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August 10th to 16th 2018
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BADMINTON

Carolina Marín, world champion for the third time

The Spanish player has become the first woman to achieve this feat **P53**



A HARVEST WITH HIGH HOPES

Large yields are expected as the grape harvest gets under way in the Axarquía **P54&55**



Pickers work with the help of donkeys on the steep hillsides. :: NITO SALAS

Refuse collection and cleaning strike to start in Fuengirola

Urbaser will only run a partial service from today because of a dispute over pay and conditions

A strike by refuse workers in Fuengirola is due to start today, Friday, as contract holders Urbaser continue to refuse to renegotiate terms and conditions with its employees, freezing pay and conditions. Minimum services will be carried out. **P12**

Malaga warms up for the fair. The biggest party on the city's social calendar starts with fireworks tonight **P6**

The regulation of holiday rentals "restricts competition" says the CNMC, which plans to take local authorities to court **P20**

A foray into the world of chukkas. Santa María Polo Club in Sotogrande hosts its showpiece International Tournament this month **P52**

Antequera to be development hub for Virgin's supersonic train

Hyperloop One research and testing centre will directly create 250 jobs at Bobadilla

Malaga province was celebrating this week's news that Virgin Hyperloop One has chosen Bobadilla, near Antequera, to be a world-leading research and development centre for a new generation of supersonic rail travel.

The pioneering multinational group, backed by Britain's Richard Branson, will spend over 400 million euros adapting existing buildings built by the Spanish government for an earlier abandoned railway test site. 250 direct jobs and many more indirect jobs are expected to be created when it opens in 2020. **P2-4**

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Virgin chooses inland Malaga province to develop its futuristic supersonic train

NURIA TRIGUERO

✉ ntriguero@diariosur.es

The company is renting two large buildings near Antequera to set up a R+D centre for the Hyperloop, as part of a project which will create 250 direct jobs

MALAGA. For five years the two gigantic depots, which the Adif railway infrastructure company built in Bobadilla, near Antequera in inland Malaga province, have lying empty. They were originally built in preparation for the Antequera 'railway loop', but when that project was cancelled these buildings, which together cover

over 19,000 square metres, were just abandoned. Now, thanks to an agreement which has just been signed between Adif and Virgin, they are to be used: as the first European development centre of the multinational's Hyperloop supersonic train.

The president of Adif, Isabel Pardo, and the CEO of Virgin Hyperloop One, Rob Lloyd, signed a route map earlier this week. The agreement is for ten years, and can be renewed. Virgin expects the new centre to be operative in 2020; it will develop, test and certify components and technological subsystems for the Virgin Hyperloop One systems.

Once the testing and validation phases are completed, the centre will remain open to provide support for the operations, maintenance and international expansion of the system. In the long term, the aim is to make it "a leading installation where other transport companies can test and certify new technologies," say sources at Virgin. "The capacity of this centre will enable Virgin Hyperloop One to work with regulators to certify systems and, eventually, increase the

production capacity to satisfy future demand".

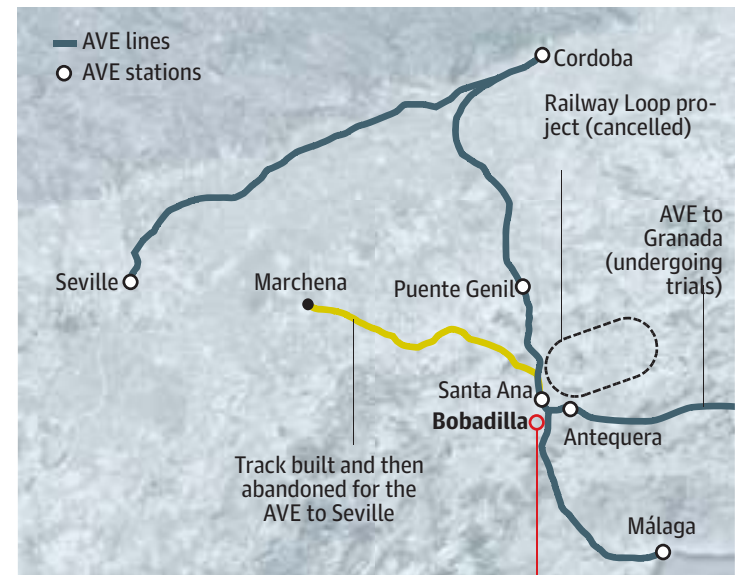
Virgin will be investing about 431 million euros in the project, which will include manufacturing areas, testing platforms and equipment for Virgin Hyperloop One. "In exchange," says the company, it will be given 126 million euros of public funds (in the form of loans and grants for R+D+i for the facilities). Neither Virgin nor Adif have said which administration or authorities will be providing these funds.

Impact on employment

The new centre in Bobadilla will create 250 direct jobs for highly qualified professionals in the next five years, and hundreds of indirect jobs from the creation of the "necessary ecosystem" for the manufacture of Hyperloop systems at world level, according to Adif. The two parties will collaborate on the implantation of this ecosystem, which will enable participating companies to export their products and services to other countries where the Virgin Hyperloop One projects are sold.

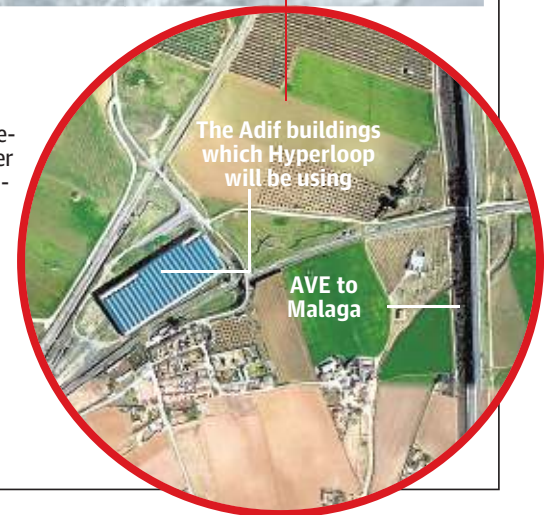
THE LOCATION OF THE HYPERLOOP CENTRE IN BOBADILLA

Virgin Hyperloop One will be renting the two adjoining buildings owned by Adif beside the station at Bobadilla, which have never been used



These installations were built in preparation for the railway testing link which Zapatero's government planned in Antequera but which was never carried out. They have never been used.

They are two adjoining buildings which total 19,140 square metres in size and are beside Bobadilla station. They cost 10 million euros.



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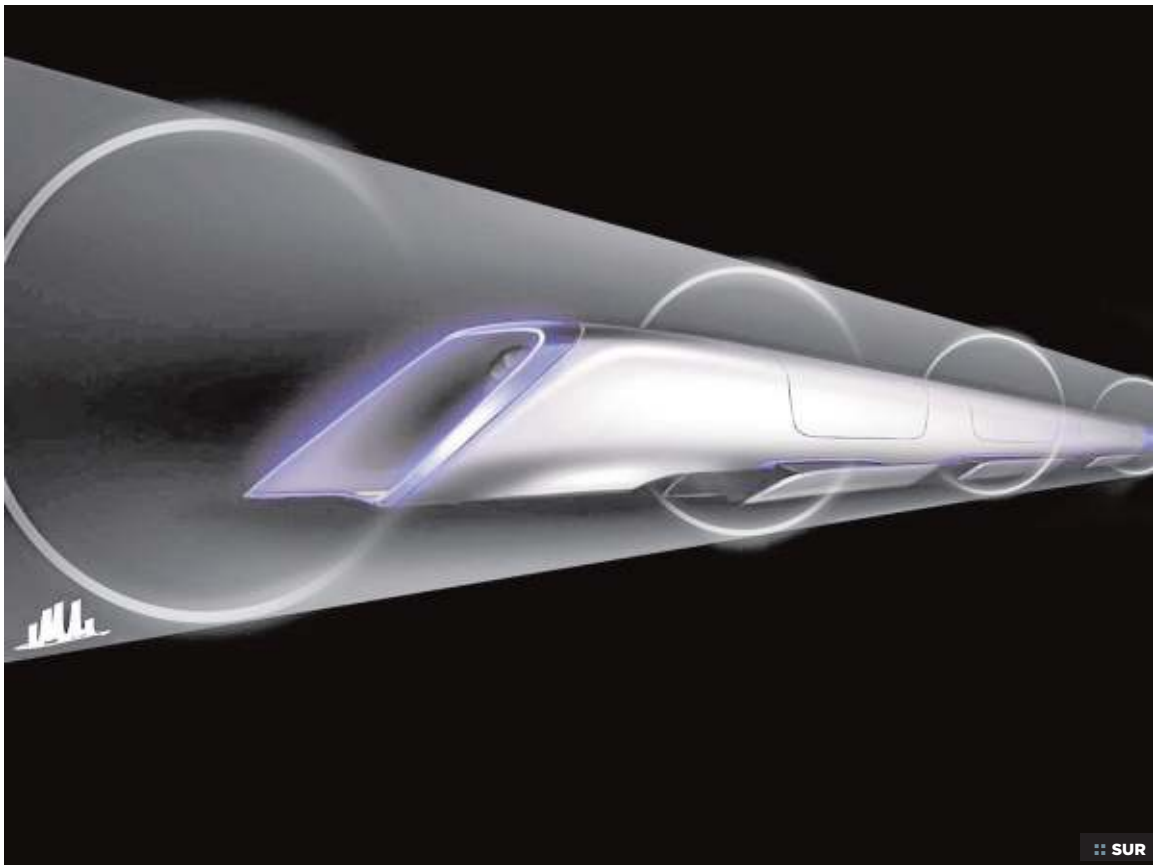
The investment, of around 431 million euros, is conditional on 126 million in grants and loans in exchange

The agreement between Virgin and Adif is initially for ten years and can be extended by agreement

Virgin will be renting the Adif buildings which, due to their combined size of over 19,000 square metres, will be able to accommodate the equipment required for the hardware tests needed for the development of this leading-edge technology.

“In order for Hyperloop to be commercially viable it has to be safe and trustworthy; security is our number one priority,” said Josh Giegel, the co-founder and head of technology of Virgin Hyperloop One. “We have been testing and improving our technology for the past four years, including the only Hyperloop system to real scale in the world. Eventually this centre will help us to complete our first projects and then go on to satisfy future demand from all over the world,” he said.

Why did Virgin choose to come to Spain, and particularly Malaga? “With its solid high-speed transport, aero-



HOW DOES IT WORK?

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► **The air cushion.** This is achieved thanks to a turbine in the nose of the capsule, which compresses the air it meets as it passes and redirects it to the

lower and rear part of the apparatus.

► **Acceleration system.** Through an electric induction in the tube. Only needed when starting and at certain points where speed is lost (hills, bends etc). The energy needed comes from external solar panels.

space and high technology sectors, plus the excellent talent here, Spain is ideal for the Virgin Hyperloop One testing and development centre,” said Rob Lloyd, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop One. With regard to Andalucía, sources at Virgin also stressed that: “With more than 9,000 transport and logistics companies, the second largest aerospace conglomerate in Spain and 20,000 people working in R+D, it is consolidating itself at a global level as an industrial hub for transportation and aerospace innovation. The region has an excellent business ecosystem and access to highly qualified professionals who can support the development of the centre”.

Background

This agreement, signed off by the new Spanish government, comes after months of negotiations started by the former minister of Public Works, Íñigo de la Serna. In May there was talk of discussions between Virgin and the Junta de Andalucía about using part of the infrastructure of the abandoned Antequera-Seville railway line, of which 77 kilometres have been built and never used, but this does not form part of the agreement signed this week. Although Virgin is not ruling out the possibility of other collaboration in the future, at the moment it is limiting itself to the Adif buildings in Bobadilla.

Sources associated with the project say it will also seek synergies with The Railway Innovation Hub, a group of companies based in Adif’s Railway Technologies Centre (CTF) on the Andalusian Technological



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Reactions

The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, said the agreement between Adif and Virgin for the experimentation centre for the new supersonic hyperloop train is "excellent news" for the region, and reinforces its reputation as a benchmark for innovation and research. "The supersonic trains of the future are to be developed in Antequera," she posted on Twitter.

Meanwhile, the regional government's delegate to Malaga, José Luis Ruiz Espejo, has also described the agreement as "very positive". He pointed out that a few years ago there had been plans for a high-speed experimentation track in Bobadilla, the so-called 'railway loop', but the project was eventually dropped "and the government of the time was not able to come up with anything to replace it; they said there was no interest among the private sector," he said.

The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, also expressed his approval of the agreement and said he hoped it would have "the best possible result". He said the news had not come as a surprise to him, because he knew months ago that discussions were being held. "I was told about it by the former minister of Public Works, by the team at Adif and the Railway Technologies Centre," he explained.

The mayor of Antequera

In his response Manuel Barón, the mayor of Antequera, stressed the "quality employment" that this project will bring to his municipality. "I am very happy, very pleased. This is fantastic news for Antequera because it will generate top-level quality technological employment and will place Antequera and the whole of Malaga

province at the top of the railway technology sector in Spain," he pointed out.

Barón said that in May Íñigo de la Serna had announced that "very advanced" discussions were taking place between Virgin and Adif, and the agreement signed this week by Virgin Hyperloop CEO Rob Lloyd and Adif president Isabel Pardo was the result of those discussions. He

commented that he had been very pleased when Pardo was appointed to the post by the new government, "because she understands the reality of Adif and its projects and she knew that it had participated in others associated with Antequera in the past, he said, referring to the works which were reactivated to build the station for the AVE high speed station in the municipality.

It was back in 2013 that Tesla-founder Elon Musk announced his idea of building an ultrasonic train based on vacuum tubes and magnetic levitation, and strangely enough, that was also the year in which the two giant structures which were to be part of the 'railway loop' project were completed. Now, to everyone's satisfaction, they are to be brought together.

Hyperloop: Elon Musk's dream, which Richard Branson is bringing to life

by N. TRIGUERO

MALAGA In 2013, Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla and SpaceX, publicly announced his idea of a transport system similar to an underground train, but using airless tunnels and moving by electromagnetic levitation. This would avoid friction and resistance to the air, which in theory should produce higher speed and great energy efficiency. He baptised it with the name Hyperloop and instead of guarding the patent like a treasure, he put out a worldwide call for companies, researchers and institutions to become involved in developing it. In fact, he divulged techni-

cal details of the Hyperloop with a concept similar to free software (which anyone can adapt and use).

Among those who accepted the challenge was another charismatic entrepreneur: Richard Branson, the founder of Virgin, who loved the idea of building a train based on vacuum tubes so much that he spent millions of dollars on Hyperloop One, which as a consequence he renamed with 'Virgin' in the front. Branson has now become the principal rival for Musk and his company Space X in the race to operate the first Hyperloop.

The Virgin Hyperloop One project has now assembled the capsule



Elon Musk



Virgin Hyperloop One testing its train in Nevada. :: SUR

and developed the levitation and guidance system, the propulsion system, the tube, the creation of a vacuum and, last year, the capsule reached a speed of 387 kilometres an hour during testing in Nevada, although this is far lower than the 1,200 kilometres per hour which had been the objective. The company is work-

ing on several projects with a view to its commercial exploitation in the Middle East as well as European, India and the USA.

Branson and Musk are not the only ones competing in this race, either: other companies are doing the same, including the Chinese aerospace company, Casic.

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The Costa del Sol has become an expensive destination, but scores high in client satisfaction

A comparative study of seven Spanish resorts and two abroad shows that the average price of a standard hotel room on the Malaga coast in June was 145.69 euros

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol is still a competitive destination even though hotels have raised their peak season prices in recent years: that is the conclusion of a report by the Turismo Costa del Sol organisation, which is part of the provincial government and was formed by a merger between the 'Sopde' Planning and Development company and the Tourist Board.

The report is the result of a comparative study of the Costa del Sol and eight of its rival destinations: the Balearic islands, Costa de la Luz, Costa de Almeria, Costa Blanca, Costa Brava, Canary islands, the Algarve (Portugal) and Antalya (Turkey).

The research showed that the average price for a standard double hotel room on the Malaga coast in June was 145.69 euros, which was the second highest in the nine areas included in the study. The price was only higher in the Balearic islands, where the average was 176.88 euros.

However, in terms of client satisfaction regarding hotel prices, the Costa del Sol topped the list with 8.37 marks out of 10. The Costa Blanca and Costa Brava came second and third: the Costa Blanca was midway in terms of price and the Costa Brava was similar to Malaga. The Balearics scored 8.14.

Looking at different categories of hotel and their prices, the Costa del Sol came second for 5-star establishments, with an average price of 366.93 euros; and fourth in the categories of 4-star (137.99 euros on average), 3-star (90.45 euros), 2-star (67.94 euros) and 1-star (65.12 euros).

With regard to client satisfaction, the 5-star hotels were top with 8.9 marks, followed by the 1-star estab-

lishments, with 8.43. Next came those with 2-stars, which scored 8.26, and the 4-star and 3-star hotels were given 8.19 and 8.09 out of ten respectively.

The Costa del Sol was given top marks in each of the aspects looked at by the study, except for location, where it came behind the Costa Brava and the Balearic islands.

The highest score was given for staff (8.76), followed by cleanliness (8.72), location (8.59), comfort (8.25), services (8.13) and quality/price ratio (8.10).

Prices on the increase

This report did not provide information about the way prices had evolved, but others which have been published in recent months say they are continuing to rise.

The 'Barometer of the Spanish hotel sector' from STR and Magma HC for the first half of this year show that Malaga and Marbella were the second and third places in Spain in which prices rose most, after Bilbao.

In Malaga they went up from an average daily price of 87.04 euros to 94.89, and in Marbella from 151.99 to 165.70 euros. Consequently, prof-

its in the hotel sector are looking positive: the RevPar (an indicator which measures the profit per available room) went up by more than 10 per cent in the two main destinations in the province in the first six months, while nationally it dropped. Nor is that all: Marbella was the Spanish town which showed most profit in this survey, at 103.10 euros per room.

For the head of Turismo Costa del Sol, Arturo Bernal, these figures show that prices have not yet reached a ceiling in the destination.

"In Malaga province there has been major investment in order to have a better quality product and the market values that. It also seems reasonable that if we are making this effort, we are looking for better quality clients," he points out.

Is he not worried that the rise in hotel prices will mean tourists have less to spend on other things, such as in restaurants?

"The figures show that this correlation doesn't exist. In fact, normally people spend the same amount on food and leisure activities as they do on their accommodation; in other words, if one goes up, so does the other," he says.

Bars and restaurants, pleased at the amount tourists are spending

■ N. TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The peak season appears to be going well for owners of bars and restaurants on the Costa del Sol. The numbers of clients and the amount of money they are spending is similar to last summer, which was "a very good one," according to the president of the Beach Businesses Association, Manuel Villafaina.

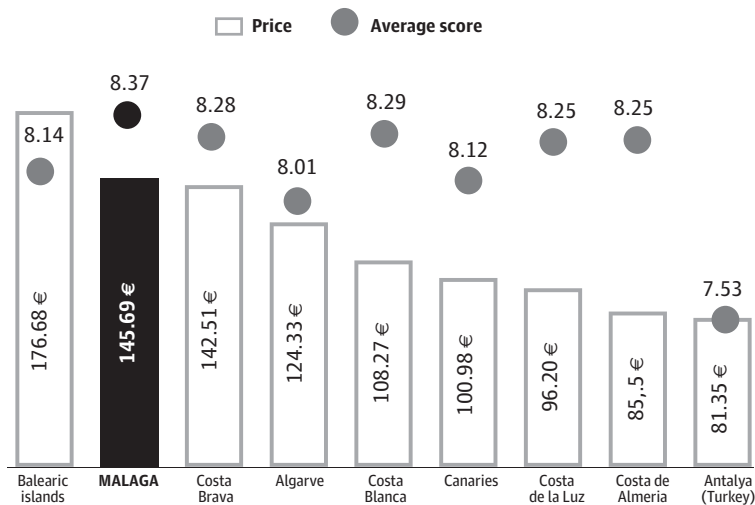
"The first six months of this year weren't as exceptional as last year because of the rainy and windy

weather, but the summer is looking good. The tourists who are coming from elsewhere in Spain and abroad are quality clients," he says.

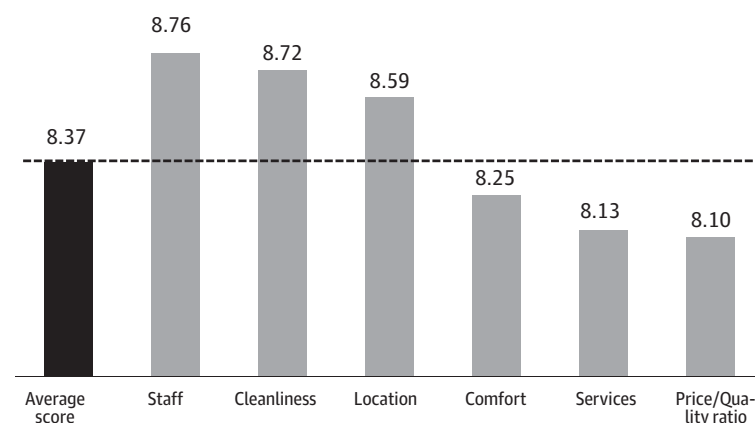
Manuel, whose organisation represents owners of 'chiringuito' beach bar-restaurants, expects the peak season to continue until the autumn, as it has done in previous years. "More of our members are opening all year round now, and even the seasonal ones don't only open in the summer. They are opening for nearly nine months,

Competitiveness of Costa del Sol hotels

Price and client satisfaction in nine rival coastal destinations



Client satisfaction on the Costa del Sol



Source: Turismo Costa del Sol. Study based on 377 hotels in Malaga province and 2,363 in rival destinations. Information taken from Booking.com and additional sources.

from February or March till November," he explains.

The president of the Mahos association in Malaga, Javier Frutos, agrees that the first half of this year was not as good as the same period in 2017 because of the rain, but says that the number of customers now is similar to last summer. With regard to the amount they spend, he says: "We are noticing a slight increase. We don't hear so much about the economic crisis now and consumers are happier to spend a bit more".

Actually, this week the National Institute of Statistics published its Tourist Spending Survey (Egatur) for the month of June, which shows an inter-annual drop of 3.1 per cent in the average spending by foreign tourists. However, this is due to the fact that the average

length of stay has shortened by nearly eight per cent, not because people are limiting their spending. The average amount spent per day has gone up by more than five per cent, to 124 euros.

The head of Turismo Costa del Sol, Arturo Bernal, says the reduction in the length of stay is due to a changing trend: "People aren't staying as long, but they are coming more often now," he says. With regard to the number of tourists, his organisation expects there to have been an increase of five per cent by the end of the year.

Bernal believes the way forward is not to worry about how long people are staying, but to concentrate on increasing the amount spent by tourists who choose the Costa del Sol for their holidays.

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Malaga's huge summer fair gets set to start as workers rush to finish on time

Increased security and advice on being nice to tourists are just two of the initiatives to ensure the feria runs smoothly this year

■ SUR

MALAGA. At midnight tonight, Friday 10 August, Malaga kicks off its huge annual fair with fireworks on the central La Malagueta beach. The official opening of what is Spain's biggest summer feria will mark the culmination of months of intense preparations by local authorities, bar and restaurant workers and entertainers.

This week all were busy putting the finishing touches to plans, which will see normal working life in the city grind to a halt as locals and visitors descend on both the city centre and the feria showground on the western edge of the city. In all, some 1,300 extra, temporary jobs are expected to be created.

Over 1,000 police on duty

The city council brought together all police forces and emergency services this week to finalise their part of the plans. Over 1,000 police officers will be seconded during the nine-day event.

Meanwhile the local bar and restaurant association, Mahos, has been sending out guidelines to its members to ensure their businesses portray the best image of the city.

The festivities in Malaga, which start properly on Saturday and run until the evening of Sunday, 19 August, are unusual because of the twin venues. The so-called Feria de Día (day fair) fills the streets of the old city with dancing, music and celebration from midday until 6pm.

A few kilometres further west, the huge showground opens up at midday and slowly changes its mood, moving from traditional, colourful horse and carriage processions with local people alongside over 100 'casetas', for eating, drinking and dancing, to the bright lights and high energy of the night-



Council and business organisers this week. ■ F. SILVA

time fairground rides and partying younger generation.

In recent years the town hall has been encouraging more daytime activity at the out-of-town showground with the increasing satu-

ration of the city centre and locals' complaints that the feria had lost its traditional feel.

At their joint meeting this week at city hall, the emergency services called on the local population

and visitors to act responsibly and to watch out for anything unusual.

Among the points on the list of top ten things for bars and restaurants to remember, sent out by Mahos, are; decorate your bar and put

Uber and Cabify told not to drop off or pick up at feria sites to avoid taxi complaints

Malaga city council has said that Uber, Cabify and other private-hire firms will not have special passenger loading and unloading bays within the security cordons during this year's feria. The move aims to prevent a repeat of last year's incident when private-hire cars were spotted by taxi drivers using public transport lanes without permission. This sparked a lightning strike by taxis that caused massive disruption along the Costa del Sol for several days. This time the council is taking no chances and private-hire vehicles will face the same access restrictions as any normal car. Taxis are unhappy at what they claim is unfair competition from app-based start-ups like Uber, which is operating on the Costa during Malaga fair for the first time. Uber had launched an advertising campaign in the city saying "See you at the feria".



A worker with some of the millions of lights. ■ F. SILVA

local food on the menu; always smile at tourists; advise customers to use public transport; recycle and support street cleaners; keep your bar or restaurant at a cool temperature.

More than 1,500 people join anti-bullfight protest

Protesters marched through the city centre asking for organisers of this year's Malaga fair to cancel the traditional bullfighting festival

■ ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. More than 1,500 people took to the streets of Malaga city centre last Saturday to demand an end to bullfighting and, specifically, that local authorities cancel the annual bullfighting arranged alongside the city's feria celebrations.

This is the third year that the march has been held ahead of the Malaga fair, which starts tonight, 10 August.

The head of the city's animal shelter, Carmen Manzano, said that the majority of the people who attended the protest last Saturday were young people who feel that bullfighting is not a pastime but a form of animal cruelty. "It is mistreatment of animals that is totally legal," commented Manzano.

The protest was organised by the groups Tidus, Gladiadores por la Paz and Resistencia Animal.

Organisers pointed out that



Protesters in Malaga city centre last Saturday. ■ F. SILVA

only nine per cent of the Spanish population went to a bullfight last year, proving that it is only a small number who enjoy this type of entertainment.

Bullfighting is a traditional element of ferias in most of Spain and Malaga's events are held at the La Malagueta bullring every evening from 12 to 19 August.

