise in the middle of a concrete jungle. This popular attraction, with its 265 miniature trees, opened early in 1992 and is one of only four in Spain: the others are in Madrid, Burgos and Almuñécar. However, it will close at the end



The director of the Bonsai Museum, Rodrigo García. :: JOSELE-LANZA

of the summer, as the 25-year concession granted by the council has run out. It has been decided to turn the premises into a library instead.

The single-storey museum, which covers 1,000 square metres in the Parque de la Represa, has always been in private hands. It was started by Miguel

## The collection of 265 bonsai trees is being sold to private collectors and other museums of this type

Ángel García, a local businessman and great bonsai enthusiast, and when it opened it was the only one in the country. Since then Marbella council has paid the running costs of the building, and the management uses the entry charge (currently four euros for adults and two euros for children) to cover maintenance and new acquisitions to expand the collection.

About 20,000 people visit the Bonsai Museum every year, says director Rodrigo García, who admits that he was surprised by the council's decision to close it.

Official notification arrived from the town hall on 8 November, with an order to vacate the premises before 15 January. After discussions with the council, it was agreed to extend the period to the end of the summer. In the meantime, the museum management wants to sell as many of the bonsai trees as possible and has made contact with private collectors and other museums.

Rodrigo García says the council has not offered any alternative premises, a change in attitude because the previous mayor, José Bernal, had said the local authority would continue to support the bonsai museum because of the lack of museums in Marbella. "I've been waiting for a phone call from the council to discuss the future of the bonsai museum, but it hasn't happened. When they told me on 8 November that we had to close by 15 January, I had to knock on a lot of doors to persuade them to give us more time to make arrangements for the trees," he says.

Marbella's councillor for Culture, Carmen Díaz, says there was no alternative but to locate the library in these premises. There is nowhere else for it," she insists, "and it is up to the owner of the museum to find somewhere else."

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## Estepona takes the place of Mayfair on the new Spanish Monopoly board

Mijas also gained a place on the board for a new edition that will come out in time for Christmas

:: ESTER REQUENA

**MALAGA.** The hard-fought competition to gain a space on the new Monopoly España board now has a winner: Estepona. After two months of voting, 16,589,649 votes have been registered.

The town's mayor, José María García Urbano, thanked those who voted and said that this would give "greater visibility" to Estepona.

"We are convinced that the presence of Estepona on this popular board game will help with promotion of the town and bring it to a wider audience," he said.

Estepona wasn't the only place in Malaga province to win a spot ei-



A game of the traditional London edition being played. :: SUR

ther; Mijas will also be included in the special edition of the board game, expected to be in stores by Christmas. Estepona received 571,778 votes, and Mijas occupies tenth position with 189,754.

The full list comprises Estepona, Alcobendas, Alcorcón, San Fernando, Elda, Utrera, Cartagena, Torrejón de

Ardoz, Paterna, Mijas, Logroño, Guadalajara, Linares, Boadilla del Monte, Ponferrada, Zaragoza, Salamanca, Elche, Mérida, Alicante, Pedroso and Arevalo de Cega.

During the eight weeks of voting, residents have been keen to promote some of Spain's smallest towns. This is the case with Pedroso and Arevalo de Cega, which, despite having under 200 inhabitants between them, have received nearly five million votes.

Public participation, encouraged by local councils on social media, has been key to finding a place on the board.

"This is the second time that the public has had the opportunity to decide the contents of a Spanish Monopoly edition. This time there has been a huge number of participants and we are proud to be one of the few countries in the world with our own Monopoly board," said Ignacio Gaitán, marketing director at Hasbro Iberia.



The couple reunited in time for their cruise. :: SUR

## Taxi drivers help to track down Alzheimer's cruise passenger lost on stop in Malaga

:: FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

**MALAGA.** A man was reunited with his wife in the nick of time on Sunday afternoon after losing sight of her during a brief cruise stop in Malaga.

The woman, who has Alzheimer's, went missing during a visit to the Alcazaba, an hour before their cruise was due to leave port.

Panicking, the man, from Brazil, was able to track her down to the Alameda with the help of taxi drivers to whom he described her physical attributes and what she was wearing.

Communicating by radio, the message was spread and when she was identified, she was picked up and reunited with her husband.

The emotional reunion was captured on video.

# Council suspends search for a new company to collect and destroy animals after complaints

Triple A animal charity asked Marbella's mayor to clarify contract terms as in its separate rescue service it does not put down dogs, cats, ferrets or pet pigs

:: NIEVES CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** The mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, said this week that for the time being she was suspending the search for a company to run the service that collects abandoned and dead animals from the town's streets.

It follows mounting controversy over a clause in the tender application document that allows the company that eventually wins the contract to put down unclaimed animals after 10 days.

As well as an outcry on social media and from charities, opposition councillors have criticised the PP-run administration, not just for the clause but also because they say the application to tender means more privatisation of council services.

Initially the councillor for Health, Carlos Alcalá, defended the search for a new company, saying that, other than some technicalities, the service was the same as it has been for 12 years, including during the time that the opposition councillors were also in charge of it.

Alcalá added that the clause that permits animals to be put down complies with the regional government's base legislation on the subject and that it was extremely rare

for any animal to actually be destroyed.

This argument failed to convince Anda Leschiera, former councillor for Health under the previous PSOE-led coalition, who said: "A modern and progressive Marbella can't allow its image to be linked to the barbarous act that the PP aims to carry out with this new privatisation." She added that the council should be working with voluntary groups, vets and donors

instead to prevent unnecessary killing of animals.

## Triple A asks for clarity

As a result of the controversy, the Triple A animal charity asked for a meeting with the mayor over what it claimed was confusion over what the charity's role is in collecting pets in Marbella.

In a separate, parallel agreement with the council, Triple A is responsible for collecting stray dogs, cats,

ferrets and pet pigs, and the charity always cares for these until a new owner is found. Triple A asked the mayor to make clear to all parties that the new provider being sought is to cover all the other types of animals that the charity doesn't cover.

The mayor has now suspended the tender request while it is reworded and the PSOE opposition has said it will propose a motion to the council that Marbella should ban any animal from being destroyed.



:: GABRIELA BERNER

## TRIPLE A ANNUAL DOG WALK IN MARBELLA

The Triple A dog walk took place in Marbella last Sunday. Dozens of dogs and their owners met on the resort's Paseo Marítimo. The popular annual event aims to raise awareness of the popular charity. If participants didn't have their own dogs, rescue dogs from the charity were on hand to stand in.

## HERE AND THERE

### Volunteers needed to speak English in school

MIJAS

:: **SUR.** Volunteers are needed urgently to join the 'I speak English' programme at the Virgen de La Peña primary school in Las Lagunas.

The idea is for the volunteers to speak English once or twice a week (from 10.30 to 11.30am) with the schoolchildren, aged seven to eleven, in small groups of three or four, encouraging them to participate in conversations through word games.

Those interested should contact etamsmith@hotmail.com.

### Easter beach safety stepped up in Marbella

MARBELLA

:: **N. C. / H. B.** Safety for bathers in Marbella is to be stepped up this week with the introduction of 20 lifeguards to monitor the town's busiest beaches during the busy period surrounding Easter Week. The lifeguards will be on duty from this Saturday until 2 April, from 11.30am to 7.30pm. On Cabopino and La Venus beaches, as well as in the centre of Marbella and San Pedro, new life jackets and 'puntos naranjas' (orange points), a harness linked to a rescue sling or float, have been installed.

### 'You are not alone' campaign relaunched

MIJAS

:: **SUR.** Soroptimist International Costa del Sol is re-launching its 'You are not alone' campaign, promoting the free helpline run by the Junta de Andalucía through the Institute for Women's in Malaga (IAM).

Women experiencing gender violence and in need of support can call 900 200 999. Support is available in 46 languages.

Mijas town hall has supported the relaunch by funding the printing of leaflets, stickers and posters in Spanish, English, German, French and Danish.

### Prosecutors look into tree felling in San Pedro

MARBELLA

:: **M. P.** Environmental public prosecutors will investigate a complaint filed by the Platform for the Protection of San Pedro's Green Heritage over the works on Calle Marqués del Duero in which "several palm trees and other species have been lost".

The group also alleges that the project has seen construction on an area designated in the town plan (PGOU) for green spaces - an allegation denied by district mayor Rafael Piña.

The group has vowed to continue to protest on this issue.



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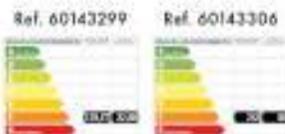
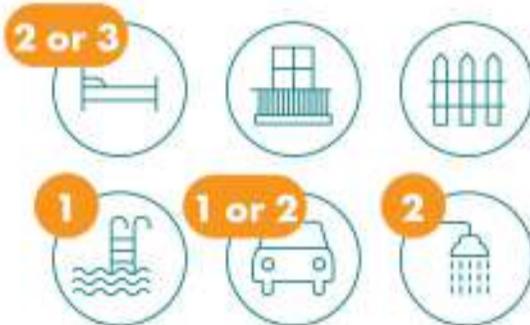
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# Protesters call for decent pensions in Spain and protection for the future

Thousands took to the streets in Malaga while a group of protesters gathered outside the congress centre in Marbella where prime minister Rajoy attended a rally on Saturday

:: N. TRIGUERO / M. PÉREZ  
**MALAGA / MARBELLA.** Protesters of all ages, but the vast majority of them senior citizens, joined demonstrations around Spain last Saturday to call for decent state pensions for present and future retirees.

The marches were sparked by the recent announcement by the government that pensions would go up by no more than 0.25%, significantly less than the rate of inflation, for the fifth consecutive year.

In Malaga, more than ten thousand people, according to the government (35,000 to 40,000 according to trade unions), joined the protest march, which took place during a welcome break in the wet weather.



Pensioners in Malaga are unhappy about the low increase. :: s. s.

Several pensioners' organisations joined forces for the protest and people were brought in on coaches from other parts of the province.

The demonstration was also supported by the left-wing political parties, PSOE, Podemos and Izquierda Unida.



A noisy welcome for Rajoy in Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

## Marbella

In Marbella, where prime minister Mariano Rajoy was taking part in a Partido Popular (PP) rally to launch that party's candidates in larger towns and cities for next year's local elections, around 500 people joined the protest in Plaza de la Iglesia in San Pedro.

"This government still doesn't understand that pensions are a right and not a gift; they are a right we have earned and a fundamental pillar of the so-called welfare state," said a representative of the Marbella organisers.

While the demonstrations had been organised around the country for 12 noon, a group of pensioners had brought forward their protests and moved them to outside Marbella's conference centre where the PP event was taking place.

Placards displayed words from article 50 of the Spanish Constitution: "Adequate and periodically-updated pensions." "Decent pensions."

## Response

Inside the Marbella conference centre Rajoy responded to the pensioners who had taken to the streets to demand a decent pension.

Pensions will go up, he said, but only in a prudent way. "While I'm in government the pensions system will definitely be safeguarded and pensions will definitely go up, but I will also say that they will only go up as far as we can," he said.



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## Rajoy's pensioner problem forces hunt for solution before elections

:: SUR

**MADRID.** Faced with the widespread pensioner protests last weekend and more demonstrations planned by unions for 15 April, the government has been taking steps to consider enhancements to pensions before the unrest starts to hit their electoral base.

A big part of the electoral support for prime minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative PP party traditionally comes from the older generation. It was therefore with some irony that the PM's Marbella showpiece un-

veiling of the candidates standing in larger towns for next year's nationwide council elections was overshadowed by the clamours from pensioners outside.

Vice-secretary of the PP, Javier Moreno, announced this week that the government was considering raising the threshold for tax exemption for pensions from 12,000 to 17,000 euros a year. An estimated one million pensioners would therefore be taken out of tax. Opposition parties and unions have said that the move is not enough.



Rajoy was addressing PP electoral candidates in Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

THE BIGGER PICTURE

JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jb@ehh.gi

## ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT ALWAYS GOLD

A look at the case for owning gold following interest in cryptocurrencies



**A** gold mine is a hole in the ground with a liar standing over it,' said Mark Twain.

From sceptics like Mark Twain and successful investors like Warren Buffet, to gold bugs who are 'evangelical' in their belief in the yellow metal, gold is either loved, or hated. In reality, with the exception of gold jewellery, very few people own gold as an investment, either in physical or paper form.

The interest in Bitcoin has given speculators a new 'virtual casino'. They witnessed the cryptocurrency rise a 'glittering' 1,500% against the US stock market S&P Index last year, compared to a 'dull' 8% for gold. In spite of that, to compare Bitcoin or any cryptocurrency with gold is to misunderstand the very reason for owning the yellow metal. Gold has played an important role in civilisation for thousands of years and, to some extent, it still does.

Gold is sound money. A store of value. An ounce of gold today will buy a quality gentleman's suit. In fact, an ounce of gold in 1929 at the height of the Great Depression would also have bought a gentleman a good quality suit! Another advantage of gold is as a store of value: it is a hedge against inflation and against a weak US Dollar, as gold prices move inversely to the USD. Unlike volatile fiat currencies (which are issued by government decree), the gold price has historically exhibited little volatility, and proved to be a reliable store of value throughout history. Major central banks, once sellers of gold, are now net buyers.

Cryptocurrencies, used by criminals, millennium ideologues and speculators, are also fiat (with no intrinsic value) and exhibit the same flaws as paper currencies. They have never been tested in times of crisis. There

have been as many as 609 fiat monetary experiments in history, all of them ending in failure and 25% of them in hyperinflation. Just as an example, the price of a loaf of bread in 1923 Germany went from half a German Mark to 200,000,000 Marks.

So, how has gold performed in times of recent market crises?

Gold's only sell off - 46% - occurred just after its biggest bull market in modern history, when gold rose 2,300% from its 1970 low, to the 1980 peak.

Gold yields nothing, and is speculative. We should not own gold for the good times but for times of crisis. As a portfolio diversifier and insurance against unexpected market and geopolitical risk, heightened today with the risk of cyber-attacks, gold does not have an equal. How much and how an investor should hold gold is another question? Investors would do well to remember that market risk cannot be avoided, it must be managed. The market can stay irrational longer than an investor can remain solvent.

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

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# First acts announced for this year's MTV Gibraltar Music Festival

Favourite artists and new names are looking forward to visiting the Rock for the iconic two-day music event at the Victoria Stadium

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The first six acts have been announced for this year's MTV Presents: Gibraltar Calling music festival, which takes place on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 September at the Victoria Stadium. This is the biggest music event of the year, and it goes from strength to strength.

Fans of Stormzy will be delighted to learn that he will headline the Main Stage; his album 'Gang Signs & Prayers' was the first grime release to reach number one on the UK Albums Chart, and in the past month he has picked up two Brit awards as well as the Global Award for Best RnB, Hip Hop or Grime. Stormzy has only booked four performance dates this summer, so his visit to Gibraltar will be keenly-awaited.

Also on the Main Stage will be newcomer Rag'n'Bone Man, whose single 'Human' has had over 460 million views on YouTube. He is already excited about this forthcoming opportunity: "Big up Gibraltar Calling Festival for putting me on the bill in September, it's gunna be a banger!", he announced on social media.

Rag'n'Bone Man will be joined by Irish indie legends Two Door Cinema Club, whose transatlantic hits include 'What You Know' and 'Something Good Can Work'.



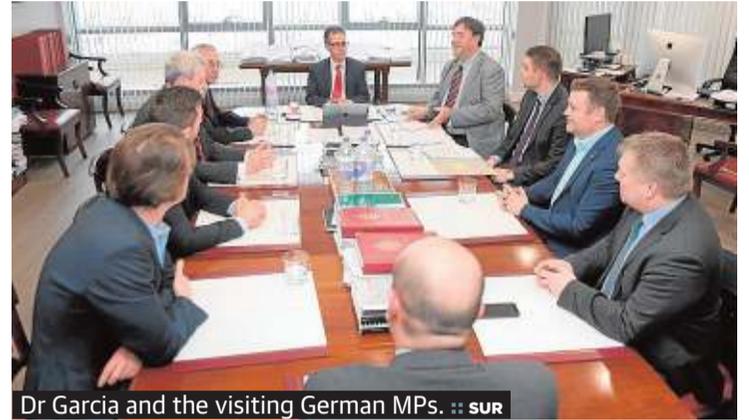
Gibraltar will dance the night away to Sister Sledge. :: SUR

On Friday night Gibraltar will be dancing the night away in front of the Classic Stage, which will celebrate 40 years of disco music with the iconic Sister Sledge belting out classics such as 'We Are Family' and 'Lost In Music'. They are equally as excited at the prospect, posting: "We can't wait to come plant our feet on its shores and get lost in music!!! We treasure the privilege to perform on this wonderland with our friends! Looking forward to seeing you all at the party on the Rock!"

Headlining the classic stage on the Saturday night will be 70's American singersongwriter Suzi Quatro, who reached number one in the UK and other European countries and Australia with her singles 'Can the Can' and 'Devil Gate Drive'. She will be joined by legendary punk band The Boomtown Rats, whose frontman Bob Geldof founded the "global jukebox" that was Live Aid in 1985.

These acts are just a taster of what is to come this September. More announcements will follow.

IN BRIEF



Dr Garcia and the visiting German MPs. :: SUR

## German MPs on fact-finding visit to Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. Amid the arguments and confusion about Spain's veto over Gibraltar during the Brexit transition period in the agreements made by the UK and EU this week, a cross-party delegation of German MPs visited the Rock to find out more about the political and constitutional rela-

tionship with the UK and the EU, Gibraltar's economy and the implications of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union.

The MPs were from the Saxony-Anhalt parliamentary committee on Federal Affairs, European Affairs and the Media. They were briefed by Gibraltar's deputy chief minister, Dr Joseph Garcia, who also holds the Brexit portfolio, and were given a guided tour of the Rock, its attractions and places of interest.

## Launch of child obesity programme coming up

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. According to the WHO, half of all children in the UK will be obese or overweight by 2020, and the incidence in Gibraltar has doubled in recent years.

As a result, a new health awareness programme called 'CHAMP' (Children, Healthy and Active! Multiagency Programme) is to be launched by the Gibraltar Health Authority with an event at the Piazza on Saturday 7 April at 10am.

## Suspected illegal immigrants arrested

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. Five men, believed to be Moroccan, and one Spanish man were arrested by the Marine Division of the police on Wednesday afternoon, most for entering Gibraltar without a valid permit and one for assisting others to enter another state. The officers had believed a small cabin cruiser off Rossia Point was in difficulties and went to assist; however, the navigator was initially uncooperative and they boarded to investigate.

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# Catalan separatist MPs play cat and mouse with Madrid's Supreme Court

The region's parliament rushed through a vote on new presidential choice, Jordi Turull, ahead of his possible imprisonment today, but were thwarted by the radical CUP party

:: SUR

**BARCELONA.** A new chapter was being written in the ongoing saga of Catalan politics this week with the expected failed attempt to invest a new regional presidential candidate ahead of his possible arrest.

Following the resignation of imprisoned Jordi Sánchez as regional MP and candidate to run the regional government, who in turn was only a candidate as preferred option Carles Puigdemont is in self-imposed exile in Belgium to avoid arrest, the Catalan speaker had been considering the name of Jordi Turull as possible candidate as new regional head.

Turull is a conservative Catalan separatist, seen as linked to past corruption scandals. He is also being investigated by the Supreme Court in Madrid for his role in last October's declaration of independence



Turull next to the empty seat of Puigdemont in the parliament. :: AFP

but has not been held in jail.

On Wednesday the Supreme Court announced that it was summoning Turull and others for today (Friday), raising the spectre that he might be held. This possibility forced the Catalan parliament's speaker to hastily bring forward an investiture debate to Thursday in his belief that if Turull were president he was less likely to be jailed.

However the four MPs of radical

left-wing CUP, needed to get the vote through, decided last minute not to vote for Turull in the first round, saying his agenda wasn't republican enough for them.

Holding the debate means the clock is now ticking on new elections in two months if no president is elected. Turull could have still been voted in in a second round if he were not arrested first and if two CUP regional MPs changed their mind.

## Dad drowns his kids and sets them alight before suicide

The depressed man was rumoured to be separating from his wife and the murders have shocked Getafe, outside Madrid

:: SUR

**GETAFE.** The dormitory town of Getafe, near Madrid, is in mourning this week after a seemingly mild-mannered father carried out the double murder of his children before committing suicide on nearby railtracks.

Forty-six-year-old José Alberto Gálvez López was found dead on the line on Tuesday evening and the discovery was quickly linked to an ongoing incident elsewhere in the

town where firefighters had been called to a small fire inside a ground floor flat.

On gaining entry, they realised it was a mattress on fire. The grim discovery of the two young children of Gálvez, aged 13 and 8, on the bed was then made. A preliminary autopsy appeared to show that the children had been drowned first.

A note found on the body of the father, who was said to be suffering from depression, said, "It was me. I killed my kids. I don't want then to suffer."

The children's devastated mother denied the couple were planning to separate. According to sources she said, "Apart from losing his mind, my husband had no apparent motive to kill them."

## Two killed in avalanche in Spanish Pyrenees

MADRID

Two people were killed and a third seriously injured on Thursday morning when they were caught in an avalanche in the Spanish Pyrenees. The accident happened near the popular ski region of Val de Arán in Catalonia, rescue workers said. The victims were reported to have been carrying out a survey at the time in an area with a 3 out of 5 avalanche warning.

