

# SUR

## in English

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FEATURE

### The road to the stars, from the bottom up

Students at Les Roches hospitality management school in Marbella are put through their paces **P24**



## Investigation under way as Malaga mourns Julen's death

An inquiry could lead to negligent manslaughter charges after the boy's body was recovered on Saturday

The case of the toddler who fell down a hole in Totalán came to an end last Saturday when miners broke through to find the boy's body. Investigations into the case are well under way and could lead

to charges of manslaughter due to negligence. The hole the boy fell down had been drilled with no licence and "non-existent" safety measures, said the Guardia Civil this week. **P2,3&4**

## Brexit thought to be behind first rise in British resident figures in Marbella in years

The recent figures from the local population register, or Padrón, in Marbella show a rise in British residents in the town, for the first time since before the financial crisis. The small increase is thought to be due

to residents following advice to legalise their situation in Spain before Brexit. The town hall has also been running a campaign to encourage the thousands of unregistered residents to join the Padrón. **P16**

### INTERVIEW JACK HARPER



### "It's a dream to play for Malaga"

The Scot spoke of his roots and incredible rise in his first ever interview in the Spanish press **P48**

**Uber and Cabify pull out of Barcelona** after the regional government passed new legislation that ended the taxi strike **P18**

**Preparing for the adventure of a lifetime.** Friends stop in Estepona before travelling the world in a camper van **P28**

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## A PROMISING FUTURE FOR MARBELLA CHEF

Fernando Alcalá, of Kava, won the best young chef award at Reale Seguros Madrid Fusión **P40**



The 27-year-old Marbella chef on Wednesday in Madrid. **:: I.P.**

Malaga's Puri Morillo was voted third best new pastry chef at the gastronomy fair **P40**

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# Investigation reveals safety shortfalls as Malaga and Totalán mourn the loss of little Julen

After the body of the two-year-old was found early last Saturday, a judge is now investigating a possible charge of negligent manslaughter

:: SUR

**MALAGA.** When the body of two-year-old Julen was reached last Saturday morning by mine-rescue workers, any last hope that the toddler had survived the 71-metre fall into a narrow borehole almost two weeks earlier evaporated.

The praise for the dedication of the emergency services in retrieving the boy and the support of the people of Totalán was mixed with the grief of the family, residents in the Malaga suburb of El Palo and the millions around the world who had followed the rescue since 13 January.

Julen's body was found as mining and geolocation specialists had predicted, wedged between the floor of the part-filled borehole and a layer of earth above him, which had prevented him being plucked from the borehole by rescuers' equipment.

The reason why the plug of earth



The last few metres towards where the boy was. :: SUR



The family of Julen mourn their loss. :: SALVADOR SALAS

was there on top of him was a key part of the initial investigation into whether the illegal hole had been properly covered and how the boy came to fall down.

Rescuers, after initially rejecting a horizontal tunnel to reach the boy's position, had completed a parallel vertical shaft to the borehole in record time, removing a large

amount of earth from the hillside, in the process, the equivalent of 33 Olympic-sized pools. Once complete, the miners were lowered down to begin a four-metre hori-

zontal link to Julen's supposed location on Thursday 17 January.

After delays with dense rock, and extra explosives helicoptered in by the Guardia Civil, they broke



Large crowds gathered to pay their respects. :: NITO SALAS

## Grief in El Palo as hundreds turn out for two-year-old's funeral

:: SUR

**MALAGA.** After Julen's body had been examined by pathologists on Saturday morning, it was taken to a chapel of rest in the close-knit seaside district of El Palo in Malaga, where the boy lived. Crowds from the local community gathered to

offer their condolences to his parents, José Rosseló and Vicky García, who have been shadowed by psychologists offering support at all times.

One neighbour said, "At least we all stuck together. And we'll continue like that. Because Julen and

his family deserve it."

Both the city of Malaga and the small neighbouring municipality of Totalán announced three days of mourning and flags flew at half mast.

Many public figures, including King Felipe, had sent messages of sympathy, while local politicians and officials, as well as many of those involved in the rescue, also came to pay their respects.