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Body of young Vélez-Málaga diver discovered by British leisure boat

Free diver Fidel Jiménez Marín went missing on 22 July when he was diving five miles off the coast of Barbate in Cadiz

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. A sad ending to the story of the young diver from Vélez-Málaga who went missing off the coast of Cadiz. A British-registered leisure boat spotted the body floating in the ocean on Monday, ten kilometres from where he went missing. Sea Rescue and the Guardia Civil quickly removed the body and took it to the port of Barbate where it was identified as being Fidel Jiménez Marín, a 23-year-old free diver from Vélez-Málaga who had been missing since 22 July.

Free diving does not use air tanks, instead it relies on the diver holding his breath until resurfacing and is a popular way of fishing with a spear gun.

According to Juan Toro, who was one of the divers with Fidel when he disappeared, the body was identified easily by the wet suit and the spear gun he was still carrying.

Although divers had been searching the area in a radius of several kilometres following Fidel's disap-



Fidel Jiménez with a fish he caught off Barbate. :: FACEBOOK

The town hall had arranged for a robot submarine to come from Galicia to help in the search

pearance, the body is believed to have sunk several metres below the surface making it difficult to

find until it came to the surface.

The search teams were helped by friends of the diver and a robot submarine, sent by a Galician company and paid for by the Vélez town hall, was due to be used in the search last Wednesday.

This was not Fidel's first dive from the coast in this part of Cadiz; just a month ago he had moved to Zahora in Barbate in order to work in a pizzeria so he could continue his love of free diving.

IN BRIEF



Virtual recreation of the park inspired by Tolkien's books. :: SUR

Tolkein park project put off until next year

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

:: E. CABEZAS. When the proposed project to create a park inspired by Tolkien's Lord of the Rings near Torre de Bengalbón was presented at the FITUR tourism fair in 2015

it generated an enormous amount of interest. However the project stalled because of legal problems and the money, granted by the provincial authority, spent on other projects.

The 80,000-square-metre park, complete with hobbit houses, lakes, fairies, orcs, and elves is now scheduled to be started next year.

Coastal path getting nearer for Vélez

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. CABEZAS. Residents of Vélez-Málaga recently protested about the delay in starting the section of the Senda Litoral programme which will unite Chilches and Benajárf. The mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, has assured that the first 500-metre stretch of the coastal path is in the last stages of planning and work will begin soon.

Optimism for the return of Vélez's trams

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. C. The mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, is optimistic that the infamous trams will be back in service next year. The service was stopped in 2012 by the then mayor Francisco Delgado Bonilla who said it was like a 'millstone around Vélez's neck' and who has accused Moreno of "making false promises".



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An angel from Malaga, in Indonesia

Pablo Martín, who runs a hotel in Lombok with two Spanish partners, organised an aid convoy after the earthquake

■ ■ ÁNGEL DE LOS RÍOS

The night the earth shook was darker than any other. "When the earthquake hit, we all ran outside because we had never experienced one that strong," says Pablo Martín, a 31-year-old from Malaga, speaking in Kuta, south of Lombok. Pablo was not on holiday: Lombok has been his home since 2012. With his partners Cristian Santana and Alberto Rico, he owns the Kuta Baru hotel and Sushik restaurant.

There were two major earthquakes in one week and more than 130 aftershocks of different magnitudes. Fourteen were killed by the one on 29 July, but more than 100 have died after the one on Sunday. That's why,



Pablo Martín, distributing aid in one of the camps . ■ ■ P. M.

once they were no longer in danger, Pablo and other local business owners decided they had to help. They realised that in the north, in Nusa Tenggara were the epicentre had been, the situation must be

considerably worse.

"In Kuta, the buildings aren't very high and they are well-built. Also the aftershocks were weak and quite a distance apart," he says. He and his partners discovered that rescue at-

tempts in the north were hampered by bridges collapsing and no electricity or telephone cover.

"We collected money among the nearby hotels and raised 2,000 euros," he says. What was needed most was drinking water and medication, so they loaded two 4x4 vehicles with those, food and clothing, and set off early in the morning. Normally, the journey from Kuta would take three hours; they were heading for the top of the Rinjani volcano. It was night-fall by the time they arrived.

"It's the poverty that causes this disaster, not the earthquakes," says Pablo. Houses with no foundations, simply built of brick and wood, collapsed with the first signs of the earthquake. The north of Lombok looked like "a war scene," not because of the earthquake but for what it left behind it.

More solidarity

"People have to stop looking at Lombok with fear and start doing so in

solidarity," says Pablo. The compensation offered by the government is laughable: the equivalent of 895 euros for the families of people who died, and up to 150 euros for the injured. The Disaster Mitigation Agency is working flat out, but international aid is only arriving bit by bit and there is a lack of coordination. Pablo says the authorities are trying to provide resources, but many villages are difficult to reach. He and his colleagues have made contact with the Balanced World Indonesia association, which is trying to take treatment plants to the most hidden areas, and they are facilitating the arrival of 12,000 bottles of water and tinned foods from the Herbal Pharm company in Singapore. "Money from abroad is important. Even a small amount of euros is a lot here and can buy many things," he stresses.

They have set up a Paypal account so that people can make donations which will arrive as directly as possible: kutabaruhotel@hotmail.com. Nor does the "alarm" and "tension" in some of the media help matters. "If you come here, especially to the south, you will see that life is going on as normal," he says. But there is still a lot to do.



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The gastroenteritis outbreak at a Torremolinos hotel was a virus

The water, swimming pool, ventilation system, dining room and kitchens of the hotel were given the all clear by investigators

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The Junta de Andalucía's regional ministry of health has confirmed that the gastroenteritis outbreak that affected up to sixty people staying at the Hotel MarConfort in Torremolinos was viral in origin and not linked to any alleged insanitary conditions.

Guests had been experiencing symptoms of stomach flu while staying at the hotel in the Los Álamos area, or after having checked out. There have been reported cases of diarrhoea, vomiting, fever and abdominal pain.

The first cases came to light on 20 July, according to the regional health ministry. Although none of the guests was seriously ill, it prompted the hotel management to blame what they described as the unhealthy condition of the open drains of the nearby Hospital Marítimo, for polluting the water supply to the hotel.

Sandos Hoteles & Resorts, the group that owns the MarConfort, said it had reported to the town hall two years ago that the open drains from the hospital constituted a health risk and should be enclosed. In reply the regional-government-



The hotel thought the stomach bug might have been caused by the open drains of the hospital nearby. :: SUR

owned hospital had always denied that there was any risk from the its drains as they did not connect with those of the hotel. Tests on the hotel's water supply detected no signs of any contamination.

When the first cases of stomach flu occurred, the hotel acted straight away, asking people affected to remain in their rooms. "We have acted meticulously in keeping with our obligations," a spokesperson com-

mented at the time.

Hotel administrators also said that they would be examining doctors' reports for each case to offer refunds where appropriate, while adding that the number of guests suffering from the virus has been low in comparison with the total number of guests staying at the hotel.

After the initial outbreak, Torremolinos council confirmed that the water supply to the hotel had

passed all tests and the hotel was working with epidemiologists to contain the virus.

However some guests have complained about the way the hotel dealt with the crisis, with several people confirming that they will be requesting compensation after "having the worst holiday of their lives". Hotel MarConfort still has not confirmed the exact number of people affected.

Regional government says that scabies-hit home has passed all latest tests

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

BENALMÁDENA. The Junta de Andalucía's regional health service has said that a care home at the centre of a scabies scare has passed all tests and is safe. The alarm was raised three weeks ago at the Benalmádena residence of the Seniors Group after families reported outbreaks of the highly contagious condition on their relatives' skin.

Regional Social Services, which has a contract to send residents to the home, immediately launched an investigation and tests. Despite accusations from some relatives that the home was "unhygienic" and "smelled unclear", the Junta's inspectors have confirmed that there is nothing wrong at the home and given it the all clear, although procedures to deal with a scabies outbreak remain in place.

Some families of residents there, which include the grandmother of Benalmádena's mayor, Victor Navas, have said they may consider a more formal complaint against the home, where they say there have also been cases of malnutrition and dehydration.

Jellyfish force first cancellation of 59-year-old 1km swim race around Malaga's port

SUR

MALAGA. The plague of jellyfish that has been greeting bathers along the Costa del Sol on and off over the summer caused more disruption last weekend. While other parts of the Costa suffered yellow or red flag warnings, a traditional swimming race in Malaga was cancelled for the first time in its 59-year-history.

Every year, just before the annual summer fair, many people in Malaga city have a date in the port to take part in or watch a swimming race around the inner harbour. Both serious and recreational swimmers normally take part in this prelude to the feria season.

However last Sunday organisers and port officials were alarmed when large quantities of jellyfish were spotted already in the water. Despite waiting to see what happened, eventually the 475 swimmers who were ready to attempt the 1km long circuit were left disappointed.

Experts are blaming the surge in jellyfish on the decline in natural predators and polluted sea water for attracting more of them.



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Industrial relations between Urbaser and its Fuengirola staff has been bad for some time. :: IVÁN GELIBTER

Refuse and street cleaning strike set to start in Fuengirola

Workers at contract-holders Urbaser will stage a partial stoppage and minimum services will be 50% on weekdays, 65% at weekends

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. A strike by refuse workers in Fuengirola is due to start today, Friday 10 August. Employees at Urbaser, the contract holder for refuse collection and part of the street cleaning services in the resort, are to start a partial stoppage over pay and conditions. Public arbitrators have set a minimum service obligation on the strikers, which will see half of the service operating on weekdays and 65 per cent at weekends from 10-19 August at least. The start of industrial action

comes as little surprise to residents of Fuengirola who have been following disputes between Urbaser and both the town hall and the concession holder's own employees.

Dispute with the town hall

Urbaser won the contract in a 2016 tender to run the service that includes all rubbish collection and some street cleaning. Street cleaning in some areas is still under direct council management.

However immediately problems started when a delay in starting the contract and alterations that Urbaser says were made to the conditions led to Urbaser claiming it was losing money on the deal and wanting to cancel its contract. The town hall refused and the contract still stands. Critics of Urbaser say that the firm underbid on the contract and were looking for ways to get out of it.

In the meantime, discontent among workers continued to grow, with Urbaser refusing to renegotiate terms and conditions last year, freezing pay and conditions. A strike last year was averted with a promise by the company to look at pay and conditions this year.

The failure of the company to start those negotiations with staff has led to the industrial action, say workers' representatives.

Employees are demanding improvements in holiday pay, that they say currently doesn't match the law, and fairer treatment over extra hours for longer-serving staff compared to new starters. They also want to return to a 35 hour week that was increased to 40 hours during the financial crisis.

Fuengirola town hall has said that it has been trying to arbitrate in the dispute.

Unease on Mijas council after Facebook message shows up political divide

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. The coalition between two political parties, Ciudadanos and PSOE, that have run Mijas council since September 2016 appears not to be as stable as it seems.

A recent Facebook message by Ciudadanos councillor for Planning, Andrés Ruíz, which criticised a previous PSOE council in Mijas 13 years ago, has opened a Pandora's box of comment and shown up apparent weaknesses in the two-party relationship.

Mijas is the largest municipality in Spain with a Ciudadanos mayor, despite that party coming third in the last municipal elections in 2015 with five councillors. After a coalition with the conservative PP failed to take off, two years ago Ciudadanos joined with the seven councillors of the PSOE to take over at the town hall. The model of government is unusual, with the different council departments divided between each party with separate budgets, as if it were almost two separate administrations.



Andrés Ruíz. :: SUR

With the PSOE party recently gaining power nationally, giving a boost to their morale, observers say each party is positioning itself for council elections in May next year, where each would hope to take majority control.

Ciudadanos denied any split but still stood by Ruíz's comments, adding that it didn't understand "the obsession" of people criticising two-party rule.

Replacement footbridge over A-7 opens between Fuengirola and Mijas Costa

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA / MIJAS. Locals and visitors on Mijas Costa, near to its border with Fuengirola, now have a new footbridge to cross the A-7 motorway on, and don't have to make a several-hundred metre

detour to the nearest alternative.

In March this year, the existing bridge between the Hotel IPV Palace and the BP service station near the Fuengirola campsite was found to be in a dangerous state of repair. Corrosion of its metal frame was advanced and pedestrians were urgently prevented from using it.

The national government's ministry for Infrastructure claimed at the time that it had already planned to replace the affected bridge and nine others before Mijas council raised the alarm. Although work is still continuing, pedestrians are now allowed to cross.

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Torremolinos and Marbella beaches awarded coveted 'Q' for quality status



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonybryant@gmail.com

The status is only given to beaches that meet stringent requirements which assure bathers a high standard of services

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol has long been known for its numerous sun-drenched beaches that attract millions of holidaymakers every year, especially those in Torremolinos and Marbella. Some of the most popular beaches in these two world-renowned tourist resorts have recently been awarded the coveted 'Q' for quality status from the Spanish institute for quality tourism (ICTE).

The 'Q', which is only awarded to beaches that meet stringent requirements set down by the ICTE, is a specific quality certificate for the tourism sector that guarantees users of the beaches a high standard of services, professionalism and safety. To achieve the distinction, a series of criteria need to be met. These include daily control of the quality of the water; accessibility for people with disabilities; toilets and showers that comply with specified standards; security and first aid.

The latest beaches in Torremolinos to receive this status are La Cari-



Playa Bajondillo was one of the beaches awarded 'Q' status . :: SUR

huela, Bajondillo, Playamar, and Los Álamos. The beach in Los Álamos also received its first Blue Flag last month, a certification that further endorses the excellence and accessibility of the beaches in Torremolinos.

Torremolinos town hall began an ambitious plan to improve the town's seven kilometres of beaches last year in order to meet the demand of this year's summer season. The resort is currently undergoing a complete renovation and the new quality status of its beaches is part of the council's drive to reinstate the town as a quality tourism destination.

Mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, said: "In a little over a month, Torremolinos has established itself as a benchmark of the Andalusian and Spanish coastline, receiving two im-

portant distinctions for our beaches. We live from tourism and this status is important to demonstrate the excellence of our town."

Marbella wins too

Marbella received distinctions for its beaches in La Venus, El Faro, Nueva Andalucía, Puerto Banús, Cabopino and San Pedro Alcántara, with an extra recognition from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for the natural enclave of the Dunas de Artola. The beaches, which already have Blue Flag status, have been recognised by the ICTE for improving bathers' awareness of safety regulations, the environment and health. The beaches have also been made accessible for people with reduced mobility and include specially

Disposable ashtrays for Torremolinos beaches

Torremolinos town hall has distributed 10,000 disposable ashtrays to local chiringuitos as part of a new campaign called 'Butts don't vanish, take them with you'. The scheme was introduced to help reduce the amount of litter left by bathers. César Carasco, Councillor for Environment, said, "Our beaches have the distinctions of the Blue Flag and the 'Q' for quality tourism, so we must encourage bathers to respect them."

adapted showers and toilets.

"The beaches were inspected by a team of 40 specialists, each responsible for evaluating different aspects," explained the director general of ICTE, Fernando Fraile.

He went on to say that the status is not only good for the many thousands of tourists that visit each year, but also for the locals, because "the standard and quality of the beaches is good for everyone".

Councillor for Environment and Beaches at Marbella town hall, Manuel Cardeña, also announced that the Puerto Deportivo de Marbella, the oldest of the four marinas in Marbella, hopes to receive the 'Q' for quality in September. If successful, it would become the first in Spain to receive the status.

San Pedro beach sewer rerouting on hold over fears of hidden ancient ruins

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. The company responsible for the main collector sewer on the western Costa del Sol has been told to think again about its plans to change the route under a San Pedro beach.

Public-utility company Acosol wants to dig up the pipe that runs under the beach from Marbella to a treatment plant in Estepona because of repeated wave damage in winter storms as sand is eroded.

The beach affected is by Linda Vista in western San Pedro, which is close to the ruins of an early Christian church. Archaeologists from the Junta de Andalucía have said that their studies show there are more ruins in the area behind the beach and so the planned new pipe route needs to change. There was a more positive reaction for plans for a coastal walk and viewpoint at a future excavation that Acosol proposes carrying out.



Acosol's walkway plans. :: SUR

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Rapid-response squad to combat graffiti damage in Marbella

The council hopes to demotivate graffiti vandals when they see that their works don't last very long

■ NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Councillors in Marbella have announced a plan to fight back against graffiti as soon as it crops up around the resort. The department for Public Works has started a tender process for companies that can rapidly remove the vandalism as soon as it is discovered. The initial contract will be for two years, starting this year, and will be in addition to the normal street cleansing operation's effort.

Companies offering this new service will have just one working day to remove or paint over the graffiti, although this can be extended to up to five days in exceptional circumstances or during public holiday periods.

Town hall technicians explained this week that one of the main problems with the graffiti is that it is carried out on porous surfaces and paint from spray cans can soak in up to one centimetre, making it very hard to remove. The rapid response service will not only have to remove the



Vandalism on a fountain in central Marbella. ■ JOSELE-LANZA

graffiti but also take steps to repair any long-term damage to the surface affected.

Marbella's councillor for Public Works, Javier García, has explained that vandalism of this nature has an important visual impact on tourists' enjoyment of the resort. Last December the council began its fight against graffiti with a smaller programme of removal but using exist-

ing staff. However the council has realised that it is not enough.

"With the street cleaning department we only solved part of the problem and the Local Police have recommended that there is a faster response time," said García, adding that the aim of the programme was to demotivate graffiti artists when they see that their works and their notoriety doesn't last very long.

Austrian woman leaves one-million-euro inheritance for elderly care in Marbella

The donation aims to improve the services provided at nine day centres and teach their users how to use new technologies

■ HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Nine public day care centres for the elderly in the municipality of Marbella are celebrating after receiving news of a donation of one million euros that will

be divided equally between the different centres.

The money was left as an inheritance by Margit Selzer, of Austrian nationality, who had used one of the centres before her death in 2015.

The huge amount of money came from the sale of the elderly woman's villa in the Los Monteros area of Marbella. Following the instructions in her will, an executor walked into the local Social Services offices in 2016 to tell them the good news. Now with the property sale completed the funds can be

released.

The million euros donated will be mainly used to buy better furniture and renovate the kitchens and other spaces in the centres.

In addition, computer rooms will be built to give users a chance to acquire or to further improve computer skills.

Mayor Ángeles Muñoz commented, "It's very good news and most of all, unexpected". She also added that bosses are currently budgeting for the equipment that will be needed to comply with Selzer's last will.

Few people can remember Margit Selzer when she used one of the centres. Records show that Margit Selzer was born in 1929 in the town of Reichenberg, in what was then Czechoslovakia and held Austrian nationality.



■ SUR

GLOBAL GIFT CENTRE TAKES SHAPE

The Global Gift charity has begun the 1.1-million-euro project to restore a disused property in Marbella. The organisation is fitting it out to house a therapy and treatment centre for people with rare diseases and disabilities. The majority of the users are expected to be children. The Golden-Mile property, known as Casa La Panocha, has been given to Golden Gift for 30 years by Marbella council.

Mayor criticised by opposition for "damaging the image" of Manilva after recent fire

■ CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MANILVA. At a meeting of Manilva council last week, the opposition accused the mayor, Mario Jiménez, of harming the town's image in his public statements after the large fire that recently destroyed 54 hectares of the municipality.

Referring to the mayor's comments that the source of the fire could be drug gangs looking to distract emergency services while

they landed their hauls nearby, Diego José Jiménez of the PSOE said, "Even if correct, the statements harm the municipality's image, cause alarm and give away clues to help [the smugglers] to bring in more drugs."

The mayor replied that "95 per cent of local people know what happened that night and we can't look the other way". The council is calling for an improved Guardia Civil presence in the town.

At the same meeting, councillors voted to submit a request to national government for the municipality to be officially declared an area of serious damage following the fire which saw some 400 locals evacuated.

This special status would give the town access to extra support and grants.

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Dog rescue centre appeals for foster homes

TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

The SOS Perrera charity looks after more than 350 stray animals, most of which come from the Campo de Gibraltar and surrounding areas

CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR. The SOS Perrera animal charity in Los Barrios has made an urgent plea to the local community in order to find temporary homes for dozens of abandoned dogs. The animal rescue centre is currently stretched to the limit and is desperate for reliable and caring foster carers.

The charity looks after hundreds



The SOS Perrera dog rescue centre in Los Barrios is currently looking after more than 350 dogs. :: SUR

ter to just one of these dogs would make a huge difference. There are many dogs needing the chance of a foster home, even short term placements are welcome," Sharon Peterson, a representative of the rescue home told SUR in English.

Full back-up service

The charity offers a full back-up service for potential foster carers, especially those without experience, including advice and information about looking after animals that might have never lived in a family environment. The charity will also pay any vet fees incurred during the fostering period.

"You do not necessarily have to have experience, just a kind, calm and patient manner, with lots of understanding and common sense. You will receive support from a local mentor, who is just at the end of the phone," Sharon explains.

The charity has so far found homes for dozens of dogs in Finland, Germany, Sweden and France, and it is now looking for emergency foster placements in the UK.

It also needs more volunteers to help with the day to day running of the charity and to help with the exercising the 350 dogs that are currently residing in the pound.

"The pound is simply not a good place for some dogs and they receive few learning opportunities whilst there, other than how to survive. Some of the dogs have had a very traumatic background, but with a kind and understanding nature, all these issues can be overcome. The foster carers would be their lifeline to living a long and happy life with their new families," Sharon concludes.

Those wishing to foster an abandoned dog or volunteer their services can find details on the SOS Perrera Facebook page, or phone Sharon Peterson on 674 74 33 56.

of stray animals, most of which come from the Campo de Gibraltar and surrounding areas, and it needs to find temporary accommodation for dogs waiting to be transferred to their new owners.

Several years ago the local pound was an extermination station, where dogs rounded up by local authorities were kept for ten days, after which they were destroyed. Thanks to years of negotiations by several charities, the dogs in the pound are now handed over to the team at SOS Perrera for care and re-homing.

The charity is run by a group of volunteers who began rescuing the dogs from the local pound in 2016, but they are now struggling to cope with the current influx of animals.

"With the pound overflowing, urgent foster homes in the Los Barrios region are needed. To offer shel-

Adana rescue centre reassures public that procedures are in place after recent Casares fire

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

ESTEPONA. In light of the recent fire which broke out on the Casares industrial estate close to the Adana premises and which involved a hundred firefighters, eight helicopters and three aircraft, the charity has sent out a statement reassuring that it has a comprehensive plan in place for such emergencies, drawn up in consultation with the relevant authorities.

For this reason they say that in case of fire they would prefer that people do not rush to the refuge to help as they could put themselves in danger or obstruct the passage of

police and firemen. Should they be in any danger and need help to evacuate the dogs, they will broadcast the news on their website (www.adana.es).

On this particular occasion, Adana board member Reg and volunteer Tim Pethwick remained with the dogs at the shelter ensuring that all fire doors were closed and the dogs were safe from smoke inhalation.



The aftermath of the fire:: SUR

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REF. E. L. Y.

I am the owner of a plot of land in the countryside. I do not have direct access to the road from my plot, but I have never had any problem because my neighbour allowed me to use an old trail that passes through his plot so that I could get to the road. However, my neighbour sold his property five months ago, and I have had

problems since then. The new owner does not allow me to use the trail, because he says that the plot is his, and therefore private property. What can I do? That trail is the only way I have to get to the road...

It is necessary to check the title deeds and the Cadastral records. If the old trail you are using is not considered as a public right of way and there is no right of use in your favour established in the deeds, you can start a claim at court, either because you can prove that you have been using the trail for a certain number of years, or because you do not have access to a public road from your plot.

REF. O.G.R.

Some months ago we had an owners' meeting, where we decided to carry out several repairs the façade of the building, which had numerous cracks, so after repairing them

it all had to be repainted. In the meeting, there were three neighbours who voted against, and now they refuse to pay their part of the works because they say that as they registered in the minutes of the meeting that they opposed the decision, they are not obliged to pay. Can they do so?

No, they can't. In these kind of decisions, if the required majority of the votes has been attained, the agreement is valid and binding for everyone, and all must pay, even those who voted against. If they consider that the decision is detrimental to their interests or against the law, they can challenge the decision before a judge, who will resolve the issue. In order to give you a more accurate answer, we would need to know the characteristics of the community, so that we can check if the required majority has been attained or not.

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The improved electricity supply to the Guadalhorce hospital gets go-ahead

The new power lines will allow the hospital to open the operating theatres and inpatient wards at last

:: FERNANDO TORRES

CÁRTAMA. After three years of bureaucratic delays, the town hall of Cártama has granted a licence to Endesa allowing them to go ahead and install a new electricity supply to the Guadalhorce hospital.

This will mean that the hospital will now be able to use the operating theatres and inpatient wards which have been closed since it was opened in 2016 due to instability of the supply needed to operate the equipment.

The process for obtaining the licence was complicated but Endesa had already made a start on the works taking the line across areas that weren't subject to special ap-



One of the first power pylons being erected. :: SUR

proval first. The final stretch, on which work started last Monday, consists of the erection of twelve pylons and four kilometres of un-

derground cable which will pass under the A-357 motorway. Endesa have said the works will be finished in three months.

Residents in Alhaurín feel 'abandoned' by the post office

:: FERNANDO TORRES

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Dozens of residents in Alhaurín el Grande have put up with months of problems with the postal delivery and say they feel they have been 'abandoned' by the post office.

Several of those affected have got together to apply pressure to the post office and get themselves heard while others have set forth on a crusade, armed with complaints and grievances, to make it quite clear that the present situation is intolerable and which, because it has gone on so long, most of the town has become resigned.

One of the affected, Carmen Ramírez, after waiting weeks for a parcel from Amazon, decided to make a complaint and was sent from one counter to another, trying to track where it had gone.

Another resident, María Pilar Carvajal, who has been waiting three weeks for an important letter, has been posting a complaint daily on the post office website for

weeks:

"I've been in contact with political parties and the town hall and I've heard the same story from other residents who aren't getting their post," she explained to SUR, just after receiving a bundle of letters which had finally been delivered and which included bills from June and a 'very important' letter from the unemployment office.

The many who complain receive the same, standard reply from the post office, requesting the residents to clarify their postal address with the town hall as it can't guarantee delivery of mail if the address isn't correct.

A spokesperson for the post office said, "We are sorry for the situation, things should be back to normal in a few days. These sporadic incidents have occurred because at the moment we have inexperienced staff who don't know the area but we are taking measures to bring more staff in and to work afternoons."