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## GREEN IS FOR "GO"



Spain is throwing its toys out of the pram about Gibraltar again. This Monday, a deal between the EU and the UK concerning the terms of a 21-month transition period was almost agreed upon. But at the time of writing (Thursday morning) the deal has not been finalised because Spain wants assurance that its veto over Gibraltar - made explicit in negotiating guidelines published last April - still stands during the handover period. As I write, EU bosses are therefore busy trying to coax Mariano Rajoy into signing the proposed deal ahead of an EU summit this Friday.

Twenty-one months? It seems we're in for almost another two years of fumbling negotiations in which neither side quite knows what they want or what to do. Prepare yourself for yet more pictures of Theresa May and David Davis staring blankly at Michel Barnier and Donald Tusk across meeting tables laden with untouched croissants and orange juice.

In a way, it's surprising that Spain needs yet more assurance over Gibraltar. The document awaiting sign-off says that the EU's previous negotiating guidelines, in which Spain was given an explicit veto over the British territory, should be "fully respected" during the transition period. "Notably as regards Gibraltar", it adds for good measure. In other words - no? - Spain still possesses its cherished veto.

But as one of the 27 remaining EU member states, Spain al-

ready has a say in the terms of any Brexit deal or any transition deal between the EU and the UK. Indeed, the delay in the final sign-off of the terms proposed on Monday is proof of that: if Spain doesn't give its approval, then there is no deal. And that automatically means, of course, that there is no deal concerning Gibraltar, either.

David Davis, the UK Brexit secretary, announced this week that he was sure Monday's proposed deal "does cover Gibraltar". Naturally, Davis would assume this. As far as the UK is concerned, Gibraltar has been fully British since the Treaty of Utrecht was signed in 1713.

Theresa May's government has repeatedly made it clear (I'm paraphrasing) that Gibraltar is as British as Swindon, but with nicer weather. Spain, of course, disputes this, saying that the Treaty of Utrecht did not mention the isthmus - the strip of land that connects Gibraltar with Spain.

The latest hiccup can be resolved with the help of the "highlight" function in Word. Passages in the transition document come in three colours: green, signifying that they've been agreed upon by both the EU and the UK; yellow, meaning that only clarifications are needed; and white, denoting aspects that are awaiting agreement from either or both sides. Currently, the bit about Gibraltar is in white. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it'll be in green, signifying the end of an entirely unnecessary delay.

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

## A lesson in dignity

It moves me to see the pensioners in the street, protesting for better pensions.

Many of them have been suffering for years, working hard all their lives in order to support their families.

They have lived through hard times their whole lives, recently buoying up their children and grandchildren following the economic crisis.

Many of them have stumped up money to get their family through the month, and they have been instrumental in bringing up their grandchildren, as new parents have struggled to balance their work lives and their home lives without the help of their own parents.

Nowadays, it's just as common to see grandparents looking after children as it is parents.

Now the elderly go out onto the street and give us all a moving lesson in dignity. Be-

cause it's not only the 0.25 per cent rise in pensions that's at stake, it's not only the fact that the increase is still far behind inflation that's the main issue. It's much more than that.

It is clearly the sustainability of the model that's in trouble, especially given the expectations of ageing gracefully. It has to do with an economic model that is failing people.

It's not due to a lack of social protection, which exists and works well, but in order to defend the public pensions model the government needs to create jobs that pay well and aren't just precarious, temporary positions, which has been the unfair price that had been paid to recover from the crisis.

Now its effects have become clear.

IMANOL G. MONTES  
BY EMAIL

## If it's good for them...

Cheers for Tony Bryant's forensic analysis of the benefits or otherwise of Guinness. I'm not Irish and it's been a while since I enjoyed a pint or two.

I've seen West African mothers dip their little finger in a teaspoonful of Guinness to drip-feed month-old baby boys and girls.

Rarely exposed to European advertising, they swore its iron content worked wonders for infant bones.

Who can argue with tribal wisdom?

CHRIS DOVE  
FUENGIROLA

A hidden message  
at the Azores  
summit

I read with interest your article on the Azores summit and the subsequent Iraq war which was featured in your "What Happened Today" column last week.

While it was dubbed Operation Iraq Freedom with the objective of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, it was rumoured at the time that it was initially called Operation Iraq Liberation however the name was soon changed when they realised that the acronym OIL could reveal the ulterior motive for the invasion.

PETER SANDERSON  
BY EMAIL

Save Our Homes in  
Axarquia

I wish to thank you for publishing the article by Jennie Rhodes regarding SOHA (SUR in English, March 16th).

It was factually accurate, well presented and gave a balanced picture of the history of SOHA's activities and achievements to date, together with an overview of the current situation.

MICHAEL STEVENSON  
SECRETARY, SOHA

## Under the bored walk

PETER EDGERTON  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Giant steps are what you take, walking on the moon/I hope my legs don't break, walking on the moon.' Thus went the none-too-inspirational opening lines of The Police's not-very-good 1979 song Walking On The Moon. Rumours that Leonard Cohen co-wrote the lyrics are almost certainly false.

Anyway, BBC Radio 2 will probably still be playing it in the year 2100, along with songs by Kenny Loggins and the J Geils Band for reasons completely unfathomable to the human mind, just as they do now, in fact. The thing is, by then, young people will surely be asking their grandparents "What does 'walking' actually mean, gramps?"

Judging by the scenes on the streets of our big cities these days, taking a normal stroll will soon be a thing of the past. Anything goes it seems, as long as it's not

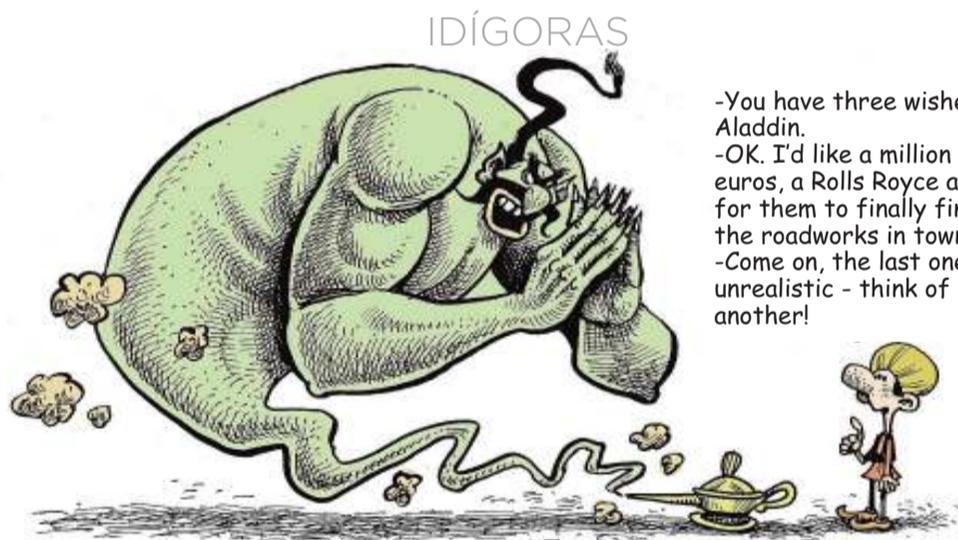
actually putting one foot in front of the other in the time-honoured fashion. On any given day, you can witness skateboards by the shedload (often being ridden by blokes in their late thirties - yes, I know, I know), roller blades, normal skates, training shoes with little wheels on them, cyclists behaving as if the whole urban infrastructure had been designed with their own particular needs in mind, those funny two-tyred contraptions that you stand up straight on and all of this, I'm afraid, is just for starters.

Today I saw a man fizzing around town on a unicycle but not of the conventional kind, of course, that wouldn't be cool enough by half. No, it was a low, single motorised wheel with a tiny seat on top. His knees were up by his ears which gave him the distinct air of a garden gnome in desperate search of a misplaced fishing rod (I think it was the beard

that clinched it).

It wasn't that long ago that I saw a middle-aged chap using one of those scooters like the girls in our junior school used to have. You know the ones where you had to expend about ninety thousand kilojoules of energy and dislocate at least one hip to move approximately three feet forward. Well, there he was, plain as day, scootering away to his heart's content but such was the stop-start nature of his progress that I actually overtook him just walking at a normal pace. Velocity can't have been his motivation, so we can only imagine it must have been wanting to look like a complete fool.

I might record an updated cover of The Police hit: 'Make no mistake, walking round town is good for you/I hope my leg don't break, walking round town, it shouldn't do.' Come on, it's as good a lyric as Sting's.



-You have three wishes, Aladdin.  
-OK. I'd like a million euros, a Rolls Royce and for them to finally finish the roadworks in town.  
-Come on, the last one's unrealistic - think of another!

## Waiting

RACHEL HAYNES

There's an air of anticipation in most large towns and cities in this region this week. Rows of chairs have appeared along central streets, people of all ages are chatting excitedly, planning excursions, discussing routes; some are having their hair done, others preparing to hide theirs under a velvet pointed hood.

Semana Santa is one of the few occasions in Spain when people know exactly what is going to happen and when. They have complicated guides, now even smartphone apps, to show where every

procession will be at any given moment, and don't worry, it will be there. Ahead of us is a week of precise timing and coordination; with six or more slow-moving columns each formed by hundreds of people all making their way around a city centre at the same time you would think there was plenty of scope for major chaos. But no, everything happens on schedule; the only thing that can throw a spanner in the Holy Week works is the weather.

We've been waiting long enough now for it to stop raining that it seems only fair that next

week should be fine, allowing the events to take place without a hitch.

Of course the whole affair still involves a lot more waiting, either in an expensive front-row seat, standing in a crowd or, for the clever ones, sitting in a strategically located bar. However the "waiters" know exactly how long they will be waiting for, and that makes all the difference.

If only that religious adherence to timetables in Semana Santa could be applied to other areas. For example, the wait to be notified about a hospital appointment would be so much more bearable if we knew when it would be. The wait for roadworks to end would be fine if the councils could announce a date and stick to it.

So if you happen to be out watching processions next week, while you're waiting to hear the on-time drum beats in the distance, try to think how this devotion-fuelled precision might be applied across the board.



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TONY BRYANT  
tonysureng@gmail.com



# The Rockin' Rev's contemporary gospel

**Howard Coley** Reverend and musician

**Howard once lived the rock 'n' roll lifestyle, supporting groups like AC/DC and Lindisfarne**

**H**oward Coley is the reverend of the Elim Family Fellowship Pentecostal Church in Benalmádena Costa – a branch of Elim España. However he is not the stereotypical preaching pastor. The reverend is not from a religious background, aside from the fact that his mother played the organ in the local church. His first passion in life was music and it would be many years before he would be ordained and begin preaching the gospel.

Born in Leicester in 1952, Howard made his living as a musician, playing drums in numerous bands during the late 1960s, although he later switched to guitar. His repertoire included rock, blue grass, pop and folk music and he enjoyed the on-the-road lifestyle of a professional musician.

Howard has shared a dressing room with AC/DC, toured Ireland with 70's folk heroes, Lindisfarne, and supported celebrated artistes like The Drifters and The Sullivan Brothers.

He became popular on the cabaret scene during the 1980s, performing regular gigs in holiday camps and hotels around the UK, but following his marriage, and the birth of his three children, he embarked on a solo career using the name of Howard King.

In order to spend more time with his family, he made a complete break from the UK and headed to Spain in 1990. At this time he had little faith in the cloth, even though his wife was a believer.



The Rockin' Rev performing on the Costa del Sol. :: SUR

## Spiritual healer gave musician his faith

**TONY BRYANT**  
**BENALMÁDENA.** It was because of a sick friend that Howard would eventually find his faith. The friend would visit a woman called Chicken Lil, a British expat who claimed to be a witch. Sick people would go to her in order to be spiritually healed. It was on an occasion when Howard and his wife had accompanied the friend to a ses-

sion that he was convinced that something spiritual happened, although he could not pinpoint what it was.

"Something real happened and I realised that the spiritual world exists and I knew I needed to find my way to Jesus. It's like saying: I know there is a bus from here to Malaga, but if I don't get on it I'm not going to get there."

"I was never aware that the Jesus was there; if someone had told me 15 years ago that I would be a reverend I would have thought they were absolutely crazy," Howard explains to SUR in English.

He began to make a living performing in clubs along the Costa del Sol, although it was his wife's decision to attend a church in Mi-

jas that began his interest in religion. Howard accompanied his wife to weekly services and he began to interpret what the bible was saying, believing that it might explain what is happening today, and more to the point, what is coming in the future.

"Slowly, I thought this is an inspiring book and I got to the point

**"If someone had told me that I would become a reverend I would have thought they were crazy"**

of understanding that if this God was real, I knew which side I should be on, although I still couldn't see there was a spiritual world," Howard says with sincerity.

He then had an experience in Coin that convinced him that the spiritual world was real, and from then on, his life began to change. He stopped playing music for two

years, believing he shouldn't be doing "this kind of stuff". He spent time attending bible school and church, leading some of his fellow musicians to believe he had joined a religious sect in the mountains.

Howard established the Pentecostal church in Benalmádena in 2003. Initially meeting in the Hotel Triton, ministering to the English-speaking community, the fellowship now has a building to meet in each Sunday and a place for community activities midweek.

However, Howard realised that he needed to work to support his family and, as music was a sure way of making a living, he took up his career once again. It was around this time that he received the pseudonym of the 'Rockin' Rev', a name he most certainly lives up to.

It was only natural that Howard would use his musical talents during his services and today music is a major part of proceedings. His son and two daughters are active in the church and they are also members of the Elim Praise Band, the church's resident group fronted by the Rockin' Rev.

"Our music is contemporary; we have a full band so we have a fairly rocky sound and our services are lively. We also perform the more familiar style of gospel and traditional hymns," the reverend says.

The younger generation are attracted by the contemporary style of the meetings, but as Howard points out, "it isn't just a party or a rock concert", they are spreading the word of God.

The Rockin' Rev is a man whose love of music is equalled by his passion for spreading the gospel, although he is adamant that the Elim Foundation does not exist to convert, simply to offer direction to those who seek it.

"It is not my job to convince anyone, but if they chose the gospel, then I am here to guide them and offer assistance."



Outside the Elim church. :: T. B.

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## ST PATRICK IN THE MALLS

The Centro Comercial Miramar in Fuengirola was draped in green to celebrate Ireland's patron saint, St Patrick, on Saturday. The shopping centre hosted a wide range of activities, including facepainting, parades, children's games, Irish beer tasting and much more. There were also parties organised in the Green Island and Green Terrace areas.

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#### REF. S. E. S.

**My father is 76 years old and suffers from senility. Sometimes he does not know my brother or me. He lives in a residential home, as we cannot take care of him full time, and we cannot afford to pay someone to take care of him at home. Nevertheless, it is for some time that we have noticed that he has a close rela-**

**tionship with one of the employees of the residence, whom we do not like. We think that she does not have good intentions, and are afraid that she can cheat my father to get his assets without our knowledge, taking advantage of his illness. In order to avoid this, can we designate someone to manage his assets? What shall we do?**

In these cases, the most advisable thing to do is to start a legal proceeding asking the Court to declare your father's incapacity, and for that it would be useful to provide a medical report indicating the illness that your father suffers. The reasons for incapacity can be physical or psychological, and it is necessary to prove that the person cannot manage by himself or manage his assets. Once the judge determines that your father is unfit, he will designate a guardian, usually one of the members of the family, if possible.

#### REF. S. A. L.

**In the residential block where I live, some of the neighbours have suggested that the entrance should be painted and some plants bought, which obviously all the neighbours have to pay. It is always the same neighbours, who are retired and have plenty of time to propose things that ultimately have to be paid for by all of us. I didn't see this work was necessary, so I voted against, as did some of the other owners, but the proposal was approved. Are we obliged to pay these unnecessary expenses?**

If the agreement has been reached in the owners' meeting and according to the majority established by law, it would be binding for all, as even if there are some exceptions to the general rule which states that all the neighbours must contribute to pay the common expenses, the case that you mention would not be included.

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**SOCIETY SCENE**

# Sport, culture and St Patrick's Day

Celebrations for Ireland's patron saint helped to raise a significant amount of money for charity

**:: SUR IN ENGLISH**

**Cudeca Cancer Hospice Fundraiser**

A fundraising evening, hosted by Raffaele Morelli, took place at the Valparaiso restaurant in Mijas on Saturday. The event was the launch of Milly and Tim's Paris Marathon run in aid of the Cudeca Hospice. A raffle also raised 320 euro. Singer Debra Stacey and saxophonist Leonardo de Peruta provided entertainment.

**Laude San Pedro Int. School Annual Charity Ball**

Laude San Pedro hosted its Annual Charity Ball on Friday with performers not only taking to the stage but also suspended from the roof. The wide array of acts included singing, dancing, a fashion parade, gymnastics and an aerial acrobatics display. Many prizes had been donated by local businesses, which were auctioned off in order to raise money for the children's charity Aldeas Infantiles SOS.

**Buena Vista Pétanca Group Boules Tournament**

The Annual Founder's Trophy competition took place recently at Torrox Park. The winners were Jill Parsons and Keith Bourne. Len Warwick



Money was raised for Cudeca on St Patrick's Day at the Valparaiso restaurant in Mijas. :: SUR

organised the event.

**International Club Estepona St Patrick's Day**

Members of ICE celebrated S. Patrick's Day in the usual way with green hats and classic songs.

Members also recently celebrated the 80th birthday of Christina, the former president.

Other activities included a visit to a garden centre and a photography field trip to the Cadiz coast in search of migratory birds and wild flowers.



Performers from Laude San Pedro school. :: SUR

**TAPAS**

**Museum Visit**

The TAPAS women took a tour around the Pizarra municipal museum, which hosts artefacts from the Malaga area dating back to Roman times. They then enjoyed lunch at the Cortijo Casablanca Restaurante.

**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:

Email: [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)



The Buena Vista Pétanca Group with their trophies. :: SUR

**Please note**

Due to the Holy Week holidays the deadline for advertising for the edition of March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> will be Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>.

SUR in English will be distributed as usual on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>.





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BEN CLARKE



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

23 MARCH 2014

# The death of Adolfo Suárez, former prime minister, aged 81

**A**dolfo Suárez went down in history as the politician who managed, along with King Juan Carlos, to encourage Spain's diverse political factions - Francoists, conservatives, socialists, communists and nationalists - to come together and create a democratic Spain after the death of the dictator Franco in 1975.

In 2014 he did the same thing: he brought together politicians and institutions, with all their differences and quarrels, in this case after his death.

All the political groups represented in the Spanish parliament (with the exception of Basque and Catalan nationalist groups Amaiur and Esquerra); the prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, and his cabinet; the opposition leader; the three living former prime ministers of the democracy, Felipe González, José

María Aznar and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero; the former Catalan president, Jordi Pujol, and the then Catalan leader, secession advocate Artur Mas; respectfully filed past the coffin of the man whose example and courage in the face of political adversity they all praised.

King Juan Carlos, accompanied by Queen Sofía and the Infanta Elena, visited the chapel of rest in the Spanish parliament where he sat in silence for ten minutes. Juan Carlos, who was to abdicate less than three months later, had explicitly asked for some silent time to pay his last respects to a "loyal friend" and "exceptional collaborator". The chapel was also visited by Prince Felipe, who said, "It's a great loss for Spain. We have everything to thank him for."

After the death of Franco, newly crowned King Juan Carlos named Suárez prime minister in 1976 with



A photo taken during King Juan Carlos's visit to Suárez in 2008. :: EFE

the responsibility of guiding the country through the Transition to democracy.

He oversaw the passing of the Political Reform, which would allow for democratic elections, through parliament. In 1977, against the wishes of the Francoist ranks and the armed forces, Suárez legalised the Communist party. In 1978 the Constitution was approved by referendum and the following year Suárez became Spain's first democratically elected prime minister after his party, the UCD (formed by 15 parties of dif-



ferent ideologies), won the elections. All his success leading up to the elections, however, started to fall apart soon after he had won his seat. In 1980 the PSOE socialist party, led by Felipe González, proposed a no confidence motion: it didn't succeed but all the same was a symptom of Suárez's weakening as UCD leader. Internal battles within his party led to his resignation in 1981.

Suárez made his last public appearance in 2003 at a PP political rally in Albacete. He made a

speech in support of his son, Adolfo Suárez Illana, who was a candidate for president of Castilla-La Mancha. The former prime minister had Alzheimer's disease and signs of his mental deterioration were clear, although it was not announced publicly until 2005. By then he couldn't remember he had been prime minister. In 2008 he was visited by his old friend King Juan Carlos, who presented him with the distinction of the Order of the Golden Fleece, but whom he failed to recognise.

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

<b>Enfermedad</b>	Illness
<b>Conservadores</b>	Conservatives
<b>Gabinete</b>	Cabinet
<b>Pelea</b>	Quarrel
<b>Defensor</b>	Advocate
<b>Líder</b>	Leader
<b>Pérdida</b>	Loss
<b>Memoria</b>	Memory
<b>Luto</b>	Mourning
<b>Reconocer</b>	To recognise
<b>Partido</b>	Party
<b>Olvidar</b>	To forget
<b>Elegido</b>	Elected
<b>Debilidad</b>	Weakness
<b>Féretro</b>	Coffin
<b>Silencio</b>	Silence

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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**BENALMÁDENA.** More than 600 delegates from around the world will come together for the Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS) annual convention in Benalmádena at the beginning of April. Although the convention is only open to delegates, SABS has organised a special show for the public, which will take place at Hotel Torrequebrada.