On Sunday the private funeral service was held at the cemetery in El Palo while hundreds gathered outside.

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# Widespread praise for rescuers and volunteers who worked to free toddler against the odds

through at 1.25am last Saturday and confirmed everyone's worst fears.

An initial autopsy provided some comfort for the boy's family by stating that Julen died on the same day he fell, showing signs of head and body injuries consistent with a long drop.

## Investigation

A Malaga judge has opened an investigation into how Julen got into the borehole and if any party is liable to a charge of manslaughter due to negligence. The earth on top of him is now thought to have come from damp soil falling from the borehole lining.

Authorities have said the borehole, drilled by a contractor searching for water, didn't have a licence. The company owner has said he left the hole covered with a 15-kilo stone, and police are comparing his explanation with the version of the land's owner, who is the partner of Julen's father's cousin. According to sources, the owner of the land has told police that the borehole was left unsealed and he covered it with two breezeblocks.

The family went to the land on 13 January to prepare a weekend paella when Julen suddenly disappeared from view down the hole, according to witness statements.

Miners from Asturias were hailed as heroes and there was pride in the dedication of the many teams in the complex mission

## ■ SUR

**MALAGA.** Amid the frustration that more couldn't have been done to save Julen, there was praise for the hundreds of rescue workers, volunteers and experts who had contributed to the unprecedented and complicated operation.

On Saturday, as Julen's body was found, there was immediate recognition for the team of eight "heroes" from the mine-rescue service in Asturias, northern Spain, who had worked in shifts to excavate the rock in the last stages in dangerous conditions.

"We only want to say one thing as we didn't get the chance; to express our condolences to the family that yesterday, given the time it was and how it all ended, we weren't able to," they said on Sunday as they prepared to fly home.

Their leader, Sergio Tuñón, later thanked the Guardia Civil and



With a air of sadness, the widely praised rescue workers posed for a final team photograph. ■ SUR

Malaga fire service for their support.

On Tuesday, the national head of the Guardia Civil, Félix Azón, was at the force's Malaga barracks to congratulate his officers for their work.

Many different companies offered support for the fast operation,

which would normally have taken several months, including a firm in Alhaurín el Grande that hurriedly built the capsule to lower the miners down the parallel borehole, the Swedish geolocalisation team that had been involved in the rescue of 33 Chilean miners in 2010 and a

Murcia firm that built the steel lining of the parallel shaft.

The small hillside municipality of Totalán, with just 700 inhabitants, was also warmly thanked for the way they had opened their doors to support the operation, providing lodging and food.

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# Man and his dog found in a well probably died in a tragic accident

Malaga province was hit by another well tragedy this week when a local man was killed by hypothermia near Villanueva del Trabuco

:: FERNANDO TORRES

**VVA. DEL TRABUCO.** Investigators say that the man in his forties found dead in an uncovered well early on Monday morning probably died in a tragic accident.

Guardia Civil in the village of Villanueva del Trabuco, in inland Malaga province, began a missing persons search late last Sunday after Juan Antonio Santamaría had failed to return home after going out to walk his dog. Shortly before 3am the next day, police divers found his body inside a water-filled well three metres deep. His dog, also dead, was found with him inside.

Locals in Villanueva del Trabuco said that the man knew the rural area well and organised walking groups there, pointing to it being an accident. Friends added that he



Locals inspect the spot where the man and dog were found. :: F. TORRES

**The man was found naked inside with his clothes on the ground alongside**

was “happy” and “fine”, ruling out early suggestions it could have been a suicide. His large, white cross-breed dog had been “a loyal friend” and never left his side, they added.

The well, a few kilometres from the village, is surrounded by a waist-high wall and is a few metres wide. According to sources, the man was found naked inside with his clothes alongside the well on the ground.

Investigators believe that the dog had jumped into the well and that Santamaría had gone in after it to save him, removing his clothes first. Unfortunately he had been unable to get out again and both had died of hypothermia.

Inquiries are also now under way into whether the well was illegal or not. Locals said that it has been there for 20 to 30 years.