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New water treatment plant to serve Álora, Pizarra and Coín will be built next year

Three Guadalhorce valley communities unite to analyse the costs of a water treatment plant and speed up its opening

:: FERNANDO TORRES

PIZARRA. The Depuración de Aguas Residuales (The Treatment of Residual Water or EDAR), will serve Coín, Pizarra and Álora from next year.

Mayors of the three towns have met with the Consorcio del Agua, part of the Malaga provincial authority who will run the treatment plant, to confirm the details and evaluate the costs involved in the project.

The construction of the plant is being financed as part of the plan to upgrade the hydro infrastructure of the region. Works will start with a budget of 7.5 million euros for the plant plus a 6.5-million-euro in-



The meeting between the mayors and the water consortium. :: SUR

vestment for sewage pipes from these towns to the treatment plant.

At the moment, Coín is one of the towns with more than 15,000

inhabitants which don't have a treatment plant and which cost the Spanish government 12 million euros in fines from the EU.



MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Coín town hall has relocated the monument, Manantial de Memoria, a sculpture that serves to remember victims of terrorism. Following recent renovation work, the monument was unveiled in its new location on the Carretera de Mijas. The ceremony was attended by Mayor of Coín, Fernando Fernández, and the family of José María Carpena, the politician murdered by ETA in July 2000.

Investigation begins into possible fraud on entry cards into Puerto Banús marina

:: H. BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. The parade of high-end vehicles along the quayside in Puerto Banús is a tourist attraction but few visitors ask how cars get authorisation to drive along.

A possible case of fraud related to the sale of cards that permit the access of vehicles inside the gates of front-line Puerto Banús is under way after two complaints were made to Marbella's National Police. Investigators believe that others may still come forward.

The cards are usually given to owner of boats that dock in the harbour even if, until now, people that wanted to enter the area with other types of vehicles could also purchase and use this type of pass, however with certain restrictions. Each card, which has a price tag of 1,000 euros, is valid from 1 June until 31 May of the following year.

The case came to light when the new operators responsible for running the port facilities changed the features of the cards, which at the start of each peak season become highly desirable items for wealthy people who like to visit and be seen in the iconic tourist location.

One of the complaints made to police alleges that parallel to the official business of selling this type of pass, there is also an illegal market where other businesses would purchase cards for their clients through a third party, who would operate as an intermediary, working with an ex-member of the former administration group.

The new port administrators has now changed the system software, allocating a separate identification number for each card in a bid to stamp out the supposed practice.

Russian mafia leaders arrested while plotting an assassination

The alleged criminals were held in Marbella while reportedly arranging the group's future actions to regain their status in European organised crime

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Three alleged Russian mafia bosses were arrested last Sunday by National Police officers in Marbella.

The men, all high-ranking members of organised crime known as 'Vor v Zakone' (thieves-in-law), were believed to have been in the resort to resurrect a group which had been broken up in June when 129 people, of whom several were part of the Russian cell, were detained in the international Operation 'Kus'.

Specifically, the men were arrested last week while allegedly plotting the assassination of the boss of a rival clan, in order to regain their power in Europe.

One of those held is considered to be the third most important Russian mafia member in the world. Officers already knew this person was in Marbella and had started fol-



Picture of the arrest of the mafia bosses. :: SUR

lowing his activities in July.

Most recently, the man had been coordinating the clan, which was broken up in June by police, from Lithuania, attempting to broker between rival factions and ensure that the group was able to survive overall, investigators have said.

More arrive on the Costa

The presence of the man on the Costa del Sol, who over recent weeks was joined by an ever-growing number of members, proved to police that the gathering was aimed at building a plan to keep control over the criminal activities in Europe,

distribute control over territory and organise the group's future actions. During the investigation flats and hotel rooms used by members of the group were discovered.

The men have been arrested under suspicion of attempted murder, falsification of documents and for being part of a criminal organisation. They have been remanded in custody without bail.

The other two of the three held by detectives are said to belong to the Georgian branch of the organised criminal group and considered to be of at least as high ranking as the Russian boss.

Sleepy driver almost caused several accidents in motorway

:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MÁLAGA. Guardia Civil officers received several calls last week about a person driving dangerously on the winding mountain road that connects San Pedro with Ronda.

Officers discovered that the driver of the car, a dark green Mercedes, was a man that was under the influence of medicines which

were causing him drowsiness.

The emergency services were alerted around 6pm by other drivers who were worried about the behaviour of the car on the notoriously dangerous road.

After stopping the driver, emergency health services were called out and the man was entrusted to the care of a relative.



Driver coming off the road. :: SUR

112 REPORTS

Man hit by jet ski while bathing in Marbella

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. A 22-year-old Arab man was hit by a jet ski while trying to board a recreational boat in Funny Beach, Marbella, at 6pm on Tuesday.

At the wheel of the jet ski was a Moroccan woman with Belgian nationality who did not have a licence to drive that type of aquatic vehicle and was reportedly going faster than the permitted speed limit.

The emergency services as well as the local police were called out to the accident.

The man suffered several traumas caused by the impact and was taken to the intensive care unit of the Costa del Sol Hospital. His current condition is described as serious but stable. The woman driving the jet ski was detained by the Guardia Civil.

"The bullet passed just inches from my head"

:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS/JUAN CANO

MÁLAGA. Ramón Crespo recalled what happened last Friday when a bullet shot by a 29-year-old drug addict, which was meant for the police officers that had entered his house, proceeded to pierce through Crespo's door instead and shatter the terrace window of his home in Estepona.

At that time Crespo, his wife and his two daughters, 21 and 12, were inside the house but luckily neither the family nor the police officers were injured.

The neighbour, who had heard the noises coming from the house on the other side of the street, was looking through the door's eyelet when the bullet hit.

The 29 year-old man has been remanded in custody and refused bail.

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The regulation of holiday rental properties "restricts competition", says the CNMC

The Competition Commission is taking Madrid, Bilbao and San Sebastián councils to court for violating "market freedom"

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

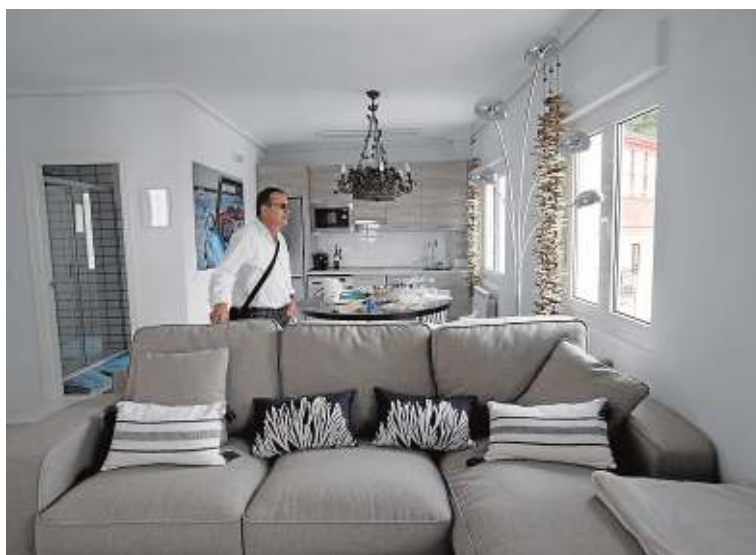
MADRID. Although the Spanish government wants to standardise the regulation of holiday and rental properties, some local councils have already gone ahead and drawn up their own rules. This has upset the National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC), which has decided to take the local authorities in Madrid, Bilbao and San Sebastián to court because it believes their behaviour is "contrary to competition and the principles of efficient economic regulation, and damaging to the interests of consumers and users," according to a statement it issued this week.

The CNMC says it had previously sent three requests to these councils, asking them to justify the "need and proportion" of the restrictions they plan to impose on holiday rental apartments, but as "no satisfactory answers" were received, it has decided to take legal action.

However, each case is different. In Madrid, the council says people who rent out holiday homes must have a licence, and restricts the number of licences granted in certain areas of the city.

In Bilbao, the only properties which can be rented for holidays are on the ground or first floor of apartment blocks, unless there is a separate entrance from the street. The council also insists these apartments are authorised and registered.

In San Sebastián, the same regulations about ground and first floor



A client in a holiday apartment. :: SUR

apartments apply, and no properties in certain parts of the city centre can be rented to tourists.

The CNMC claims that these measures "restrict competition," because they prevent people from renting out their properties for the first time, and favour those who already do so. "This situation will result in higher prices and will reduce quality, investment and innovation in tourist apartments," it says. It also adds that none of these measures are an ideal way of achieving the stated objectives of being in the general interest.

The three councils were quick to respond. Sources at Madrid city hall said they would defend the measures in court because the aim is to "be able to regulate a sector which protects residential use of the land" and "favour competition in a sector in which there are also hostels and hotels." It also pointed out that councils have the right to decide their own town planning regulations.

Municipal autonomy

Meanwhile, the mayor of San Sebastián, Eneko Goia, insists that local councils have the power to regulate the use of land in their municipality and said in a statement that he "absolutely" does not share the CNMC's interpretation of the regulation, because "it only looks at the free market without taking any other principle or consideration into account".

Bilbao city hall says that the CNMC's request to regulate tourist rentals was unanimously rejected by the council and declined to make any further comment. Recently, the Basque Competition Authority said it was necessary to regulate holiday rentals but did not say which public administration should do so.

Meanwhile, the demand for holiday rentals continues to grow. A survey by HomeAway, a leading online platform, says there has been an increase of 31.8 per cent in Spain in the past year.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

A QUESTION OF DEGREE



This week saw new Popular Party (PP) leader Pablo Casado whipping up fear over migration into Spain. The 37-year-old – who has pledged to take the PP back to its right-wing roots – claimed that a "million" migrants are waiting on the coast of Libya to enter Spain; Casado promised to "defend" Spain's borders and to "support the police and the Civil Guard unashamedly and undividedly" in their stance over migration.

Migration is top of the agenda in Spain at the moment, both for the PP and for the Socialist administration of Pedro Sánchez. Casado's scaremongering is, in part, a response to the Spanish government's approach to migration, which the Conservatives see as disastrously indiscriminating. The Socialists and the Spanish left in general meanwhile, claim that Casado's "keep them out" rhetoric violates Spain's EU commitments. Barcelona's mayor Ada Colau went one step further, tweeting that the "normalisation" of Casado's statements on migration "is the first step to destroying Europe and democracy".

Migration is yet another issue that is enabling the Spanish Conservatives and Socialists to highlight their profound differences. An effective policy probably lies somewhere between their two stances; namely, one that welcomes migrants and supports them in their quest for a new life in Spain, but that also controls numbers admitted and evaluates each case, so that the welfare state is not overloaded. It's an exceptionally difficult balance to

strike, and one that many other EU members are also trying to achieve.

Although he's being portrayed as a far-right liability, Casado must be grateful that migration is currently dominating public debate in Spain (and, indeed across Europe). So long as it is, attention is diverted away from a matter that casts a shadow over his leadership of the Conservatives – namely, the question of his allegedly dodgy Master's degree. On Monday, a magistrate investigating the latter said that there was evidence to suggest that the PP leader's law degree – awarded by Madrid's King Juan Carlos University in 2009 – was effectively a "gift", given for political connections rather than for academic excellence.

This matter needs to be settled, one way or the other, before Casado can legitimately take control of the PP (in the same way, you could say that Sánchez needs to call and win an election to legitimise his premiership; no one voted for him, after all). So long as it's possible that he received an under-the-table degree without doing any work, Casado can't be taken seriously in his role as the PP's saviour.

Laughably, the party's secretary general has described his boss as the victim of "political persecution". Yes, that's right: the legitimate quest to determine whether or not Casado is scandal-free is nothing more than a witch-hunt. Like countless politicians all over the globe, Casado would much prefer his past to be left in the dark.

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AVENIDA RICARDO SORIANO 66, MARBELLA (29601), MALAGA (SPAIN)

Rescue ship from Libya docks again as government changes its policy

The Open Arms brought 87 migrants into Algeciras on Thursday as a new reception centre in nearby San Roque fills up in just a few days

■ SUR

ALGECIRAS. The charity rescue-ship, Open Arms docked in Algeciras, (Cadiz province), on Thursday morning with 87 migrants and refugees rescued off the coast of Libya.

This is the third time that the charity vessel has visited Spain on a similar mission since the start of July. The Open Arms charity has criticised other European governments, especially Italy, for not taking in those found at sea by its rescue ship, despite those countries being nearer.

Following the granting of emergency permission for Aquarius, another rescue ship from the Libyan coast, to dock in Valencia in June with some 600 migrants on board, the new PSOE government has faced criticism for supposedly giving special favours to migrants arriving in these vessels. This has involved faster treatment not granted to normal boat migrants. Until this week migrants arriving in charity ships were also



A migrant from the Open Arms is greeted at Algeciras port. ■ EP

being granted automatic temporary residency for 45 days.

However on Thursday Pedro Sánchez's government went to lengths to point out that these charity-boat migrants were not now receiving any special treatment compared to the hundreds of other boat migrants who are reaching Spain each day illegally.

The new PP leader, Pablo Casado, had criticised the PSOE in recent days, saying that "giving papers to everyone" was having a siren effect and encouraging more people to ar-

rive. On Thursday he said he felt re-vindicated by the government's new, stricter policy. "They have agreed with me," he commented.

The latest docking at Algeciras comes against a background of increased boat arrivals on Andalusian shores, averaging around 400 a day recently. A new temporary reception centre for migrants opened in San Roque, near Gibraltar, this week but within days the 600 places had been taken and reports said staff and volunteers were struggling to cope.



A detainee helps police search a Galician bar on Wednesday. ■ EFE

85-year-old Spanish drug godfather held

■ SUR

GALICIA. A huge anti-drugs operation in Galicia saw the arrest of Manuel Charlin Gama on Wednesday along with a dozen others. Eighty-five-year-old Charlin is one of Spain's most notorious drug smuggling godfathers, said at one time to have controlled the trafficking of co-

caine into Galicia. One of his sons was also arrested this week.

Charlin has been in prison before and Wednesday's operation was connected with a shipment of 2.5 tonnes of cocaine that had been intercepted by Customs police, investigators said. Last released in 2010, Charlin had spent 20 straight years in jail up to then.



■ EFE

CATHEDRAL CARVING GRAFFITI OUTRAGE

The vandal who drew an animal face and the word Kiss, (supposedly in homage to a rock band), on a 900-year-old carving on a stone door frame of one of Spain's most famous cathedrals could face a 150,000-euro fine, if caught. Locals were shocked to see the blue drawing on Santiago's cathedral stonework. Officials covered up the vandalism quickly and are hopeful it can be fully cleaned.

British tourist falls down six floors while defecating from balcony of Magaluf hotel

■ SUR

PALMA. A British tourist, 25, has been found in a serious condition after falling from the sixth-floor of the TRH Hotel in Magaluf, Palma de Mallorca, while defecating from the balcony.

Exact details of the accident weren't released by the ambulance service, but the incident was first reported at 3.25am last Friday.

The young man fell eight metres into the inner patio of the hotel and suffered severe head injuries, sources said.

The injury caused panic among the friends of the victim, who surrounded him and tried to get as close as possible to him while he was being seen to by paramedics.

Although unusually the man was allegedly defecating from the balcony before he fell, this is the latest in the trend of 'balconing', accidents from balconies or high ledges in holiday accommodation. So far this year the practice has claimed seven foreigners' lives in Spain.





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Contingency plans in place for all levels of Brexit, says government

There is no need to stockpile food, and precautions are being taken to ensure supplies of medication in the event of a no-deal Brexit

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. While the UK media is full of stories about the need to stockpile food and essentials in case of a 'hard Brexit', the Gibraltar government has issued a statement reassuring people it has been preparing for all outcomes since 2016.

"On 19 July, the European Commission called on Member States and on private parties to step up preparations at all levels for all outcomes of Brexit. This followed a similar request by the European Council in June [...] It is clear that it is in nobody's interests that the UK should leave the EU without an agreement and there is a considerable amount of work going on behind the scenes in order to ensure a successful outcome," said the statement, before going on to outline details such as plans for the border, which the new Spanish government seems to agree needs to be free-flowing.



No cause for alarm in Gibraltar. :: SUR

The contingency planning has looked at the worst-case scenario even though this is now highly unlikely. It entailed planning for a no-deal Brexit, but also for an agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union from which Gibraltar was excluded. However, David Davis, when Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, guaranteed the chief minister that there

would be no deal without Gibraltar.

Gibraltar and UK government representatives met last week and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia, who holds the Brexit portfolio, says the Gibraltar government does not envisage any need to stock pile food. Precautions would be taken anyway, in respect of medicines from UK, to ensure there would be no glitches in supply or unnecessary costs.



REAL TIME INFO ABOUT BEACHES

A new website has been launched with live camera feeds from all Gibraltar's main beaches, so that users can see for themselves the condition and whether or not swimming is allowed. The online portal also contains up-to-date information on weather conditions, beach facilities and social media feeds. It can be accessed by logging into www.beaches.gi.

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Airport difference

There has been a number of news items recently regarding Manchester Airport - parking charges, disabled facilities, future investments, etc. etc.

I would like to give details of our recent experience at Malaga Airport to give the bosses of Manchester something to think about when deciding how to invest our money for the benefit of passengers.

On 30 June, at the end of our usual two-week holiday on the Costa del Sol, our expatriate friend Mike drove us to Malaga Airport to catch the 23:20 flight to Manchester.

He made use of the FREE 15-minute 'drop-off' which gave him time to get a FREE luggage trolley.

Unfortunately my wife Anne, who at 70+ isn't as nimble as she once was, caught her leg getting out of the car, making it bleed. Mike took us into the terminal to the Farmacia (still open) where they looked at the wound, which by now was bleeding profusely, and, instead of selling us dressings, directed us to the centrally-situated and well-advertised

facility for the disabled.

An English-speaking receptionist immediately phoned for the on-site ambulance service, who arrived promptly, dressed the wound and returned Anne to the disabled facility with a 'fit to fly' document.

Having been told to wait a few minutes we were then loaded with our luggage onto an electric buggy, taken to the Jet2 check-in, then through a separate customs facility (for the disabled) and deposited at the departure gate.

Did this wonderful and FREE service finish there? No, the Jet2 receptionist then invited us to come forward for early boarding.

Arriving at Manchester Airport, with no wheelchair available, we limped through passport control, loaded our luggage on the two-euro trolley and met our taxi driver Geoff who had to pay four pounds for parking.

Well done Malaga Airport and Jet2 - would a visitor to England get a similar service at Manchester?

JEFF MARSHALL
BOLTON, UK

Are you experienced?

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The current fashion for including the word 'solutions' in company tag lines continues unabated. On my last trip to the UK, I lost count of the number of lorries, vans and business cards I saw with phrases like 'Dave's plumbing solutions', 'Geeky Gordon's computer software solutions' and 'Mr. Kendrick's private mathematics classes solutions', emblazoned upon them. Well, I didn't see the last one but I was hoping to, since it would have been the only one that made sense.

Much the same goes for the irritatingly ubiquitous presence in our everyday lives of the word 'experience' - as in 'shopping experience'. This is, I think, supposed to put some kind of positive slant on what is, let's face it, an ordeal designed in the bowels of Hades.

In a brand new twist, Malaga Airport is now employing personal shoppers to help passengers with their 'shopping experience' in the

terminal.
"Good morning, madam, my name is Maria and I'll be your personal shopping experience person for the next interminable half hour. How can I be of help to you this morning, at all?"

"Well, Maria, maybe you can tell me where I might purchase some high-end smelling salts for my husband who just bought a cheese roll at the airport cafe and then collapsed in a crumpled heap when presented with the receipt."

"Sorry, madam, you'd need to speak to Ana - she's our fainting-at-the-prices-in-the-cafe experience assistant, at all."

"Oh, never mind. He'll be fine, something similar happened at Leeds Bradford over a sausage sandwich. Anyway, what I really need is a fake tiger skin hand bag to match this lovely skirt."

"Follow me, madam, at all."
The most I've ever bought in an airport is a newspaper and a can of

coke, in spite of the fact that they oblige you to walk directly through a labyrinth of duty free goods in order to get to your gate, presumably hoping you'll buy a couple of bottles of last minute scotch for your long-suffering father-in-law. Perhaps the new personal shoppers will be active in these parts too, popping out from behind racks of Beyonce's latest perfume and spraying random strangers on the neck like those odd people in the El Corte Ingles.

Come to think of it, maybe we should introduce personal drinkers down at the Shakespeare to improve our customers' drinking experience. A bald bloke with tattoos could point you towards the beer pump most appropriate to your personal merry-making requirements. And how about some new business cards while we're at it?

"The Shakespeare Experience Malaga: Multi-pint solutions, for all your drinking needs".
Catchy.



SUR English

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A comparative study carried out by the Malaga provincial government has concluded that the Costa del Sol is the second most expensive destination in Spain, after the Balearic islands. When one puts oneself in the place of the consumer, if there is a shortage of something and prices go up that seems to be a defect, but when standing in the shoes of the seller, high prices are an advantage.

In tourism, as a holiday destination, we are no more than sellers in an increasingly competitive world, so being a destination which manages to sell itself even at high prices must be the most important advantage to which one can aspire.

The second part of the study gives more reason for optimism. Among the destinations analysed, the Costa del Sol is the one from which the visitors have left feeling most satisfied.

More so than in the Balearics, the Costa de la Luz, Costa de Almería, Costa Blanca, Costa Brava, Canary islands, the Algarve (Portugal) and Antalya (Turkey).

The combination of these circumstances is the ideal equation in any business, but especially in one with so much competition: the clients pay more, and at the same time are more

satisfied with what they have paid for. They go home with the sensation of having spent their money well, which is the best possible guarantee that they will want to return.

It cannot be said that our geography or nature, or even the way we have treated nature since the Costa del Sol resorts began to function as such, are our strong points. The

beaches are barely a pale version of what they used to be and there are recurring problems, such as the loss of sand due to bad weather and the jellyfish which turn up every year, and for whom there seem to be no solutions. Possibly, if there was just one administration managing the beaches, instead of three, we would at least know who to turn to.

On the other hand, the survey shows the real strengths of the Costa del Sol, beyond what can, and should, be said in the promotional campaigns. In first place, the workers, and in second place the cleanliness, which is the same as the effectiveness with which the hotel staff carry out this work. Location only appears as the third question, then comfort, services (which means people again) and finally the quality/price ratio. The eight sections evaluated all earned a score of more than eight points.

If one had to sum up this study, one would have to conclude that the people who work in businesses in the tourism sector are its best asset, the one we should look after most, and the one which will enable the Costa del Sol to maintain its advantage over rival destinations.

It would be a good idea not to forget that.

Strength

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

IN THE FRAME

An artist who is part of the landscape of Benamocarra



Diana Golledge. :: JENNIE RHODES

Diana Golledge is an artist who has lived in the village of Benamocarra for 16 years. She is a well-known and loved member of the community and often gives her paintings to people by way of thanks for helping her in different situations. One of her paintings, depicting three women from the village preparing the local muscatel raisins, has pride of place over the desk in the mayor's office.

JENNIE
RHODES

Diana Golledge has lived in the small Axarquía village of Benamocarra for 16 years and is definitely one of the locals. Everyone, Spanish and foreign, greets her warmly and she always has time for a quick chat, be it in Spanish or English.

Diana is an artist; she studied at Bristol Art School before attending Slade School of Fine Art in London. She went on to teach Art and History of Art at A Level and to first year fashion students in Gloucester, not far from Bath where she was born.

Many of her neighbours in Bena-

mocarra can tell you that they have had their portrait painted by Diana at some point and Diana says that art "is a great currency." She has painted people by way of thanking them for work they have done to her house and there must be few homes in the village that don't have one of the British artist's works. Even the mayor's office in the Town Hall has one of her paintings.

In fact the painting in the mayor's office depicts Anita, Encarna and Carmen, three women from Benamocarra, preparing muscatel raisins – one of the village's most important

produce. They are all sitting round a table at Encarna's house, no doubt chatting about their families, problems and life in general, while doing one of the most important jobs in this agricultural area.

Chat up lines

"I saw them one day and asked them if they wouldn't mind me painting them," explains Diana, who says that she has so many friends in the village because she is "nosey" and isn't "shy about asking people questions relating to their families and lives." Her questions have got her into trouble

before, however, as she recounts the day she was talking to a man in the chemist's when he said something to the chemist, who started laughing. "He thought I was trying to chat

Diana has noticed that the Spanish don't tend to have landscape paintings hanging in their houses

him up but the chemist assured him that I am just chatty," laughs Diana, who speaks very good Spanish and is often called on to do "impromptu interpreting" at the town hall, local mechanic's or similar.

The three ladies agreed to pose for Diana and the painting was created. In addition to the main piece, Diana also did individual paintings of Anita, Encarna and Carmen and presented to them as gifts "by way of thanks" for allowing her to paint them. That was 12 years ago and the three women are still alive, although Diana says that they are now quite elderly.

Diana has just completed a painting of the daughter of a builder who carried out a lot of restoration work on the house that her late husband bought upon his retirement. The painting was a wedding present to the daughter from her parents.

Sadly Diana's husband was diagnosed with advanced cancer and passed away soon after he bought the house. Diana decided that she would move to Spain anyway when she retired and she hasn't looked back since. She says she certainly has no plans to leave. "I wake up happy every day," she smiles. She still employs the family who helped with the original work to her house and has endless anecdotes about people from the village who have appeared in her paintings.

A reminder of hardship

As an artist and art historian, Diana is obviously interested in different artists and the meaning behind the plethora of genres that art encompasses. While here in Spain she explains that she uses mainly oils and paints landscapes, while in the UK she focussed mainly on people and in particular jazz musicians. One thing she says that struck her when she first came to Spain was that her neighbours didn't have landscapes hung in their houses, while foreign artists tend to travel here precisely for the captivating views and colours that the Axarquía has to offer. "I was told that the countryside has been cruel to them, many hours every day toiling in the fields has led to arthritis, back pain and other complaints, so they said why would they want a picture of something that reminds them of hardship," Diana explains.

Diana also runs painting courses with a couple in Benajarafe and spent five weeks teaching on a painting holiday in France in June and July this year. She's also involved in local organisations, such as the women's association (asociación de mujeres) in Benamocarra with whom she has even appeared on stage at the Teatro del Carmen in Vélez-Málaga. She has organised a poetry evening in the village and has given painting classes to villagers. Among all of that she also somehow fits in looking after her three dogs and nine cats.

While Diana says she does travel back to the UK sometimes and her family come to visit her in Spain she has no intention leaving the village "I can't leave my cats," she exclaims, while shaking her head at the mere thought of abandoning her busy life in the Axarquía.