SABS, part of a worldwide network of barbershop associations, will bring two celebrated a cappella groups from the USA and the UK to perform at the show.

Crossroads (USA) is a world champion a cappella men's quartet made up of four award-winning vocalists. They won the Barbershop Harmony Society International Championship in 2009 and have since become one of the most sought-after a cappella quartets in the world.

Sound House (UK) is a ladies' quartet formed just two years ago. They have already become the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers (LABBS) Champions and also the European Quartet Champions.

This will be the tenth edition of the convention and SABS President, Lyn Barnes, told SUR in English how delighted she was to be returning to Benalmádena to celebrate the tenth anniversary.

"We have been holding the event here since 2012 and have always had great support from the people of Benalmádena and we want to share with them this wonderful opportunity to see two very talented groups," the president explained.



The Sound House Quartet will bring their unaccompanied four-part harmonies to Benalmádena. :: SUR

Lyn, who moved to Spain with her husband in 2002, first heard a ladies' barbershop chorus singing at a garden centre near her home in Wimborne in 1994. She was persuaded to go to the group's rehearsal and has been hooked ever since.

## A man's pastime

Although typically a man's pastime, women have been singing barbershop since the 1940s, following the birth of the American organisation, Sweet Adelines International. This was followed in 1959 by Harmony Incorporated in Canada and the Ladies' Association of British Barbershop Singers (LABBS), which was inaugurated in 1976.

Sweet Adelines now has more than 22,000 members worldwide and

LABBS has 50 clubs and over 2,000 members located all over Britain.

SABS began when Nico and Jorge de las Peñas Plana - two brothers from Madrid - discovered the barbershop style of singing on the internet. They formed a quartet and studied at a harmony college in Germany.

"They were so enthused about the art form that they scoured the internet for other people singing barbershop in Spain. They came across my chorus, Spangles, and contacted me," Lyn explains. "There were two other choruses in the Valencia region and we all met up to discuss how we could take things forward. The result was the inauguration of SABS in 2008."

Lyn is aware that there is not a large barbershop scene in Spain at present, but she hopes that the con-

vention will eventually change that.

"The barbershop scene in Spain isn't huge and it takes time to spread the word throughout such a large country," she says.

## An unlikely revival

While the modern era of barbershop music is accepted to have begun with a 1940s revival, opinions as to the genre's origins vary. The Encyclopaedia Britannica suggests its origins date back to when barbershops served as community centres where men would gather for social activities. Barbershop music was very popular between 1900 and 1919, but the genre gradually faded into obscurity in the 1920s, although barbershop-style harmonies remained in other a cappella forms.

## A CAPPELLA MAGIC

► **What.** Barbershop quartet concert.

► **Where.** Sala Fortuna, Hotel Torrequebrada, Benalmádena Costa.

► **When.** Thursday 5 April. 8pm.

► **Tickets.** 15 euros.  
[www.ticketsource.eu/sabs](http://www.ticketsource.eu/sabs)

However, today, barbershop has attracted a huge worldwide following. Affiliated men's and women's organisations in more than a dozen countries bring the total number of active singers to more than 100,000 worldwide. It is also attracting the younger generation, as Lyn astutely points out: "It's most definitely not just for older people. Barbershop has attracted some fabulous, young talent from all around the world. Sadly, the media perpetuates the myth of four men in striped waistcoats and straw boaters, which is not a true image of the barbershop scene today."

Apart from her love of singing unaccompanied four-part harmony, Lyn loves the friendship that barbershop has given her over the years and she is as passionate today as she was when she became hooked in Wimborne back in 1994.

"Being part of a chorus is like having an extended family and, wherever I go in the world, if I visit a local chorus, I know that I will receive a warm welcome," she concludes.

'A Cappella Magic' can be seen at the Sala Fortuna in the Hotel Torrequebrada, Benalmádena, at 8pm on Thursday 5th April. Tickets cost 15 euros and are available from [www.ticketsource.eu/sabs](http://www.ticketsource.eu/sabs)

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# Banderas brings Picasso home

**The actor was in town for the premiere of *Genius: Picasso* on Thursday after an international launch in Madrid the previous day**

**By M. A. ALFONSO / F. GRIÑÁN**

**MADRID / MALAGA.** Antonio Banderas feels like he still has Pablo Picasso under his skin. The Malaga actor explained on Thursday, before the world premiere of the National Geographic Series, *Genius: Picasso*, that filming much of the series in Malaga had been a gift for him, and for Picasso himself. The series had given the artist the return trip to his home city that he never had in his lifetime.

The actor described a sense of frustration at the fact that Picasso had died three years before Franco and “couldn’t take one last walk along La Malagueta [beach] to receive applause from his people”.

It was Banderas who convinced the producers to film in Malaga, in the artist’s birthplace and on the Misericordia beach (for a scene set in France).



Director Kenneth Biller and Antonio Banderas with the series poster. :: EFE

Hosting the premiere of the series at the city’s Cervantes theatre on Thursday evening was also part of Banderas’ dream to make the artist’s birthplace an important player in the series and “bring him home”.

Before arriving in Malaga for Thursday’s premiere, Banderas and National Geographic launched the series at a press conference in Madrid. There, he and series director Kenneth Biller, offered more infor-

mation about the series, which has been filmed entirely in English.

The young Picasso is played by actor Alex Rich and Banderas takes over from the age of 40.

From the outset the producers,

Oscar-winners Ron Howard and Brian Grazier, and the director knew they wanted Banderas for Picasso.

“When we finished filming the series on Einstein we started looking at figures for the next one. When we decided it was going to be Picasso, I said, almost as a joke, that we had to have Antonio Banderas. From the very first moment we agreed it had to be him. And we didn’t even know then that he was from Malaga. Ron and I got on a plane to meet Antonio and we discovered he had a great passion for the painter and knew all about him. We wanted authenticity and only he could give that,” said Biller.

The actor could be forgiven for still feeling half Banderas, half Picasso. He admitted in Madrid that just last Friday he was still filming a scene in which he has an argument with Dora Maar, Picasso’s muse and lover.

“Both of us were born in Malaga, then left and became famous. Him more so [he laughs]; but above all we are similar in terms of the enormous sacrifices and capacity to work hard,” the actor explained on Wednesday in Madrid.

With Thursday’s premiere, which was attended by representatives of National Geographic, Fox and cast members, among other guests, out the way, Banderas is now concerning himself with the weather forecast for this weekend.

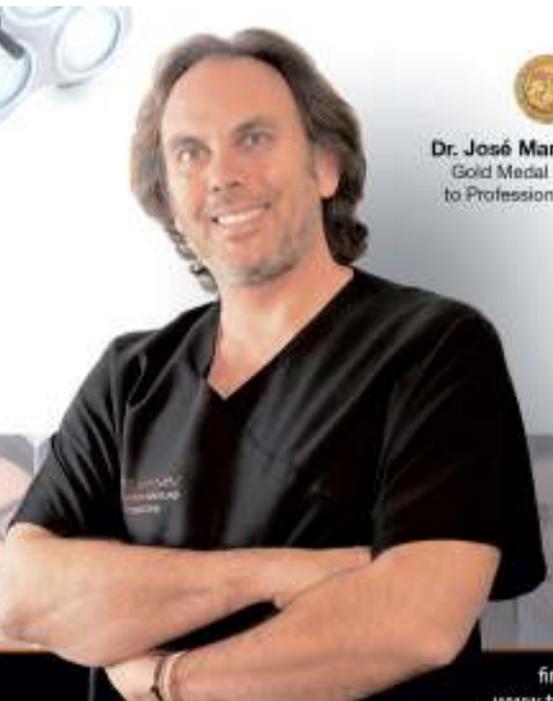
Palm Sunday is when the actor’s Holy Week brotherhood goes out in procession in the streets of Malaga, a date that Banderas never misses.

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DENISE BUSH

# GARDENING

## Climbing Alstroemeria

**Bomarea edulis is an attractive twining vine native to the oak forests of South America and Mexico**

Bomarea is a genus of plants with around one hundred species, the majority of which are climbers. It is a member of the Alstroemeriaceae family and has similar leaves and flowers. Bomarea is native to South America and Mexico and is found in mountainous zones, usually on the edge of oak

forests, preferring partial shade to full sun. It is not frost resistant when young but once established will die back in the winter and re-shoot in the spring. The main flowering period is from early summer through to autumn.

Bomarea edulis is the most com-

mon garden species and is commonly called the climbing Alstroemeria. It has grey-green, lance-shaped leaves and dense umbels of tubular blooms. The blooms are usually orange or red with greenish-yellow or orange on the inside. It climbs by twining so will need a support, and can reach three to four metres high.

Although some species of Bomarea are evergreen in moderate climates, B. edulis is usually deciduous, rarely keeping any of its leaves during cool weather.

The tuberous roots are harvested for food in Peru; they are boiled and are rich in starch. However the sap in the stems and leaves, although not poisonous, contains a chemical that can cause skin irritation in some people.

B. edulis can take several years to get established and reach full blooming potential. It can be propagated by division when it is dormant but the tubers are brittle and disturbance can weaken the plant. The best way is to collect the red seeds as soon as the pods are ripe, rub off the red coating and sow straight away.

Other species available are B. acutifolia, which is not as hardy as B. edulis, and B. odorata which grows in the desert areas of Peru and is therefore more drought resistant.

Not all species are climbers; B. boliviensis for example is excellent for ground cover and can be grown in a container.



Bomarea edulis and the seeds (inset). :: FLICKR

### READER'S PHOTO

#### HIBISCUS-EATING GRASSHOPPER

This photo of a bright green 'saltamontes' or grasshopper was sent in by Peter Williams from Valle Niza in Vélez-Málaga. It appears to have developed a taste for a hibiscus flower. Spring is when grasshopper eggs hatch and the nymphs grow quickly, devouring as much plant material as they can find. There isn't a lot you can do to deter them, just hope the birds find them before they do too much damage.



:: PETER WILLIAMS

### GARDENING HINTS

#### Fascinating facts about plant names, part 1

All plants have binominal names which are usually Latin but can also be based on other languages. The first part identifies the genus and the second (the specific name) the species. The genus is always written with a capital letter and the specific name in lower case. The International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (ICN) controls the way in which plants are named.

Plant family names almost always end in the Latin suffix 'aceae' meaning 'family'. However, genetic and morphology research is forever advancing, and it is not uncommon for plants to move from one family to another resulting in cata-

logues and dictionaries often being printed with out-of-date information. Plus there is the added factor of disagreements and general confusion over new classifications between botanists and scientists.

A good example of this is the common snapdragon, Schrophulariaceae; almost all genera have now been moved to other families. All Maples are no longer in Asteraceae (now Sapindaceae) and Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae) is now in Apocynaceae, the dogbanes. So when you are searching for a plant, whether in a catalogue or on the internet, keep in mind that it may be hiding under a synonym or with an old family name.

### PHOTOS

#### Calling all gardeners

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

Email your photos to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es) or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR\\_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English))



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# The Thyssen dives into the Mediterranean

The new exhibition includes works from more than 30 national and international collections

by **ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ**

**MÁLAGA.** The Mediterranean Sea is the heart and soul of the new exhibition that opened on Wednesday at the Carmen Thyssen art museum in Malaga. The gallery continues its pledge to deliver quality with this selection of 62 pieces sourced from 33 national and international public and private collections.

The broad theme of the Mediterranean encompasses almost a century of diverse artists and artistic sensibilities. The baroness was in Malaga to unveil what is the museum's most eclectic exhibition so far, with paintings, sculptures, sketches and prints.

Through this variety, 'Mediterranean...' shows the museum's ambition and potential to bring works loaned by institutions such as the Pompidou centre in Paris, and the Reina Sofía museum and the Thyssen-Bornemisza museum in Madrid, as well as the Picasso Museum in Paris.

The selection includes not only works by some of the greatest names in the history of art, but also offers a lesser-known side to the artists. There is the classicism painting by sculptor Julio González, the



Part of the exhibition with a piece by Paul Signac in the forefront. by **SALVADOR SALAS**

almost academic oils by the later unclassifiable Joaquín Torres-García, the fauvist colours of Georges Braque before he became one of

the fathers of cubism and the almost psychedelic palette of Joaquín Sorolla, who is associated more with light and serene colours.

The visit begins with the sculpture 'The Bronze Age' (1876) by Auguste Rodin and while the highlights of the exhibition include

## THE EXHIBITION

► **Title.** Mediterranean. An Arcadia Reinvented. From Signac to Picasso.

► **Place.** Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga. C/ Compañía, 10.

► **Opening hours.** Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 8pm. Closed Monday (except public holidays).

► **Dates.** Until 9 September.

► **Sponsor.** Fundación Unicaja.

pieces by Emile Bernard, Henri Matisse and Joaquim Sunyer, among others, Pablo Ruiz Picasso plays a starring role.

His signature is on 23 of the works which demonstrate his versatility, from sketches on loan from the Malaga birth-house foundation to paintings such as 'Bathers Watching a Plane' from the Paris museum.

In the centre of the room is the sculpture by Artistide Maillol, named simply 'Mediterranean', a sea of inspiration for centuries of artists.



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For the third time, JC&A Abogados has been honoured to host the GGI International Taxation Practice Group (ITPG) Global Tax Summit, which took place in Marbella from 22nd to 25th of February, following the meeting in Schladming (Austria) in 2017.

A high-class tax training meeting, counting with 66 experts from around the world, from Norway to South Africa, Australia to India, passing by USA or Canada to name a few, sharing their knowledge and experience through presentations and a cross-border tax case study.

Concurrently and for the first time, Geneva Capital Group (GCG), a global network of Merge & Acquisition advisors that also benefit of GGI membership, held an M&A Dealmakers Meeting during the same weekend.

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# Estepona names gardens at the Orchid Park after Baroness Thyssen

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

**ESTEPONA.** Baroness Carmen Thyssen was in Estepona earlier this week to open a garden in the town's Orchid Park that has been named in her honour.

Thyssen and the mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, uncovered the plaque inscribed with 'Jardines de Carmen Thyssen'. The

mayor thanked the baroness for her support and her work and respect for the environment and culture.

This is only her second visit to the town; the first was last year to find out about the project to improve the area which included the Orchid Park and gardens that now carry her name.

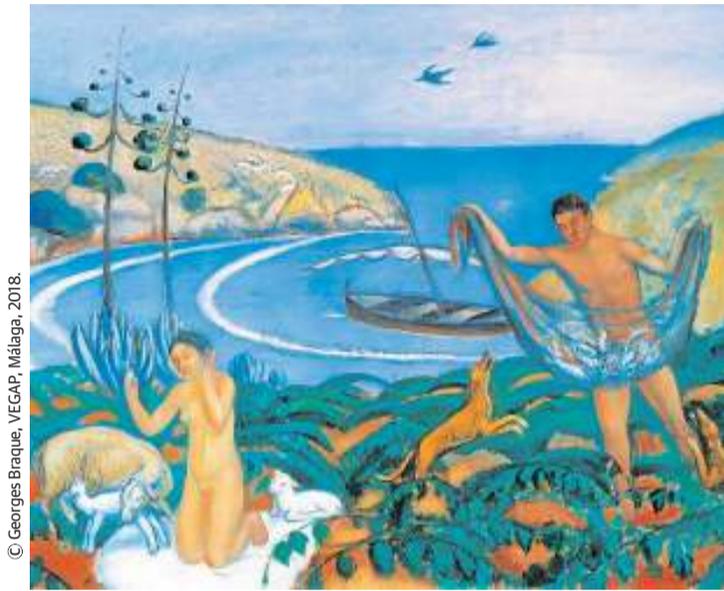
Baroness Thyssen has an large

collection of orchids of her own and has confirmed that she intends to bring some works of art from her vast collection to the town to be displayed in the newly-opened Museo de Arte de la Diputación Provincial (MAD).

After the unveiling the baroness was taken on a tour of the town.



Baroness Carmen Thyssen with the mayor after the unveiling of the plaque. :: CHARO MÁRQUEZ



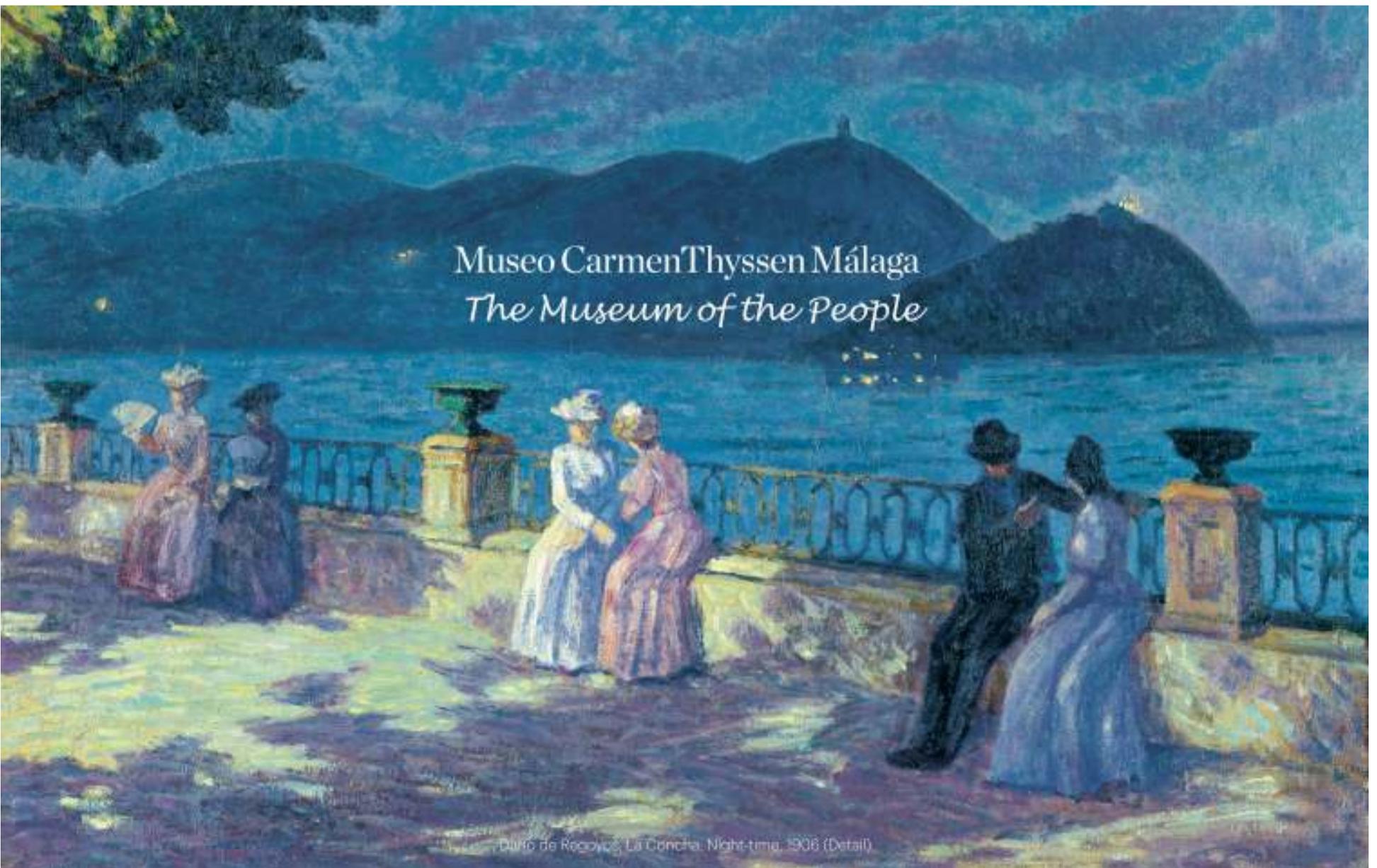
© Georges Braque, VEGAP, Málaga, 2018.

Sunyer. 'Mediterranean' (c. 1910-1911). :: SUR



© Sucesión Pablo Picasso, VEGAP, Málaga, 2018.

Picasso. 'Bathers Watching a Plane' (1920). :: SUR



Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga  
*The Museum of the People*

Darío de Regoyes, La Concha. Night-time, 1906 (Detail)



# The Michelin stars pay tribute to Arzak

Dani García brought Spain's greatest chefs to cook a special meal for the 'father' of Basque cuisine

Twenty award-winning chefs put their own interpretation on some of the most successful dishes created by Arzak during his long career

**NIEVES CASTRO**

**MARBELLA.** Two decades have passed, but Dani García still remembers the moment because it was his first visit to Arzak's restaurant. He ordered one of the most popular dishes on the menu: the 'sorta de cigalas', or 'bundle of crayfish'. The other evening he reconstructed that same dish at a dinner in Marbella, which was held as part of the A Cuatro Manos gastronomy conference so that many of Spain's greatest chefs could pay tribute to Juan Mari Arzak. They had been wanting to do this since 2014, but he was strongly opposed to the idea. It wasn't until last year that they finally convinced him.

The date of the dinner, 19 March, coincided with Father's Day in Spain and Arzak, precursor of Basque nouvelle cuisine and recognised as one of the driving forces behind modern Spanish gastronomy, is also considered by many of the Michelin-starred chefs in this country as a true 'aita', which means 'father' in Basque.