## Tougher action called for over dangerous uncovered or illegal wells in rural areas

Julen’s fatal fall down a deep borehole and the death of a man and his dog have alerted the public to the risks of covert drilling for water

:: SUR

**MALAGA.** The tragedy of two-year-old Julen’s fall to his death 70-metres down a narrow borehole had already drawn attention to the problem of uncovered and badly marked wells in the countryside. Public con-

cern was added to this week with the discovery of a man and dog dead in a well, also in Malaga province.

Many of the thousands of wells or holes sunk in search of water in rural areas don’t have the necessary licence and nobody is sure how many of these there really are.

Speaking after Julen was found, the central government’s representative in Andalucía, Alfonso Rodríguez Gómez, called on people with unauthorised wells on their properties to make sure they were covered.

A representative of farmers in Malaga province who irrigate their



Julen fell down this narrow hole that allegedly was not legal. :: SUR

land said, “We are asking, and we have always asked for [illegal water wells] to be monitored and closed.” They say they have written to the

regional government many times asking for only legal wells for agriculture and a stop put to illegal ones “for other uses, such as leisure”.

112 REPORTS

### Body found on beach may be linked to drifting drug boat

MALAGA

:: **Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO.** Police are trying to identify a body found on a Manilva beach last Sunday amid suspicions it could be linked to a speedboat found adrift nearby earlier the same day.

Police had spent much of Sunday in pursuit of a speedboat linked to drug smuggling off the coast of Manilva, which is an area increasingly used by gangs to bring the merchandise ashore.

The drug-linked vessel succeeded in evading the patrol but later one was found after apparently going adrift.

Some time afterwards a member of the public walking his dog called police after spotting a body on a nearby stretch of beach.



Police carry out the raid. :: SUR

### Police operation brings down long-running drugs sales point

ARCHIDONA

:: **A. F. / J. C. / F. T.** An operation orchestrated by the National Police has closed down a drugs sales point which had been active in Archidona for 30 years after bringing down the criminal organisation behind it.

Eight people have been arrested after searches were carried out on multiple properties across the town.

The operation has come as a relief to many people from the area who say that it had been blighting the town for too long.

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# What are your UK pension options in Spain today?

By Chris McCann, Partner, Blevins Franks

Pensions are often the key to long-term financial security, so it is crucial to take extreme care when deciding what to do here. Expatriates have the added complication of factoring in the tax rules of two countries, as well as the potential for Brexit to limit the range of opportunities.

So what are today's options for Britons living in Spain?

## Defined contribution\* or 'money purchase' pensions

This category includes most personal and employer pensions and Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs). Here, what you are entitled to depends on how much you have paid into the scheme alongside employer contributions, tax rebates and investment growth.

Since the pension freedoms of 2015, members of defined contribution schemes can usually do the following from age 55:

- Take the whole fund as cash, technically called the 'Pension Commencement Lump Sum' (PCLS) – 25% will be tax-free in the UK.
- Make cash withdrawals when you

want – a quarter is free of UK tax each time (unless you have already taken the PCLS).

- Take regular income through 'flexible drawdown', leaving the remainder invested.
- Take a secure, regular income for life through an 'annuity'.

As UK pension payments are usually paid in sterling, conversion fees and variable exchange rates can reduce the value of income for retirees in Spain.

Expatriates have the option to transfer UK pension funds an EU-based **Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS)** tax-free. QROPS advantages include the flexibility to pass pension benefits to chosen heirs, take income in euros or sterling and more investment choice. Once in a QROPS, funds are protected from future UK taxation, including lifetime allowance penalties.

However, QROPS benefits and rules vary significantly between providers and jurisdictions. Also, a 25% UK tax charge applies on transfers to QROPS outside the EEA (European Economic Area). Many believe the UK government may tax

EU/EEA transfers after Brexit, so if you are considering transferring, act sooner rather than later to avoid unnecessary taxation. Take specialist advice to establish if transferring is suitable for you and navigate the complex options.