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Much more than sun, sand and sea

There are plenty of different activities for people to enjoy in Marbella in the summer months

:: CRISTINA MORILLA

MARBELLA. This is one of the best times of the summer in Marbella. The temperature is ideal for those who want to enjoy a few days of sunshine and relaxation, and the beaches are quite busy. Unfortunately this year, there have been numerous jellyfish in the water and this is proving inconvenient for those who love to swim. Nevertheless, there are plenty of other activities available on the beaches for people of all ages to enjoy.

For example, on 'La Bajadilla' beach you will find the 'children's play area'. There, under the shade of a wooden roof over the small but well-designed space, María del Mar Chaves is in charge of the activities which include football and chess. The children are also encouraged to support recycling, through stories which they colour in. The play area is open every day from 11.30am to 8.30pm, and María del Mar says there has been a good response to the initiative:

"At weekends we are full, and on weekdays it is quite busy until 2pm. People normally like to have a siesta on the beach after lunch, and then we get busy again after 4 o'clock," she says. Most of those who use the facility live in Marbella: "a lot of older peo-



A young man enjoys the thrill of Flyboarding. :: JOSELE-LANZA



Children love the play area at La Bajadilla :: JORGE REY



The activity platform at El Cable. :: JORGE REY

ple bring their grandchildren here," she says.

In the heart of Marbella, on 'La Venus' beach, José Gutiérrez's com-

pany hires kayaks, paddle surfers and pedaloes by the hour, for between 10 and 20 euros. He says most of his clients are foreigners, although

local residents do come at weekends. The jellyfish have caused a major problem for businesses of this type. "It's terrible," he says. "When there

San Pedro Alcántara hosts the first 'Flamingo Race Party'

On Saturday 11 August the first float race, called 'Flamingo Race Party', will take place in San Pedro Alcántara. Those who want to participate can register at the Tuga Beach Marbella paddle-surfing school. It is free of charge, and starts at La Salida at 11.00am.

are a lot of jellyfish we can't work".

As the old saying goes, if you can't beat them then join them, and that is exactly what the Costa Water Park company has done: it is using a boat to take people out to its aquatic platform, to avoid the jellyfish. "We decided the best way round the problem was just to use the boat and take those who want to go out to the platform ourselves," says Ambrosio Ortiz, one of the life guards.

This platform, which costs 10 euros an hour, is off El Cable beach and is open every day from 11am to 8pm.

Meanwhile, plenty of other activities are available in Marbella's Leisure Port, including FlyBoard, which costs 60 euros for 15 minutes and can be done between 10am and 8pm every day.

Flyboarding involves standing on a board which is pulled by a jet ski, via an 18-metre hose. Water is forced under pressure to a pair of boots with jet nozzles underneath, thrusting the rider up into the air.

"It's an unusual sport because you control your direction by using your body," says Elodie Randazzo, who runs the facility.

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NEW EXHIBITION Interview with Mr. João Manuel Magalhaes, owner of Málaga's Automobile and Fashion Museum (Museo Automovilístico y de la Moda de Málaga)

“THE NEW EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM STANDS OUT FOR ITS SOPHISTICATION AND EXOTICISM. WE WANT TO SURPRISE PEOPLE!”

MÁLAGA

The Museum has a new temporary exhibition. What can we expect to find in this new display?

Sophistication, exoticism and brilliance. It's all perfectly summed up in its motto: “Be a star with us!”. The display includes a selection of summer dresses aimed at the young, glamorous, exuberant woman who wants to be “the next big thing”, or in other words a top model.

To this respect we propose a cocktail of leading brands such as Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Moschino, Marc Jacobs, Yves Saint Laurent and other more Parisian ones such as Dior by Galiano, Chanel by Lagerfeld, Pucci, Azzaro and the latest creations in our “Maga Sugar” line.

Altogether there are 14 spectacular outfits to make an impression at the most fashionable discos in Mónaco, Marbella or St Tropez.

What do you take into account while programming these temporary exhibitions?

We want to surprise people! Present something unique and innovative that can't be found in other cultural areas. In this case, we combine the dream of holidays in fashionable hangouts and exclusive, luxury surroundings. We love creating unusual things that didn't exist before! **The Museum's collections have managed to distinguish themselves for their attention to detail and for always seeking out the unexpected. Can we find anything like that in this temporary display?**

Yes, we have something sensational! Among other things, we're going to display the famous Dior jewelled bra covered in pearls, crystals and gold that was conceived by Gianfranco Ferré and served as inspiration for the “Fantasy Bra” that was worn by the beautiful Gisele Bündchen at the 2000 Victoria Secret show and is valued at 15 million euros.



We like to have extraordinary things!

You've made a new book. What is the aim of these publications?

The books are very detailed documents with texts and images that complement a visit. They take our increasingly diverse collections outside the museum. They're not just something visitors can take away with them as a present or a memento, they're also a marketing tool for us, it's a way to make our name and image travel to many other countries and continents.

This most recent book is called ‘Crystal Ball’ and reveals the art in every corner. It is actually our second to last as we're already preparing the next one!

Above these lines:

pictures of the new collection 'Maga Luxury'.
:: SUR

How are these contributions received?

Visitors seem very much interested and curious. Sales are increasing and they are not just a memento of the visit, they also make a great gift and are an excellent source of information on cars and Haute Couture. Our fashion book as so much content it has been dubbed “the Bible of the profession”.



João Manuel Magalhaes, owner of the Museum.::
MÁLAGA'S AUTOMOBILE AND FASHION MUSEUM (MAFM)

The Museum is among the Top Ten of “Things to do in Málaga” on TripAdvisor and among the 10 main museums in Spain. What do you think is the reason for this success?

Because we are many years ahead. We provide new forms of art, we make a fantastic combination of outstanding classical automobiles, haute couture brands and great designers. A

gold mine of facts, personalities and stories.

What do the visitors value the most?

Undoubtedly that we surpass their expectations. We provide much more than visitors are expecting and those who love the collection are constantly regaled with new pieces, designs, dresses and displays.

Our visitors are our great friends and they have also become thousands of reporters who share our name on social media, leading to larger audiences and more events. We come up with new ideas every day!

What new challenges are planned for the next few months?

We're going to focus a lot on what we call the “civilizational progress”, ie. Sustainability, equality, pet-friendly attitudes and technification.

Sustainability with the “Save the planet” concept. The collection includes six vehicles that use clean energy, dating from 1910 until now. We also display an abandoned car covered in vegetation in the nature section. The message is that nature returns to its course gradually and that the harm humans do to it can be irreversible.

We're one of just a handful of pet-friendly museums in the world as we allow them in every Monday.

Regarding equality, focusing on women, we offer a tour that takes us to the great women who were ahead of their time such as Peggy Guggenheim, Mrs. Conde Nast, the Duchess Luisa Casati, Simone de Beauvoir, Sonia Delaunay or Marlene Dietrich.

And of course, the technology revolution, as we're preparing a virtual visit. Want to know how museums will evolve in the 21st century? Talk to us!

ADVERTORIAL

Starlite continues its top-name line up

The Marbella festival welcomed James Blunt and Aerosmith's Steve Tyler as it passed its halfway point

Shows carry on until 25 August and this week will see performances from dancer Sara Baras and Scottish 90s success, Texas, among other acts

:: SUR

MARBELLA. The Starlite Festival, which began in mid July, passed its halfway point this week having seen a glittering line up of international and national stars perform and many more still to come.

In the past eight days the converted quarry venue on the hillside in Nagüeles, Marbella, welcomed Aerosmith's lead singer, US-born Steve Tyler; the UK's James Blunt; Fuengirola singer-songwriter Pablo López; Dutch performer Hardwell; and international flamenco star, Juan Peña, among other artists.

Aerosmith's Steve Tyler managed an impressive 70 minutes and brought out the old rocker in the Marbella audience. One minute for every year of the artist's age, with Tyler leaving the stage seemingly less tired than those still calling for more from their seats. Concertgoers were treated to a trip down rock's memory lane after an opening of the 1975 Sweet Emotion, through to Get a Grip from 1993.

Last Friday, Britain's pretty boy of folk music, James Blunt, brought a different but no-less enthusiastic crowd up the hill from the coast. Blunt played 90 minutes of his varied repertoire despite admitting to a hoarse voice, a victim of gruelling touring for over a year.

Starlite has now moved into the second half of its concert schedule, with highlights this week including flamenco performer Sara Baras on 12 August and Glasgow's 90s success, Texas, on 14 August.



Steve Tyler brought out the old rocker in all his audience. :: JORGE REY



James Blunt at Starlite. :: J-L



Texas sings on 14 August.:: STARLITE



Fuengirola's Pablo López gave an impressive performance. :: J-L

'La Vida Loca' hits Fuengirola as Ricky Martin prepares to sing

:: REGINA SOTORRÍO

MÁLAGA. The Marenostrom Castle Park auditorium in Fuengirola is to welcome Ricky Martin next Thursday, 16 August. The Puerto Rican heartthrob will share the bill with Malaga's iconic flamenco-chillout group, Chambao, at the temporary summer stage alongside So-hail castle, on the western edge of the resort. The venue, next to the

sea, has space for 11,000 spectators and the latest batch of tickets for the concert went on sale last Monday.

The Marenostrom Castle Park festival is being organised for the second year by Fuengirola council in a bid to raise the summer profile of the town and the staging has already become well-known for placing the artists in close proximity to the audience.



Ricky Martin will perform. :: EFE



Chambao's Lamari. :: F. ACEVEDO

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THIS WEEK IN PICTURES

ROYAL REGATTA WIN
ANTONIO BANDERAS'
BROTHER'S TEAM

The crew of Javier Banderas, brother of Antonio, were once again one of the winners at the Copa del Rey yacht races in Palma de Mallorca last weekend, in which the king himself came sixth. The 'Antonio Banderas Design' team is based in Benalmádena's Puerto Marina.

LOS ÁLAMOS
FESTIVAL SUCCESS
IN ESTEPONA

After relocating from Torremolinos this year, the all-night Los Álamos music festival attracted 70,000 to hear top international DJs.

EX-PM SEEN
ON BEACH AT
GUADALMINA

Spain's ex-prime minister, José María Aznar and his wife, ex-mayor of Madrid, Ana Botella, have been enjoying their holiday in Guadalmina, Marbella, where they have a home.

LUXURY ON
FOUR WHEELS
AT PADIERNA

The Villa Padierna Palace Hotel in Benahavís recently hosted the Autobello luxury car event. There were some 300 cars taking part, including plenty of examples of Ferrari and Rolls Royce.

MARBELLA
CHARITY
MARKET

The charity Horizonte Proyecto Hombre held its annual new and secondhand clothes market in the lush surroundings of Marbella's Alameda gardens last Sunday.

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REVIEW
MARK NAYLER

CAMARÓN DE LA ISLA TAKES CENTRE STAGE AGAIN

I never thought that Netflix would get me hooked on flamenco. But its recently-released, six-part series called “Camarón Revolution” has done just that. Rich in anecdotes and analysis relating not just to the great singer himself, but also the musicians he performed with, his family and the huge influence he had on flamenco, this superb documentary (which comes faultlessly subtitled in English) has got me listening to little else but Camarón de la Isla lately.

Cádiz-born Director José Escudier takes us chronologically through the life of José Monje Cruz (1950-1992), who was nicknamed “Camarón de la Isla” – Shrimp of the Island – as a boy because of his fair hair and slight build. Insights and anecdotes are provided by an impressive line-up of interviewees, including flamenco writers and musicians (To-

matito, one of Camarón’s most brilliant guitarists, features heavily), old friends and Camarón’s widow “La Chispa”, the beautiful gypsy girl he married in 1976, when she was just sixteen. And, of course, the great flamenco revolutionary himself, whose spaced-out manner of speaking is almost as captivating as his soul-shredding singing.

Escudier eschews flashy graphics and mawkish voice-overs, instead letting the music speak for itself. Moody close ups of photos of Camarón – often with his greatest accompanist, the guitarist Paco de Lucia – punctuate the interviews, as do extended pieces of footage of the Shrimp in concert, blowing people away with that incomparable voice.

The style is intimate and unpretentious, giving you the feeling that you’re being admitted into an exclusive circle of people who really knew the legend. The interviews themselves are always pointed, always illuminating: in one, a former bullfighter cries as he remembers how he felt safe in the ring if Camarón was watching. In

another, Cruz himself – a very shy man, often monosyllabic in conversation – admits that he if he really thought about all the people watching him in live concerts, he’d never go on stage. We’re told by various friends that the great singer loved dismantling radios and then putting them back together.

Episode three is one of the most interesting and deals with Camarón’s 1979 album “La Leyenda del Tiempo”, said by aficionados to be the record that changed flamenco forever (like many masterpieces, it was a flop at the time). Camarón outraged purists by fusing flamenco with pop and rock influences; in fact, people were so puzzled that they stormed back to El Corte Inglés in droves, demanding their money back because it was “not flamenco”.

After this episode finished, I went to my local CD store in Granada (yes, they still exist) and bought the album, but haven’t got around to listening to it yet. I haven’t been so excited to put a CD on since I became obsessed with Nirvana as a teenager. I doubt I’ll be taking it back to ask for a refund.

**CAMARÓN
REVOLUTION.**

Director: José Escudier. **Producer:** Mediaevents / Canal Sur. **Format:** Documentary / Mini-series



PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



A little girl greets a husky. :: SUR

A painful lesson learned

‘Let sleeping dogs lie’ is especially important in this hot weather

The population explosion we all know about, but it hit us last week when we went shopping at the local supermarket. No room to park the car and a building packed with kids so you could hardly move. Of course it is school holidays.

Leaving the trolley unattended for a moment, it vanished. It had been trolley-napped by a six-year-old boy and found, obligingly, in the booze department. A concerned mother was looking for its keeper and reprimanding the child for taking it. We claimed possession then noticed the boy had his hand in a large bandage. We asked the mother what had happened.

“It was a brute of a dog belonging to my parents where we are staying,” came the reply. The “brute” turned out to be a Yorkie. I guessed what had happened, it was the old, familiar story.

The young family had come to Spain on holiday and were spending part of it with her parents. They had no pets at home in Bristol and on arrival at the parents’ house, the boy

had made a beeline for the lovely cuddly dog which was wagging its tail.

The dog was not so enamoured and saw the approach by a stranger as an attack and reacted accordingly.

This happens every year without fail. The consequence is that the child develops a fear of dogs which could take some time to overcome.

If you have visitors with a young child please do ensure the pets and children are under control and never leave them together without the supervision of a responsible adult.

Make sure the child respects the animal and does not haul him or her about like a toy and always make a gradual approach from the front, never from out of the animal’s sight line.

In the hot weather animals love to doze and resent having their sleep disturbed. Yesterday afternoon I snatched a little sleep and was suddenly awoken by a phone call; I can understand the reaction of a dog, I felt snappy too!

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RACHEL HAYNES



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

10 AUGUST 1974

Spain lifts ban on women bullfighters

In 1974, Spain was still governed by a dictatorship and Francisco Franco, albeit in poor health, would live for more than a year. However that did not stop some law changes to bring the country slowly into a world of equal opportunities.

One of this steps forward came on 10 August of that year when the government decreed the suspension of the article in the Bullfighting Regulations that prohibited women from taking on a bull on foot in the ring.

This particular ban, which still allowed women to play a part in a bullfight on horseback, had been in force since 1940, however a previous prohibition had been brought in by decree in 1909, and lasted until 1934, when the brief Second Republic declared equal rights for all Spaniards.

In her book *Women and the Bullring*, published in English in 2003, Muriel Feiner looks at the

history of women in the male-dominated world of bullfighting, not just those who aspired to become 'toreras' themselves but also women taking on other roles such as breeders, journalists, photographers, managers, artists and impresarios.

Feiner, who moved from her native New York to Spain in her 20s having fallen in love with the world of bullfighting, pays long overdue attention to women whose presence was ignored by traditional historians.

The most important female bullfighter of the 19th century, according to Feiner, was La Pajuelera, who was painted by Goya spearheading a bull on horseback.

Taking advantage of the equality ruling in the Second Republic, the Palmeño Sisters, Enriqueta and Amalia Almenara, whose father ran a bullfighting school in Perpignan, earned a name for themselves in bullrings around



Angela, in 2011, with a photo from her bullfighting days . :: SUR

the country in the late 1930s. During the same period, Juanita Cruz demonstrated her skills in Spain, until the Civil War forced her into exile in Mexico and a career in American bullrings.

One name linked especially to the decree of 10 August 1974, however, is Angela, the first 'torera' to earn her licence after the lifting of the ban. María de los Ángeles Hernández Gómez - Angela - was born in Alicante in 1946, but

moved with her family to Algeciras. Her enthusiasm for bullfighting was such that at just 13 she jumped into the bullring at a charity event in Alicante. She then learned how to ride a horse, the only way that regulations would allow her into the ring. Other countries did not have the same rules, however, and her desire to face a bull on foot took her to Mexico, Guatemala, Panama and Venezuela. She returned to Spain in

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Prohibición	Ban
Mujer	Woman
Torera	Female bullfighter
Derechos	Rights
Hermana	Sister
Suspensión	Suspension
Ganadero	Breeder
Decreto	Decree
Igualdad	Equality
Saltar	To jump
Caballo	Horse
Escuela	School
Discriminación	Discrimination
Historiador	Historian
Fotógrafo/a	Photographer

1970 and started her campaign to lift the ban, which culminated in the decree of 1974.

Angela appeared in a bullring as a fully fledged torera in September that year in Jerez de los Caballeros (Badajoz). After struggling with repeated injuries she was forced to retire, but reappeared in the ring in America in 1986; her last bullfight was in Elche (Alicante) in 1990. She continued to work in the business however, as a representative of breeders and a manager for bullfighters. Angela died in Madrid in 2017.

Bilingual crossword
inside back page

Fearless Age Concern members prepare for zip wire challenge

Six pensioners and a SUR in English reporter will ride the only cross-border zip wire in Europe to raise funds for the charity

:: TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Age Concern Fuenengirola/Mijas has announced that its latest thrill-seeking fundraising

event will take place on Wednesday 10 October. Following last year's daredevil skydive, which raised over 2,000 euros, the charity has now invited its members and supporters to ride the longest and only cross-border zip wire in Europe.

Participants will cross over the Guadiana river on the 720 metre journey from Huelva to Portugal at speeds of between 70 and 80 kilometres per hour.

Six Age Concern volunteers, and



Participants will make the crossing at about 80km per hour. :: SUR

Participants will cross the 720 metres from Huelva into Portugal over the Guadiana river

a SUR in English reporter, will participate in this unique event, and the charity is appealing to local businesses and individuals to sponsor it's latest fundraising challenge.

"One of the reasons we are doing the challenge is to show that senior citizens can still do exciting things. They don't have to be stuck at home. I think it will be a bit of fun and hopefully we'll raise some money for Age Concern," secretary, Steve Marshall, told SUR in English.

Those wishing to sponsor the event should contact Steve on 667 83 44 50.

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The truth about a cursed short movie

A new documentary looks for an explanation to the events at Cortijo Jurado, Malaga, some 18 years ago

Disease, fires and sudden disappearances jinxed a production that represented the struggle to succeed of a generation of brave local filmmakers

MALAGA. It's the year 2000, local men Jorge Rivera and Kike Mesa are filming a short movie entitled *The Ultimate Heist*. The chosen location is Cortijo Jurado, an abandoned 19th century mansion, visible by the A-357 motorway near Campanillas, just outside Malaga city, and which is said to be haunted.

However, the movie never saw the light of a day after several strange things happened during the film-

REGINA SOTORRÍO

@ReginaSotorrio



ing that caused a halt to the production. Urban myths about this ill-fated project have linked the mysterious happenings in 2000 to the sinister reputation of the large ruined house.

During the filming, the Dutch actor Hans Mayer firstly injured his leg in a lift shaft and the script had to be changed so he could use a stick. Then he disappeared mysteriously while on his way to visit his family in the Netherlands. His relatives

never saw him again and a police investigation was supposedly opened. Up until this day, nobody knows what happened to the actor.

This wasn't the only odd thing. One young child in the movie became quite ill and had to spend four months in hospital without doctors really knowing what was wrong with him. What's more, the green-grocers in the city centre where some of the scenes were shot caught fire soon afterwards.

However, the most shocking phenomenon for the team was to find out that the computer that they were working with deleted all the material that was uploaded, not once but five times. Every time that the work was saved, it mysteriously disappeared without any explanation.

The fifth time the footage was put on a VHS before doing the voice over and this prevented the material from being lost again. Thanks to this and the uncut images that were collected by Paulino Cuevas, it was possible to recreate the visual part of the story for the new documentary with the real images taken from the shootings.

In the end, due to the many setbacks that the project had suffered, production was cancelled. Eighteen years later, the same directors, Jorge Rivera and Kike Mesa, have returned and are looking for the truth behind the unlucky story of this jinxed short film from 2000 through a full-length documentary.

Back in 2000, *The Ultimate Heist* was the adaptation for film of a story

by H. P. Lovecraft, an American writer mostly known for his work on horror fiction and who was posthumously considered one of the most important writers of the 20th century in his field.

The title of the new documentary is 'Imborrable' (Unfadeable) and, after a round of crowdfunding, will hopefully begin shooting in October.

Rivera, who packed up everything and moved to Copenhagen 14 years ago to boost his career as a film director, will start shooting for the documentary in Denmark, to create a Spanish-Danish coproduction that will fulfil his desire to go back to the start and terminate what he left unfinished back then. It will also be released with English subtitles

Shooting at all costs

As Jorge Rivera recalls, making movies back then was really different from nowadays. It was a really exciting time for young filmmakers, "a mad and spontaneous time", where the image of the future of Spanish film production was the crazy film director.

However, getting things done was not an easy task back then, and this was not down to supernatural events. As Rivera and Kike Mesa commented, "The only curse was the cinema in Malaga. We were poor, daring and with the desire to create things."

"We wanted to do films at any cost in a Malaga where nobody was doing films, this is what made us cursed, not because of anything supernatural but rather for what living in Malaga meant at that time".

This is a much more plausible explanation for the challenges that the team had to face while filming the original in 2000.

Rivera and Mesa have always been quite skeptical about the strange goings on. They say that, at the time, they were told that team members were seeing strange things and that there were ghosts on the set, but this was only highlighting the poor working condition and the lack of reliable materials for the creation of the film, which caused the material to be lost five times. "It's seems impossible. But it happens sometimes, just like winning the lottery," muses Rivera.

A tribute to a generation

The documentary, *Unfadeable*, which will open its crowdfunding campaign in September, will be a tribute to that generation of young filmmakers that wanted to create art at all costs, even going beyond their possibilities. For the directors, it is also a way to close the circle, the real and the fictional, of Malaga's cursed cinematic production.

Perhaps they will accomplish their mission and shine a light on this mystery, unless the documentary gets deleted in the process.



◀ **Filming.** The clapperboard with the names of Jorge and Kike, which marks the beginning of the shooting for Cortijo Jurado in the year 2000.

◀◀ **The team.** Gustavo Algarra, Adelardo Méndez Moya, Paulino Cuevas, Jorge Rivera, Kike Mesa and Lone Vibe Pedersen, filming on the property. Below, the actors Pepe González Rubio and Pepe Salas.

▼ **Script.** The original storyboards of Manuel López Cuevas for the film 'The Ultimate Heist' :: SUR



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Ciro Tamayo, a high-flying ballet dancer from Malaga

He is known for his seemingly impossible jumps and his acting ability, which led the National Ballet in London to invite him to perform as a guest artist

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. "I have earned my place here". After seven years with the company, four of them as its lead dancer, Ciro Tamayo has reason to speak with such confidence. He was speaking to us by phone on his day off, at the height of the season for the National Ballet of Uruguay, where he is performing in 'The Merry Widow'.

Now aged 24, he has lost count of the number of roles he has danced with the company, which is now directed by Igor Yebra. The previous director was Julio Bocca, who spotted Ciro Tamayo at an international dance competition when he was still in his teens.

Now, this young man from Malaga has made a name for himself in Uruguay and elsewhere: a few months ago he was invited by the English National Ballet to perform in 'La Sylphide' at the London Coliseum.

He is not discounting the idea of working in Europe, but says there is no urgency. "I don't have any specific aspirations. Everything happens when it is meant to. I'm happy in Uruguay for the moment," he says.

Spain doesn't feature in his plans at all. "I don't believe there are the opportunities which ballet deserves in Spain. Spanish dancers are working all over the world," he says.

He had not been expecting the call from the English National Ballet, which is currently directed by Tamara Rojo, who is also from Spain. He is the first of the Uruguay company's dancers to be invited - and on two oc-

casions - to dance the lead with a European company. "It was fantastic, for someone who has grown up in a small company. I would never have become the lead dancer in London, but they rang me to dance for a season as a guest artist. Chances like that don't come along very often, and when they do it is amazing," he says.

Spending so much time abroad has made him mature early and given him a Uruguay accent which makes people think he is a local. But Tamayo is from the Olletas district of Malaga; he trained there before going on to Madrid and then the Royal Ballet School in London.

"The only thing that still seems strange here is the food," he says, laughing. But his mother is visiting him for a while, and teaching him to make some of his favourite recipes from home.

Ciro Tamayo flies high in his career and also in his dancing. His impossible leaps have made him famous.

BIOGRAPHY

► **Born:** Malaga, 1993.

► **Training.** At the Ateneo de Música y Danza in Malaga, the Conservatorio Profesional de Danza in Malaga, the Real Conservatorio Profesional Mariemma in Madrid and the Royal Ballet School in London.

► **Career.** In 2011 Julio Bocca signed him for the National Ballet of Uruguay, and he was promoted to lead dancer in 2014.

"People often ask how I do it, but I don't know. I suppose it's a mixture of genetics, technique, training... there's no secret to it," he explains. Technique, however, is not the most important thing for Ciro. "I place a lot of emphasis on performance. Clas-

sical ballets tell a story; many of them are tragedies, very dramatic, and you have to transmit that to the audience. It's not enough to just pull the right face. You have to feel the suffering. I love seeing how the audiences react, and what gestures I should use to get the feeling across. That's what I find satisfying," he says.

A 'click' after an injury

Nearly three years after suffering the first injury of his career, something went 'click' in his mind and he now works differently with his body. After dancing 'Giselle' in 2015, one of his feet began to hurt; it became worse and worse and eventually he needed an operation, which was carried out in Buenos Aires (he had to pay for it himself). But he realised there was something more behind it; he had been pushing himself to the limit.