"What is happening today is very moving for us and I am delighted for him because he deserves it. I have experienced his energy all my life and seen how much he loves cooking and



The chefs with Juan Mari Arzak, at the tribute in Marbella. **JOSELE-LANZA**

the respect he has for his colleagues. What better way could there be to pay tribute to him than for his fellow chefs to hold a party like this?" said Elena Arzak, herself a holder of three Michelin stars and the daughter of the famous chef who was the guest of honour at this event.

The tribute dinner brought together some of the greatest names in

world gastronomy: Martín Berasategui, Joan Roca, Quique Dacosta, Ángel León (three Michelin stars) and Ferran Adrià. Also there were Andoni Luis Aduriz, Paco Roncero, Toño Pérez, Diego Guerrero, Ramón Freixa, Paco Pérez, Francis Paniego, Nacho Manzano, Paco Morales and Pablo González (all of whom have two Michelin stars), and Albert Adrià, Josean

Alija, Marcos Morán, Ricard Camarena and Aitor Arregi, with one star each.

All, with the exception of Berasategui and Ferran, put their aprons on to reinterpret Arzak's cuisine in a dish which featured on a menu for nearly 100 diners. They included the chefs and guests of Arzak and of the Dani García Group. Among them were

Ágatha Ruiz de la Prada and Simona Gómez Acebo.

**Notebook in hand**

This kitchen in Marbella became the centre of operations for the 20 chefs. They began to arrive on Friday evening, took up their positions and by Sunday some of them were already lighting the cookers.

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FISH AND MEAT SPECIALITIES

## The Tamborrada march of San Sebastián was played to greet the famous Basque chef as he arrived at the dinner

The menu included some of Arzak's favourites such as hake in green sauce, prepared by Joan Roca; paté of scorpionfish from Andoni Luis Aduriz and suckling pig in orange sauce which was prepared by Ángel León, who is normally known for his seafood dishes.

The guest of honour was almost rendered speechless right from the start, when he was greeted upon arrival by the sound of the traditional La Tamborrada march of San Sebastián. He conducted the melody with gusto, just as he does at the doors of his restaurant every 20 January, the day of the patron saint of Donostia. Ferran and Berasategui, his great friends, be-

came quite emotional as they watched. Elena Arzak was moved to tears.

Arzak said he felt "emotional" to be sharing this tribute with his daughter, "who is my rock", and admitted that even on such a special night as this he had brought his beloved notebook with him. He takes it everywhere, so he can make notes and not miss a single idea. "Of course I've brought it, I couldn't be without it!" he said.

His visit to Marbella has given him numerous ideas, which is not surprising bearing in mind the talent which had gathered at Dani García's restaurant at the Puente Romano hotel.

For the fifth year running, this chef from Marbella brought together his friends and colleagues for a special event. The gastronomic conference has included a tribute night since 2015. The first year it was for the revolutionary Ferran Adrià, who was followed by Jöel Robuchon in 2016 and Nobu Matsuhisa last year. This time it was Arzak's turn. The standard could not be higher.



Arzak conducted the Tamborrada march. :: JOSELE-LANZA

## Choose your favourite pizza

**Málaga en la Mesa and La Contadina are holding this year's Tutti Pizza Competition, and those who vote can win a trip to Rome**

:: SUR

**MÁLAGA.** Between now and 1 April, lovers of pizza will be able to enjoy their favourites, help to decide which is the best pizza in Málaga and could even win a trip to Rome.

During this time, 40 restaurants in the province which specialise in Italy's most famous dish will be taking part in the second Tutti Pizza competition, which is organised by the SUR publication Málaga en la Mesa and sponsored by La Contadina, in collaboration with Polselli, Viander, Maestrella, Oh, my God and Gastronews.

The restaurants which are participating can be found on the competition website, <http://lasmejorespizzas.diariosur.es>, and anyone who wants to enter can sample the pizzas which are going to be judged. These are in addition to the normal menu in the restaurants, and cost between seven and ten euros.

The competition is open to over-18s, who can register on the website and place their vote, giving each pizza they have tried a score of one to ten points. Everyone who does so will be entered in a draw for a trip to Rome.

The votes from the public will

also decide which of the pizzas will go through to the final stage of the competition. The pizza with the most votes from the general public will earn its creators 1,000 euros worth of advertising in Málaga en la Mesa.

Five of the 40 restaurants will go through to the final, and a spe-



The judges will be looking for quality pizzas. :: SUR

cialist panel of judges will decide who wins the top prize and advertising to the value of 3,000 euros.

The pizzerias taking part in this competition are in Algarrobo Costa, Alhaurín de la Torre, Bena-

havis, Benalmádena, Fuengirola, Málaga city, Marbella, Mijas, Torremolinos and Vélez-Málaga.

Federico Moret, SUR's director of New Business who is responsible for the competition, says that "this year the organisers are placing the emphasis on the quality of the pizzas".

Also, this year, in addition to the pizza for the general section of the competition, the restaurants can enter a second one in a 'special category'. The main pizza must use flour and mozzarella from La Contadina as basic ingredients, but the second one can use gourmet flours made with turmeric, 'grano arso' (burnt grain) or hemp, produced by the Polselli firm.

The pizza which wins in this innovative flours category will receive a hamper of La Contadina products worth 500 euros.

In the final of the competition, the master pizza chefs will have to cook and present their creations for the judges, who will take into account factors such as the rising of the dough, the cooking, the harmony and flavour of the ingredients (the obligatory ones and those chosen by each competitor) and the difficulty involved.

However, it is between now and 1 April that members of the public can enjoy the finest pizzas and have the chance of winning a trip to Rome with their vote.

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# Bringing back the traditional village oven

## Algatocín has built a wood burning oven in the town for the use of residents and visitors alike

The town hall initiative is aimed at recovering one of the old traditions and also to attract tourists to the town

by VANESSA MELGAR

**ALGATOCÍN.** Have you ever dreamed of baking homemade bread, pizzas or cakes in a real wood-burning oven? In Algatocín, located in the Serranía de Ronda in the Genal valley, now you can - completely free of charge. The town council has built a wood burning oven in the middle of the town for the use of both residents and visitors.

"The oven is equipped with firewood and everything you could need. Anyone can use it for a whole

day, they just have to ask in the town hall first.

"The only thing we ask is that the firewood is replaced," explained the mayor, José Manuel López, while stressing that this oven was built for various reasons. On the one hand it was built to recover the old tradition and on the other, to enhance the town and increase the attraction for tourists.

The site on which the public oven was built was an abandoned plot, which gave the town a bad image, so the council decided to buy it and turn it into something special. In addition to the oven, worksurfaces, a sink and spaces for cooking have been created. The area is completely covered and protected from the elements.

"It was only officially opened recently, but has been in operation

for a year now. It has been used by a number of associations, including the Women's Association, to make artisan bread, cakes and baked sweet potatoes and a whole lot more," said López.

### A lost tradition

"A workshop was also organised to demonstrate how to make pizzas at the last Hinojá (a gastronomic fiesta dedicated to fennel stew, typical of Algatocín)," said the mayor. He was accompanied by his deputy, Benito

Carrillo; and the president of the Diputación provincial government, Elías Bendodo, at the inauguration of the oven, which is also the first public one built in the province of Malaga.

"We want to encourage visitors and organise trips for schoolchildren," the mayor added, explaining that the oven and the complex was built in different phases on a budget of 40,000 euros.

Public ovens like this were once widespread in towns up until about half a century ago.

"Inhabitants paid a small fee to use the oven," explained Manuel Becerra, a local researcher of the Serranía de Ronda.

In Algatocín there was an oven dating around 1571 which belonged to the Duke of Medina Sidonia, who leased it annually. Becerra added that in Benaoján and Montejaque, nobody could afford to build an oven to make bread, so they had to use the ones that belonged to the Marquises of Cuevas del Becerro in both towns.



A number of workshops have been organised to learn how to make, among other things, pizzas. :: SUR

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ANDREW J. LINN

## TERROIRIFIC WINES



While it would be an exaggeration to say that French wine producers invented the word 'terroir', it is something every other wine-producing country would like to have. When a bottle of wine with terroir is opened, there is identity, even personality. Although it only became common currency at the end of the last century, it is the word that signifies that each wine's character conveys the soil, location, climate and tradition in which it was made. Not universally though. The Germans believe there is more significance in the grape variety, and in Italy they hold that the winemaker's influence carries the day.

Spain, initially for a lack of essential wine culture and later a regulatory system controlled by jobsworths more interested in their pay cheques than their wine, never fully developed the concept as it could have. Now, better late than never, an organisation known as Grandes Pagos de España is recovering lost opportunities. Founded in 2000 as Grandes Pagos de Castilla, and in 2003 morphed into its current identity, the idea is simple and meritorious. A non-profit-making entity, it encourages bodegas that make wine from their own estate-grown grapes to adhere to a number of principles that include recuperating old grape varieties and respecting traditional wine-making techniques. Members ex-

change knowledge and experience, and above all there is a clear intention to make wines whose personality respects their terroir. Obviously the enemies of the concept are the industrial wineries that buy grapes in from anywhere for blending, and produce wines that lack any sort of character or identity.

Current members of the 'club', 23 bodegas, are among some of the leading producers in terms of controlled production. They include a couple of cava makers (eg. Gramona), Rioja bodegas (eg. Cantos de Valpiedra that produces a Rioja at €9.50), Abadia Retuerta that produces a Pago wine (€140), and the nearest bodega to home, Cortijo Los Aguilares in Ronda. Ostensibly the oldest pago in Spain is that of Macaharnudo, in Jerez de la Frontera.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Tio Diego Amontillado

One of the Grandes Pagos de España bodegas, Valdespino is also one of Jerez's oldest, although now part of the Estevez Group. This classic sherry weighs in at 18° strength and is meant for slow drinking and maximum enjoyment. Bearing in mind its age is an average of 17 years, the wine is incredibly economical at around 12 euros.



## A Spanish tradition that resists modernisation

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

**MALAGA.** Anyone visiting Malaga will soon be familiar with the Spanish custom of enjoying churros in the morning or mid-afternoon.

Churros, long, extruded fingers of dough (some establishments cook them in a spiral) that are deep

fried and sprinkled with salt, are eaten by young and old, accompanied with a cup of steaming hot chocolate for dipping.

And it is not just in the winter that they are enjoyed. It is a common sight to see the churros van at the summer fairs although they are usually eaten as a late night or early morning snack.

It is believed that the Moors brought the original recipe, the basic ingredients were listed in a cookery book from the thirteenth century, little has changed since.

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Granier, in the centre of Malaga city, opened in 2015. The company was founded in 1988 when Juan Pedro Conde opened Horno la Estrella, a bakery based on traditional breads. The brand Granier was born in 2010 and is characterised by its high-quality products and service.

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This is complemented with a selection of regional and international breads.

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Savoury products include cheese and bacon, tuna, spinach and béchamel or meat pasties as



Golden, crusty loaves of freshly-baked bread. sur



A perfect pick-me-up for a cold, miserable day. sur

well as a selection of quiches, an all-day breakfast menu and a range of sandwiches and rolls.

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# “We’re not mad, we’re sick”

## Soledad Domenech and Ana Ferrer President and secretary of the Aedec association



ALBERTO GÓMEZ

✉ Twitter: @Agalmendres

It affects more than 10 per cent of women of fertile age but endometriosis, characterised by painful periods, is still very much an unknown illness

**MALAGA.** Endometriosis affects more than ten per cent of women of fertile age, but this abnormal growth of the endometriotic tissue, which can cause damage to different organs, continues to be a silent epidemic whose sufferers face a lack of understanding and late diagnoses.

The president and secretary of the Aedec Association of Women Affected by Endometriosis, Soledad Domenech and Ana Ferrer, both of whom are from Malaga, say multidisciplinary units are needed to detect and provide specialised attention for the illness. One way of raising awareness, the International Endometriosis Week, took place from 3 to 11 March. **–Many women with endometriosis don’t know that they have it. What are the symptoms?**

–Ana Ferrer: It is characterised by crippling periods. Nothing can relieve the pain and it leaves you helpless. Depending on how advanced it is, it can also cause infertility. Oral contraceptives can sometimes help, but when you stop taking them it is dreadful again. Many women have renal colic without stones and gastrointestinal pains, but the main symptom is inexplicably heavy periods: very painful menstruation which is not eased by analgesics.

**–It is still hardly known, and on average it takes between eight and ten years to diagnose. Why is that?**

–Ana Ferrer: One of the main reasons is that medical staff don’t know much about it either. The problem begins with GPs, because if a girl complains about period pains the doctor prescribes Ibuprofen. It would be easy to stop this illness at an early age, but we are taught that periods are painful and neither parents nor teachers take any notice of the girls when they say they can’t go to school or do something because of the pain. Because we normalise this pain, it can take a long time to diagnose.

**–So it’s also a cultural and educational problem.**

–Soledad Domenech: When you say you have period pains everyone tells you it’s normal, even though some people suffer worse pains than others. You even be-

QUOTES

**“Medical androcentrism is largely to blame for the lack of research and interest in early diagnosis”**

**“Menstruation can be uncomfortable or painful, but when it incapacitates you there is a problem”**

**“We have to take notice when girls tell us their period is so painful they can’t go to school”**

lieve it yourself, and put off going to the doctor. A lack of knowledge has resulted in women being diagnosed with haemorrhoids, Crohn’s Disease and other things, even depression. Endometriosis is hard to pinpoint unless it results in a large endometriotic cyst.

**–Do you think sexism is a reason why there is so little research, and why the illness is so invisible?**

–Soledad Domenech: Of course. It is an illness which only affects women. Obviously that will have an influence on whether men research it any further.

–Ana Ferrer: Medical androcent-

trism is largely to blame for the lack of research and interest in early diagnosis. It’s easy to say “you’re hysterical” because of course that comes from ‘hystérie’ and means uterus. There is also clear gender discrimination in the Social Security Law, because it does not include different degrees of endometriosis. A total hysterectomy isn’t considered mutilation, but the amputation of a testicle is. **–You said earlier that people in general believe that menstruation has to be painful...**

–Ana Ferrer: Periods are uncomfortable or painful but are bearable. You take an analgesic and it goes away, just like toothache does. But women with endometriosis have periods which last much longer and hurt a lot more than healthy women.

–Soledad Domenech: Periods are uncomfortable or painful, but if they incapacitate you there is a problem behind it. When the pain isn’t relieved by Ibuprofen you have to take notice, because it could be endometriosis or another gynaecological illness. That’s why we are calling for early detection. You have to listen to girls who tell you their periods are so painful they can’t go to school or do PE. Early detection means that a stage one illness doesn’t become stage four, which can cause all sorts of medical complications.

**–Which organs can be affected**

**by uncontrolled growth of endometriotic tissue?**

–Ana Ferrer: All of them. The genital area is most common, with ovarian cysts, or the fallopian tubes, but the tissues also travel through the bloodstream or lymphatic system and can reach the intestines, colon, lungs, rectum, kidneys, liver...

**–It is ironic that there should be so little information about such a relatively common illness.**

–Soledad Domenech: There is a contradiction, obviously. Endometriosis is still hardly known but one out of every ten women suffers from it.

–Ana Ferrer: Many women die never knowing that they had it, but it is an illness which can lead to others such as fibromyalgia and cardiovascular accidents.

**–What effect does this lack of knowledge and late diagnosis have?**

–Ana Ferrer: We start to think we’re going mad. We lose jobs and partners. Many of us find sexual intercourse painful, or afterwards, because of the contractions of the uterus after orgasm, but our partners don’t know what’s wrong with us because we don’t even know that ourselves. There are doctors who issue sick notes not because of deep endometriosis, which is something recognised by the World Health Organisation, but for premenstrual syndrome. Imagine the conse-

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quences when a boss is given a certificate saying you are off work with premenstrual syndrome.

**-Do you think menstruation is still a taboo subject?**

-Soledad Domenech: Unfortunately yes, even for some women themselves. There is nothing to be ashamed of. We have to talk more about menstruation and infertility, and never normalise the constant pain which makes us turn to drugs like opiates or morphiates which stop us going out, working, partying and so on. People around us often don't understand that situation, and that is because there isn't enough information. We're not making it up. It is a misunderstood and unknown illness, even medically. We're often prescribed anti-depressants. We're not mad. We're sick.

**-What do you want from the authorities?**

-Soledad Domenech: We want the Junta de Andalucía to put into practice the attention guide for patients which has existed since 2009 and just been updated. It does no good for anybody if it is just left in a drawer. We also need multidisciplinary units, because this is not an illness which remains in the reproductive apparatus; in its third and fourth stages it invades other



Ana Ferrer and Soledad Domenech, secretary and president of Adaec, at an event to raise awareness of endometriosis. :: SUR

organs of the body.

-Ana Ferrer: The main thing is for the established protocols to be applied and for more research to be carried out. The Junta de Andalucía has also promised us provincial teams which can cover up to stage

three.

**-What is the situation in Malaga?**

-Soledad Domenech: In Malaga we have Dr Emilila Villegas, who is a benchmark in Spain. Thanks to the Da Vinci surgical robot she and her team are operating on some cases

of endometriosis and obtaining good results without organs being lost. Malaga is a pioneer in clinical tests thanks to this team, to such an extent that patients from other provinces are being referred here. Now the problem is that Dr

Villegas' team are stretched to the limit.

-Ana Ferrer: Dr Villegas has put an end to the ordeal for many of us, but there are still not enough operating theatres and consultations only take place one day a week.

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# A blood pact

Jehovah's witnesses have surgery at Barcelona's Hospital del Mar, where kidney transplants are undertaken without blood transfusions



SUSANA ZAMORA

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**F**rancisco Cervera was dependent on a machine for nearly ten years. He needed it so that his polycystic kidneys could keep functioning and he could stay alive. At first it was peritoneal dialysis at home; then, hemodialysis three times per week in the Parc Taulí de Sabadell Hospital.

"The days I had treatment were pretty much lost, because I was very tired when I got home and I had to give up other activities," explains Francisco. The months passed and his health worsened. The solution? A kidney transplant.

In Spain more than 3,000 are carried out every year. It is one of the most frequent transplants with the best prognosis, but in Francisco's case it was different. The difficulty wasn't in finding a donor. His wife had always made it clear that, if she were compatible, she would give him a kidney, and that was what happened.

The real problem was finding a public hospital that would respect their beliefs as Jehovah's Witnesses and that was prepared to carry out the transplant without the use of a blood transfusion, which goes

against their beliefs.

The beliefs of this branch of Christianity, which in Spain has 113,000 active members according to the register of religious bodies compiled by the Ministry of Justice, prevents them from receiving blood from another person during this type of operation. According to jw.org: "There are convincing medical reasons to reject them. However, the main reason why God has told us to reject them is that blood is represented as sacred in the Bible (Leviticus 17:11, Colossians 1:20)."

The Hospital del Mar in Barcelona was prepared to carry out the operation, adhering to the specifications outlined by the couple from Barberà del Vallés (Catalonia). An entire team of surgeons (nephrologists, urologists, kidney surgeons and anaesthetists) were prepared to accept the restrictions and designed a specially-adapted procedure which was carried out in September 2016.

At the time, only the Complejo Universitario hospital in La Coruña had done the surgery without a blood transfusion and they had carried out several operations on Jehovah's Witnesses. "The likelihood that a blood transfusion will be needed during kidney surgery is around 40 per cent. If the surgeons are skilled and you are able to establish specific measures to minimise the need for blood, then the risk is reduced to a minimum," highlights Julio Pascual, head of the Nephrology Service and medical director of the Hospital del Mar.

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**More than 3,000 kidney transplants are carried out in Spain each year**



Doctors Escolano, Cecchini, Crespo and Pascual. :: SUR

During the pre-operative period, his patients are given erythropoietin (EPO), a hormone that stimulates the production of red blood cells. "So, we raise the level of red blood cells so that during the surgery, if blood is lost, we remain within the safety margins for the patient."

Over the course of the operation, the medical team also uses a machine to raise the production of red blood cells ('a cell server') to make up for the blood that the patient loses during the operation and, after a cleaning process, the extra blood cells can be introduced if necessary.

"In the post-operation stage, when we have to be particularly careful, instead of three people monitoring them, we have ten. If following a conventional operation the patient's kidney starts to bleed, the first thing to do is transfer blood and operate if necessary. However, with a Jehovah's Witness, we have to use anticoagulants and in Barberà del Vallés, in some cases, use dialysis if the kidney is at risk," explains Pascual. Despite his confidence in the procedure, the specialist doesn't hide the "enormous stress", "because

we were doing something that few people have dared to do".

But the risks mentioned by Pascual never scared Francisco Cervera and his wife and donor, Rosa María Molins. "Since we arrived at the hospital, everything seemed simple and we were told that the doctors were happy to respect our beliefs and not transfer blood; not even in a critical situation," explains Molins. Her husband notes: "We have to be consistent with what we believe, whether we are living through good times or bad."

Doctor Lluís Cecchini, head of

Urology and transplant surgery at the Hospital del Mar, wonders up to what point it is ethical for a medic not to offer transplant treatment to a patient who demands that the procedure be carried out without a blood transplant, when in half of

cases it wouldn't be necessary.

"If a patient holds their religious beliefs as more important than their own life, what right does a doctor have to decide for them? If an agreement is made, it has to be respected," he said.

**THE CONGREGATION**

**113.000**

active members of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Spain, according to a register of religious bodies carried out by the Ministry of Justice. This denomination of Christianity has around eight million followers worldwide.