## 'Defined benefit' or 'final salary' pensions

Here, your employer guarantees a proportion of your salary for the whole of retirement. While you cannot usually withdraw cash from this type of pension, you can transfer it to a defined contribution scheme or QROPS. Traditionally, this has been considered less beneficial than drawing a guaranteed pension for life. However, some providers have been offering higher than usual 'transfer values' to reduce their future pension liabilities. Sensibly reinvested, a high one-off sum could potentially provide a retirement income that exceeds the original annual payment, but it is crucial to understand the consequences before giving up lifetime benefits.

In any case, you should consider various issues before making pension decisions.

## Taxation

While 25% of cash withdrawals can be taken tax-free in the UK, for Spanish residents they are usually taxable in Spain, as is other UK pension income.

The exception here is UK government service pensions, which remain taxable in the UK only (although the income is included when calculating your Spanish final tax rate).

For the best results take specialist, cross-border advice before making any pension decisions.

## Making your pensions last

Having the freedom to withdraw or transfer your pension does not mean that you should; you may be better off taking no action at this time. If you do choose to take some or all of your benefits as cash, you need a reliable plan to fund your long-term future.

Beware that pension scams have never been more widespread and sophisticated – generally, if an investment sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Make sure any company you are dealing with

regarding pension services is regulated with the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Remember: unprotected investments risk losing your money.

Even amongst regulated providers, check for quality. The FCA found that less than half of those transferring final salary pensions received suitable advice. Your adviser should take account of your needs, objectives, personal circumstances and risk appetite to find the best solution for you. Getting it wrong could have serious and unexpected consequences.

Take care to explore your options now – before Brexit potentially changes the landscape – to establish your best approach for a prosperous retirement in Spain. Contact Blevins Franks for personalised advice. [www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com)

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

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# Mayor takes Nueva Torrequebrada rail station plans to Madrid

Benalmádena town hall said it would pay for part of the costs at a meeting with rail-infrastructure company, Adif

IVÁN GELIBTER

**BENALMÁDENA.** A possible new railway station on the local Cercanías line at Nueva Torrequebrada took a step forward recently at a meeting in Madrid.

Locals have been campaigning for the extra stop for years, and for the first time a mayor of Benalmádena has taken up the cause in a meeting with Adif, the state-owned rail infrastructure company.

“Nueva Torrequebrada is one of the main growth areas in the municipality and where the population has most increased. At the moment there are 16,872 people in this and surrounding areas that have serious transport and communication problems with the rest of the municipality and the Costa del Sol,” explained the mayor, Víctor Navas.

Navas was meeting the director general of Adif, María Luisa Domínguez, and her team to present the plans for the station drawn up by town hall technicians. A petition of



Víctor Navas (centre-left) in the meeting with Adif. :: SUR

1,400 names has also been handed in to Adif.

“In the meeting we told Adif that we’re willing to help towards the costs of the station, as the town-hall’s accounts are in a healthy state,” added Navas.

According to town hall sources, the Adif team said they would ask the ministry for Infrastructure, which the rail company is part of, for permission to carry out a viabil-

ity study for the new station.

“The population growth in the municipality, its urban development, the mobility and sustainability of this means of transport are more than enough reasons to listen to local residents’ demands,” explained Navas. He went on to say that Benalmádena only has two stops on the Malaga-Fuengirola line, compared to the five lying within the boundary of Torremolinos.



The SATE in Puerto Banús will be part of the network. :: JOSELE-LANZA

# Marbella to have CCTV surveillance in four new locations by the summer

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

**MARBELLA.** The first phase of the new video surveillance project in Marbella will be in operation before the start of the summer, town hall spokesman Féliz Romero has confirmed.

The cameras have already been installed, he said, but what remains to be done is to connect the network to the Local Police and National Police headquarters, as well as to the branch of the dedicated foreign-tourist help service of the National Police, known as SATE.

A total of 85 new CCTV cam-

eras have been installed in Elviria, the Puerto Deportivo, La Cañada and Puerto Banús at a cost of 1.046 million euros.

“It will be a much safer summer for Marbella,” said Romero who also expressed the possibility of it being ready in time for the Holy Week celebrations, which this year arrives later than usual, in the third week of April.