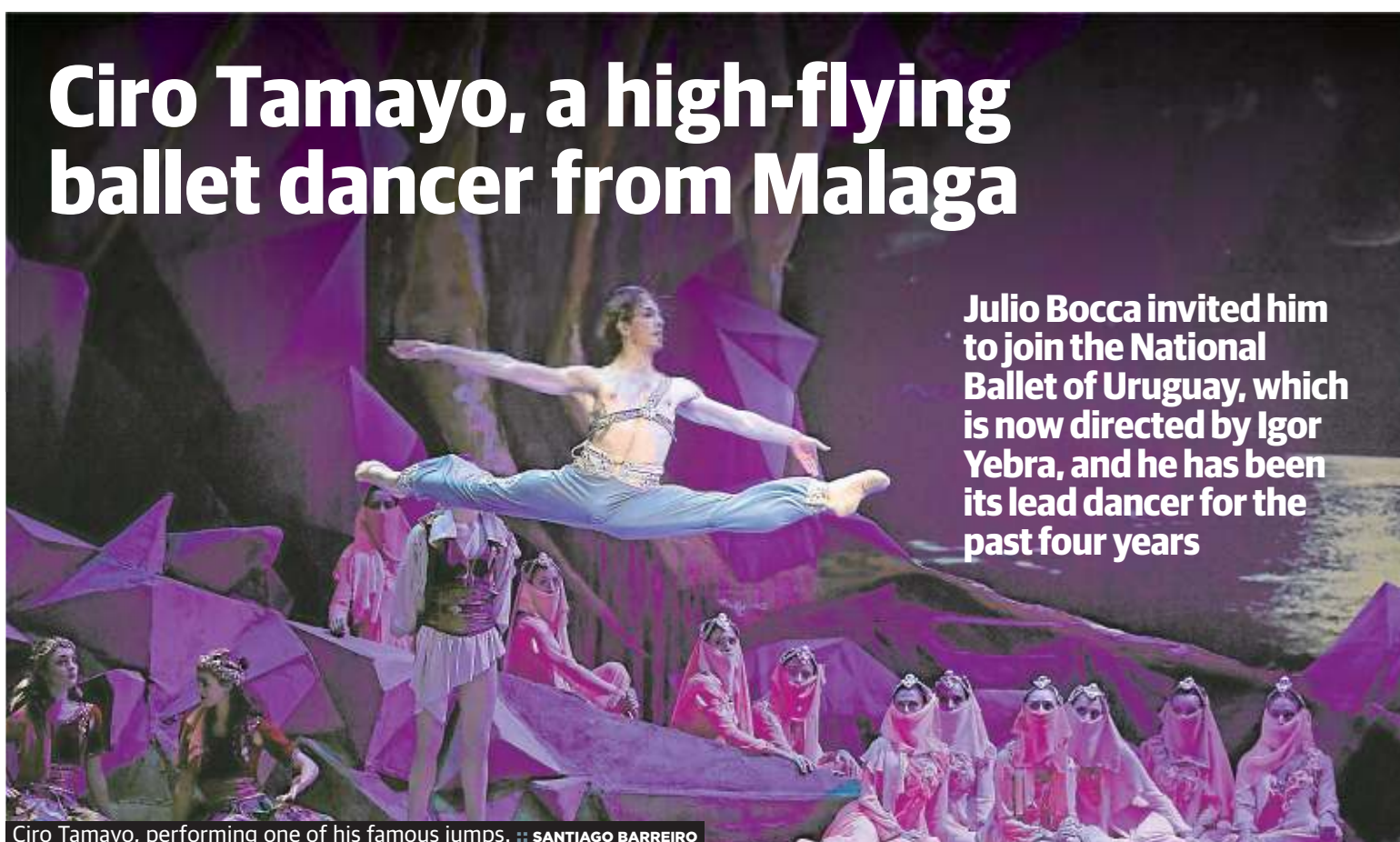
"I was going through a difficult time, a period of transition, and I

needed to stop for a while. My head was spinning. I needed a rest and my body took that seriously," he explains.

Six months passed before he was able to dance again, but when he was ready, Julio Bocca gave him his place back with the company. "There are some people you always want beside you. You have to fight and prove what you can do, but I'm sure of myself and my work, and the public notices that," he says.

He was happy to be back and had learned a lesson. "I realised that my work depends on my body and I only have one body. It's a tool and I have to look after it," he says.

He now recognises that when a dancer begins there are no limits and they keep repeating an exercise over and over again until it hurts. Nowadays, he doesn't keep quiet about it: if it hurts, he stops. "Because if you break yourself, you don't have anything to replace yourself with," he says.



Ciro Tamayo, performing one of his famous jumps. REGINA SOTORRÍO

Julio Bocca invited him to join the National Ballet of Uruguay, which is now directed by Igor Yebra, and he has been its lead dancer for the past four years

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GARDENING

Craspedia globosa

Adaptable and drought resistant, Craspedia forms a clump of silvery-green foliage topped by yellow, drum-stick blooms

Craspedia is a genus in the Asteraceae family (daisies) and originates from Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania where it is a perennial wild flower. It is very popular with florists for both fresh and dried flower arrangements as the bright-

yellow, spherical flower heads are long lasting and form on long, stiff stems up to 90cm tall.

The common names for Craspedia globosa, one species in the

genus that is particularly good for gardens, include Billy buttons, Billy balls, Wollyheads and Drumstick flowers. It is adaptable to most types of soils except acidic, as long as they are free draining.

The silvery-green leaves are grass-like and grow in rosettes; each rosette will produce one flower stem. Eventually the rosettes will form a large domed clump which can be divided by lifting in the autumn and removing rosettes from around the edge - although getting them established can be a slow process. A better way to propagate Craspedia globosa is by seed sown in the spring.

Craspedia is drought resistant once established but for the best display of flowers from late spring and right through the summer, regular watering and plenty of sunshine is needed. It is a plant that likes to have its head in the hot sun and its 'feet' in the cool shade so cover the base with a thick layer of mulch or gravel. It is not frost hardy although will survive most winters if mulched adequately.

The sulphur yellow golf-ball-shaped flowers will appear all year round in temperate climates and are said to symbolise good health. The flower heads are made up of masses of tiny flowers and for flower displays are best picked when open about half way. C. globosa is an example of the mathematical perfection of plants; the tiny flowers in each sphere are arranged in a flawless Fibonacci spiral.



Craspedia globosa and a close up of the flower (inset). :: FLIKR

READERS' PHOTOS

A DAFFODIL FROM PERU

The Peruvian daffodil or Hymenocallis narcissiflora is not a true daffodil but is a member of the same family (Amaryllidaceae). It is also known as a Spider Lily due to the spidery look of the petals and is a perennial bulb, dying back in the winter. It flowers during the summer and has a gorgeous scent. This photo was sent in by reader Kath Blythe.



:: KATH BLYTHE



:: JARDÍN BOTÁNICO LA CONCEPCIÓN

A LOT OF ALOYSIA

August is the month to visit the La Concepción botanical gardens in Malaga to see a rather lovely example of Aloysia looseri. Its common name is Beebrush but the genus is named for María Luisa of Parma (1751-1819), wife of King Charles IV of Spain.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. 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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Haute couture in summer

The Museum of Motoring and Fashion's 'Maga Luxury' exhibition is taking place until the end of this month, with 14 exclusive pieces on display

MALAGA. Fashion is eternal. That is the slogan which most identifies the essence of the Museum of Motoring and Fashion, which is hosting the 'Maga Luxury' temporary exhibition until 30 August. It is a collection of 14 exclusive pieces of haute couture from the summer 'Maga Sugar Cruiser' line.

"These are short cocktail dresses, in gauzy fabrics, ideal for summer," says Noelia Díaz, the head of communication at the museum.

The idea came from the owner, Joao Magalhaes, who sourced each piece himself to ensure that together they would create a unique concept related to this time of year. Each item in the exhibition has something special, such as being hand-stitched with precious stones.

**ALEJANDRO
DÍAZ**



If visitors want an idea of the value of the items on display, they won't find it easy. "The value, in financial terms as well as historic terms, can't be calculated. You have to realise that many of them are so exclusive that at auction they would reach sums we can't even imagine," says Noelia.

Among the accessories in the exhibition are a jewelled bra from Christian Dior which was presented on the terrace of the pres-

tigious Copacabana Palace hotel and was one of the designer's most famous creations. Firms such as Chanel, Pucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Moschino, Prada, Ungaro and Marc Jacobs are also represented in the 'Maga Luxury' collection.

Most pieces were acquired at auction in London and Paris and have come from private collections all over the world. "Apart from the seven haute couture exhibitions we have on permanent display, since the museum opened we have always tried to provide our visitors with a unique experience and something extra, because we see that they keep coming back to enjoy our temporary exhibitions as well," says Noelia.

Jewelled bra.

Also by designer Christian Dior, this is one of the most valuable pieces in the exhibition.



The season chosen for this exhibition was not coincidental. The Museum of Motoring and Fashion in Malaga receives the highest number of visitors in the summer. "The temporary exhibition is the perfect excuse to see the rest of the museum as well, because the ticket includes all the rooms and people can do a complete tour," she says. The pieces on display are as fashionable and valuable now as they were when they were created.

"They also serve as an inspiration for many of the professionals from the world of fashion who visit us," she explains.

Entry to the museum costs six euros for people who live in Malaga city, and 8.50 euros for others.

August is also the busiest month in terms of tourists in Malaga, a city which is popular with people who want more than sunshine and beaches. "Malaga is a city of culture and a city of museums," says Noelia.

This museum has certainly made a name for itself as one of the most unusual in the province, and is included in the 'Top Ten' things to do in the Tripadvisor guide to the city.

It is also suitable for visitors of all ages and interests. They include families with children, young couples, pensioners and groups of young people.

"Next week we have workshops for children every day from 10am to 2pm, explains Noelia. Those taking part will also be able to see the rest of the museum.

From the first prototypes of the 'Belle Époque' to futuristic models, plus classics from all contemporary periods such as Cadillac, Ferrari, Mercedes, a visit to this museum is like taking a trip through history along two different routes: motoring, and fashion.



Yves Saint Laurent.
Flowers and bright colours.



Moschino.
Another example of 'maga luxury'.

Jewellery.
Precious stones and hand-stitching define these haute couture pieces.

Masks.
A detail from the exhibition.



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UB40 celebrates 40th anniversary in Estepona

BY TONY BRYANT

ESTEPONA. The legendary UK reggae band, UB40, are coming to Estepona next week as part of their 40th Anniversary Tour.

Following the release earlier this year of *A Real Labour Of Love* - their most successful album for 25 years and which gives the tour its name, the band, starring original members Ali Campbell, Astro, and Mickey Virtue, will perform at the Plaza de Toros in Estepona on Thursday 16 August.

The band will be celebrating with a greatest hits set that will feature global smash hits including *Red Red Wine*, *King*, *Rat in mi Kitchen* and *Kingston Town*. Ali, Astro and Mickey will be joined on-stage by an eight-piece reggae band.

Formed in Birmingham in 1978, the band, whose name was taken from the official unemployment form, was noted for its social and political commitment. The ethnic make-up of the band's original line-up was diverse, with musicians of English, Irish, Jamaican, Scottish and Yemeni parentage.

The band have had more than 50 singles in the UK singles charts



Ali Campbell will perform some of UB40's biggest hits. :: SUR

and have sold over 70 million records worldwide; holding the record, along with ska band, Madness, for the most weeks spent in UK singles charts during the 1980s. The band has been nominated at the Grammy awards for Best Reggae Album on four occasions and in 1984, they were nominated for the Brit Awards Best British Group.

The band was originally formed by Ali Campbell and his brother, Robin - who came from a family with a long music tradition - but

after constant disagreements, Ali left the band in 2008 to concentrate on a solo career. It wasn't long before Astro and Virtue quit the original line-up, teaming up with Ali Campbell to form the new band that will perform in Estepona on Thursday.

The concert, organised by Rock Lounge, will begin at 10pm, although doors will open at 8pm. Tickets cost between 38 and 53 euros, or 75 euros for the VIP area.

www.rocklounge.koo-bin.com

EXHIBITIONS

Biennial Contemporary Art

Marbella. The Cultural Centre Kunsthau Berlin, Poligono Nueva Campana local 2 Nueva Andalucía. This exhibition is run in collaboration with the Fred Friedrich Foundation, the Marbella Town-Hall and the Mexican Ambassador in Spain, Don Raphael de la Madrid. Fifteen local and international artists are exhibiting their work. info@redaktionkhbm.de.

Pierre Louis Geldenhuys

Marbella. Until 30 August, Kempinski Hotel Bahía. An exhibition of works by fashion designer Pierre Louis Geldenhuys, who has developed the ground breaking technique of tessellation. "Tessellation is one step further from origami towards geometry and engineering" explained the artist. Geldenhuys uses the power of filtered light and a technique similar to origami to pleat and fold fabrics creating stunning original works.



Mediterráneo, Thyssen museum



Pierre Geldenhuys, Marbella

Benezra Gallery

Marbella. Until 28 August. Avda Tomás Pascual, Urb La Quinta Golf.

The gallery has a new collection of art and sculptures by artists Aderita Silva, Raborama, Luis Agullo and Rogerio Timoteo among others.

Pedro Rodríguez

Marbella. Permanent exhibition, Kempinski Hotel Bahía.

Pedro Rodríguez 'Pedrín', a Malaga sculptor, has an exhibition of his works in the Galería de Arte de Pedrín in the Kempinski. One of his works 'Olly', a magnificent bull, can be found in the entrance to the hotel.

Entre Tierra y Mar

Marbella. Until 7 September. Salón Enseñada Hotel El Fuerte, C/El Fuerte.

An exhibition of watercolours by Adrián Marmolejo.

Magpie International Gallery

Marbella. Until 29 August. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.

The exhibition, Home Planning, consist of collages made with old blue prints, illustrations and drawings with architecture and design as the primary theme created by Anula Mixtura.

Ruiz de Luna

Malaga. Museo Municipal del Patrimonio (MUPAM), Paseo de Reding. An exhibition dedicated to the Ruiz de Luna ceramic dynasty. Around 300 pieces are on display including ceramics, drawings, watercolours and sculptures.

Malaga Glass Museum

Malaga. Permanent exhibition. Plazuela Santísimo Cristo de la Sangre.

The glass museum has two new glass panels on display that have been painstakingly restored. They were both made by the Spanish company Mauméjean.

'Neighbours III'

Malaga. Permanent collection. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania.

Works by local Malaga artists are on display in 'Neighbours III'. Many different techniques and subjects are included.

Naturaleza

Malaga. Until 30 September. Museum Jorge Rando.

The latest exhibition by Malaga artist Jorge Rando is entitled 'naturaleza'.

El Bestiario de Picasso

Malaga. Until 7 October. Fundación Picasso, Casa Natal.

Picasso depicted animals using various techniques between 1905 and 1968 and this exhibition uses illustrations, books ceramics, original drawings and photographs to demonstrate Picasso's thoughts and creativity.

Guitar legacy

Malaga. Museo Interactivo de Música Málaga (MIMMA).

The museum is exhibiting instruments, documents and tools belonging to the Dominguez family. The workshop of Francisco Domínguez Valderrama and then his son José Domínguez García, was the



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last of the Malaga school of guitar makers which was started in the seventeenth century. They carried on the legendary Casa Lorca tradition making guitars, lutes and bandurrias (a type of lute).

The Russian museum

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

The seasonal exhibition 'La Mirada Viajera. Artistas Rusos Alrededor del Mundo' consists of 105 pieces including works by Krachkovsky, Clement Redko, Konstantin Makovsky and Alexandr Deineka among others. Also included in the seasonal exhibit which is open until September this year, are works by Mikhail Schwartzman. The permanent exhibition running until February 2019 is entitled 'Radiante Porvenir. El Realismo Soviético' and consists of 132 works, many on loan from the museum in Saint Petersburg. The collection covers the period between the 30s and the 50s in Russia, a time of great controversy. The interior staircase of the museum now has an abstract painting by D. Darko and entitled 'Primer Movimiento', completed as part of Málaga de Festival Cine en Español. It is on display until March 2019.



Dolls' houses, Benalmádena

Movimiento Espartaco

Marbella. Until 18 April 2020. Museo Ralli Marbella.

For the first time in Spain, an exhibition of works by the Argentinian collective of the 60s who expressed the political and social problems of the country through their art.

2 Más 4

Malaga. Until 16 August. Estudio de Ignacio del Río, C/San Lorenzo, 29.

Teté Vargas Machuca, Isabel garello, José Seguiri, Sebastián Navas, Javier Roz and José Ganfornina will be displaying their works in this collective exhibition.



Picasso, Casa Natal Malaga



Encuentros, Genalguacil

Pedro Reyes

Malaga. Until 2 September. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. 'Prana' is a short video created by Mexican artist Pedro Reyes. It shows a black ball and a white ball which mold themselves into different shapes and forms. They grow, shrink, twist and writhe. 'Prana' is Sanskrit for 'vital energy'.

Ocho

Malaga. Until 6 September. Centro Cultural María Victoria Atencia, C/Ollerías 34. The Malaga Provincial Government is displaying eight, large format works from its Colección de Arte Contemporáneo. The works are by: Manuel León, Javier Garcera, Miguel Gómez Losada, Javier Calleja, Laura Brinkmann, José María Córdoba, Manuel Bautista and José Manuel Velasco. Entry is free.

Naturaleza

Malaga. Until 30 September. Museum Jorge Rando. The latest exhibition by Malaga artist Jorge Rando is entitled 'naturaleza'.

El Bestiario de Picasso

Malaga. Until 7 October. Fundación Picasso, Casa Natal. Picasso depicted animals using various techniques between 1905 and 1968 and this exhibition uses illustrations, books ceramics, original drawings and photographs to demonstrate Picasso's thoughts and creativity.

Jean Dubuffet

Malaga. Until 14 October. Centro Pompidou. The new temporary exhibition 'Traveller Without a Compass' focuses on the founder of the Art Brut movement, Jean Dubuffet.

José Luis Puche

Malaga. Until 26 August. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Malaga artist José Luis Puche has an exhibition at the CAC until

Nerja becomes musical every Friday night throughout August

:: JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. Nerja's fourth Música En Otros Espacios festival will be ongoing throughout August and will offer three concerts in two outdoor venues.

The jazz band Wild Bunch, will be the first performance on Friday 10 August at the Hotel Paraíso del Mar (Calle Prolongación Hernando de Carabeo 22). Wild Bunch is made up of Enrique Oliver on saxophone, Felix Rossy on the trumpet, Romeu Tristao on the double bass and Joao Pereira on drums.

On Friday 17 August jazz/flamenco quartet, Chapi Pineda, will be performing at the Hostal Mena in Calle Barrio. Chapi Pineda plays guitar and is described as playing pure flamenco with magical jazz notes. He will be joined by Ángel Andrés Muñoz on the piano, Manuel Luque on percussion and Rafa Moreno on double bass.

The final performance of the festival will take place on Friday 24 August at Hostal Mena. Águeda Saavedra is considered one of the young stars of fla-



The Chapi Pineda Quartet. :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **What.** 'Music in Other Spaces' festival.

► **Where.** Hotel Paraíso del Mar and Hostal Mena, Nerja.

► **When.** Fridays in August, 10pm.

► **Further information.** www.ventana-abierta.es

menco dance today. She currently works with the Manuel

Liñán, Marcos Flores, and Jesús Carmona companies as well as developing her own projects.

She will be joined by guitarist, Francisco Vinuesa and flamenco singer, Jose Manuel Fernández.

All of the performances start at 10pm and tickets cost 15 euros.

Tickets can be purchased in Nerja at Calle Dr Ferrán 1 (Edificio Vélez-Málaga) or by calling 690073871, emailing ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com, or visiting the website www.ventana-abierta.es

August. His works vary from just a few centimetres to monumentally large formats and include various themes but have one constant, they are all created in charcoal with touches of colour from pastels or crayons.

Mediterráneo. Arcadia Reinventada

Malaga. Until 9 September. Museo Thyssen. The exhibition consists of works by 60 artists, both French and Spanish, from the middle of the twentieth century.

Monet / Boudin

Malaga. Until 30 September. Museo Thyssen. The exhibition Monet/Boudin offers visitors the opportunity to discover the relation between the great Impressionist painter Claude Monet (Paris, 1840 - Giverny, 1926) and his master Eugène Boudin (Honfleur, 1824 - Deauville, 1898). The exhibition consists of 100 works by the two artists.

Hullo, Hullo

Malaga. Until 9 September. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Rose Wylie, an 84 year old British artist discovered the world of art just ten years ago and is exhibiting in Spain for the first time.

'Deja que la vida fluya'

Malaga. Until 18 September. Alfajar, C/Císter. An exhibition by Mercedes Lirola.

Encuentros de Arte

Genalguacil. Until 15 August.

Ten artistic projects will be available to view created by professional and amateur artists temporarily living in the village as well as art workshops and other activities. The inauguration of the event is 11 August.

Dolls House exhibition

Benalmádena. Until 14 December. Centro de Exposiciones de Benalmádena. An exhibition of not just dolls houses but all types of dolls and miniatures too in this exhibition by collector Voria Harras.

PIAF jewellery exhibition

Torremolinos. Until 20 August. Casa de Los Navajas. Free. The creations of designer Margarita Melero, founder of PIAF jewellery, are on display. She is known for her surrealist designs using gold, precious stones and silk among other luxury materials.

Art Gallery Costa del Sol

Mijas. A permanent exhibition at the new art gallery in the Club House 'Cerrado del Águila' Paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics are on display by artist such as Pedro Bueno, Teresa M. Martín and José B. Angulo.

Picasso ceramics

Mijas. Permanent exhibition. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Mijas, Calle Málaga, 11am - 7pm. An exhibition of 44 ceramics created by Malaga artist, Pablo Ruiz Picasso.



Alfajar, Malaga

Galería Krabbe

Frigiliana. Until 9 September. C/Rosario. A new exhibition at the Krabbe gallery in Frigiliana.

Martín Corradini

Fuengirola. Until 14 September. Homes, Real Estate & Art. Avda Los Boliches. This exhibition consists of black and white photographs taken by Martín Corradini while he was on a trip to Gambia with the NGO Nakupenda Sana.

Happy Artists

Mijas Costa. Until 4 September. Norwegian Church, El Campanario, Calahonda. Artists from the Happy Artists group are exhibiting a collection of paintings in diverse styles by artists Wendy Lucas, Josephine Quintero, Jane Gomis, Astrid Frida Zehetner and Gunnvor Sorhus.

EXHIBITIONS

Photo exhibition

Mijas Costa. Until 20 August. Centro Cultural La Cala

An exhibition by the Sociedad Fotográfica Costa del Sol, the first photographic club for English speakers on the coast. Email: photoclubspain@gmail.com

Carromato de Max museum

Mijas Pueblo. Permanent exhibition.

An extensive collection of miniature art.

María Zambrano

Vélez-Málaga. Permanent exhibition. Palacio de Beniel de Vélez-Málaga. Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm.

An exploration into the life and works of Málaga-born philosopher and writer María Zambrano. For further information call 952500244.



Hermanas Sister, Ocean Bar

CHARITY

Cabaret for Cats

Alhaurín el Grande. 11 August, from 7pm for food first or 10pm for concert. Venta La Recta. 10€.

The Sound Bites will be performing ballads, pop songs, and all-time favourites from The Carpenters and The Bee Gees to Amy Winehouse and Whitney Houston plus many others. All proceeds will be donated to Gift of Life, a cat rescue organisation. Concert is 10€, food is 10€. Tickets: Martins or Cristina's paper shop in AEG. Bookings: Cathy on 952 112 057

Charity golf tournament

Marbella. 11 August, Marbella and Aloha Golf Club.

In the morning of 9 August the golf tournament will be played in Texas Scramble mode at Marbella Golf Club and on the Saturday will be the gala dinner / buffet with entertainment, prize giving and charity raffle at Aloha Golf Club restaurant. The events are to raise funds for the Butterfly Children charity DEBRA. To participate in the tournament (120€ per person), attend the gala (65€ per person) or donate prizes call 952816434 or email: pieldemariposa@debra.es

Free A Girl charity event

Marbella. 13 August, Cascada Cocina & Bar.

Free a Girl is an international organisation dedicated to freeing young girls from prostitution and convicting their capturers. In the past nine years, the foundation has helped free over 4,000 young girls

San Roque welcomes thrill seekers for annual bull run

by ASH BOLTON

MALAGA. Next Monday, 13 August, at 7am, a 500-kilo bull will run through the streets of San Roque chasing hundreds of thrill seekers. It's fair to say it's not everyone's cup of tea, but several hundred people are set to literally run for their lives through the streets of San Roque for the town's annual bullrun.

The event takes place on the last day of the town's feria and sees a fighting bull chase locals for 500 metres through a steel barricaded route to the town's bull ring.

Dating back to 1649, the bull run started when the original Spanish inhabitants of Gibraltar would go to the old Shrine of Saint Roque (built in 1508) in pilgrimage and hold a bull run. The shrine was located in the historical centre of the town where the parish church is today.

The tradition then continued after the Spanish population founded San Roque in 1704 when British and Dutch forces took the Rock.

Next Monday's bull run will see the fighting bull spend an



The 500-kilo bull has been known to hospitalise runners. by A.B.

FACTS

► **Antiquity.** The event dates back to 1649 and takes place the morning after the last day of San Roque's feria.

► **Welfare.** No harm comes to the bull and it is sent back to

the stockbreeder's estate in the countryside afterwards.

► **Of interest.** There is no outer corridor in the San Roque bull ring as the plans for it were drawn up by a local mathematics teacher who made a mistake in his calculations.

hour in the bull ring with the runners, before three younger bulls replace him.

During the event no one is allowed to touch the bull and a local association runs alongside the

animal to make sure no one hurts it. Afterwards the bulls are sent back to a stockbreeder's estate in the countryside.

For more information, visit www.sanroque.es

Spirits Jazz Band

Marbella. 1 September, 8.45pm.

Clinica Buchinger Wilhelmi. 20€. Charity concert in aid of Pozos Sin Fronteras. Bookings: 639462247 (10am to 2pm.) or email: info@pozossinfronteras.org

MUSIC & DANCE

Ocean Bar

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

11 August. Delirium Blues Fusion. Lourdes del Pino and Javier Esteve.

14 August. Richard Ray Farrell. Bluesman.

18 August. Hermanas Sister. International funk jazz.

21 August. Chela Jazz. Chela Inglés and Javier Paloma.

25 August. Rosa Ruiz & Foky.

28 August. Daphne and Nicky. www.tallerblues.es



Natalia Moralo, El Mentidero.