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# "Astronaut" diet for 300-kilo bed-bound man ahead of stomach reduction surgery

Eight firefighters were needed to transfer Juan José to the Clínico hospital in Malaga after he called in to a radio station to say he could no longer move by himself

∴ **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

**MALAGA.** Juan José turned 52 on Wednesday, a day that he spent in the Clínico hospital without being able to leave his bed. Now 300 kilos, he can no longer get up by himself. His morbid obesity means that he has spent most of the past four or five years at home, rarely going out. He was even unable to attend his own mother's funeral.

He also has anxiety and depression, which have contributed to his massive weight gain in the last year which has, in turn, prevented him from going to the doctor who was keeping his mental health in check.

According to his sister, Lola, Juan José was generally able to look after himself but that his state deteriorated rapidly in recent days.

The alarm was raised several days ago after Juan José made a call to the Cadena Ser radio station in which he told them that he had been unable to leave his bed for more than a week and was "unable to change position due to his weight." He had already contacted the emergency services, who were used to dealing with him, but was told that as he was not an emergency case, he would have to wait.

Due to the high-profile nature of the case, both district councillor Teresa Porras and obesity specialist Doctor José Rivas visited his home first thing on Monday morning. After the doctor's examination found "fluid on his lungs", it was decided that he needed to be taken to hospital.

Soon afterwards, eight firemen, local police and a team of local social services employees, arrived at his house in order to take him to hospital. It was a difficult operation, as the firemen had to be gentle and administer oxygen due to his reduced lung function. What's more, the bed which awaited him had a maximum capacity of 250 kilos so needed to be adapted.

## An opportunity

Now, Juan José has the opportunity to improve his quality of life and regain his mobility. The hospital has put him on a low-calorie diet that is designed to help him lose between 60 and 70 kilos, which is needed before he can undergo bariatric surgery to decrease his stomach capacity.

"The doctors have put me on a



Juan José's extreme obesity prevents him being able to move. ∴ SUR



Eight firemen carry Juan José out of his home. ∴ SUR

diet of astronaut's food: I have to follow it to the letter. It is nutritionally balanced, with low-calorie content," Juan José told SUR from his individual room, after he had spent over 24 hours under emergency observation.

"I'm aware that it can't go on like this. Therefore, I'm not going to let anyone bring me food that is not approved by the hospital," he said. "I don't know how long I'll be in hospital for or how soon they can operate on me. The doctors told me that the faster I can recover the better, as I will be able to regain

quality of life."

Juan José expressed his thanks for the help of José Luis, his doctor at the Cruz del Humilladero health centre. "He has encouraged me and helped me to come to hospital. I would also like to thank Dr Juan Garcia Arnés, who has spent the last few years treating my obesity at Carlos Haya hospital," he said.

Juan José was stabilised on his first day at hospital, and is undergoing a series of tests, as well as being put on a course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.

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# Work by the 'Chinese Picasso', Qi Baishi, drops in on Jorge Rando on first trip outside Asia



ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

@ajavierlopez

The exhibition in Malaga has only been here for three days (the third and final day today, Friday) and features the work of the most coveted and expensive Chinese artist in history

**MALAGA.** The lychees are waiting in a wicker basket as a bee seems to dive down to them. The fruits are little more than a translucent stain of mauve colouring di-

luted in water, but for the interiors the artist has used more energetic brushstrokes. The same occurs with the insect: it is light-weight but at the same time rooted in the role.

It is precisely this combination of quiet tradition and new dynamism of the settings, this look at everyday objects rather than great names and battles, which make Qi Baishi one of the great renovators of Chinese painting.

The artist caught the attention of the West eight years ago, when he became the third artist in the world in terms of auction sales, and at the end of last year broke the record for the most expensive Chinese painting in history when a series of 12 of his landscapes sold for 120 million euros.

His artistic revolution and prestige in the market have earned Qi Baishi (1864-1957) the nickname

## THE EXHIBITION

► **Title.** 'The breeze from Qi Baishi's hometown'.

► **Venue.** Museum Jorge Rando.

► **Address.** C/ Cruz del Molinillo, 12.

► **Dates.** Until Friday 23 March.

► **Times.** From 10am to 8pm.

► **Entry.** Free.

of the 'Chinese Picasso', and now his works are visiting the birthplace of the Spanish genius thanks to the Museum Jorge Rando, which is currently exhibiting them for the first time outside Asia in a display called 'The Breeze from Qi Baishi's Hometown'.

However, anyone who wants to see the delicate work of this Chinese artist should do so quickly: the exhibition only continues until today, (Friday 23 March).

The reason the exhibition is so short is that Qi Baishi's work is on tour with the Qi Baishi Memorial Museum of Xiantang, which is where the works in this display have come from.

The Chinese state TV channel CCTV has been filming a documentary about both artists in recent months, and during their research in Malaga the producers came across the Museum Jorge Rando

and raised the possibility of it hosting the exhibition.

There is considerable interest in the display, as could be seen from the media presence at the opening earlier this week. The event was attended by Chinese officials; the honorary president of the Jorge Rando Foundation, Princess María Luisa of Prussia; the minister Wu Xiaoyue; the CEO of CCTV Documentary, Li Jinzhu; the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre; and Jorge Rando himself.

## The Chinese Picasso

The links between Qi Baishi and Picasso were explained during the presentation. The director of the Museum Jorge Rando, Vanesa Díez, pointed out that Picasso considered Qi Baishi "the best painter of East Asia", and the curator of the Memorial Museum which is dedicated to the Chinese artist, Wang Qizhi, said there were parallels in the importance of each artist for their cities of origin.

Vanesa Díez also explained that Qi Baishi's painting "has traces of expressionist poetry", which links him with Jorge Rando. Also, both artists seek "spiritual resonance" in their work, she said.

Those links reach out across one of the exhibition rooms, which contains works by both artists. 'The Breeze from Qi Baishi's Hometown' goes beyond the signature work which gives name to the project, and shows his influence on later generations of Chinese artists. The display contains over 60 pieces; half are by Qi Baishi and the others have been produced by 'heirs' of his style such as Chen Xiaoqi and Zhu Wenzhi.

This project is aimed to be "an encounter between eastern and western painting," and it is the first time that the work of this coveted artist has been seen outside Asia.

Qi Baishi is famous now, but is still known as the "artist of the village" because of his focus on small everyday things. That is why lotus flowers, insects and crustaceans have almost become a sign of identity of Qi Baishi's work, because of his "liberal style" of painting them, as Wang Qizhi explained.

This loose style of brushwork combined with an eagerness for almost calligraphic detail, a transcendentalism shown through modest objects, from an artist born into a family of farmers whose work, 50 years after his death, is selling for hundreds of millions of yen.

## ► Expectation.

The Chinese media have shown great interest in the exhibition at the Museum Jorge Rando.

:: SALVADOR SALAS

## ▼ Presentation.

Chinese and Spanish representatives at the presentation.

:: FRAN ACEVEDO



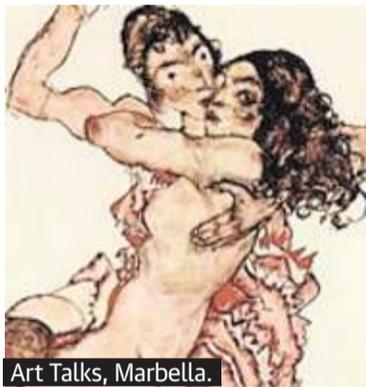
◀◀ **Delicacy.** Two of Qi Baishi's works which can be seen at the Museum Jorge Rando until Friday. :: SUR

## EXHIBITIONS

**Magpie International Gallery Marbella.** From 23 March until 23 April. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.

The exhibition by Pedro Molina is entitled Aguadas de Primavera. [www.magpie.international](http://www.magpie.international).

**Art Talks.** 23 March, 6pm. Egon Schiele will be the subject of this talk by Prof. Jesús Eguía Armenteros. Egon Schiele was a major figurative painter of the early 20th century, famous particularly for his psychologically and erotically charged works and the use of figural distortion in contrast with conventional notions of beauty.



Art Talks, Marbella.

**Classic Marvel Comics Estepona.** Until 31 March.

**Auditorio Felipe VI.** This exhibition will focus on the most popular characters from Marvel comics in the 1960s-1980s, including Spiderman, X Men, The Fantastic Four, Thor and Iron Man.

**Museo de Belenes Easter Mollina.** Until 13 May. Polígono Casería del Rey.

The Belen museum has a complementary display of the passion of Christ, from his arrival in Jerusalem through to his death and resurrection.



Museo de Belenes, Mollina

**Photographs of Malaga Malaga.** Until 1 April. La Térmica, Avda de Los Guindos.

# Heroes just for one day

BY TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** The Spiders from Marbs, a popular David Bowie tribute band, are to bring their exciting show to Benalmádena Costa next week.

The Marbella-based group, which is made up of several members of popular Costa punk band, The Reinfected, will perform some of David Bowie's most celebrated hits.

The 90 minute show will include songs from all of the different stages of Bowie's career, from the androgynous alien, Ziggy Stardust, to Aladdin Sane, The Thin White Duke and the New Romantic and pop era.

Fans will enjoy classic hits like The Jean Genie, Rebel Rebel, China Girl and Heroes. The professionalism of the musicians creates the ambiance of an early David Bowie gig, complete with face-makeup and the classic glam-rock sound of the 70s.

The Spiders from Marbs is the only David Bowie tribute act on the coast and their act bears witness to the huge influence Bowie had on world music. The band consists of musicians who are lifelong Bowie devotees, includ-



David Bowie tribute band will perform at the Bonanza Bar. :: SUR

ing guitarist, Martin Hope, founding member of iconic UK punk band, The Accused.

Martin achieved relative success on the British punk scene and his band was featured in a 2010 documentary about the Birmingham music scene of the 70s.

Bowie, who died in January 2016, was a leading figure in popular music for over five decades and he was acclaimed by fellow musicians and critics for a career that was marked by reinvention and visual presentation. His

worldwide record sales are estimated to be 140 million, which made him one of the world's best-selling musical artists.

## INFORMATION

► **What:** David Bowie tribute concert.

► **Where:** Bonanza Bar, Benalmádena Costa.

► **When:** Friday 30 March 10pm

The 'Photospacio' in the Térmica is housing an exhibition of 46 panoramic views of the city taken between 1854 and 1925.

## Blackness

**Malaga.** Until 16 April. *Café de Estraperlo, Plaza Poeta Alfonso Canales.*

The artists Siobhan Riordan (UK) and Daysury Valencia (Sweden) are two black artists living in Malaga. [www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo](http://www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo)

## Artistas Independientes

**Álora.** Until 2 April. *Bar Adeli Blanco, C/Santa Ana.*

A collective exhibition. Closed Tuesdays.

## Artistas Eclécticos

**Mijas Pueblo.** Until 30 March. *Primavera.* In the tourist office. An exhibition of art by Elaine Carlton, Margit Björklund, Richard Wood and Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn.

**Stories in Colour.** Clínica veterinaria, Av México 21. Exhibition by Margit Björklund and Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn.

## Pasión por la Ilusión

**Malaga.** Until 31 March. *Larios shopping centre.* An exhibition of photographs of Semana Santa by photographer Lorenzo Carnero. Carnero is the director of the Punto Press news agency



Lorenzo Carnero, Larios Centro.

and has spent over twenty years recording the cultural and social life of Malaga.

## ArtFest

**Calahonda.** Until 30 March. *Atlantis PMR, CC Los Olivos.* The ArtFest is an art competition initiated by The Arts Society for all affiliated societies worldwide. Ten of the Costa del Sol branch members are participating. This exhibition is by appointment only. Call 952933870 or email: [Teresa@atlantinspmr.com](mailto:Teresa@atlantinspmr.com) More information <http://www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org/>

## CHARITY

### Spring dinner and dance

**Mijas.** 23 March, 7.30pm. *Hotel Tamisa Golf.* 23€ Dinner and dance with wine and entertainment to raise funds for PAWS adoptions. Reservations:

722336978 or email: [solo-sol@email.com](mailto:solo-sol@email.com)

## FAMA and 4 PAWS

**Fuengirola.** 24 March, from 3pm. *Bar 69 Paseo Marítimo.* Kids activities, music, yoga, flea market and more. Call: 694432289

## Easter charity dinner

**Benalmádena.** 31 March, 8pm. *Restaurante Club Náutico.* 37€ In aid of Lobo Park and El Refugio del Burrito. Glass of cava followed by buffet with drink included. Raffle and entertainment by Dave Lee 'Dean Martin'. Reservations call: 633332114 / 654513380 or email [reservas@clubnautico.es](mailto:reservas@clubnautico.es) or [starbables5@gmail.com](mailto:starbables5@gmail.com)

## ARCH

**Alhaurín el Grande.** 30, 31 March. The horse rescue centre will open its doors to the public from 11am - 4pm on Good Friday. There will be a dog show, a market and an Easter Egg hunt for children. This is followed on Saturday with an evening of country and western music at the Ginger Pig Country pub in Coin at 7.30pm. Tickets 20 euros from the pub or call 628867980 Facebook: ARCH

## MUSIC & DANCE

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Gibraltar.** 12 April, 8pm. *Convent Ballroom.*

A recital by guitarist José María Gallardo del Rey with compositions by: G. Sanz, S. de Murcia, J.S. Bach, A. Piazzola and J.M. Gallardo del Rey. Tickets: [www.buytickets.gi](http://www.buytickets.gi).

**Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra Malaga.** 23 March, 9pm. *Teatro Cervantes.*

A special Easter concert featuring Rossini's Stabat Mater conducted by guest Salvador Vásquez and with the Malaga Opera Choir.

## Mozart's Requiem

**Malaga.** 24 March, 8pm. *Sala María Cristina, Unicaja.* The Promúsica Chamber Orchestra will be performing Mozart's Requiem with Malaga University Choir.

## Malaga Baroque Orchestra

**Malaga.** 23 March, 8pm. *Sala María Cristina, Unicaja.* The Orquesta Barroca de Málaga will be performing pieces by Bach, Handel, Telemann and Pergolesi.

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Gallardo del Rey, Gibraltar

**Benalmádena choir**

**Arroyo de la Miel.** 24 March, 8.30pm. Inmaculada parish church.

The Coral Ciudad de Benalmádena, and Orfeón Vicente Espinel from Ronda will perform sacred music. Conductors are Leticia Ríos and Óscar Luis Sánchez. The concert is sponsored by the Cultural Department of Benalmadena town hall.

**Sacred music concert**

**Estepona.** 24 March, 8pm. Iglesia Ntra Sra del Carmen. Free.

The Coral Magnum Mysterium will be holding their traditional concert of sacred music.

**For A While**

**Nerja.** 24 March, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 5€.

Nerja duo, Natalia on piano and Anabel vocals, will be performing some well known melodies accompanied by cello, violin and guitar.

**Sir Roger Manwood Orchestra**

**Malaga.** 25 March, 1pm. St George's Church. Free.

Sir Roger Manwood's School Orchestra will be performing at the church as part of their 2018 tour of Spain. The repertoire includes arrangements of Holst's Jupiter, Ferdinand Herold, The Clog Dance, as well as music from films such as Forest Gump.

**Keith James in concert**

**Cómpeta.** 1 April, 9pm. Galería luz de la Vida, C/Laberinto.

Keith James is one of the most active and artistic concert performers in the UK. He has performed over 2,000 concerts in the UK and across Europe and has released 14 CD Albums. Reservations: artcom-perta@gmail.com

**A Cappella Magic**

**Benalmádena.** 5 April, 8pm. Sala Fortuna, Hotel Torrequebrada. 15€

The tenth edition of the Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS) annual convention will include Crossroads, an American a cappella men's quartet and Sound House, a British ladies quartet.

**FESTIVALS**

**Virgen de los Dolores**

**Iznate** 23 March

The Friday before Easter week the village of Iznate holds a procession through the streets of the Virgen de los Dolores.

# Life with George Orwell

**JENNIE RHODES**

**FUENGIROLA / NERJA.** George Orwell's only son, Richard Blair, will be talking to the Arts Society both in Fuengirola (Costa del Sol branch) and in Nerja on Tuesday 27 March.

The two talks are open to the public and the Fuengirola one will take place at the Danish Club in Urbanización Haza del Algarrobo and will start at 10.30am.

Mr Blair will be speaking at the Centro Cultural on Calle Granada in Nerja and will start at 6pm.

The price for visitors to either talk is 10 euros. There will be a dinner after the Nerja talk and registration must be made by 7pm today (Friday) for the meal.

Richard Blair, whose surname is his father's real name - Eric Blair - will be talking about his father's life and in particular his links with Spain during the Spanish Civil War, about which he wrote Homage to Catalonia.

George Orwell is most famous for Animal Farm, a children's story and also a reflection of the Russian Revolution and Stalinist era; and 1984, Orwell's dystopian novel about Winston Smith's struggle with oppression in the superstate



George Orwell and his son Richard circa 1946. :: SUR

of Oceania and his defiance of Big Brother through his diary and relationship with Julia.

Orwell also wrote The Road to Wigan Pier and Down and Out in Paris and London. He was born in 1903 in India and died in 1950 in University College Hospital London from tuberculosis.

For further information visit: [www.TheArtsSocietyNerja.com](http://www.TheArtsSocietyNerja.com) [www.theartsociety-costadel-sol.org](http://www.theartsociety-costadel-sol.org)

**INFORMATION**

► **What:** Talk by Richard Blair, George Orwell's son.

► **Where:** Danish Club, Fuengirola and Centro Cultural, Nerja.

► **When:** Tuesday 27 March. 10.30am Fuengirola, 6pm Nerja.



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**TOMB RAIDER**

Friday 23: 17:30, 20:05  
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Tuesday 27: 15:50, 20:05  
Wednesday 28: 15:50, 17:30, 20:05



**A WRINKLE IN TIME**

Saturday 24: 15:45  
Sunday 25: 11:45, 15:45  
From Monday 26 to Wednesday 28: 15:45



**PETER RABBIT**

Director Will Gluck  
Voices James Corden and Feyssal Bazzi  
ANIMATION - 95 min.



Friday 23: 17:30, 19:30  
Saturday 24: 15:40, 17:30  
Sunday 25: 11:45, 15:40, 17:30  
From Monday 26 to Wednesday 28: 15:40, 17:30



**LOVING PABLO**

Director Fernando León de Aranza  
Starring Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem  
DRAMA - 127 min.



From Friday 23 to Wednesday 28: 18:00



**RED SPARROW**

From Friday 23 to Monday 26: 20:00  
Wednesday 28: 20:00



**EARLY MAN**

Saturday 24: 15:45  
Sunday 25: 11:45, 15:45  
Monday 26 and Wednesday 28: 15:45





A workshop with artist Linda Roffel. :: SUR

## Celebrating 10 years of Cómpeeta art walk

### :: JENNIE RHODES

**CÓMPETA.** The village of Cómpeeta will be celebrating its 10th art walk over the Easter weekend. From 31 March, and 1, 3 and 4 April, the doors of the village's art studios and galleries will be open.

Thirty-five international artists, representing ten nationalities, will be presenting their work at the event and will be accompanied by live concerts in the squares around Cómpeeta and in the gallery, Luz de la Vida. There will also be workshops where members of the public can learn different techniques as well as a drawing competition for children and the opportunity

to see artists at work.

Dutch artist, art walk organiser and gallery owner, Lieuwke Loth and her team have put together a full programme of activities to celebrate the art-walk's first decade.

Over the four days, galleries and studios will be open from 11am to 2pm and from 3.30pm to 7.30pm. Lieuwke says, "visitors are invited to look at the art and meet the artists in the studios and other venues in the historic town." She adds that the artists "will be happy to answer visitors' questions about their work, inspiration and techniques." [www.artcompeta.com](http://www.artcompeta.com) or Facebook: artcompeta

## FLAMENCO

### Flamenco abierto

**Vélez-Málaga.** Peña Flamenca Niño de Vélez, C/Tejeda 10.  
**23 March, 10pm.** Sara Camero (dance) with José Manuel Fernández (vocals) and Rubén Portillo (guitar).  
**29, 30, 31 March, 8pm.** Samaruco Flamenco.

### Flamenco in the Museum

**Malaga.** Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Brea, C/Ramón Franquelo.  
**24 March, 8.30pm.** Bastián Soto and Sandra Cisneros (dance) with José Manuel 'Gordo' (vocals), José M. Millán 'Manú' (guitar).  
**27 March, 8.30pm.** Rocio Suárez (dance) with Juan Fco. Rivera (vocals), José M. Millán 'Manú' (guitar).  
**28 March, 8.30pm.** Sandra Cisneros (dance) with miguel Astorga (vocals), José M. Millán 'Manú' (guitar).  
**31 March, 8.30pm.** Ana Almagro (dance) with Miguel Astorga (vocals), José M. Millán 'Manú' (guitar)  
For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email [info@flamenka.com](mailto:info@flamenka.com)

## LECTURES

### U3A Lectures

**Fuengirola.** Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. Email: [u3afuengirola@gmail.com](mailto:u3afuengirola@gmail.com)  
**Hands that rocked a cradle: 'Sarah Churchill, Maria Theresa of Austria and Ada Lovelace'**  
23 March, 11am.

### ITS Spring production

**Estepona.** 23-25 March, 8pm Fri-

day, Saturday. 7pm Sunday. El Paraiso Golf Club.