The second phase of the project will cover the area of the historic centre and the contract for a consultancy firm for its design will soon be put out to tender.

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# Burns Night fun on the Costa

The annual Scottish ritual of piping in the haggis provided entertainment for St Andrew's Chaplaincy and La Cala Lions last week

SUR IN ENGLISH

**COSTA DEL SOL.** A taste of Scottish tradition came to the Costa last Friday, 25 January, with two celebrations of Burns Night, marking poet Robert Burns' birthday.

St Andrew's Chaplaincy celebrated Burns Night in true style at its community centre in Los Boliches. The event was hosted by Billy Dawson who addressed the haggis that was piped in by Leslie Thompson. A traditional “toast to the lassies” was given by Colin Pollard and the clever reply came from Juliet Hird.

La Cala de Mijas Lions raised over 1,900 euros at their Burns Night at the Tamisa Golf Hotel, near Mijas Golf, helped along by Scottish hotel-owner, John Peach, and club Social Secretary, Sandy Tavendale. The piper played a rousing accompaniment to the haggis on its silver salver.

This annual event is looked forward to every year by many on the coast with links to Scotland. A Touch of Class also performed.



The haggis is piped in at the La Cala de Mijas Lions event. :: SUR



Piper Leslie Thompson and friends at the St Andrew's Burns night. :: SUR



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## HERE AND THERE

**Valuable 18th-century mural uncovered****ESTEPONA**

:: **C. MÁRQUEZ.** Refurbishment work to a building on Calle Modéjar just outside the centre of Estepona has unveiled a highly valuable 18th-century mural on the façade of a building.

The artwork, created in Baroque style, has aroused the interest of

many experts, given the amount of different geometric, anthropomorphic, zoomorphic and architectural motifs, as well as Spanish-American elements atypical of the time, that have been fitted into such a small space.

The town's Heritage councillor, José María Guerrero, said that the town hall was collaborating with owners of building to help to restore such murals when they are discovered.

**Town hall pays out 31,000 euros to former worker****TORREMOLINOS**

:: **A. G.** Torremolinos council has approved the transfer of 31,805 euros to its former municipal secretary, 11 months after a judge ruled that she had suffered "abuse" and "humiliation" from ex-mayor Pedro Fernández Montes (PP). 10,839 euros was for the 202 days of sick leave incurred as a result, with the rest as compensation for damage to her reputation.

**Door-to-door refuse collection firm moves in****BENALMÁDENA**

:: **E. C.** An entrepreneur from Seville has introduced a new service to Benalmádena collecting rubbish from people's homes to avoid them having to go to communal bins or recycling points. Francisco José Novalío has signed a deal with a local housing estate with 3,500 properties. His service is already in Seville, Dos Hermanas, Huelva and Jerez.

**Landsbanki 'scam' victims make progress in the courts**

A Marbella court has declared the loan of one couple to be void because of unfair terms and lack of proof that the money was ever received

**:: MÓNICA PÉREZ**

**MARBELLA.** A court in Marbella has ruled in favour of a couple involved in the ongoing legal action against Icelandic bank Landsbanki.

Some 200 retirees, many of them British nationals living on the Costa del Sol, have come together to coordinate legal action against the bank who they say sold them a financial product that turned out to be "toxic".

They launched a class action against Landsbanki last year for

talking in to remortgaging their homes and using most of the money from the loans to invest in high-risk funds which resulted in them losing all of their money.

Last week, however, some progress was made as a Marbella court ruled against the bank's claims for a couple to pay back its loan. The court said the loan was void because of unfair terms and lack of proof that the money was ever received.

According to the lawyer leading the class action, Ignacio Fuente: "This sentence has backed up what we've been saying all along. The details of the product were very complicated and the bank didn't treat them as consumers, but as professional financiers and that is why the court has voided them for being abusive."



A protest against the bank in February last year. :: JOSELE-LANZA

**Palacio de Congresos to undergo biggest refit in years****:: M. PÉREZ**

**MARBELLA.** The Palacio de Congresos in Marbella is set to undergo its biggest refurbishment in a number of years with the aim of attracting more and larger events to the town.