Louie Louie

Estepona. Louie Louie Bar.

11 August, midnight. Full Color Panda. 5€.

18 August, midnight. Delobos. 5€.

22 August, 11.30pm. Velma Powell, Blues to the Bone. 10 or 15€.

24 August, midnight. La Tarambana. 7€.

25 August, 0.30pm. Deltó. 7 or 10€.

31 August, midnight. Okatudisco, karaoke. Free.

Pause

14 August, 9pm. Iglesia San José, El Gastor. An original composition by Rupert Huber performed by the Orfeón Vicente Espinel de Ronda, Brisas del Pinsapar (Grazalema) and Aires del Gastor choirs.

15-19 August, La Donaira. Five open-air concerts. Tickets 50€ each or 200€ for all five. Includes wine reception, gourmet tapas, courtesy shuttle from El Gastor to La Donaira. info@pausefestival.com or call: 615381119 www.pausefestival.com

Scottish band Red Dawg

Almuñécar. 13 August, 9.30pm. Parque El Majuelo.

The band will be playing a selection of classic rock songs (including Free, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Thin Lizzy, Gary Moore, Allman Brothers etc) with guest keyboard player Vic Martin, the keyboard player with the late Gary Moore.

Music by the sea

La Cala de Mijas. Plaza del Torreón. 9pm.

10 August. Mujeres del Mar. Adriana La Pimienta vocals, Emilse Barlatay, flute, Alba Benal, dance and Mercedes Martínez percussion and guitar.

11 August. A performance of national folklore with local choirs and dance groups.

Ricky Martin

Fuengirola. 16 August, 10.30pm.

Marenostrum Castle Park. 35-125€. Ricky Martin will be performing some of his greatest hits. More information and ticket sales: <https://entradas.janto.es/>

Jitterbug Jazz

Malaga. 29 August, 8.30pm. St George's Anglican church, Avda de Pries. 10€.

The Jitterbug Jazz Group will be performing in the grounds of the English cemetery. Bar.

FLAMENCO



Full Color Panda, Louie Louie Bar.

Taberna El Mentidero

Marbella. Calle Sánchez Pastor, 12.

From 5pm.

12 August. Los Piratas.

13 August. Flamenquitos.

14 August. Natalia Moralo.

15 August. Frasco Barrull.

16 August. Chema.

17 August. Los Sin Arreglo.

18 August. Las Niñas.

19 August. Día del Flamenco.

Flamenco nights

Benalmádena Costa. Thursdays until end of August. Niña Bonita, Avda del Sol.

Flamenco and salsa nights with drink included 15€, with meal 45€

Louie, Louie Bar

Estepona. Every Thursday.

9.30pm. 12€

The show Estepona Flamenco El Patio will take place every Thursday. Reservations: 609543950 / 632736774 esteponaflamenco@gmail.com

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franquelo.

23 August, 9.30pm. Carrete de Málaga and flamenco group.

25 August, 9.30pm. María 'La Manzanilla' and flamenco group.

30 August, 9.30pm. Sandra Cisneros and flamenco group.

For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email: info@flamenka.com

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FLAMENCO

Flamenco in the open air
Vélez-Málaga. 10.30pm. The open air theatre on the top of the Cerro de San Cristobal. Free.
10 August. Diego Guerrero.
17 August. Javier Ruibal.

Flamenco show
Mijas. Every Wednesday; 12pm; Plaza Virgen de la Peña.
Mijas. Every Saturday; 12pm; Plaza de la Constitución.



FESTIVALS

Feria
Almuñécar. 10- 12 August. At the fair ground.
The day fair starts on 10 August from 1pm-7pm. It opens an hour earlier on 11 and 12 August.
Archidona. 14- 18 August.
The feria coincides with the Día de la Virgen de Gracia, the town's patron saint. The night of 14 August

will be a romeria up to the Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Gracia.

Noche de Vino
Cómpeta. 15 August, day and night.
One of the oldest gastronomic fiestas in Andalucía, the Noche de Vino celebrates the grape harvest and there will be opportunities to taste the local wine accompanied by traditional migas and live flamenco performances.

Fiesta de Moros y Cristianos
Benalauría. 11, 12 August.
The festival of Santo Domingo de Guzmán finishes this weekend with the traditional reenactment of the rebellion of the Moors which took place in the Ronda mountains in the fifteenth century.

Fiesta Blanca
Nerja. 14 August, evening.
This white party attracts thousands of people every year who dress all in white and enjoy the live music, DJs and dancing.

Feria de San Luis de Sabinillas
Sabinillas. 24-26 August, day and night.
Live music and dancing, king and queen of the fair, procession and lots of activities over the two days.

Douglas Days
Teba. 24-26 August.
A tribute to the Scottish knight, Sir James Douglas, who died helping to repel the Moorish forces from Teba. There will be a Medieval market, exhibitions, concerts,



guided visits etc.

EVENTS

Astronomy
Ubrique. 10 August, 9pm. Yacimiento Arqueológico Ciudad Romana de Ocuri.
The Observatorio Astronómico del Torcal is conducting an evening of stargazing (in Spanish). Limited places. www.ayuntamientoubrique.es

Maga Luxury
Malaga. Until 30 August, Museo Automovilístico Y de la Moda
The new temporary exhibition in the Malaga car museum is dedicated to luxury designer brands such as Dior, Chanel and Yves St Laurent.

Magical 3D experience
Puerto Banús. Until 15 September, next to Teatro Goya.
Magical 3D Experience is a walk-through display, packed with optical illusion images, allowing fami-

lies and friends to photograph themselves in a range of fun scenarios. www.magical3dexperience.com

RAF 100 years dinner dance
Mijas. 6 September, 7.30pm. Hotel Tamisa Golf. 35€.
2018 is the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the RAF and the RAF Association Costa del Sol Branch are combining the celebration of this historic event with their Annual Battle of Britain Dinner Dance. The evening will commence with arrival drinks and aperitifs, followed by a three course dinner with wine and coffee. There will be entertainment throughout the evening. The event is not exclusively for RAF Association members. Tickets: 952567412, 656698194 or from Tamisa Golf Hotel. www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk

Royal British Legion Cruise
Mollina. 15 November.
The cruise around the central Mediterranean area will commence on 15 November and will be for seven nights, eight days. Prices range from 850 -955 € depending on choice of cabin. Organised in conjunction with Halcón viajes and Pullmantur. More details from: jfloresmolina@halcon-viajes.es or call Dave Punshon 689455704 or email: punshon.dave@gmail.com

Trip to Ubrique and Grazalema
Torre del Mar. 27 September. Various departure points. 28€
Visit Ubrique in Cadiz, the leather

museum etc then Grazalema for lunch and a visit to the textile mill. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Mad Bear Festival
Torremolinos. From 8 until 16 August. Beaches, clubs and hotels.
The event is aimed mainly at gay men with activities such as pool and beach parties, DJs, shows in bars (Centuryon and Aqua), on the beach and at the Eden Beach Club and Ritual hotel. www.madbear.org

Horse racing
Sanlúcar de Barrameda. 10 and 22-24 August from around 6.30pm.
The annual horse racing along the beach starts in the afternoon as the tide goes out and the sun starts get lower in the sky. The race has been in existence for 173 years and every year gets bigger and better with activities for children and stands on the beach. www.carrerassanlucar.es



MOVIE LISTING
From Friday 10th
to Thursday 16th August
ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



THE DARKEST MINDS
Director Jennifer Yuh Nelson
Starring Amandla Stenberg and Harris Dickinson
SCI-FI - 121 min.

From Friday 10 to Thursday 16: 15:45, 18:10





THE EQUALIZER 2
Director Antoine Fuqua
Starring Denzel Washington and Pedro Pascal
ACTION - 121 min.

From Friday 10 to Thursday 16: 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:45





INCREDIBLES 2
Director Brad Bird
ANIMATION - 125 min.

From Friday 10 to Thursday 16: 15:45, 18:10, 20:30





MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN
Director Ol Parker
Starring Meryl Streep and Lily James
ACTION - 102 min.

From Friday 10 to Sunday 12: 16:10
Wednesday 15: 16:10





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From Friday 10 to Sunday 12: 18:30
Wednesday 15: 18:30





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From Friday 10 to Thursday 16: 22:45





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EVENTS

'Luz de Luna'

Antequera. Until 16 September. Throughout the summer, there will be organised visits to the monuments and museums of Antequera in the evenings. Visitors will be able to visit the observatory and take a walk through the countryside in the moonlight.

Almuñécar with Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. 15 August. Various departure points. 12€

The Virgen de la Antigua procession from the church to the beach is followed by a firework display. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Huelva, Doñana and Faro Torre del Mar / Fuengirola. 1-5 October. Various departure points.



375€ pp. sharing dble room. Visit Huelva, the Doñana National Park and Faro in Portugal. Price includes, coach, insurance, hotel (bed and breakfast), entrance to Doñana. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Sea Life

Benalmádena. Sea Life Benalmádena. Find out about the life of star fish, rays and many other sea creatures at a new exhibition at Sea Life.

Phoenix Club trips Almuñécar fireworks. 15 August. 12€.

Returning after midnight. **Cuenca, Logroño, Ávila.** 17-21 October. Various pick ups. 350€ pp sharing. Includes coach fare, B&B accommodation, guides in Cuenca and Salamanca and the drivers gratuity. For more information email: phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

Festival of three cultures Fuengirola. 23 August. Fundación Lux Mundi, C/Nueva. 19€. Lux Mundi trip to the Festival of

Three Cultures (Islamic, Hebrew and Christian). Reservations: www.lux-mundi.org or call 952474 840 or e-mail: luxmundif@gmail.com

Polo and concerts Sotogrande. Until 1 September, from 5.30pm. Santa María Polo Club. Free admission for the majority of the evenings for the public to browse the boutiques, have a meal and listen to live concerts from funk, soul, jazz and Cuban to 80s tribute groups and a DJ. www.tip.santamariapoloclub.com.

Trip to El Chorro Fuengirola. 19 September. Fundación Lux Mundi, C/Nueva. 33€. Visit the Caminito del Rey. Reservations: www.lux-mundi.org or call: 952474 840 or e-mail: luxmundif@gmail.com

O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz C/Alcazabilla 4, Málaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
Mary Shelley: 16.30, 20.20.
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children: 11.00 (10 August).

Cinesur El Ingenio Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Mamma Mia: 12.00, 17.20 (every day).
Incredibles 2: 12.30, 16.45, 19.05 (every day).
Mission Impossible: Fallout: 21.30 (Mon, Thurs).

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

Incredibles 2: 12.00, 16.30, 19.00, 21.30, 00.00.
Mission Impossible: Fallout: 19.40, 22.35.
Mamma Mia: Here We go Again: 12.00, 17.30.
Carmen, opera from Sydney Harbour: 21.00 (21 August)
Madame Butterfly, opera from Sydney Harbour: 21.00 (4 September)

Cines Teatro Goya For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again: 16.10 (Fri-Sun, Wed).
Hotel Transylvania 3: 18.30 (Fri-Sun, Wed).
Mission Impossible: Fallout: 22.45 (Fri-Thurs).
The Equalizer 2: 15.45, 18.00, 20.15, 22.45 (Fri - Thurs).
The Darkest Minds: 15.45, 18.10 (Fri-Thurs).
Incredibles 2: 15.45, 18.10, 20.30 (Fri-Thurs).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Blackwood: 15.10 (Sun).
The Equalizer: 14.25 (Sat, Sun); 16.55 (Mon-Thurs).
Mission Impossible: Fallout: 12.45 (Sat, Sun), 20.50 (every day).
The Incredibles 2: 13.30, (Sat, Sun); 16.30, 19.00, 21.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs); 00.00 Sat, Sun, Wed, Thurs).
Mamma Mia: here We go Again: 15.45, 22.45 (every day).

Cine de Verano La Playamar beach between the Copacabana and Los Bandoleros beach bars. English subtitles.
Despicable Me: 22.00 (14 Aug).
Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: 21.30 (16 Aug).
Trolls: 21.30 (21 Aug).
Wonder Woman: 21.30 (23 Aug).

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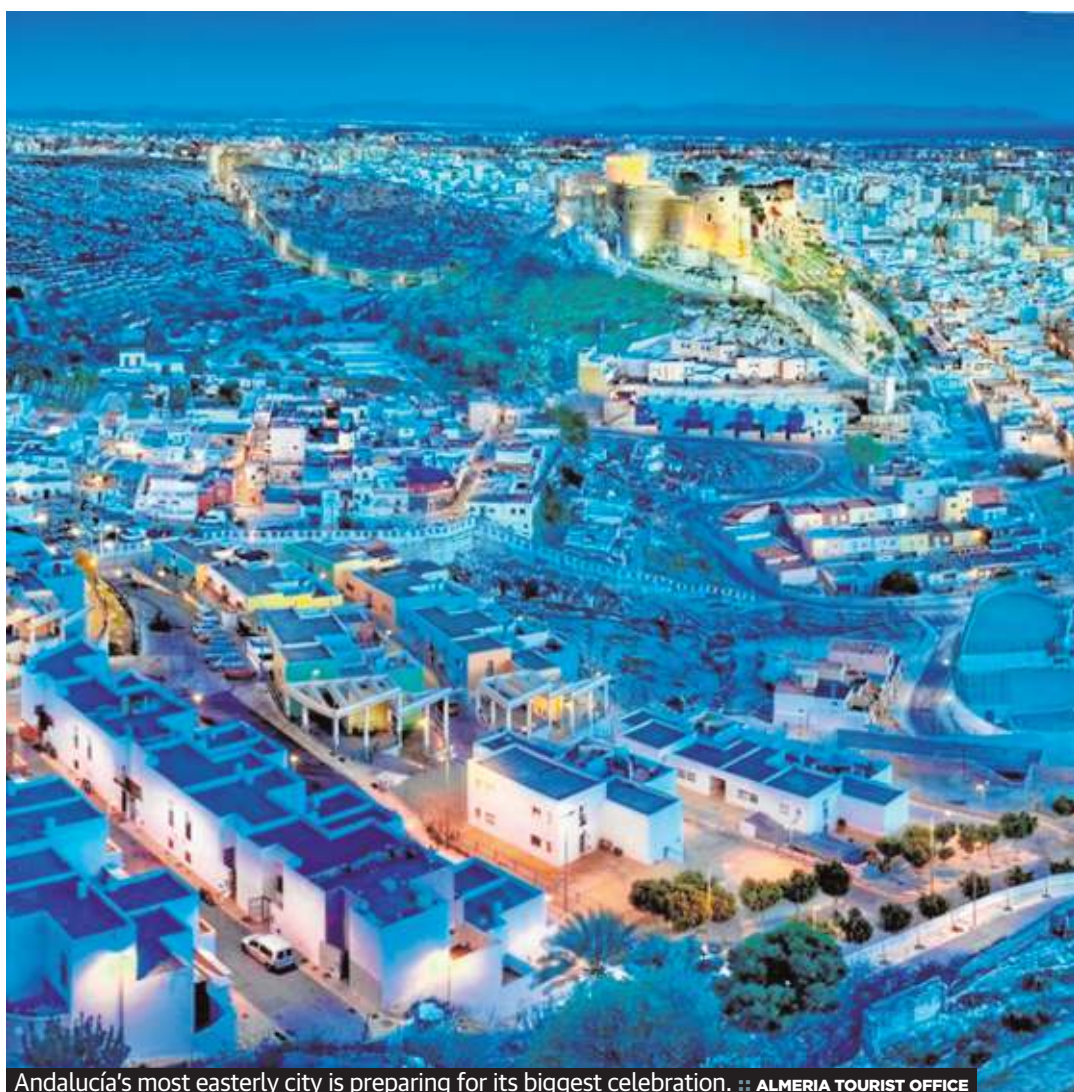
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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA

A Mediterranean fair

JAVIER ALMELLONES



Andalucía's most easterly city is preparing for its biggest celebration. :: ALMERIA TOURIST OFFICE

The city of Almeria is putting the final touches to its famous festivities in honour of its patron saint, the Virgen del Mar

How to get there:
Almería.

To reach the capital of Almeria province from Malaga, it is best to take the A-7 dual carriageway. After about 200 kilometres, you come directly to the city.

In Malaga the annual fair has just begun, but in Almería the final preparations are now under way for its own version, which begins next weekend. The festivities in honour of the Virgen del Mar in Andalucía's most easterly city take place from 17 to 25 August.

For over a week this Mediterranean city will be celebrating its most popular traditions alongside plenty of entertainment and fun. As always, the programme of activities has been carefully planned to please people of all ages and tastes.

One of the highlights every year is the day fair, which starts around midday in the city centre and continues all afternoon. There is a special focus on local gastronomy, and visitors shouldn't miss the chance to try one of the most typical Almerian dishes, the 'gurullos', which are a type of fritter made with semolina flour. They can be filled with rabbit or cuttlefish, and are substantial and delicious.

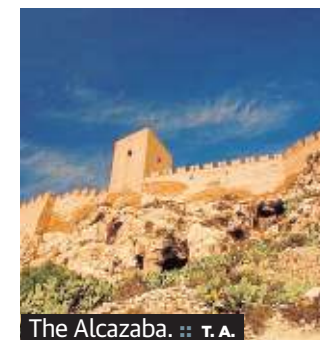
To try these and other dishes from the city or elsewhere in the province, it is best to go to the types of bar-restaurant known as 'ambigús', as they are nearly always on the menu.

After enjoying the day fair, it is time to move on to the fairground, where the fun continues until dawn. Known as 'El Real', the fairground is situated beside the Palacio de los Juegos Mediterráneos, a sports stadium which is often used as a venue for concerts by major artists. The performers at Almeria fair this year include Niña Pastori, Cooltura Fest, Ricky Martin and the Operación Triunfo singers.

However, this fair is not just about music and gastronomy: there are bullfights and different sports events as well, including the swim across the port, 24 hours of basketball, adapted sport, the City of Almeria Aquathlon, indoor football and Plus Ultra Football, among others.

Another popular event takes place on Monday 19 August with the traditional Battle of the Flowers, when a parade of about 20 floats adds a special touch of colour to this fair. Thousands of carnations are thrown into the crowds, together with streamers and confetti. The unusual procession also includes giants and 'cabezudos'.

WHAT TO SEE



The Alcazaba. :: T.A.

Alcazaba. This citadel, which has fabulous views over the city and the port, is one of the emblems of Almería. Its construction began at the end of the 10th century, during the reign of Abderramán III.

Cathedral. This building, the most emblematic in the province, is unusual because as well as being used for worship, it was also built as a fortification to defend the city from attacks by Berber pirates.

Civil War shelters. Underground galleries were built to save lives during the bombardments in the Spanish Civil War.

Museum of Almería. The museum has a wealth of items associated with the history of the city and its province. Here, visitors can learn more about the legacy of the Berber culture.

Although this festival is already a good enough reason to visit Almeria in itself, there are plenty of other attractions in this city in the summer months. Nobody who takes a stroll through its streets can fail to notice that it has had a very interesting history, especially from its heritage dating back to the times of Al-Ándalus. Among the buildings which still remain from that period is the Alcazaba fortress which stands above the city and is considered the jewel on the crown of this eastern region of Andalucía.



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FISH AND MEAT SPECIALITIES

The grape harvest gets under way in Malaga and a high yield is expected

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

✉ apelaez@diariosur.es

The Axarquía is the first region in which the grapes are picked to make wine and for eating, but the harvest is slightly later this year

MÁLAGA. The grape harvest in Málaga, one of the earliest and most difficult in Europe because of the terrain, has just begun in the Axarquía. It is slightly later than last year, when it started on 24 July in the western



►► The harvest.

Moclinejo, Almáchar and El Borge are the three places in the Axarquía where the grapes are picked first. In the area from Cómpeta to Sayalonga they will start harvesting in mid-August.

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FIGURES

4,148

hectares is the amount of land used for growing vines in Malaga province. Of these, 1,954 are used to produce grapes for wine, 1,689 for raisins and 505 for eating.

3,000

families make a living from raisin production in La Axarquía; this product has been declared an Ingenious System of World Agricultural Heritage (SIPAM) by the FAO.

part of the region (Moclinejo, Almáchar and El Borge), and nine days earlier than in 2016.

The muscat grapes which are picked now will be used to make sparkling dry white wines under the Sierras de Málaga Denominación de Origen. In the eastern part of the region (from Cómpeta to Sayalonga) the harvesting will begin in the middle of August.

The amount of rainfall between February and April, the cool nighttime temperatures and the absence of heat waves in the early part of the summer have meant that the grapes have developed normally this year, says Juan Muñoz, of the Antonio Muñoz Cabrera-Dimobe winery, which is starting to harvest the first grapes from the Algamiz area, between Cútar and El Borge.

"They have been ripening normally. There are no grapes burned by the heat, as there are in some years, and although the bunches have fewer grapes, there are more of them. This

means that the grapes this year are healthier. We hope the production will be 15 per cent higher," he explains.

According to the Regional Agricultural Department, about 7,500 tonnes of grapes are expected to be picked for wine in the province this year, and about 900 tonnes for eating. The first grapes harvested for eating are being sold for over 2.40 euros a kilo.

In 2017 the total grape harvest in Malaga province was 3.6 million kilos, according to estimations from the regulatory board for the Malaga, Sierras de Málaga and Pasas de Málaga designations of origin. Last year 65 per cent of the total area of vines was harvested for wine making, and the grapes were picked 15 or even 20 days earlier than usual in some places.

Harvesting with mules

Grape harvesting in the Axarquía is renowned for being complicated because of the terrain and because it is one of the earliest harvests in Europe. The vines grow on steep hillsides with slopes of up to 70 per cent and no terracing, which means the boxes of grapes have to be transported back to the farmhouses by mules. The workers make their way up unimaginable slopes, carrying heavy boxes on their shoulders.

This method of harvesting is very special for the farmers, because it is an artisan and meticulous process which has hardly changed over centuries. It requires great effort and skill from the grape pickers.

In the Axarquía the first grapes to be picked are the muscats which will be used to make the young white wines; they need varieties with little sugar.

In Malaga province vines are grown on 4,148 hectares of land, of which 1,954 hectares produce grapes for wine, 1,689 for raisins and 505 for eating.

The harvesting of grapes which will be converted into raisins in Malaga doesn't start until well into August. This is one of the most unusual products from the Malaga vineyards, and the process used has now been declared an Ingenious System of World Agricultural Heritage (SIPAM) by the FAO. This is the first year that the product has been able to boast this prestigious classification.

The Axarquía produces about 400,000 kilos of raisins a year. The activity has been regulated by the Pasas de Málaga denomination of origin since 2013, and about 3,000 families in the area make a living from it.

Agricultural heritage

Farmers and mayors in this region say that the classification of the raisins as a World Agricultural Heritage will protect the product and favour tourism. The cooperatives agree, including Ucopaxa, which includes about 800 producers as well as local residents.

However, times have changed for the muscat grapes for raisins. Since 1980 the amount of land used for grapes in the Axarquía has reduced by about 85 per cent, from 13,000 hectares to barely 1,900. Many farmers have swapped to other products such as mango instead, especially those whose fields have water.

The production of raisins is concentrated almost entirely in the Axarquía, specifically in El Borge, Almáchar, Iznate, Moclinejo and Arenas. The eastern region produces 95 per cent of the total in Malaga; the remainder are produced in Manilva.

The Malaga raisin is a totally artisan product. The muscat grapes are dried in the sun on special racks for a period of up to 20 days, depending on the temperatures.

ANDREW J. LINN

A JOB EATING



Last week arguably America's best-known restaurant critic, Jonathan Gold, died in Los Angeles at 57 from pancreatic cancer. (Coincidentally, the winner of more Michelin stars for his restaurants than any other chef, Joel Robuchon, also died of pancreatic cancer this week, at 73.)

Gold was a large man in most respects, so it is surprising he managed to make incognito restaurant visits right up to the time he became the only restaurant critic in history to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism. Rene Redzepi, owner of award-winning restaurant, Nobu, described him as "the best thing to happen to the gastronomic world ever".

Los Angeles is a big enough city to absorb anything culinary art can throw at it, and each new ethnic group that establishes itself has become integrated into its colourful food map. Gold, often described as 'the belly of Los Angeles', was a walking encyclopaedia on everything from Mexican tortillas and tacos to sardine burgers, served not only in restaurants but also at street stalls and food trucks. Hardly a rib or brisket smoker, xiao long bao steamer, omakase sushi-ya, Roman ice cream shop, Korean porridge parlour, hand-pulled noodle vendor, Iranian tongue-sandwich shop, vegan hot dog griddle, or Hollywood grill missed his checklist.

He believed that the city's eating places reflected the culture of the metropolis more faithfully than anything else. Even before food TV shows, Gold demonstrated in his LA Times column that cuisine was a gateway to the people and their communities. He preferred small family-run establishments that had no wine lists and where English was not the first language. He criticised listings such as The World's 50 Best Restaurants, for not being the world's best, as only two continents participate, the chefs being all male, high prices and generally the food having no ethnic connections.

A documentary film, 'City of Gold', was made about him in 2015. He would drive around LA in an old pick-up truck listening to opera. RIP Jonathan.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Áster Crianza 2014

The Áster bodega in Ribera del Duero is part of the Rioja Alta group that was founded in 1890 in Rioja. As with all the wines from this impeccable establishment (there is also a bodega in Rías Baixas) it is the best value for quality you will find. Two years in oak and bottled in 2017. Around 15 euros.





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"Medicine will become a female profession within a few years"

María José Torres Allergist



MARINA RIVAS

She was the only one in a family of pharmacists to study Medicine. Now a recognised allergy expert, she holds several major posts



María José Torres. :: SUR

MALAGA. Even a doctor who is well-known in Spain and abroad admits that she used to skip lectures at university. María José Torres is from Malaga and is, among other positions, on the board of the College of Physicians, head of the Allergies department at the Carlos Haya regional hospital and on the Executive Committee of the European Allergy Academy. Throughout her professional career she has seen all types of patient and worked very long hours. She has very little spare time, preferring to dedicate herself body and soul to this difficult profession.

-What made you decide to study Medicine as a career?

-At first I thought of doing Analysis and Pharmacy, because my family are all pharmacists, but then my father suggested I should try Medicine and I found it was what I liked best.

-Nobody else in your family has ever tried that before?

-No, and we don't talk about work when we're together, either, because I'm in the minority - my husband is a pharmacist as well!

-And if you hadn't studied Medicine, what would you have done?

-Well, for a while I liked physics and

thought about that as a possible career, but it didn't last long.

-Do your children want to follow in your footsteps?