The International Theatre studio are presenting 'Habias Corpus' by Alan Bennett. Tickets: [www.internationaltheatrestudio.org](http://www.internationaltheatrestudio.org)

### The Arts Society lectures

**The Ole Optica I Lecture. George Orwell, Life With My Father. Nerja.** 27 March, 6pm. Cultural Centre, Calle Granada. Members 8€, guests 10€. [www.theartsocietynerja.com](http://www.theartsocietynerja.com)  
Speaker Richard Blair.



Gallardo del Rey, Gibraltar

## EVENTS

### Duster Family Day Rombosol, Marbella.

**Saturday 24 March. 11am-1.30pm**  
An event to promote the launch of the new Dacia Duster, this event for the whole family will include children's activities, presents for all and special discounts on the car.

### Craft market

**Torremolinos.** Fridays and Saturdays, Plaza Unión Europea. Around 20 stalls will be selling a variety of handmade goods including wrought iron work, wool items, ceramics, leather, precious

stones and fabrics etc.

### Artesan market

**Torremolinos.** From 26 until 31 March, La Carihuela, Plaza Chiriva. The association Asociación Atenea de Artesanos y Artesanas Torremolinos will be holding a craft market over Easter.

### Children's workshops

**Malaga.** 26, 27, 28 March, Museo de Automoviles de Málaga. The car museum is running a series of workshops for children over Easter. More information and reservations call: 951137001 or go to [www.museoautomovilmalaga.com](http://www.museoautomovilmalaga.com)

### TOPS posh frocks event

**Alhaurín el Grande.** 23, 24 March. Carolina Restaurant. 17€.  
An evening of entertainment consisting of two plays and a three course dinner. TOPS will be performing 'Say Something Happened' by Alan Bennett before dinner and 'Don't Blame It On The Boots' by N K Warburton, after. Tickets: Martin's and Cristina's Bookshops in Alhaurín el Grande.

### Thespa

**Fuengirola.** 28 March, 7.30pm. Los Boliches, Masonic Hall. 16€ members, 18€ guests. Includes set meal.  
'Effie's Burning' by Valerie Windsor and 'A Cut in Rates' by Alan Ayckbourn. Reservations tel: 622 454 422 [www.theatrecostadel-sol.com](http://www.theatrecostadel-sol.com) or email: [thespabooking@gmail.com](mailto:thespabooking@gmail.com)

### Bollywood Dance Classes

**Torremolinos.** 24 March, 6pm. Caseta Fitness. Indian dance classes. Sign up in the office of the Palacio San Miguel Sports Centre. [www.torremolinos.es](http://www.torremolinos.es)

### South Spain Boat Show

**Benalmádena.** 28-31 March, 10am-7pm. Benalmádena marina. The First Edition of the South Spain Boat Show will offer sailing lovers a new showcase where they can see new and second hand boats. Rodman, Sessa Marine, Starfisher, Monterrey, Pronautica, Dipol Glass, Suzuki, Volvo and the new Sessa Key Largo 27 inboard. Pronautica presents three of its models, the 660, the new 25 foot and the sea all-terrain 880 Hard Top; as well as the Rodman 1040, several models of Monterrey, Dipol Glass and second hand boats. Visitors must register first at: [www.varaderobenalmadena.com](http://www.varaderobenalmadena.com) or call 9525647 00

### Daniel Collado Magician

**Nerja.** 23 March, 7.30pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 8€.  
Daniel Collado will be performing a range of astounding magic.

## O. V. FILM

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

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**The Party:** 19.50 (every day).  
**The Death of Stalin:** 18.00 (every day).  
**The Shape of Water:** 20.00, 22.10 (every day).

### Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.  
**Peter Rabbit:** 12.00 (Sat, Sun, Thurs).  
**Pacific Rim:** 12.10 (Sat, Sun, Thurs).

### Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.  
**Peter Rabbit:** 12.10, 16.45 (not Thurs).  
**Tomb Raider:** 12.00, 16.45, 19.15 (not Thurs).  
**Pacific Rim: Insurrection:** 22.25, 23.45 (not Thurs).

### Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. [www.cinesteatrogoya.com](http://www.cinesteatrogoya.com)  
**Tomb Raider:** 15.50 (Sat-Wed); 17.30 (Fri, Sat-Mon, Wed); 20.05 (not Thurs).  
**All The Money In The World:** 18.00, 22.00 (Fri-Wed).  
**A Wrinkle in Time:** 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun, Mon, Wed).  
**Loving Pablo:** 18.00 (Fri - Wed).

**Peter Rabbit:** 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat-Wed); 17.30 (not Thurs); 19.30 (Fri).  
**Early Man:** 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun, Mon, Wed).  
**Red Sparrow:** 20.00 (Fri-Mon, Wed).

### Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**Pacific Rim: Insurrection:** 15.45 (not Thurs).  
**Tomb Raider:** 17.00 (Tues).  
**Peter Rabbit:** 14.45 (Sat, Sun).

### Live screenings of opera and ballet and theatre

[www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**Hundred years of Bernstein, Royal Ballet.** 27 March, 20.15 (Rincón de la Victoria, Vía) **Salome, National Theatre.** 29 March, 20.00 (Vía) **Così Fan Tutte, Met opera.** 31 March, 18.55 (Plaza Mayor, Rincón de la Victoria, Vía) **Giselle, Bolshoi Ballet.** 10 April, 20.15 (Plaza Mayor, Rincón de la Victoria, Vía)

### Cinesa La Cañada

La Cañada commercial centre, Marbella [www.cinesa.es/Eventos/Todos#documental](http://www.cinesa.es/Eventos/Todos#documental)  
**Hundred years of Bernstein, Royal Ballet.** 27 March, 20.15

# Passion plays for Easter

## || JENNIE RHODES

**RIOGORDO.** Riogordo's annual Passion Play (El Paso) depicting the life and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, will take place on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 March at 5pm in the village's El Paso ground. To get an idea of what the outdoor performance involves, go to Facebook / El Paso de Riogordo to see a short video which was filmed last year.

El Paso has been performed in the village since 1951 and involves hundreds of locals and actors. Tickets are 10 euros for adults and 7 euros for children and can be bought on the day outside the ground or in advance from: Rural-Andalus, Tienda cofrade Nazareno, Cereria Zalo in Malaga. In Torre del Mar from the Pasatiempos bookshop or from Riogordo town hall. Online: [www.malagaentradas.com](http://www.malagaentradas.com)

This year even a short Playmobil movie has been made of El Paso, the set and characters for which were produced by Riogordo's Asociación Paleta de Colores art group.

El Paso is also recreated in the village of Istán on 29 and 30 at 5pm and 31 March at 9pm in the



El Paso Riogordo. || sur

Polideportivo Municipal. In Moclínejo on Good Friday locals take part in a reenactment of Christ's life and in Casarabonela from this Sunday (25) until Tuesday (27) from 9pm in the Santiago church is a celebrated representation of 'El Pasión'. Cajiz in the Axarquía recreates scenes from the Old and New Testament on 30 and 31 March from 11.30am and Alhaurín's streets are the venue for the Passion of Christ

on the same days although officially it starts on 28 March. Cartraca in the Valle del Guadalteba performs the Pasión de Cristo on 29 and 30 March.

## INFORMATION

► **What:** El Paso (Passion Play)

► **Where:** Riogordo, Istán, Moclínejo, Casarabonela, Cajiz, Alhaurín



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## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Huge crowds gather to watch La Macarena in Seville. :: SUR



Some processions take place at the Alhambra. :: SUR

## Easter in Andalucía

**7 DAYS IN CORDOBA, GRANADA AND SEVILLE**

Car + festivals

**Journey time:** 2 hours from Malaga to Seville; 1 hour to Granada and 1 hour 30 minutes to Cordoba. **Processions:** 18 hours. **Monuments:** 11 hours

**JAVIER ALMELLONES**

**E**aster is one of the most important events of the year in Andalucía and every town and village has its own way of mark-

ing it, although they all share a passion for this religious tradition. Three provincial capital cities in the region are especially famous for their Holy Week processions: Seville, Cordoba and Granada.

In Cordoba, which was once the capital of the Caliphate, 'Semana Santa' begins this Sunday with the procession of El Rescatado taking place from the Plaza Cristo de la Concordia.

Equally as popular are those of Las Ánimas on Monday and Las Angustias on Thursday: the latter

is one of the oldest religious brotherhoods in the city. It begins and ends in Calle Capitulares, and passes through the emblematic San Agustín district.

In Granada, the city of the Alhambra, one of the most moving moments is on Wednesday night, with the processions of El Cristo del Consuelo and María Santísima del Sacromonte. One of the most remarkable processions is that of the Cristo de los Gitanos, the gypsy procession, because it is customary for huge bonfires to be lit between the 'cave houses' of the Sacromonte district.

The night of Holy Thursday is also magical in the Albaicín district where you can see, almost in the same place, the processions of the Virgen de la Concha, the Virgen de la Estrella and the Virgen de la Aurora, to all of whom there is great devotion in this district.

Seville is another city in which the Easter celebrations are famous, but certain days and processions are especially worth seeing, including the famous 'ma drugá' on Good Friday.

Among the others in Seville, the most important are La Macarena and La Esperanza in the Triana district and, earlier in the week, on Palm Sunday, La Borriquito. From Sunday to Wednesday people can also take part in the 'Besamanos del Gran Poder', visiting the chapels to pay tribute to the city's patron saint.

Easter is worth experiencing anywhere in Andalucía, but those lucky enough to be in any of these three principal cities during Holy Week will find a unique combination of passion, history and art.



Cordoba's processions are very atmospheric. :: SUR

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*Calle Torrijos, 10, 14003 Cordoba.*

**Granada cathedral.**

This jewel of the Spanish Renaissance was built by Isabel the Catholic.

*Gran Vía de Colón, 5, 18001 Granada.*

**The Alhambra.**

This citadel and fortress is a Moorish treasure.

*Calle Real de la Alhambra, 18009 Granada.*

**Reales Alcázares.**

Spectacular Andalusian palace in the heart of Seville.

*Patio de Banderas, 41004 Seville.*

**Seville cathedral.**

Built over a former mosque; La Giralda and the Patio de los Naranjos still remain.

*Avenida de la Constitución, 41004 Seville.*



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**Kitchen** page 55  
**Removals** page 56

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## LINE-UPS

**CELTA**



**MALAGA**



4-3-3



**Unused substitutes:** Fran Barbosa (GK), Fontás, Mazan, Cabral, Jozabed.

4-4-2



**Unused substitutes:** Prieto (GK), Diego González, Bueno, Borja Bastón.

## STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION		
53%	47%	
<b>CELTA</b>	<b>MALAGA</b>	
<b>0</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Total shots</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>On target</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Off target</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Corners</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Offsides</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Fouls committed</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Yellow cards</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Red cards</b>	<b>0</b>

**Goals:** None.

**Referee:** Alberto Undiano Mallenco.

**Venue:** Balaídos (17,230 spectators).

## TABLE &amp; FIXTURES

MATCHDAY  
29

## LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	PTS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	75	29	23	6	0	74	13
★ 2. At. Madrid	64	29	19	7	3	49	14
★ 3. Real Madrid	60	29	18	6	5	73	33
★ 4. Valencia	59	29	18	5	6	57	31
■ 5. Villarreal	47	29	14	5	10	40	33
■ 6. Sevilla	45	29	14	3	12	37	44
7. Girona	43	29	12	7	10	43	42
8. Betis	43	29	13	4	12	49	53
9. Getafe	39	29	10	9	10	35	27
10. Celta	39	29	11	6	12	45	42
11. Eibar	39	29	11	6	12	36	43
12. Leganés	36	29	10	6	13	25	35
13. Athletic	35	29	8	11	10	29	33
14. Espanyol	35	29	8	11	10	26	37
15. Real Sociedad	33	29	9	6	14	51	52
16. Alavés	31	29	10	1	18	26	45
17. Levante	27	29	5	12	12	25	43
▼ 18. Las Palmas	21	29	5	6	18	21	58
▼ 19. Deportivo	20	29	4	8	17	26	60
▼ 20. MALAGA	14	29	3	5	21	16	45

## Results

Levante - Eibar	2-1
Real Sociedad - Getafe	1-2
Betis - Espanyol	3-0
Valencia - Alavés	3-1
Leganés - Sevilla	2-1
Barcelona - Athletic	2-0
Celta - MALAGA	0-0
Villarreal - At. Madrid	2-1
Deportivo - Las Palmas	1-1
Real Madrid - Girona	6-3

## Fixtures

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

# Malaga's miserable losing streak finally comes to an end

DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

Substitute Maxime Lestienne could have won it for Malaga in stoppage time but it would have been a massive injustice

**MALAGA.** Balaídos is a difficult place to go at the best of times but Malaga put in a strong performance to deal a blow to Celta Vigo's hopes of European qualification, even if it had little impact on their own fight for survival, when the two teams faced off on Sunday night.

The Costa side ended a run of seven consecutive defeats with an impressive defensive showing which will ultimately count for nothing given the widening gap to Levante in 17th who beat Eibar 2-1 on Friday and are now 13 points ahead.

The match was far from a classic,

however, with both sides offering little in terms of creativity, especially in the first half.

Isaac Success started on the right in the absence of the suspended Samuel García but still looked off the boil nearly two months after joining the club.

Pione Sisto created an opening for the hosts through his direct running in the 35th minute but couldn't get enough whip on the ball to direct it inside the far post.

Minutes later, Malaga's top scorer this season on three, Chory Castro, cut in from the right before dragging his low shot just wide of the near post.

After a first half in which Celta afforded too much respect to the bottom side, the hosts returned to the field with greater determination. They were spearheaded by ex-Liverpool forward Iago Aspas, who was especially wound up by the rough treatment being dished out by the Malaga defence.

Aspas ended up walking a tight rope after picking up a booking for a spat with Miguel Torres and had to watch his mouth when on two occasions he had penalty appeals turned down.

González: "I'm proud of my players"

Speaking to the press following the game, Malaga head coach José González said he was pleased with the overall performance of his players.

González said he was "proud" as his side matched their opponents for much of the game. He said: "We were fresher [than in previous games], much more creative, and got closer to their goal more often. It was just the final pass that was lacking."

Though conceding his side needs wins, he said that the performance would "boost morale".

However, it was the home favourite that forced the first save of the game out of Roberto with a snapshot from the right-hand side of the area, but the Malaga keeper got down fast and pushed the ball through the crowd and out to safety.

Aspas then got in behind Torres but with a tightening angle, could only hit his shot at Roberto's legs.



Chory Castro had Malaga's best chance of the first half. :: AGENCIA LOF

The pressure on the Malaga goal continued to increase as they became overloaded in midfield. The introduction of captain José Recio, who joined the squad late to witness the birth of his second son, increased the resistance but he could do little to prevent the clearest opening of the game, missed by Aspas from six yards out with the goal gaping.

It wasn't going to be Celta's day and it could have got much worse in stoppage time when Malaga substitute Maxime Lestienne almost won it for the visitors when his dragged shot, on his weaker right foot, came back out off the post.

An improvement overall for Malaga but certainly a matter of too little, too late.



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# Malaga hoping to steal a march on rivals in planning for next year

The club hopes to sign up a new coach for next year as soon as possible with Huesca's Rubi now a possibility

## || SERGIO CORTÉS

**MALAGA.** All hope of survival is lost around Malaga. Even trainer José González has thrown in the towel. So now the club is keen to make the most of the predicament by starting to plan for next season in Segunda before their rivals gain the same level of certainty.

This starts with the head coach. The incumbent's contract runs out at the end of the season and sporting director Mario Husillos is looking to reach an agreement with a new man as soon as possible.

As SUR in English reported last week, Husillos' first choice was two-time Malaga coach Juan Ramón Muñoz who was recently sacked as Levante boss. However, following a meeting with Muñoz's representatives in Vigo, interest has cooled.

Husillos may yet return to the negotiating table but has now started looking at alternatives, especially



Huesca coach Rubi. || AFP

coaches currently managing at the top end of Segunda.

The standout candidate is Huesca's Rubi, but with competition likely from Espanyol, signing him up could prove difficult. Elsewhere, other names under consideration are Rayo's Michel, Francisco (Lugo), Álvaro Cervera (Cadiz), Rubén Baraja (Sporting), Natxo González (Zaragoza), Juan Antonio Anquela (Oviedo), Luis César Sampedro (Valladolid) and Diego González (Osasuna).

# Environmental protesters removed from construction site of new Academy in Arraijanal

## || SUR

**MALAGA.** The half dozen environmental protesters who were camping out on the land at Arrai-

janal where Malaga's new Academy is being built were removed on Wednesday.

National and Local Police officers entered the area at around 7.30am and asked the protesters to move on. This occurred without incident.

Once off the premises, the construction company erected new fencing to prevent further incursions by protesters who are angry that trees are being felled for the construction of the sports complex.



## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbpalmer



# Choosing the right moment

## Will Andrés Iniesta bow out leaving fans wanting more, or listen to those demanding more?

When it comes to weighing up a pass on a football pitch, Andrés Iniesta can make the calculated decision in a millisecond; ask him to weigh up his future and it takes a great deal more consideration.

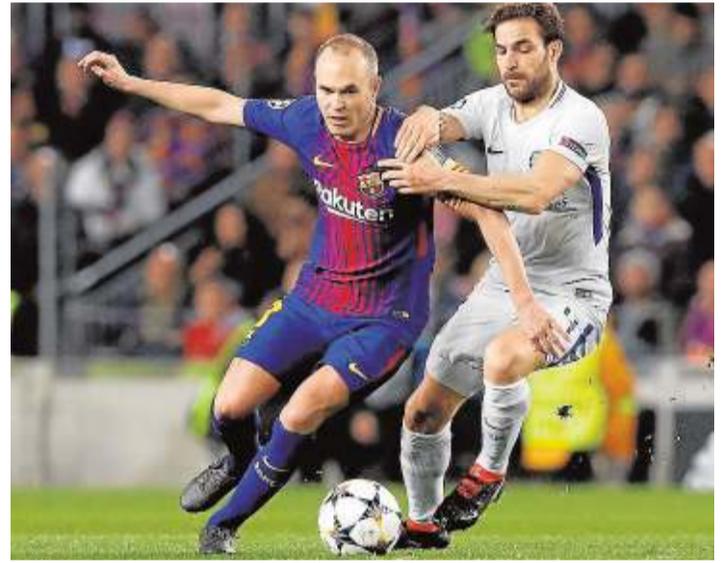
Does he listen to the roars of advice from the Barcelona supporters or the whispers of financial riches from China?

It's long been assumed that he would head off towards the Far East to accept an astronomical offer to see out his twilight footballing days in the Chinese Super League but when the Camp Nou tunelessly demanded that he stays, it cast serious doubt.

It did look like this was his farewell season, especially as his heir Philippe Coutinho was publicly courted in the summer and engaged in the winter.

Last season he was rarely selected in back-to-back games and nature did appear to be catching up with him. This season there has been a transformation and he starts the majority of matches on the understanding that he takes his bow with time remaining. A quick check suggests that the 77th minute seems to be the favoured time to take his applause. He's gone the full 90 minutes only three times this season in La Liga.

A year ago, those who had observed Iniesta week in and week out would have expected him to



Iniesta is still very much part of Barça's plans. || EFE

gracefully take a step backwards. He's only a couple of months younger than Fernando Torres who sadly sees out his final days as a shadow of the once great player. We all agree that Torres is ready to retire with honour or take a pay day in a less demanding league.

Julen Lopetegui, the Spain coach, speaks for us all when he said this week: "He [Iniesta] has been better than last year with more continuity."

Iniesta will undoubtedly be leading Spain on the field in the World Cup Finals. Does he bow out at the top like his old partner Xavi Hernández?

The problem is that he's expected to give his decision by April 30th. By then the league will have been won and maybe the Copa too. The question is: does he leave with them wanting more or does he listen to the fans who are demanding more?

He has a "contract for life" at Barcelona which basically means he'll be used to market the club globally and advise the board. This was a similar arrangement to Carles Puyol who soon grew frustrated and resigned as the assistant football director.

I've been in Qatar this week where Xavi is just completing his playing career with Al Sadd and combining this with his work as an ambassador to the 2022 World Cup. He undoubtedly took the right step by using his personality abilities to influence things on and off the pitch.

As for Iniesta, it's all a bit different. When Xavi departed he left Iniesta making the music. If Iniesta goes now he leaves behind Coutinho who will undoubtedly be a great orchestrator in the near future but he's still learning how each of the sections play and come together.

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SUR mue>e

# Lopetegui drafts in three new faces for upcoming friendlies

Marcos Alonso, Dani Parejo and Rodri have earned call-ups for games against Germany and Argentina

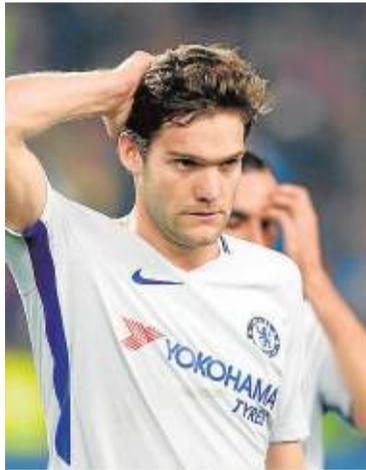
## RODRIGO ERRASTI

**MADRID.** Spain head coach Julen Lopetegui has included three new names as part of his squad for both upcoming World Cup warm-up games against Germany and Argentina.