-No, not at all. My son is going to do Law and Economics in Madrid and my daughter doesn't know what she wants to do yet. She's just happy as she is! Also, if I suggested something they wouldn't take any notice. I just tell them that if they are going to work long hours in a profession, they should at least make sure it is something they really like.

-Where do you spend most time, in your job at the Carlos Haya hospital or at the College of Doctors?

-At the Carlos Haya.

-You laughed as you said that... does it feel as if you spend half of your life at the hospital?

-Sometimes, maybe. I start work at

8am and finish around 5 or 6. I stay all day; I don't go home for lunch..

-Where do you do most of your travelling?

-To Madrid, to coordinate the allergy network at the Carlos III and also to Zurich, because I'm on the Executive Committee of the European Allergy Academy. About 20 of us have a vote there, and four are from Spain: two men and two women.

-You speak very good English.

-All the meetings are in English, so it's important nowadays.

-In your profession, you speak other languages well, but what do you think of politicians who don't speak even a word of English?

-They're going to miss out on a great deal. They won't really know what's going on. It's one thing to take a

translator with you, but there is a lot of work done discreetly, talking to people at length about things. These days all doctors need to speak fluent English, because we take important decisions.

-What research are you involved in at the moment?

-We're working on medication to treat allergies, reactions to vaccines and respiratory problems.

-What are the most common problems you see in your everyday work?

-The cases of rhinitis and asthma are the most important and common, but there is also a great deal of allergy to medications such as anti-inflammatories and penicillin in antibiotics.

-What about food allergies?

-We see quite a few adults who are allergic to fruits and vegetables, such

as peaches, plums, nuts, tomatoes, even lettuce. Many people aren't aware of that.

-And what are the strangest allergies you have come across?

-I once saw a lady who was allergic to mare's milk; someone had told her it was good for the skin and she became very ill.

-What do you do at the College of Doctors?

-I represent doctors from other administrations and I'm also an associated professor for the university. One of the most exciting things for us at the moment is the fact that so many women are becoming doctors now. In fact, it won't be long before most doctors are women.

-Is that a change you are already seeing in universities?

-Yes, this is going to become a female profession within a few years and you have to understand that these women will also become mothers and the authorities are going to have to realise that. At university, all over Spain, the percentage of women is very high and they tend to get the best results in the university entrance exams as well.

-Are some patients still uncomfortable about being seen by a women doctor?

-Yes, and that's inevitable, but it will change. There are women in all specialist departments now, including urology, gynaecology, surgery...

-And what is the College doing about the staff cutbacks which are taking place? Does it understand that there is concern, among patients as well as professionals?

-The College always works with the administration to try to find solutions... and there always has been concern about this problem, because more can always be done.

The crisis hit very hard, as it did in all public sectors, but now more posts are being filled and I think that will calm things down.

-Now that you teach others, can you remember what it was like when you were students? Did you used to skip classes and go to the café instead?

-I certainly did! We had a very good social life and still stay in touch.

-Are there any incidents that you especially remember?

-We went on strike once, about the opening of the Clínico; we held protest demonstrations, and a sit-in at the university. And I remember that we used to copy each other's work but it meant we all made the same mistakes! You don't see that happening much these days, I'm glad to say.



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In Spain 16,000 mastectomies are carried out a year, but only 4,800 breast reconstructions

Experts say there are advantages and disadvantages in the different types of reconstruction, which can be immediate, delayed or the 'Brava' technique

EUROPA PRESS

MADRID. In Spain, 16,000 mastectomies are carried out each year. Of those, only 4,800 are reconstructed and in only 1,920 cases is this done straight away (at the time of the mastectomy), according to figures from the Spanish Society of Plastic and Reparative Surgery (SECPRE).

Some celebrities, such as Angelina Jolie, Kylie Minogue, Olivia Newton-John and Sharon Osborne, have undergone a partial or total mastectomy to eliminate the risk of breast cancer and recently the Spanish journalist and TV presenter Terelu Campos announced that she is considering having a double mastectomy.

This type of surgery should always include the immediate recon-

struction of the breast where possible, say experts.

"It isn't always possible to establish the most suitable type of reconstruction immediately, because it depends on different factors, but when it is possible then the patient should be offered that alternative, and given with full information about the advantages and disadvantages. She should also be advised about those involved with delayed reconstruction" says the head of the plastic and reparative surgery department at La Zarzuela hospital in Madrid, Ángel Juárez.

Immediate, delayed and 'Brava' reconstruction

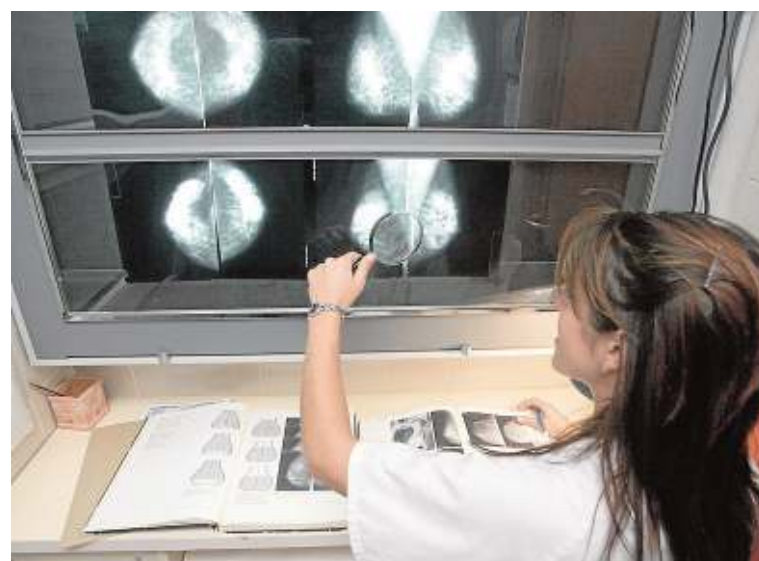
The benefits of immediate breast reconstruction are that it involves less psychiatric and social morbidity, gives better cosmetic results, has a normal rate of local recurrence and does not delay associated treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy. However, Dr Juárez says there is greater probability of necrosis of the mastectomy envelopes, more time spent in hospital, more scars and it needs more coordination between different medi-

cal teams.

With regard to delayed reconstruction, he says it means less time in hospital, a quicker recovery, does not cause any complications to associated treatments and the patient has more time to consider the different possibilities of reconstruction. In this case, there is usually soft scar tissue left on the chest wall, additional surgery is needed and the reconstruction is more complicated once the scarring has finished.

One of the most advanced reconstruction techniques, used in Spain by Dr Juárez's team, is the 'Brava' technique, which is carried out using autologous fat. The patient wears a special bra made from plastic domes with silicon rims for several weeks before a fat grafting session. The technique involves creating a system of external expansion to make room for the grafting of large volumes of fat, tridimensionally. The bra has to be worn twelve hours a day, every two weeks.

"This is outpatient surgery; the patient benefits from the effects of the liposuction, it causes fewer complications and the end result looks more natural and is more sensitive.



A mammogram. :: SUR

The inconvenience is that the patient has to be committed to undergoing several surgical procedures," says Dr Juárez.

Other breast reconstruction techniques

As well as the reconstructions using fat (there are different techniques for doing so), which is a simple procedure normally done under local anaesthetic and has few complications, there are others. The most common are the ones using prostheses and expanders.

In the first case, the use of direct prosthesis is becoming increasingly common, mainly due to skin being saved in mastectomies. The prostheses these days are fifth generation implants, filled with more co-

hesive gels and in anatomical shapes. They should not be used by obese women, smokers, those who have had radiotherapy or if the viability of the mastectomy envelopes are in doubt.

They have the advantage of reducing surgery time and there is no need for donor areas. The disadvantages include infection, capsular contracture, extorsion, and the prosthesis moving.

Finally, the doctor explains that there are also different types of expanders, like the traditional serum ones, in which the woman is given numerous injections and the expansion does not progress daily, but generally once a week, or the gas types, controlled by a valve which is stimulated by remote control.

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A life without pain, thanks to technology

A device which transmits electrical impulses to the spinal cord is helping patients who have suffered nerve injury

INÉS GALLESTEGUI



They are starting to enjoy life again, when even morphine had failed to ease their suffering. "It was unbearable," they say

Agustín Muñoz was 33 when he had a serious motorbike accident. He is lucky to be alive, because apart from breaking several bones his humeral artery was severed and he would have bled to death if he hadn't been rushed to hospital in time. But the worst was yet to come. After several operations his left arm was still immobile and the breakage of the brachial plexus - the structure which innervates the upper limbs - left him in great pain. Perhaps that is an inadequate description: "It was completely unbearable. Day and night. Week in, week out. There were times when I thought I was going mad. The pain made me want to throw myself off the balcony," he says.

Reluctant to take very strong analgesics because of their side effects, Agustín's ordeal lasted six years un-

til, last summer, a neurostimulator was implanted beneath his skin. It uses electrical impulses to mask the pain to such an extent that it is almost eliminated completely. He says it has saved his life.

For him, and for hundreds of others with neuropathic pain as the result of an injury or illness of the nervous system which does not respond to conventional treatment, life can seem intolerable. For example, trigeminal neuralgia, which is one type, is known as the 'suicide disease'.

Dr Jesús Maldonado, an anaesthetist and the head of the Pain Unit at the Parque Tecnológico de la Salud (PTS) hospital in Granada, who looks after Agustín, explains that medullary stimulation technology began to be developed in the 1960s and has evolved to become an effective alternative for patients with relatively localised neuropathic pain, generally in the back, neck, legs or arms.

"It is very important to select the candidates for this procedure carefully: they are usually patients who have had spine surgery but whose condition has worsened and they can't have any more operations, those with complex regional pain syndrome and those who have suffered nerve injuries as a consequence of serious traumas or amputations in accidents at work or traffic," he explains.

Similar to a pacemaker, the neurostimulator is implanted in the abdomen or dorsal area and transmits electric signals through a cable in the



Agustín Muñoz rides his bike with his arm in a sling; "it hurts less when I do this," he says.



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vertebral column. Depending on the place affected, the electrodes are placed at a different height on the spinal cord. Their function is to "fool" the brain by blocking the pain signals and replacing them with a "pleasant tingling" sensation. A new version of the generator, called "sub-threshold", produces no sensation at all; it simply calms the suffering.

For Juana Hervás, who is 74 now, the ordeal began 18 years ago. "It just happened overnight," she says, and for no apparent reason. In Juana's case, it affected the perineal and genital area. Ravaged by pain, and after seeing digestive specialists and gynaecologists without success, she ended up in the psychiatry unit, but that didn't help either. She visited private doctors all over Spain until finally one in Burgos found the answer: a trapped pudendal nerve.

This is a syndrome which quite often occurs in cyclists, because of the compression of this area against the saddle, but it can also originate in childbirth or even in people who spend a lot of time sitting down. The symptoms include numbness, painful sexual intercourse and difficulty in defecating.

However, in Juana's case, the operation failed. She was taking numerous tablets but they hardly made

IN DETAIL

Different types of pain

Unlike nociceptive pain (the consequence of a mechanical stimulus, such as a cut) chemical (irritation) or thermal (burn) pain, neuropathic pain is the result of an injury or illness of the nervous system.

Lack of understanding

Many patients suffer because others don't understand that their pain makes them bad-tempered, sad or feel isolated.

An initial test

The procedure is carried out in two stages. First, electrodes are placed on the patient's spine, connected to a generator fixed to their back. The patient goes home and lives a normal life. Normally they improve by 50 per cent in the first few weeks. The second stage is when the definitive neurostimulator is implanted.

91%

is the success rate for neurostimulator implants at the PTS hospital in Granada. Between October 2016 and July 2018 there have been 60 tests and 55 definitive implants.

1

volt is enough for the electrical stimuli to be applied to the upper part of the spine, where there is very little distance between the marrow and the bone. Lower down, four or five volts may be needed.

Charging the battery

The neurostimulator battery is charged with a device which is placed on the skin, over the generator, for several hours. The length of time depends on the power level, which is regulated by the patient with a remote control.

6,000

euros is the cost of the 'battery', and the electrodes are about 1,000. Apart from improving the quality of life of the patients, the device also saves money on medication and medical appointments.

No side effects

The stimulators can reduce or eradicate the use of antiepileptics, anti-depressants and opioids, which are not very effective for these patients and can also have side effects.

Antonio Castillo, age 51.

Sales assistant

"The pain used to wake me up at night"



a difference. She was in pain when sitting and standing, but walking and lying down helped a little. Doing housework was extremely painful; but not now. A few weeks ago they implanted her neurostimulator and now, instead of pain, she notices a tingling. She has been taught how to regulate it with a remote control when changing position, so the paresthesia doesn't cause discomfort. She is now getting used to her "guest" and doesn't want to be without it. "I felt better straight away. I went to mass for the first time the other day, and I have started to go shopping again," she says. She is happy, but still cautious; she says she still can't quite believe it.

Sinking into depression

Antonio Castillo becomes tearful

when he remembers how he felt just one month ago: depressed, drugged and, despite the medication, in pain. "I was in a bad way," he admits. Two years ago he broke the biceps in his right arm, trying to stop his sister-in-law, who had just learned that her mother had died in hospital, falling to the ground as she fainted. He had an operation, but the injury to the antebrachial cutaneous nerve was agonising. Not even the increasing doses of morphine he was given could ease the pain he felt from his neck to the tips of his fingers. The side effects, he says, were "horrible": tiredness, lack of reflexes, bloating and sexual dysfunction. "The pain was waking me up several times a night. Then I'd spend all day lying down, getting more and more de-



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We speak: 



pressed. My wife tried to cheer me up, encouraged me go out of the house, but I just couldn't do it," he says.

Antonio was unlucky. The deterioration in his right arm, which he can hardly lift, came on top of a nerve injury which was caused by crushing ten years previously, and since the accident he has been unable to return to his job in a sports shop. Now, aged 51 and with three children, he is waiting to be seen by the Social Security Medical Tribunal. "Your life changes completely. You are in unbearable pain day after day after day," he says.

When Dr Maldonado suggested implanting the medular stimulator a couple of months ago he agreed, but without much hope. "It has completely taken away the pain; all I feel now is a sort of tingling, like pins and needles," he says. It was worth trying. "I can do a lot more now, and emotionally I feel much better. More people should know about this," he says.

Agustín Muñoz's motorbike accident also left him with serious problems. "I have lost the use of one hand altogether," he explains. After an unsuccessful operation in Seville, the famous surgeon Pedro Cavadás, from Valencia, removed a



A technician programmes Juana Hervás' stimulator.
:: RAMÓN L. PÉREZ

THE THRESHOLD

Pain is not the same for everyone

Everybody experiences pain differently. It is not the same to suffer pain with a foreseeable end, such as giving birth or having a dental infection, as it is to have a never-ending neuralgia. "With chronic pain, your threshold does go up, but what was unbearable was feeling so bad all the time," says Agustín Muñoz of his experience. But there are ways of measuring it. Patients can evaluate how they feel, on a scale of one to ten. They can take analgesics, and then there are the hospital visits. Jesús Maldonado is carrying out a study into how often people with neuropathic pain attend the Emergency department before and after their implant. The results, he says, are "spectacular". Some who had done so 17 times before have only been once since.

muscle from his leg and transferred it to his biceps area. He is confident that once it has gained strength and volume, he will be able to flex and extend his arm again. "We're working on that," he says, optimistically.

Freeing himself from the pain that tortured him has been a giant step. In his case, aged just 40, with a job and a passion for sport, he felt particularly incapacitated. "I have always hated taking medication, but ended up taking eight or ten really strong tablets a day. You feel drugged. You can't concentrate properly, it affects your life. You're not the same person any more," he says. Now, he only takes one tablet a day. He has been able to continue his job with a drinks distribution company, "but when the weekend comes and you drop your guard, you go mad," he says. His mountain bike also helps; he rides it one-handed with his injured arm in a sling: "It hurts less when I'm on the bike" he says. "I refused to let myself get depressed. I am a strong person, but sometimes it felt like my arm was going to explode. It's very hard to suffer unbearable pain 24 hours a day." His device has reduced the pain by about 80 per cent. "If anyone had told me that was possible, I wouldn't have believed it," he says.



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'Superfoods' are not miraculous, nor will they cure illnesses

The consumer's organisation OCU warns that food trends can make traditional foods 'inaccessible' and affects agriculture in the country of origin

EUROPA PRESS

MADRID. The Organización de Consumidores y Usuarios (OCU or Consumer's Organisation) has said that so-called 'superfoods', although possessing "many" good properties which help to maintain good health if consumed within a varied and balanced diet, are "not miraculous", nor do they cure illnesses.

The organisation also says that the claim that superfoods have nutritive properties has led to some people believing that taking them will produce extraordinary effects on their health. However, they are not "curative foods", the organisation stresses; this is an idea usually promoted as "a marketing strategy with no foundation in fact".

In addition the OCU has warned that the consumption of 'superfoods' can have important social and environmental implications. Some-



Tibetan Goji berries. :: FERNANDO GÓMEZ

times when a traditional food becomes fashionable it can become 'inaccessible' to the population due to the price increase - something that happened a few years ago when the demand increased for quinoa.

"This trend can also affect the agriculture of the countries of origin which may convert to monoculture. This happened at the beginning of the avocado boom when whole forests were burned to make more room to grow avocados. However,

food trends are ephemeral and demand can drop suddenly," explained the OCU.

The organisation says the Mediterranean diet includes fruit, fresh and dried; vegetables and olive oil, all "easily accessible and affordable" compared to 'superfoods' such as kale, maca, sprouting broccoli and açai berries which allows you to eat them regularly, in season and in sufficient quantities for their nutrients to be beneficial.





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Polo, a jewel in Andalucía's sporting scene

Santa María Polo Club's showpiece tournament this summer provides not only a high-level on-field spectacle, but also a terrific all-round visitor experience



It's the height of summer in Sotogrande, the setting once again for the area's International Polo Tournament, this year celebrating its 47th edition. The landscape is comprised of two colours; blue, for the rich cloudless sky, and green for the lush expanse of grass on which the action takes place. Chuck in some neatly-ironed shirts, interludes of clinking glasses and a selection of food, and there you have it, a beautiful experience, and perhaps one of Andalucía's best-kept secrets.

The games take place at the Santa María Polo Club – located roughly half-way between Gibraltar and Estepona – until 1 September, with matches beginning at any time between 5.30pm and 7pm



Visitors enjoy the spectacle.
DARYL FINCH



The tournament is one of the four best in the world. G. BERNER

each day, apart from a brief rest on 27 August. Competitions are classified by handicaps and are completely free to attend apart from the semi-finals and finals of

the Gold Cup Medium Handicap event and the final of the Gold Cup High Handicap, won last year by the Ayala team, which included Argentinian star player Facundo Pieres. The club provides a perfect view of the pitch, and although every game does not draw eagle-eyed attention, that does not detract whatsoever from the sport's appeal.

Its attraction lies in the total spec-

tator experience. The sport has a finesse and tranquillity about it – not to diminish its competitive edge – which spreads from the field to the balconies, stands and terraces decked out with cheerful onlookers.

"What we want to promote is a social event. It's OK for us that not everybody knows the rules or the horses as well as people do in England and Argentina," says Joaquín

Blanco Cardenas, Director of Communications and Marketing at the club. "The most important thing is that people like the visual aspect of the sport.

"We want a mix between people who are engaged in the action, and those who come to enjoy the social experience."

In polo, two teams of four mounted horses compete to out-score each other, achieved through striking the ball into the opposition goal using long wooden mallets.

After each conversion, the teams swap ends unless the goal has come from a penalty.

On average, the tournament attracts teams from over 20 different countries each year. High and Medium handicap teams play matches of six seven-minute periods called 'chukkas'. There is frequent rotation of horses throughout the contests to ensure high-energy competition.

"Polo in Santa María is relatively unknown at the moment to Costa del Sol residents," admits Blanco Cardenas. "But many people who come here will visit again because it's so spectacular.

"It's growing little by little. In the last year or so, we are seeing more foreign residents and tourists coming to visit the event."

This is one of the sport's four most prestigious tournaments, alongside others in England, the USA and Argentina, where the game is hugely popular after it was introduced by the British in the late nineteenth century. Argentina currently dominates the world rankings for the best polo players.



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MORE INFORMATION

► **Where?** This major polo tournament is at the Santa Maria Polo Club, by exit 133 of the A-7/AP-7 at Sotogrande. Casual dress code. Free parking.

► **When?** Until 1 September. Main game starts at 6.30pm or 7pm every day. (No polo on 27 August). See calendar for latest updates at: www.tip.santamariapoloclub.com

► **How?** Free entry (except for major games on 11, 17, 28, 31 August and 1 September when entry is five to 10 euros). Grounds open at 5.30pm with fashion shopping village, food and drink. 'After Polo' DJ music from 8.30pm.

The sport can be found elsewhere too, and has a presence in Asia, with many of polo's promising talents

coming from Pakistan.

Polo carries an air of class and quality, with perfectly-maintained facilities and a manicured green surface for the graceful horses to strut their stuff. It is a classy environment, with sponsors in every corner, opportunities to spend money and even places for children to play, making it ideal for a family visit.

"The objective, evidently, is to attract much more of the foreign public on the Costa. The timetabling of the event [in the early evening] is well suited to the northern-European lifestyle," says Blanco Cardenas.

"I want more people to come and visit so that they can find out more about the sport."

The International Polo Tournament at Sotogrande provides an excellent exhibition of the world's best teams. Polo, whether it be on the pitch or in the stands, has something to offer everyone and is one of Andalucía's lesser-known sporting gems.

Carolina Marín writes herself into the history books

The Spanish badminton star has become the first woman to be proclaimed world champion three times, after seeing off Pusarla Sindhu in two sets

by MELISA CABALEIRO

MADRID. "Thanks to the discipline I have and my fighting character, I have been very competitive. I hate losing and that is what pushed me to win," said Carolina Marín after being proclaimed world badminton champion for the third time. The 25-year-old, seeded seventh, beat Indian Pusarla Sindhu 21-19 21-10 on Sunday to claim the top prize in the sport after a repeat of the 2016 Olympic final, which Marín also won.

Sindhu got off to a quick start, building a 15-11 lead but a couple of mistakes allowed Marín to come back as she took five straight points to seal the opening game.

From that moment on, Marín never looked like losing, leading the second game from start to finish, conceding just 10 points to the world number three.

Victory in Nanjing (China) adds to Marín's 2014 and 2015 titles, making her the first woman to become a three-time world champion.

"I don't have the words to describe this feeling. It's been an incredible week and I want to thank all of Spain for their support. This is for you," she said.



Marín kisses her gold medal. by EFE



Clear blue skies and lush green fields at the polo. by D. FINCH

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Let's talk about keepers - for once!

The record fee for a goalkeeper has been broken twice this window, with clubs investing in a position often who importance is too often overlooked

Forget Messi and Ronaldo... there's a new debate to split all football fans. Who is the best goalkeeper in the world?

Once upon a time the value of the shot-stopper was almost discarded and the goalkeeper wasn't said to reach his peak until his thirties.

Over the past two summers the value of the goalkeeper has soared and the guys with the gloves of the very best clubs are getting younger and younger.

The youngest of the goalkeeping elite, Kepa Arrizabalaga, is now the costliest. Only 23 years of age, he signed a seven-year contract at Chelsea who invested a record 79-million-euros to replace Thibaut Courtois who headed to Real Madrid for half of that price.

It is difficult to improve upon a team that has won the Champions League three times in a row but the club number one is a po-

sition that Real could marginally improve upon. It's folklore that David De Gea would have moved from Manchester United if the Bernabéu fax machine had functioned fully. Real continued to woo him and also courted Kepa.

Kepa decided to sign a new deal in the winter at Athletic with an increased buy-out which has been met by Chelsea this week.

There was very little wrong with Real's incumbent. Keylor Navas can point to his vast medal collection as proof. His acrobatic training regime is the envy of performers at the Cirque du Soleil. The Costa Rican is international class, the incoming Belgian is world class.

Courtois will improve the European Champions by a discernible percentage. He has presence and an impressive authority. He's served his time across town at Atlético, honed his game at Stamford Bridge and is at the peak of his powers at the age of just 26.

The world record holder Kepa is three years younger and has a tough act to follow but, remember, there was a loud call in Spain for him to be selected ahead of De Gea at this summer's World Cup.

As someone who did once earn a living, albeit a short one, as a professional goalkeeper, my reckoning that we won't be able to judge him until he's made a dreadful mistake. All goalkeepers make them (me more than others, that's why I now commentate) and the test is how you bounce back and how high. Kepa won't improve Chelsea... but also he won't weaken them.

The record for a goalkeeper lasted 16 years until Alisson's trans-

fer to Liverpool eclipsed Gianluigi Buffon's 52-million move in 2001. Allison's move, at 75 million euros, topped the previous Premier League record (Ederson to Manchester City for 40 million euros the previous summer). Both have, and will, improve mightily impressive teams.

Unless you want to start a Twitter storm, don't ask who the best goalkeeper in the world may be. I could argue that the most unobtainable are now at Barcelona and Atlético Madrid.

Marc-André ter Stegen was a bargain at 26 million euros and last season he was sensational for the La Liga champions. Jan Oblak was on the wanted list of many of Europe's leading clubs. Atlético have somehow managed to keep him and also of course Antoine Griezmann this summer.

Once it was said you have to be crazy to be a goalkeeper, or the worst footballer at the school. Now it is rightly regarded as an art form and as with all art, beauty is in the eye of the beholder so don't ask me who is the best! In the Goalkeepers' Union we don't go in for such talk.



Kepa, the keeper. :: REUTERS

All Malaga games to be broadcast live next season after Movistar buys Segunda rights

|| PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. All Segunda games next season will be broadcast live after Movistar purchased the rights to all LaLiga 1|2|3 matches.

The upcoming campaign, which gets under way on Friday 17 August, will see one match per game week shown on Movistar Partidazo (not available through Vodafone), two on Gol (no subscription required), and the remaining eight on Movistar and LaLiga 1|2|3 TV (viewable with Vodafone, Orange, Telecable and on beIN Connect and Sky TV).

It will be a similar story for the top flight, though only one game per week will be free on Gol.

The Supercopa tie between Barcelona and Sevilla on Sunday (10pm) will be free to view on TVE, while the Copa del Rey will be on beIN LaLiga until the semifinals, when they will be broadcast on Gol. One match per round will also be shown on Gol.



A live broadcast. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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Haksabanovic has joined on a season-long loan move from West Ham United. :: MALAGA CF

An influx of new players at Malaga with a week to go

Dani Pacheco, Mamadou Koné and Alfred N'Diaye are set to finalise moves, following Pau Torres, Sead Haksabanovic and Gustavo Blanco through the door this week

:: SERGIO CORTÉS / PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. It may have taken a while for the Malaga transfer machine to get into gear, but the club is now making up for lost time and is close to welcoming five new arrivals in the space of five days.

After defender Ignasi Miquel completed a 3.5-million-euro move to Getafe, as well as last week's loan departure of Michael Santos to Leganés, funds and squad places have been freed up for Malaga to bring in new players.

On Monday, centre-back Pau Torres joined from Villarreal on a season-long loan deal; the 21-year-old will compete for a starting place with Luis Hernández and Diego González.

Torres is one of Villarreal's top prospects at present and has already made seven first-team appearances, including one in the Europa League.

Sporting director José Luis Caminero also hopes to add an experienced centre-half to the squad before the close of the window with Sporting Gijón's Álex Pérez top of the list, though Malaga have been told by the Asturian side that they must increase their opening offer. This comes after coach Juan Ramón Muñiz decided that veteran Miguel Torres was not part of his plans.

The second arrival on Monday was West Ham winger Sead Haksabanovic. The Montenegrin, who turned 19 in May, also joins on loan having been persuaded by former Malaga boss, Manuel Pellegrini (now at West Ham), that the Costa club

was somewhere that would encourage his development.

Most comfortable on the left-hand side, Haksabanovic made his debut in the Swedish league at just 15 and is already a full international with Montenegro.

A new number nine

With Youssef En-Nesyri close to joining Michael Santos at Leganés in a five-million-euro transfer, Malaga were on the lookout now for two new forwards, having already brought in Héctor from Atlético Madrid last week.

One of these spots has now been filled with a loan deal completed for Shakhtar Donetsk forward Gustavo Blanco.

The 26-year-old will most likely be the leading striker for the coming season, having been assigned the number nine shirt.

Until now he has been something of a journeyman, playing for clubs in his native Argentina, Morocco, Russia and Ukraine, where he caught the attention of current Malaga head coach Juan Ramón Muñiz, who was assistant manager to Juande Ramos at Dnipro and still

has connections there.

The second spot could be filled by Ivorian Mamadou Koné, 26, who could join on loan as part of the En-Nesyri deal.

N'Diaye and Pacheco incoming

Villarreal central midfielder Alfred N'Diaye, who spent last season on loan at Wolverhampton Wanderers, is also set to join the Blue and Whites. The high-energy anchorman has already agreed terms on a season-long long deal and passed his medical, but the club is yet to announce the signing with another departure likely to be confirmed first.

The same is the case with Getafe attacking midfielder Dani Pacheco. The former Barcelona Liverpool youngster, who was born in Pizarra, is close to sealing a move which has been on the cards all summer. Despite interest from other clubs such as Las Palmas and Deportivo, Pacheco's desire was to move to Malaga, so the club has left his signing to the end of the window, after they completed more time-sensitive signings, as they knew he didn't want to move anywhere else.

Pacheco is wanted by Muñiz, above all, for his set piece expertise, but also his record of having gained promotion to the top flight on four occasions (with Norwich City, Betis, Alavés and Getafe).

Plenty more to come

These six will certainly not be the last players to arrive before the start of the season. Up to four more could yet be welcomed at La Rosaleda with the club actively looking for a centre-back, as mentioned previously, but also a goalkeeper and a right-back after both Andrés Prieto and Roberto Rosales told the club that they were seeking pastures new.

Another winger is also on the wish-list but is not the greatest priority at present.



N'Diaye in Malaga for his medical. :: FRANCIS SILVA

Pre-season preparations intensify for goal-shy Blue and Whites

:: P. L. A.

MALAGA. With a week to go until the start of the season, Malaga are not taking their foot off the gas and that showed as a tired eleven scraped a 0-0 draw with Mallorca at the Marbella municipal stadium on Wednesday night.

After having completed a training session in the morning, the side laboured against one of their rivals for the upcoming season and only Javi Ontiveros came close to scoring when he struck the crossbar in the first half after cutting in from the left flank.

This was in stark contrast to the side's display last Saturday when debutante Héctor scored a brace either side of an Ontiveros goal to see off Antequera 0-3 at El Maulí.

There will be no let-up; intensive training will continue until tomorrow when the side tackles two friendlies in one day. The first will see them take on Cordoba at the Marbella Football Centre at 10am,

PRE-SEASON

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Malaga, 1; Extremadura, 0
Marbella, 0; Malaga, 0
Malaga, 0; Valladolid, 0
Malaga, 1; Almería, 1
Antequera, 0; Malaga, 3
Malaga, 0; Mallorca, 0

Upcoming:

Cordoba-Malaga: Saturday, 10am, Marbella Football Center.
Granada-Malaga: Saturday, 8pm, Los Cármenes.

followed by a trip to Granada for the Trofeo Ciudad de Granada at 8pm.

Malaga announced last week that they would be competing for this trophy after confirmed that there would be no Trofeo Costa del Sol game this year after being unable to find an opponent, creating a backlash from the fans.



Malaga's bench against Mallorca on Wednesday. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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The World Padel Tour is the biggest tournament of its kind in the world and has come to Mijas for the second time

MIJAS. Padel is a sport that was invented in Acapulco, Mexico, by Enrique Corcuera in the 60s but the cradle of this sport in Europe has been the Costa del Sol, which has some of the best players at world-class level. For this reason the biggest padel tournament in the world - the World Padel Tour - has come to Mijas.

This is the second time that the town has welcomed the tournament and the 'open' will run until Sunday.

However, this time the location of the tournament is not in Mijas Pueblo, where it was located last year, but in La Cala de Mijas.

Although the previous location was more aesthetically pleasing, the new one is more functional as the main court is bigger, has space for up to 3,000 spectators and gives the sensation of being in an arena.

The initial phase of the competition started last Sunday with the official presentation of the event held in the Torreón on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by the best four Malaga players (Carolina Navarro, Beatriz González, Álex Ruiz and Ernesto Moreno) the mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado; the CEO of Acosol, Manuel



Carolina Navarro, Beatriz González, Ernesto Moreno and Álex Ruiz, the four players from Malaga competing at the World Padel Tour. :: NITO SALAS

Cardaña and the head of Sports at Mijas town council, Nuria Rodríguez.

"This competition is a showcase to the world for our town. The Stra-

tegic Plan for Tourism of the area is already indicating that sports tourism is one of the paths to follow to break the seasonality and bring jobs all year round," explained Maldonado during the presentation.

The mayor underlined how the event attracts a lot of tourists to

The new location has a larger main court and there is seating for 3,000 spectators

the town who spend money in the bars and restaurants, benefiting the local economy.

Padel is not the same as tennis; the two sports have very different sets of rules and in padel even the walls surrounding the court can be used during the game.

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World Padel Tour expected to welcome 3,000 fans daily

:: I. GELIBTER

MIJAS. One of the main reasons for having moved the World Padel Tour from Mijas Pueblo to La Cala de Mijas is that now the venue can accommodate many more fans of the sport.

More specifically, the new stadium, is in a much better location and can accommodate up to 3,000 spectators. To see the success that the new stadium is already having, you can go on the ticket web site (www.worldpadeltour.com) and see the speed in which the tickets are being sold.

Just a few tickets are still available (at the time of going to press) for Saturday and Sunday, although it is also possible to purchase them at the ticket office outside the venue.

Ticket prices vary depending on the matches and the location of the seats with the cheapest tickets starting from four euros.

The remaining games take place inside the main stadium, with the majority of the early round games played at the official club of the championship, the Club Cerrado del Águila de Mijas.



The Club Cerrado del Águila. :: I.G

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BENALMÁDENA, Publi Ocio del Sur 670 886 299, Rocío Chacón 678 536 816
MIJAS, Carrefour Mijas 952 580 726 / 670 643 488
MIJAS COSTA, Sonja Bryce 626 539 298
ESTEPONA, Carmen 659 344 816 / 952 806 408
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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
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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
Harmony G	27/07-30/07	St Tropez	Marbella	00.00	05.00
Marella Spirit	12/08	Ceuta	Lisbon	06.00	21.00
MSC Magnifica	15/08	Cadiz	La Coruña	07.00	17.00
Marella Spirit	19/08	Ceuta	Lisbon	06.00	21.00



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Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella
Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga
Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola
C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga
Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga
Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga
Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola

952352300
952474891
951516019
952211797
952667955
952223346
952363591
952604383
952475108

France
Italy
Austria
Finland
Saudi Arabia
Greece
Iceland
Philippines
Hungary

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Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid
Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga
Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga
Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga
Salitre, 16, Malaga
Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola
C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga
Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga

954293200
912106910
952600267
952212435
952310358
952311847
952661200
952222757
952308393

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Work may be demanding but the rewards are high. Keeping a balance between work and home can be tricky.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Of course there is always someone who wants you to do something for them. Either delay or make it snappy.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Everything is about the future this week. It may be hard to let go of some parts of the past, but everything changes.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Aim to keep life simple so that you can deal with any disruptions if they come along. Who wants a perfect life anyway?

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Been given a difficult choice? Take it knowing that you can always change your mind in the future. ?

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Prepare yourself for growth in your social life and more than a bit of fun! Let's be optimistic.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Venus is once again urging you to flirt and have fun, smile and entice. Bear in mind, though, that this could turn into a permanent liaison!

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
A major development at work could see you burning the candle at both ends. Finances need attention.

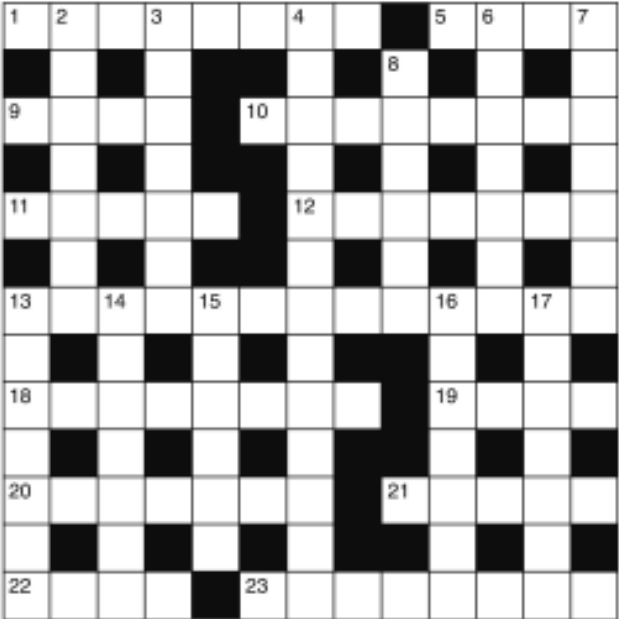
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Open your eyes to the possibility of romance through meeting someone new or rekindling a current squeeze.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Being super-organised means the chance to spend more time with friends working on a holiday jaunt. Good friends make for good fun.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Do you remember fun? Have some! There is time for work and a time for play.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
An exciting turn of events during a holiday or short break makes you realise just how lucky you are.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11307



- Across

 - 1 Disturbing brute in tree causes commotion (8)
 - 5 Plant mentioned in no other book (4)
 - 9 Inventor of a calling system? (4)
 - 10 Inclination to write music for psalm? (8)
 - 11 How bird may be cowed (5)
 - 12 Use evil to become difficult to catch (7)
 - 13 Let on suspense affected abundance (13)
 - 18 Some of it is article for guerrilla (8)
 - 19 Tunes assumed by superior people (4)
 - 20 Wrongly name a single flower (7)
 - 21 Learner always produces something to lift (5)
 - 22 It flies feathered or is flown unfeathered (4)
 - 23 Write it about a number in sorrow (8)
- Down

 - 2 In June, quality is not uniform (7)
 - 3 Uncoined metal has animal on charge (7)
 - 4 Ability to spot a pleasing iris in retaliation? (2,3,3,2,3)
 - 6 Study from a pit (7)
 - 7 Superior people are gamblers? (7)
 - 8 Disdainfully rejects boys' movement (6)
 - 13 A call to awaken? (3,4)
 - 14 Sincere Eastern reform (7)
 - 15 Do back up excursion on three legs .. (6)
 - 16 .. as close as can be for 14, perhaps (7)
 - 17 He could make nurse go out with him to the theatre (7)

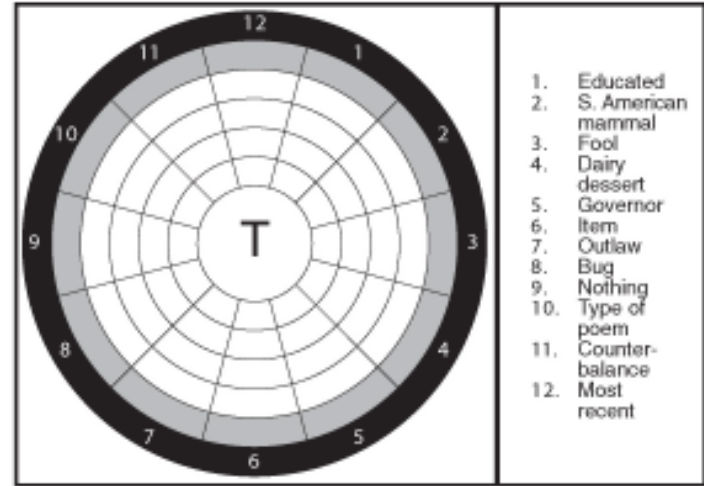
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

7					8			
	2	1		9		8		7
				1				9
			4		6		2	
			3			2	9	5
			8	4				
	4							
	1	6				5		
				6	7	1		8

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter T in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of an actor and television presenter.



THE WORDPUZZLER

E	S	P	U	T	H	B	O	S	S
O	P	A	N	I	C	O	R	V	O
T	O	I	L	F	R	A	C	K	Y
A	T	L	I	F	C	R	H	A	R
R	I	M	O	U	L	D	E	R	I
E	R	U	R	N	O	I	N	E	N
J	U	G	L	N	U	N	C	I	D
A	G	L	A	E	W	P	A	L	I
G	R	I	L	L	E	E	M	A	S
H	O	O	M	T	N	Z	P	O	H

Can you identify the kitchen items from the clues listed below?

- 1. Ship's smokestack
- 2. Prison, commonly
- 3. Attractive person
- 4. Kitty
- 5. Interrogate
- 6. Fungi
- 7. Gullible person
- 8. Directors
- 9. Criticise
- 10. Torture instrument

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.
- Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment
- Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music
- Radio Sol Almjara** (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network
- Heartfmspain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news
- Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda
- Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla
- Global** (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment
- Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.
- Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol
- ACE FM** (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

Claret is a dry red wine produced in which region of France?

- 1. Burgundy
- 2. Beaujolais
- 3. Bordeaux
- 4. Cotès Du Rhone

QUESTION 2

'Scrag end' is the name for a cut of which type of meat?

- 1. Beef
- 2. Pork
- 3. Lamb
- 4. Chicken

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Historian (11)

5) Rights (8)

11) Artichoke (9)

12) Bulls (5)

13) Woman (5)

16) Discrimination (14)

18) It gets light (7)

19) Married (f) (6)

22) Rehearsal (6)

23) Bullring (5,2,5) (12)

26) I obey (8)

27) I heard (2)

28) They value (7)

32) Photographer (f) (9)

33) Equality (8)

34) Sour (5)

36) School (7)

39) I have (2)

41) Abilities (11)

43) Unreal (6)

45) For (3)

46) Birth (10)

47) Governments (9)
- 1) Sisters (8)

2) To bring (5)

3) Island (4)

4) Dialysis (8)

6) It emancipates (8)

7) Entirely (11)

8) Hour (4)

9) Suspension (10)

10) Bullfight (7)

14) To jump (6)

15) Of (2)

16) Decree (7)

17) Childhood (8)

20) To learn (8)

21) Horse (7)

23) Ban (11)

24) Music theory (6)

25) Skill (8)

29) Slices (7)

30) Breeders (f) (9)

31) To fight (6)

35) Islands (5)

37) Closure (6)

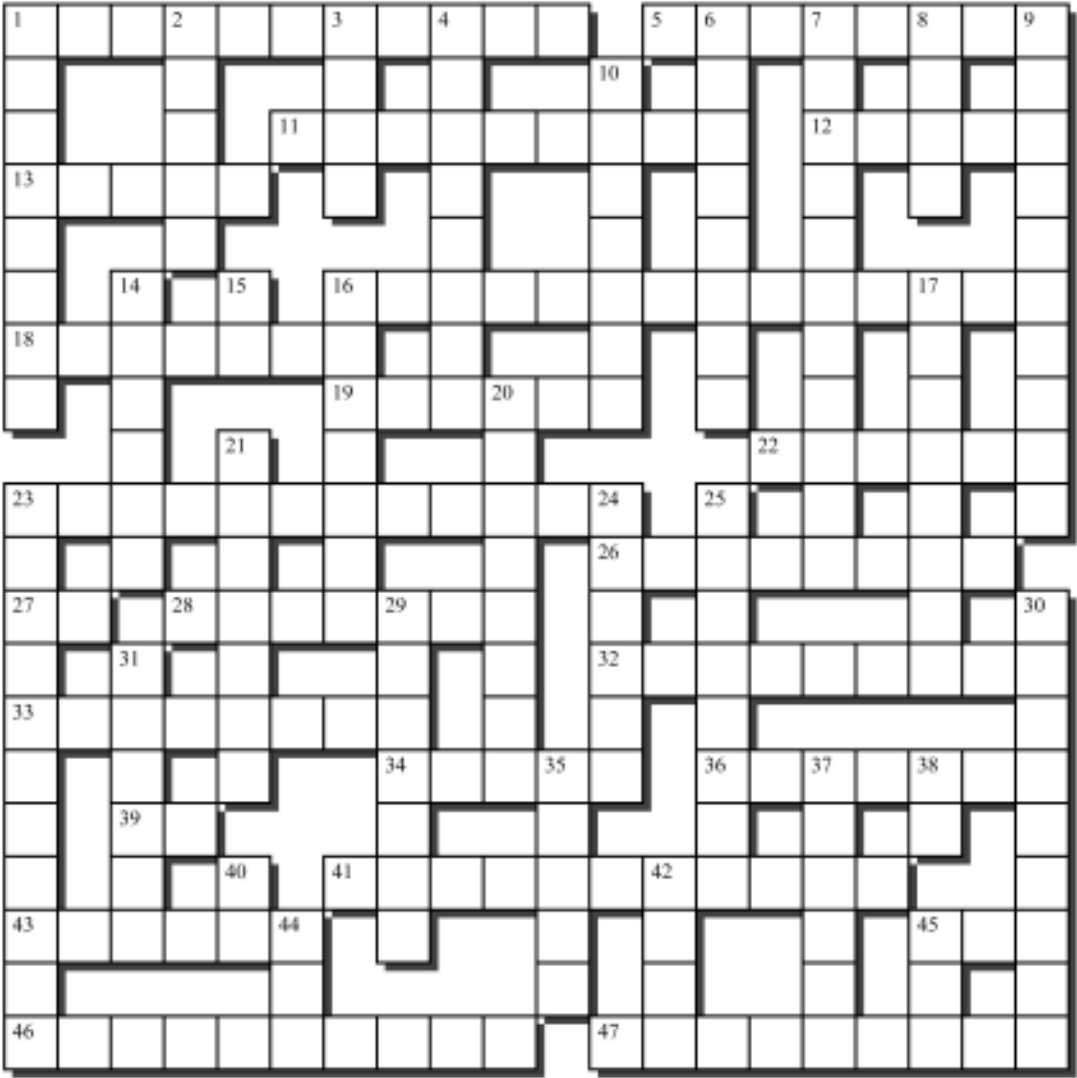
38) In (2)

40) She gives (2)

42) Finger (4)

44) I read (3)

45) Bread (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Bordeaux
Of interest: The best wines are produced in two areas: the Médoc, on the west bank of the Gironde north of Bordeaux; and further east around St Emilion. Each of these districts is further divided into small wine-growing estates or châteaux.
Answer 1: Lamb.
Of interest: The 'scrag end' is an inexpensive cut of lamb (or mutton) from the neck. It contains a lot of bone and is best used in casseroles, soups and stews.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Outbreak; 5 Herb; 9 Bell; 10 Penchant; 11 Qual; 12 Elusive; 13 Pienteousness; 18 Partisan; 19 Airs; 20 Anemone; 21 Lever; 22 Kite; 23 Penitent. Down: 2 Unequal; 3 Bullion; 4 An eye for an eye; 6 Examine; 7 Better; 8 Scouts; 13 Pep talk; 14 Earnest; 15 Tripod; 16 Nearest; 17 Surgeon.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Taught, 2 Ocean, 3 Nitwit, 4 Yogurt, 5 Hegem, 6 Object, 7 Bandit, 8 Insect, 9 Nought, 10 Sonnet, 11 Offset, 12 Newell.
PRESENTER/ACTOR: Tony Robinson.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Funnel
2. Jug
3. Dish
4. Pot
5. Gull
6. Mould
7. Mug
8. Board
9. Pan
10. Rack

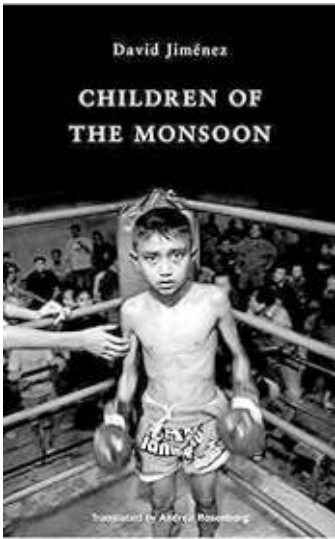
Sudoku solution

5	9	2	6	7	1	4	8	3
8	1	6	9	3	4	5	7	2
3	4	7	8	2	5	6	9	1
2	5	8	4	1	9	7	3	6
1	6	3	7	8	2	9	4	5
9	7	4	5	6	3	2	1	8
6	8	5	1	4	7	3	2	9
4	2	1	3	9	6	8	5	7
7	3	9	2	5	8	1	6	4

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. HISTORIADOR 5. HERBOS 9. CAMPESINOS 10. PASAPORTE 11. CALABAZA 12. TOROS 13. MUEBLES 14. CASCABELLO 15. CORDÓN 16. CORDÓN 17. CORDÓN 18. CORDÓN 19. CORDÓN 20. CORDÓN 21. CORDÓN 22. CORDÓN 23. CORDÓN 24. CORDÓN 25. CORDÓN 26. CORDÓN 27. CORDÓN 28. CORDÓN 29. CORDÓN 30. CORDÓN 31. CORDÓN 32. CORDÓN 33. CORDÓN 34. CORDÓN 35. CORDÓN 36. CORDÓN 37. CORDÓN 38. CORDÓN 39. CORDÓN 40. CORDÓN 41. CORDÓN 42. CORDÓN 43. CORDÓN 44. CORDÓN 45. CORDÓN 46. CORDÓN 47. CORDÓN

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Children of the Monsoon
David Jiménez

David Jiménez, award winning writer and former editor of Spanish newspaper El Mundo, tells the story of the changing face of Asia as seen through the eyes of its youngest citizens. From a small, dispirited Thai boxer to the underground children of Mongolia, from a little girl dying of AIDs in Cambodia to a teenage monk in Tibet, these stories capture what it means to grow up in an unstable and unjust world. Here, the monsoons are as manmade as they are natural.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We are all
born
ignorant but
one must
work hard to
remain
stupid

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Half way through summer

After the unbearable heat of the recent heatwave it is a relief to return to the normal summer temperatures and cool breezes on the Costa del Sol. We are now over half-way through the summer and it won't be long before the autumn and more changeable weather arrives. Hopefully the thunderstorms that are looming over other parts of Spain will keep off at least for the fairs across the province that are happening this month. Malaga's long-awaited feria starts tomorrow, 11 August and continues

until 19 August with events happening in the city centre during the day and in the fairground at night. If you're going this year we would love to hear your opinion on the festivities and see your photos of what is Malaga's biggest party of the year.
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The most keenly-awaited shower



FERNANDO MORGADO

Twitter: @fernandmorgado

It has only been a few days since there was a total eclipse of the moon and Mars was the closest it has been to the Earth for 32 years, but this weekend our eyes will be firmly set on the firmament again, this time to see something which never ceases to surprise us, even though it occurs every year. This will be the most keenly-awaited shower of the summer: a shower of stars, known as the Perseids or the Tears of San Lorenzo, because 10 August is the Day of San Lorenzo. This summer, the lack of moonlight in the night-time sky means the shooting stars should be clearly visible.

Although the phenomenon started on 17 July and will continue until 24 August, it will be this Saturday and Sunday nights when the most Perseids can be seen in the sky. There is a simple explanation: at this time of year, our planet crosses the trail of dust particles and ice left behind by the 109P/Swift-Tuttle comet, a cele-



Experts say conditions this year will be "perfect". :: SUR

tial body about 26 kilometres in diameter which orbits the sun once every 135 years. It is the particles left by the Swift-Tuttle that turn into the shooting stars as they pass through the Earth's atmosphere.

José Jiménez, the executive director of Astroándalus, a company which specialises in astronomical tourism, says this year the Perseids

will be perfect.

"Unlike last year, when there was a full moon, there will be a new moon, which is like having no moon at all, and that means we will see many more Perseids," he explains. He also suggests that we take advantage of the occasion to look at Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

The special interest in this shower

of stars is due to a parameter, the Zenithal Hourly Rate or ZHR, which defines the number of shooting stars which can be seen every hour. This year it is 100, which is very high.

Although hundreds of stars will be crossing the sky on Saturday and Sunday nights, it is best to watch them from somewhere away from light pollution. "They can be

seen with the naked eye, but it is best to go to dark areas like La Axarquía, El Torcal or the Serranía de Ronda," says Jiménez. Astroándalus is also organising a guided observation in Alfarnatejo on Saturday night, which can be booked on its website. Similar events are also being organised in other parts of Malaga province.

HELPFUL ADVICE

► **Watch from a dark place.** Light contamination from towns makes it more difficult to see the stars.

► **Wear comfortable clothes, suitable for the outdoors.** Long trousers are best if you are going into the countryside.

► **Take a sunbed or mat.** You can lie in comfort and watch the sky.

► **Don't create light.** The use of mobile phones and torches makes it difficult for our eyes to adapt to the darkness.

► **Take part in a guided observation.** For example, the ones organised by Astroándalus in Alfarnatejo, Astrolab in the Sierra de las Nieves and the Observatory of El Torcal in Antequera. These may be booked on their websites. The Sociedad Malagueña de Astronomía is organising a free observation in Arriate on Sunday.

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