Chelsea defender Marcos Alonso, Valencia midfielder Dani Parejo and Villarreal enforcer Rodri are all set to be involved in tonight's clash against the World Champions in Düsseldorf, as well as Tuesday's match against Argentina at the Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid.

Lopetegui, however, insisted that we shouldn't look too much into his selection: "There are players who haven't been called up whose chances have not been affected at all."

This was in reference to striker Álvaro Morata, whose form with Chelsea has dipped in recent months and who now faces a battle with Atlético forward Diego Costa



Marcos Alonso. :: REUTERS

who has been recalled after a nine-month absence.

"When Diego was playing regularly, he was very much part of our plans. Then he stopped being active and stopped joining us," said the head coach. "He's back playing now and back in our squad but it doesn't mean he's earned his spot. Álvaro is still very much in contention."

## Three generations

A call-up for Marcos Alonso has been a long time coming and the defender himself had started to give up hope

## International football returns to Gibraltar

Gibraltar's first full international on home soil for two years is close to a sell-out. It sees the national team take on Latvia in a friendly at Victoria Stadium this Sunday at 4pm.

The team from the Rock, whose stadium cannot host UEFA-sanctioned international matches, played their World Cup and European Championship games in neighbouring Faro.

and had booked a trip to Dubai for this international break.

"There are a lot of talented players but we can't bring them all in. However, with Marcos and Dani [Parejo], we decided that the timing was right," said Lopetegui.

Should he win his first cap, Marcos will be the third generation of Alonsos to represent his country. His father, who has the same name, played 22 times for La Roja between 1981 and 1985, while his grandfather, known as Marquitos, earned two caps.

# Spain players "were on steroids" in historic 12-1 win over Malta

The Malta coach and players have spoken out about the circumstances surrounding the unlikely result which saw Spain qualify for Euro '84

## COLPISA

**MADRID.** Spain's famous 12-1 win over Malta is, to this day, considered one of the country's finest sporting achievements. La Roja, needing a win by eleven goals to qualify for the 1984 European Championships, did exactly that after turning a 3-1 half time lead into a 12-1 victory in Seville in December 1983.

There have always been suspicions about what occurred at half time (many suspected bribery) but according to accounts given in a documentary aired on Movistar+ on Monday, a number of Malta players suspected that the Spanish players were on steroids.

Victor Scerri, then Malta head coach, suspected foul play the moment his team arrived. He said: "We arrived late but they wouldn't

put the lights on to allow us to train in the stadium. Then they put us in a horrendous hotel where the noise kept us up all night."

Forward Silvio Demanuele added: "During the game the Spanish players had an unusual amount of energy, some were foaming at the mouth and drinking water constantly. My brother is a bodybuilder so I know the signs of taking steroids."

## Sliced lemons

However, the accusations don't stop there. The coach said: "At half time a short man dressed in white came in and offered us sliced lemons. When the players sucked on them they reported feeling unwell and some asked if they had been drugged." Demanuele added: "It felt like I was drunk; like I'd been out all night."

There are also question marks over the referee on the night: "He was the worst I'd ever seen," said left-back Emanuel Fabri. "He let the Spanish players get away with everything and he kept saying things like 'let's go, play!' as if to hurry us up."

# Marbella remain top after heated derby win

A goal from Juanfran sealed the win against Betis B, who had a legitimate goal disallowed by the referee

## MARBELLA 1 BETIS B 0

## JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

**MARBELLA.** Marbella's narrow victory in Sunday's derby against Betis B came down to luck. The home side played with confidence and chemistry, which was reward

ded by a goal from Juanfran. However, in the second half they were not the superior side; they simply benefitted from superior numbers after Nacho was sent off in the 53rd minute and a stroke of luck when a Betis goal, which clearly crossed the line, was not given.

In the first half Marbella's Alex Bernal and Sergio Narváez were the star men, providing great support for Añón and Javi Moreno. They opened up the field, with Peris on the left wing and Corpas on the right, and Betis were often made to look vulnerable.

The hosts got the breakthrough af



Añón congratulates Juanfran for his winning goal. :: J. RODRÍGUEZ

ter 17 minutes when Bernal split the Betis back line with a perfect pass to Juanfran, who slotted the ball underneath Pedro López.

The home side remained dominant during the first half, with a header

from Javi Moreno saved at full stretch by the keeper from a Juanfran corner.

Abreu came very close to scoring for Betis with a low curling shot, but Wilfred managed to stop the ball nestling in the back of the net.

Betis B came out after half time with renewed energy. After 51 minutes, a low cross from Redru took a nick off a Marbella defender before squirming through the legs of Wilfred and across the line, as replays on Andalucía Televisión confirmed. However, the keeper scooped the ball out of the goal and the referee allowed play to continue, much to the annoyance of the visitors' coach José Juan Romero who was sent to the stands and midfielder Nacho who saw red after two minutes of delays.

With the numerical advantage, Marbella were able to see out the rest of the match without having to commit too many men forward.

Following the win, Marbella remain two points ahead of Cartagena at the top of Group IV of Segunda B. Their next match is against Lorca Deportiva on Sunday.

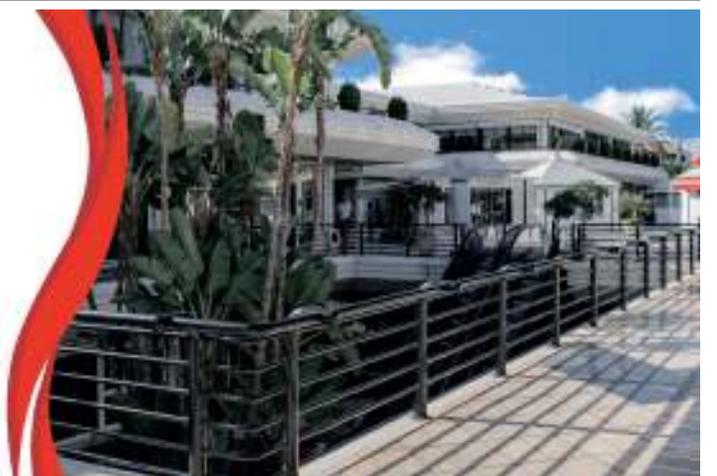
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▲ **Malaga Half Marathon.** Mounir Elouardi and his wife Nazha Machrouh came out on top in the Malaga Half Marathon in the men's and women's categories on Sunday. The two athletes, who belong to the Unicaja Jaén club, crossed the line in 1 hour 07.32 and 1 hour 16.51, respectively. Despite the grey clouds and threat of rain, spirits among the participants could not be dampened. More than seven thousand people participated. :: **SALVADOR SALAS**



▲ **Tennis.** Young Malaga tennis star Alexandra Davidovich followed up his Wimbledon junior success with his first professional title as he won the Futures tournament held at Quinta do Lago in Portugal last week. Davidovich came out on top in the final 5-7, 6-4, 1-3 against fellow Spaniard Roberto Ortega Olmedo. :: **SUR**



◀ **Basketball.**

Defeat to Panathinaikos at the Carpena in Malaga on Friday (79-90) brought an end to Unicaja's chances of reaching the play-offs in the Euro-League this year. Despite at that time having four games still to play, the quality in the continent's top competition proved to be too high this year. :: **NIÑO SALAS**



▲ **Muay Thai.** María García from Alhaurín de la Torre was crowned national Muay Thai champion last week after two years in the wilderness, having turned her back on elite competition. After a long road back, battling anxiety and physical demands, García now has her sights set on international honours. :: **FERNANDO TORRES**



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# The Casino Admiral Trophy brings high-quality tennis to Marbella

Carballés, Robredo, Granollers, Adrián Menéndez and Davidovich are the main attractions at the ATP Challenger which starts on Saturday

## :: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

**MARBELLA.** The Puente Romano tennis club in Marbella will host one of the highest-ranked competitions in the province for many years when the Casino Admiral Trophy gets under way on Saturday.

The ATP Challenger, which will run until 31 March, will bring together some of tennis' elite, young players looking to make their way in the sport and others with long but contrasting careers.

With the final phase of the competition taking place during Easter Week, this competition has been especially attractive to players hop-



Leitgeb, Mérida, Menéndez and Davidovich on Tuesday. :: J. RODRÍGUEZ

ing to use it as preparation for Roland Garros.

The official presentation for the tournament took place in Marbella on Tuesday at which the names of players set to take part was announced. Among them is local player

Adrián Menéndez, 32, who has form and is 112th on the ATP ranking. He will be hoping to go far in both the singles and doubles - he will be accompanied in the latter by Jürgen Melzer.

Another local is Carlos Gómez, 27, who a few weeks ago reached the final of a Challenger.

## Slovakian team

In terms of the favourites to lift the trophy, tournament director, Ronald Leitgeb, announced that the majority of the Slovakian Davis Cup side would be competing, as well as a number of top-100 players such as Roberto Caballés (ATP 78th), Tommy Robredo and Marcel Granollers.

As for the up-and-coming stars, all eyes will be on junior Wimbledon winner and local Alejandro Davidovich (445th) and junior Roland Garros champion Alexei Popyrin (446th).

The competition is also an opportunity for the town itself to further establish itself in the sport. Marbella Sports councillor Javier Mérida said: "Marbella is a tennis town and it is our intention to negotiate for this tournament to stay here for years to come."



Spain players confront the referee over a decision. :: EFE

## Refereeing in crucial Belgium-Spain rugby clash under investigation

Romania progressed to the World Cup after Los Leones suffered defeat in a game littered with dubious decisions from the Romanian referee

## :: IGNACIO TYLKO / AFP

**MADRID.** The performance of the Romanian referee who oversaw the clash between Belgium and Spain in Brussels on Sunday will be analysed today, Friday, by Rugby Europe, it was announced on Monday.

Spain, who needed a win to qualify for the Rugby World Cup, lost the game 18-10 - a result which directly gifted qualification to Romania.

Following the game, the Spanish players complained of "deliberate bias" on the part of referee Vlad Iordachescu. "Our play was continually disrupted," said Spain coach Santiago Santos.

Iordachescu had to be escorted off the field of play after the final whistle as the Spanish players rushed to confront him.

The Spanish Rugby Federation (FER) condemned the aggressive behaviour of "some players", but announced that it would be putting forward a formal complaint to both Rugby Europe and World Rugby, the World Cup organisers, "so that they can look back at the tapes of the game and assess whether the officiating had deliberately favoured Romania and act accordingly".

The FER also explained that on 19 February they had called for the officials to be changed - a request that was rejected.

On the day, Spain trailed by 15 to 0 before launching a comeback of sorts, halted by constant breaks in play.

Spain's World Cup hopes are not over yet, but they have made it a lot more difficult for themselves with defeat in Belgium.

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SOTOGRANDE/CARRALTA 630 288 067  
ESTEPONA 699 089 978

**SUR in English**

**Please note**

Due to the Holy Week holidays the deadline for advertising for the edition of March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> will be Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>.

SUR in English will be distributed as usual on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**SUR in English**

**Check-in Scan**

**Experienced telemarketers required**

Experienced telemarketers required to promote our new mobile app. You must be fluent in English/Spanish, own a smartphone and have some basic computer skills. Full training given.

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Please send your CV to: cv@checkinscan.com

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All advertising information for the SUR in English: sizes, prices, supplements, examples are available: **www.surinenglishads.com**

**MARBELLAAPARTMENT.COM** Due to our ongoing expansion, we are looking for sales personal serving our Scandinavian clients. We need Danish, Swedish or Norwegian speaking sales personal. Need as being fluently speaking and writing in English, as our it is office language. Experience within the real estate business and a good knowledge of the Costa del Sol is a must. Our sales staff is fully supported by our telemarketers making appointments for you. Very high commission. Please send application and CV to: ez.mv@marbellavillas.com marked with ¿Scandinavian?

**BLUE** Square Real Estate is currently searching for Sales Executives to work in and around the Marbella area. A full training package is provided and excellent incentives. Multilingual candidates are sought after. Please email hr@blue-square.com with your CV

**SALES** Reps wanted English & Spanish speaking, high commission. We provide you with appointments, web info: viva-lacosta.com/job

**COOK/** check required to help run a busy casual dining restaurant between Estepona and San Pedro. Good Knowledge of English cuisine essential. Start date March. Adria 686491634 or send CV wseamons@hotmail.com

**MALAGA Biludlejningsfirma søger dansk-talende medarbejder. Kræver kørekort og spansk/engelsk. Kim@costabiler.dk - 952475179**

**REAL** Estate since 25 years in the area of Marbella is looking for sales consultant. English/French/Spanish speaking essential, driving license and own car. Send cv puertobanus@reluz.com

**WINKWORTH** are looking for a Sales Executive for our busy office in Guadalmina. The successful applicant will need to be experienced, self motivated, confident and target driven with great customer service skills. Fluent English and Spanish is essential and another language would be an advantage. Must hold full driving licence. Please send your CV to info@winkworth.es or call Chris on 952880941

**SOFTWARE** Sales Consultant. Are you a great sales person who is comfortable selling software systems to national associations and government councils through online meetings around the world? Excellent product, good basic + sales commission. Office close to Puerto Banus. Send CV to jobs@wcea.education

**EXPERIENCED** hair stylist required for well established Hair Salon in Fuengirola. Call 609357030 or email petropeluqueros@hotmail.com

**REAL** Estate agency in the port of Estepona is looking for experienced sales agents, fluent in English for our English speaking clients all over Europe. Driving license is a must. Contract/or self employed can be discussed. Please send your CV to: info@properties-spain-marbella.com

**DENTAL** assitant, experience not necessary, full training provided, English+Spanish fluent, requested for leading Dental Clinic in Marbella. CV to: info@dentalmarbella.com

**FINANCIAL** Services Administration We are seeking both experienced and Junior Admin / Trainee Financial Services Administrators. You will be provided with all relevant training on an ongoing basis in order to develop and progress. You will be joining an established team where you will become involved in the day-to-day administration for our financial advisers acting as sales support. The role involves working with pension and investment companies as well as organising the diary for our team of advisers. Possessing some office based experience (any financial services/pensions related experience would be extremely advantageous but not essential), however, it is essential that you possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a willingness to learn and develop. There are excellent long-term career opportunities for those who are looking for long-term career opportunities offering ongoing training, development and full support for professional study as well as an excellent remuneration package. Salary between 12,000 - 25,500 Euro plus monthly bonus. CVs to enquiries@alexanderpeter.com

**AUTONOMO'S** Nail Technician and Hair stylist required for new salon in Mijas Golf area. Minimum of 5 years experience. Contact Marion on 603167166

**SUNCARE** Central, Spain's exclusive Advisory Team has been giving advice to holiday makers in the Canaries, Balearics and mainland Spain for over 20 years. Now recommencing our summer programme on the Costa del Sol we are looking for outgoing people to join our pool side Suncare Advisors giving great customer service. Our diverse team is positive, professional and dedicated. Is this you? Contract and great earnings. For this fun in the sun opportunity send your CV to Lorraine lwilliamson@suncarecentral.com or call 693642331

**NOVASCHOOL** Sunland International is looking to employ a mathematics teacher to join our Secondary School. This is a fantastic opportunity for a talented, ambitious professional to join our mathematics department. The successful applicant will be: A highly motivated, enthusiastic and confident teacher who enjoys delivering high quality lessons. Able to teach mathematics across the 11-18 age and ability range, an ability to offer an additional subject is desirable. Able to secure high standards of engagement, progress and achievement for all students. An inspiring practitioner who keeps abreast of the latest developments in learning and teaching. Able and willing to make a full contribution to the life of the school and be committed to extra-curricular activities. Eager to become a supportive Form Tutor. All applicants must have a degree and PGCE qualification. Please apply by sending your CV and letter of application to info@novaschool.es for the attention of Ms. Evans

**dpi Real Estate** is looking for telemarketers to deal with a massive amount of quality clients looking to buy property on the Costa del Sol. Excellent working conditions, basic salary and commission. Earning potential of 60-100,000 Euros p.a. You will need to be an excellent closer to be successful for this exciting position. Please call 952806609 or CV info@directpropertyinvestments.com

**WE REQUIRE** beautician and hairdresser with experience for a beauty salon in Marbella. Please contact Sara 615921243

**500-2,000** Euros per month part time. Forever Living Distributors and Team leaders required in all areas of Spain, especially Estepona, Marbella, Fuengirola, Malaga, Nerja, Denia and Calpe. Flexible hours & great support. Contact Phil Cony on 615257573 for details

**SOCIAL** media blogger required for French Travel Site, 400 euros per month. Email adam@rent-in-france.co.uk

**SALES** position -Fluent English & French. Work from home, commission based. Email adam@rent-in-france.co.uk

**YOUR** Dream Home is looking for a sales person for our new exciting development based in Mijas Costa. The ideally candidate will have real estate experience, languages would be a benefit. In return you will receive a basic salary plus a generous commission. Please send your CV to mark@yourdreamhome.es

**Situations Wanted**

**CARER** experienced UK looking for clients needing companionship, disability and/ or elderly support. Can live in. Fluent Spanish. Contact Jo 658633026

**ENGLISH** speaking. Cleaner looking for work between San Pedro and Estepona. 616262640

**EXPERIENCED** Carer available Marbella - Estepona. Irish lady available to care for you in your home - day and overnight. Shopping, food preparation, Dr's visits. References available. 677785041

**NUDE** model (male) seeks individual artist or group working with drawing, painting or sculpting. Also posing only, bodypaint / cast or CFNM. Very experienced. croquis-model@sol.dk or call/ SMS 600795608. Ole

**CHEERFUL** care companion seeks live in position. Dedicated, trustworthy, positive, skilled, non smoker. Excellent references. 643458865

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**Clairvoyants**

**AFRICAN** Spiritualist. Love issues? Separation? Destroy Black magic? etc... Ibra 600290072

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**OPPORTUNITY** for counselling/nutrition therapy program; Im taking on 2 clients for free as part of my integrative study of nutrition and counselling. Healing is as much the body as the mind. Email; counsellingandnutrition@gmail.com

**HEALTH & BEAUTY**

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**Chiropodists**

**chiropodistcostadelsol.com** Paul & Elaine Curtis-Turner. Tel. 619547636

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**PROFESSIONAL** masseuse. Therapeutic, stress & sport massages. 695802388 Riviera (Calahonda)

**CLASSIC full body massage. Japanese relaxation therapy. Stress. Fuengirola. 600231544**

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**BENALMADENA** Costa (Windmill roundabout): 658336295. A full body massage Ladies & Gents. Pensioners 50% discount!

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**ENGLISH** classy masseuse offers massage. Near Marbella's Golden Mile. Call for further details. Private. 684742826

**PROFESSIONAL** Indian Reiki, Ayurveda, Chakrabalancing, Holistic Tantra for ladies. 602098606

**ASIAN** Massage Salon. Feel Relax with us. Professional Masseur 30 euros 1 hr. Marbella. Tel: 952824348. 660587171

**PROFESSIONAL** Sport massage and reflexology, stress relief. Fuengirola. 665084390

**Therapists**

**MARBELLA** Counselling and Psychosexual therapy. COSRT and BACP accredited. Individuals and couples. www.sextherapymarbella.es Richard 608 594 608

**ITEC** Diploma courses in massage, reflexology and others. weekly, intensive or online. 951311216. www.naturaclass.net

**www.mypsychohistoron-skype.com** for anxiety, worry, depression and stress. British Qualified Psychologist/ CBT Therapist

**Hairdressers**

**ROBERT** James hair replacement. For free consultation call 952574075/ 602668649

**Others**

**MALE/** female Viagra, kamagra jellys, cialis, delivered or mail order viagra4you19@gmail.com. 672883025

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**Satellite Installation**

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**DAYTONA** Computer: Computers, mobile phones and accessories in your language. Sales and repairs. Agents Masmovil & TIEKOM. Established 1999. Los Boliches. info@daytona.es or call 952667395

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**HOLA! Speak Spanish from first lesson.** Experienced qualified native teacher. One-to-one, groups. Fuengirola. 661159330 teacher.cristina@outlook.com

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**PEDIGREE** Chihuahua puppies, home bred, from 200 Euros. 952668817/ 628259801

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### EMERGENCIES

Emergency operator	112
National Police	091
Local (municipal) Police	092
Medical	061
Fire	080
Guardia Civil	062
Sea Rescue	900202202
Crime report	902102112

### ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP

Samaritans in Spain	900525100
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110
Age Care	952933409
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555

### ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice) 955545060

### ESTEPONA

Bus Station	952800249
Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952800913
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

### FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
-------------	-----------

Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

### MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

### MARBELLA

Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952774488
Tourist Office	952768760
Town Hall	952761100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760

### MIJAS

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

### NERJA

Bus Station	902422242
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531

Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

### TORREMOLINOS

Bus Station	902143144
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

### BENALMÁDENA

Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Bus Station	952503162
Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952541104

### GIBRALTAR

General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
Taxi	(00350) 20070027

## MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Norwegian Spirit	23/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Braemar	23/03	-	-	08.00	23.00
Marella Celebration	25/03	Gibraltar	Lisbon	06.00	22.00
MSC Divina	25/03	Lisbon	Valencia	07.00	14.00
Costa Fascinosa	26/03	-	-	14.00	20.00
Symphony of Seas	27/03	St. Nazaire	Barcelona	06.00	22.00
Marella Celebration	01/04	Gibraltar	Mahon	06.00	22.00
Rhapsody	01/04	Napoli	-	10.00	11.00
Norwegian Spirit	02/04	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00



## CONSULATES

<b>Great Britain</b>	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
<b>USA</b>	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
<b>Belgium</b>	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019
<b>Denmark</b>	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
<b>Norway</b>	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
<b>Canada</b>	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
<b>Germany</b>	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
<b>Sweden</b>	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
<b>Ireland</b>	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108

<b>France</b>	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
<b>Italy</b>	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
<b>Austria</b>	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
<b>Finland</b>	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
<b>Greece</b>	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
<b>Iceland</b>	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
<b>Philippines</b>	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
<b>Hungary</b>	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

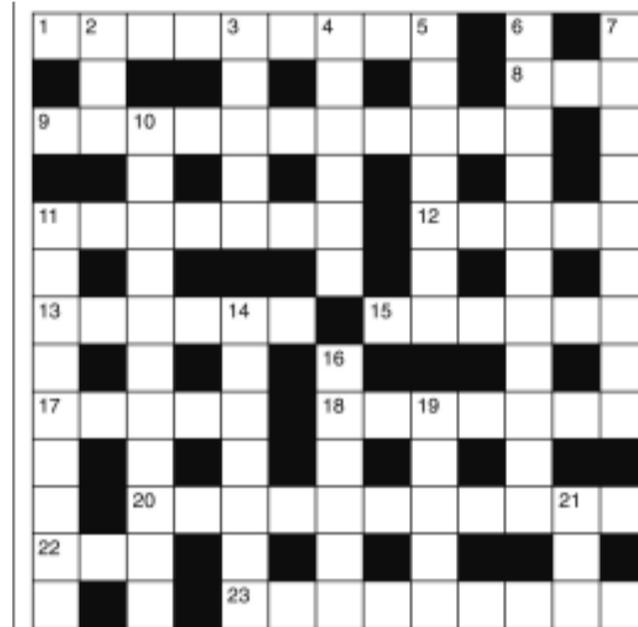
THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

- 
**Aquarius**  
 January 21 - February 19  
 Try not to get tetchy with others who cannot match your zip and zing. After all, it takes all kinds, right?
- 
**Pisces**  
 February 20th - March 20th  
 This may not be the best time for you to be signing deals or conducting sensitive negotiations. Even discussions at home around the finances could get heated.
- 
**Aries**  
 March 21st - April 20th  
 Aim to be sure-footed this week by double-checking any travel arrangements.
- 
**Taurus**  
 April 21st - May 21st  
 During a month of passion and fiery encounters your love life could really set your world on fire.
- 
**Gemini**  
 May 22nd - June 21st  
 Stormy weather on the home front could see you trying to pour oil on troubled waters. Disagreements and confused communications are likely.
- 
**Cancer**  
 June 22nd - July 23rd  
 Something may have upset a loved one. Try to persuade them that it should be seen as a short term 'blip'.
- 
**Leo**  
 July 24th - August 23rd  
 Movements on the home front could see you on the wrong end of someone's frustration.
- 
**Virgo**  
 August 24th - September 23rd  
 Money matters should be easing and even improving. Keep to that budget though.
- 
**Libra**  
 September 24th - October 23rd  
 This week open your eyes and your mind to what is happening around you. What you may find is love where you least expect it.
- 
**Scorpio**  
 October 24th - November 22nd  
 Something you have been expecting or suspecting seems to be coming to a head.
- 
**Sagittarius**  
 November 23rd - December 21st  
 The trouble with waiting for a long time for something is that it can be disappointing when it comes.
- 
**Capricorn**  
 December 22nd - January 20th  
 Ease off on the worrying and enjoy the ride. This is life. Share your thoughts and concerns.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11287



- Across**
- 1 Non-stop flight? (9)
  - 8 It provides lodging in Norway's capital (3)
  - 9 Hell! It's toil to work on the land (4,3,4)
  - 11 Many stampeded and were injured (7)
  - 12 It helps to make a cake enticing (5)
  - 13 Charm, possibly earned (6)
  - 15 Much time and trouble is taken in its drafting (8)
  - 17 Come to a similar conclusion (5)
  - 18 Attribute that makes a writer (7)
  - 20 Vessels that liven up parties (3-8)
  - 22 I leave the earth for the sun (3)
  - 23 Thought someone guilty or was doubtful (9)
- Down**
- 2 Fast runner down mountains (3)
  - 3 It may get a lift when you come in (5)
  - 4 Steps in making wine? (6)
  - 5 Revolting uproar? (7)
  - 6 Moving experience for one who takes a back seat (7,4)
  - 7 What you have to do to become one (9)
  - 10 The price of cleanliness? (7,4)
  - 11 Gloomy supporters will, if their team's doing badly (9)
  - 14 Never getting old, but younger? (7)
  - 16 Such chaplains may be spared (6)
  - 19 Case that may be looked into (5)
  - 21 It's found in fish or deer (3)

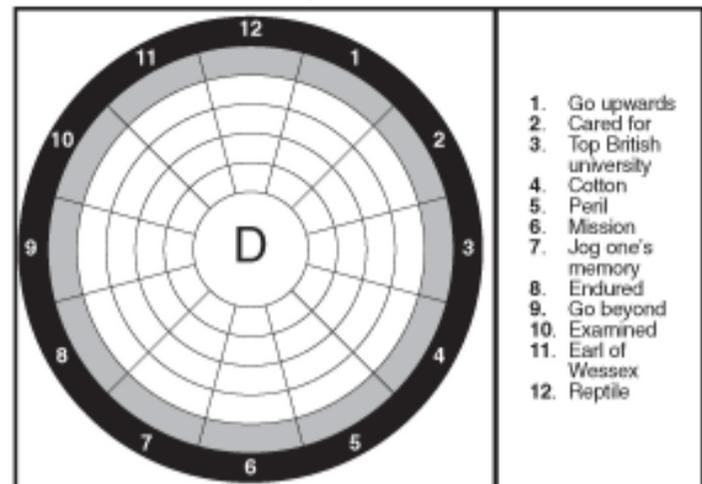
SUDOKU BY HANZO

**Instructions**  
 Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

2	9					6		
			1					
4				7	9	2	1	
3	4							
		2	9		3		4	
				6			2	8
	3		8		5			
	5	8				9		
				4			7	

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter D in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a 90s British boy band.



- 1. Go upwards
- 2. Cared for
- 3. Top British university
- 4. Cotton
- 5. Peril
- 6. Mission
- 7. Jog one's memory
- 8. Endured
- 9. Go beyond
- 10. Examined
- 11. Earl of Wessex
- 12. Reptile

THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the units of measurement from the anagrams listed below?

- 1. Oilk
- 2. Dray
- 3. Marg
- 4. Ilgl
- 5. Bra
- 6. Nokt
- 7. Bety
- 8. Chin
- 9. Not
- 10. Elmo

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**  
 105.5 Axarquía  
 91.5 Costa del Sol East  
 91.9 Costa del Sol West  
 98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande  
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- ACE FM** (106.8 FM)  
 Inland radio, news and music  
 The Beat fm (106 FM)  
 24 hours, music and entertainment
- Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)  
 24 hour music and entertainment
- Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)  
 3 p.m. News, views and music
- Radio Sol 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**
- Which was the first flavoured crisp in the UK, other than salt?
- 1. Salt and vinegar
  - 2. Cheese and Onion
  - 3. Roast Chicken
  - 4. Pickled onion
- QUESTION 2**
- In which Shakespearean play does the character of Malvolio appear?
- 1. The Prisoner of Azkaban
  - 2. Twelfth Night
  - 3. The Merchant of Venice
  - 4. Midsummer Night's Dream

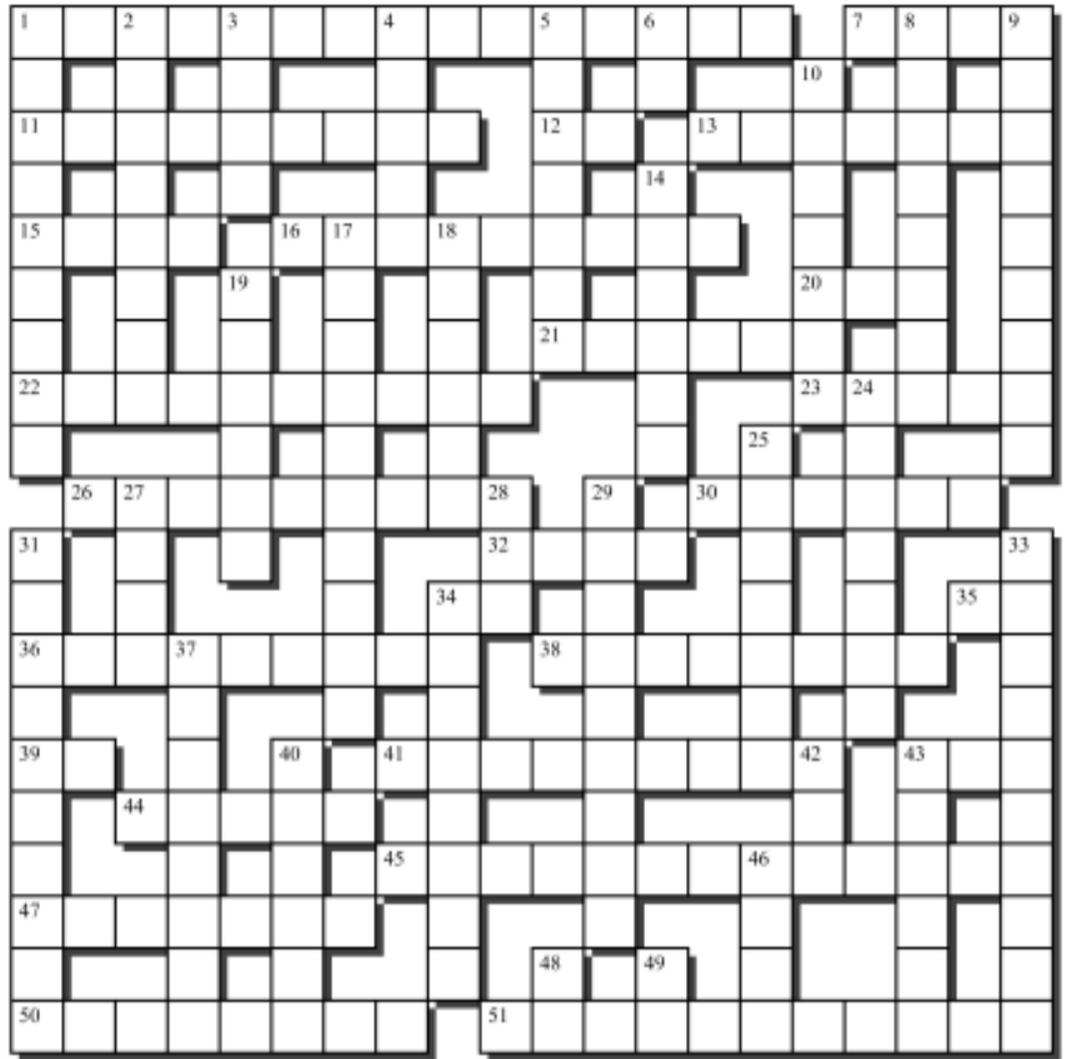
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Responsibility (15)
- 7) Mourning (4)
- 11) Courgette (9)
- 12) My (2)
- 13) Coffin (7)
- 15) Lullaby (4)
- 16) To go to bed (9)
- 20) He ties up (3)
- 21) Sandy area (6)
- 22) Excited (10)
- 23) Support (5)
- 26) Weakness (9)
- 30) Census (6)
- 32) Something (4)
- 34) To go (2)
- 35) It (2)
- 36) They pretended (9)
- 38) Changed (8)
- 39) D (musical note) (2)
- 41) Governments (9)
- 43) They give (3)
- 44) Leader (5)
- 45) Conservatives (13)
- 47) Homework (7)
- 50) Advocate (8)
- 51) Differences (11)

Down

- 1) To recognise (9)
- 2) Silence (8)
- 3) Globe (4)
- 4) Friend (5)
- 5) Lamp (7)
- 6) Of (2)
- 8) Finalised (8)
- 9) Opposition (9)
- 10) Squirrel (7)
- 14) Mirror (6)
- 17) It will coincide (10)
- 18) Watermelon (6)
- 19) Relief (6)
- 24) Loss (7)
- 25) Party (7)
- 27) They were (4)
- 28) To give (3)
- 29) To be grateful for (9)
- 31) Illness (10)
- 33) Communists (10)
- 34) Uncomfortable (8)
- 37) Cabinet (8)
- 40) Quarrels (6)
- 42) Thirst (3)
- 43) I directed (6)
- 46) He opens (4)
- 48) If (2)
- 49) He sees (2)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Of interest:** Malevolio is the vain, pompous steward of Olivia's household. He is always dressed in the black, puritanical costume of the puritan of that time and is often portrayed as the main antagonist.

**Answer 1:** Twelfth Night

**Of interest:** Cheese and onion flavour was introduced by Golden Wonder in 1962 although it is said that Ireland's Tayto have a better claim with their cheese and onion circa 1957. Smiths introduced Salt 'n' Vinegar in 1967.

Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Escalator; 8 In; 9 Till the soil; 11 Crushed; 12 Icing; 13 Endear; 15 Agenda; 17 Rhyme; 18 Ascribe; 20 Ice-breakers; 22 Soil; 23 Suspected; Down: 2 Ski; 3 Latch; 4 Treads; 5 Floating; 6 Pillion ride; 7 Integrate; 10 Laundry bill; 11 Cheerless; 14 Ageless; 16 Padres; 19 Crate; 21 Roe.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Ascend, 2 Nurse, 3 Oxford, 4 Thread, 5 Hazard, 6 Emerald, 7 Fleming, 8 Lashed, 9 Exceed, 10 Velled, 11 Edward, 12 Lizard, 90s BOY BAND: Another Level.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Kilo	E	L	M	I	S	B	Y	T	E
2. Ton	R	O	I	N	U	R	A	V	I
3. Gram	G	I	L	O	G	R	A	M	P
4. Gall	I	N	S	E	M	B	S	O	O
5. Bar	A	C	T	I	P	E	K	I	L
6. Knot	N	H	A	V	E	L	I	O	N
7. Byte	T	O	V	A	L	I	O	N	S
8. Inch	I	R	A	O	S	H	I	O	H
9. Ton	P	F	R	S	K	E	H	I	P
10. Mole	L	O	D	E	A	P	I	W	P

Sudoku solution

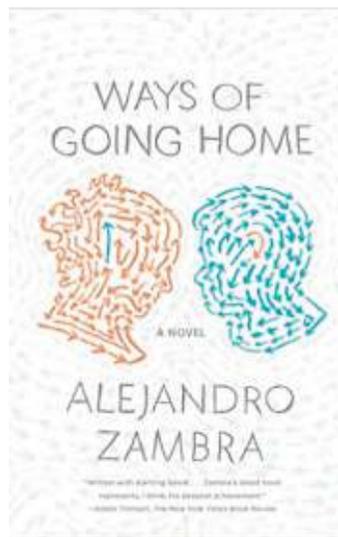
2	9	1	5	3	4	6	8	7
6	7	3	1	8	2	4	5	9
4	8	5	6	7	9	2	1	3
3	4	7	2	1	8	5	9	6
8	6	2	9	5	3	7	4	1
5	1	9	4	6	7	3	2	8
7	3	4	8	9	5	1	6	2
1	5	8	7	2	6	9	3	4
9	2	6	3	4	1	8	7	5

Language Crossword

ACROSS:  
11 CALABAZON 12 MI 13 FIERRO  
15 ANA 16 ACOSTARSE 20 TLA  
21 ANA 22 OCIONADO 23 APOYO  
26 HEDIDA 30 VADON 32 ALGO  
34 R 35 LO 36 TIGERON  
38 CAMBADO 39 RE 41 GOBERNOS  
43 DAN 44 DER 45 CONSERVADORES  
47 DERES 50 DEFENSOR  
51 DIFERENCIAS

DOWN:  
1 RECONOCER 2 SILENCIO 3 HORRE  
4 ANIGO 5 ANARA 6 DE  
7 ULMADO 9 OPOSICION 10 ARDILA  
11 ESPERO 17 CONCIBIA 18 SANDIA  
19 ALVARO 24 PERDIDA 25 PARTIDO  
27 BRAN 28 DAR 29 AGRADECER  
31 ENFERMEDAD 33 COMUNISTAS  
34 ENFERMEDAD 37 GABINETE 40 PELIAS  
42 SED 43 DIBO 46 ABRE 48 SI 49 VE

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Ways of Going Home  
Alejandro Zambra

The first chapter describes a nameless nine-year-old boy who during the era of Pinochet, spies on a neighbour for an older girl he adores, called Claudia. The second chapter introduces a novelist, who is writing the story described in the first chapter. In the third chapter the era of Pinochet is over. The protagonist meets Claudia again, and they have a brief affair. The final, fourth chapter returns to the story of the novelist. The last poignant image is of him alone with his manuscript.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat

RONALD REAGAN

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Welcoming the spring

Tuesday was the first day of spring, although it didn't seem like it - Malaga was pretty chilly and the inland towns even colder with heavy rains and high winds. How the weather should slowly be getting warmer now we are close to Easter although the Spanish saying 'Hasta el 40 de mayo no te quites el sayo' is as true for Andalucía's weather as the British equivalent: 'Ne'er cast a clout 'til may be out' is apt for the UK. The 'may' in the British saying refers to the mayflower or hawthorn which usually flowers in May. Al-

ready some spring flowers are bravely starting to bloom and we would love to see your photos of the first signs of spring that might be appearing in your garden, patio or in the countryside.

The arrival of the spring equinox is a reminder that the clocks go forward so on Saturday night / Sunday morning move the hands forward an hour and welcome the lighter evenings. You can send us your photos and news by Email: [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es) or simply Tweet them to us @SUR\_English





 <p><b>485.000€</b></p>	<p><b>ESTEPONA</b>        Very nice off plan villa complex, 24 h. security, 300m. from the beach, near las Dunas hotel, in an unique area with magnific. nature and marvelous Mediterranean views – undoubtedly the best place to live. Luxury villas and apart. that boast their own unique character and style. Build will be finish 2018.</p>	 <p><b>1.390.000€</b></p>	<p><b>BENAHAVIS</b>        Designed using the latest techniques to have an ecological and low maintenance building. Set on 2 levels, this spacious Costa del Sol villa is located in the heart of this Cosmopolitan area with Sea and Golf views. 1251m² Plot, 681m² Built area, 300m² Living area, 4 Bed., 5 Bath.</p>	 <p><b>1.750.000€</b></p>	<p><b>MARBELLA</b>        Elegant villa with 24 h. security, close to some of beach clubs such as La Cabane or Nikki Beach, 5* hotels and golf courses. Very close to the center of Marbella with all services. Plot: 1271.00 m². Built: 760.00 m². Rooms: 5. Bath: 5. Swimming pool indoor and outdoor.</p>
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# A space age opening for Skywalker

## Gibraltar's latest attraction was inaugurated by Luke Skywalker



**DEBBIE BARTLETT**  
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**GIBRALTAR.** Anyone in Gibraltar on Tuesday evening could have been forgiven for thinking they had been transported into a Star Wars movie, as Luke Skywalker himself (actor Mark Hamill) was in town, accompanied by the 'dancing stormtroopers' Boogie Storm.

All was made clear at his appearance in John Mackintosh Square, however, when it was revealed that Mark would be officially opening Gibraltar's latest attraction, the awe-inspiring Skywalk, on Wednesday morning.

The Skywalk is a glass-floored walkway, 340 metres above sea level, which is higher than the Shard building in London. It has incredible views over three countries and two continents, and projects out from the Rock to a distance of 6.7 metres at its maximum point. The floor and protective balustrades are made up of four lay-



Mark Hamill 'cuts' the ribbon with a lightsaber. :: SUR

ers of laminated glass, giving a total thickness of 4.2 centimetres.

Built on the foundations of an existing base structure dating back to the Second World War, the Sky-

walk is designed to withstand wind speeds of up to 150 kilometres an hour, and can bear the weight of 340 people, although only 50 are authorised



A 'Boogie Storm' hit Gibraltar this week. :: SUR

to use it at any time. It is held secure by 70 metres of rock anchors and 30,000 kilos of steel.

Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, was at the inauguration and couldn't wait to try the Skywalk for himself, with his wife Justine. He said: "At the top of the Rock of Gibraltar, the Skywalk will serve as a stunning attraction for years to come and it is only fitting that Mr Hamill, best known as Luke Skywalker himself, should take the first steps."

After the inauguration, Mark Hamill tweeted: "Why they would ever invite me to the opening of something called "#Skywalk" remains a mystery, but it was beyond thrilling to @visit\_gibraltar! Stunningly beautiful, marvellous Macaques and truly friendly folks who all got selfies whether they wanted them or not."

Just before the inauguration, the Gibraltar authorities announced that entry to the Skywalk will be free of charge to everybody until 1 April. After that, it will be free for local residents but there will be a charge for visitors.

The Skywalk will be linked to other popular attractions in Gibraltar such as the Windsor Suspension Bridge and the Apes' Den by walking trails. It is open daily from 7am to 10pm.

Further information can be obtained from the website [www.skywalk.gi](http://www.skywalk.gi)

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