The town hall hopes to carry out a number of works (including fixing the leaky roof, changing the main stage, reupholstering the seats, changing the flooring, in-

stalling new audiovisual and air conditioning equipment and repainting inside and out) and has set in motion an action plan.

It is hoped that the congress centre, which last year welcomed 130,458 people to 241 events (an eight per cent increase on the previous year), will, according to the town's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, "become one of the most prominent events centres in southern Europe".



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# Madrid tourism fair offers perfect stage for Costa firms to show off new projects

BlueBay announced a new hotel on the Costa del Sol while Higuera Hotel Málaga is carrying out a 22-million-euro upgrade and expansion

:: P. MARTÍNEZ / J. ALMELLONES

**MADRID.** The international tourism fair, Fitur, which took place last week in Madrid was more than just an opportunity for tourism authorities to showcase their attractions. The annual event is also the perfect stage from which private firms can announce their new projects and successful results.

One firm to take advantage of this was BlueBay, which announced the opening of a new hotel on the Costa del Sol. The company's director general Ramón Hernández, said that the group's growth plan up to 2020 includes a new venture in this area but that further details would not be revealed until February.

BlueBay Hotels already has one hotel on the Costa del Sol, a four-star establishment in Puerto Banús.

Between now and 2020 the group plans to spend 60 million euros on new hotels, new lines of business and a new website, explained Hernández.

The Costa del Sol and Andalucía sections at the fair had space set aside, not only for local businesses to hold meetings with fellow industry professionals, but also for firms' representatives to address the press and members of the public.

The director general of Higuera Hotel Málaga, José Navas, used the space to reveal an ambitious expansion plan for its Benalmádena



The busy Costa del Sol space at Fitur, open to the public last weekend. :: SUR

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hotel. Some 22 million euros are to be invested in two phases of the project.

The first, to be completed by June this year, involves the refurbishment of 177 rooms and the opening of a new convention centre with a capacity for 1,100 people, as well as restaurants and a gym.

The second phase, ready for Easter 2020, involves the construction of a new block with 113 suites as well as a beach club next to the iconic Carvajal rock. With these changes, the four-star hotel will adopt the exclusive brand Curio Collection by Hilton.

The Malaga-based holiday rentals portal Spain-Holiday.com also chose Fitur to announce that 2018 has been the 16-year-old firm's best yet, with profits up 150%.

The company's CEO, Jannich Friis Petersen, pointed out that the positive results were achieved despite the fact that last year all of the properties with no legal registration number were taken off their books. Further growth is forecast for 2019.

Doha, Bordeaux, Cardiff and Milan

Qatar Airways has said that it will operate its direct flight between Malaga and Doha again this summer. Five flights a week have been scheduled, one more than last year, and the airline will use a bigger aircraft with a capacity for 358 passengers.

Ryanair announced last week that from June it would be operating flights between Malaga and three new destinations, Cardiff, Bordeaux and Milan Malpensa.

British company Jet2.com has said that this year it will be operating 75 flights a week at Malaga Airport with more than a million seats on sale for 2019.

# Innovative app allows holiday home owners to send guests' details to authorities more easily

Check-in Scan scans guests' IDs and sends them with their signature directly to the local authorities as per legal requirements in Spain

:: DARYL FINCH

**MALAGA.** With an impressive 15,000 downloads to date, the mobile app developed by Check-in Scan, a tech startup from Mijas that launched last March, is proving a popular new tool in the tourism industry.

The app easily speeds up a process that many in the sector face on a daily basis - making sure that the

passport and ID details of all guests, as well as a signed arrival form, are sent to the police within 24 hours of arrival. This is a legal requirement for anyone involved in the check-in process, whether at holiday rental properties, hotels, hostels or campsites.

According to the Check-in Scan's managing director, Ben Smith, the mobile app "saves 90% of the time that it would usually take if done manually". After the user has downloaded the app, available on either the Apple Store or the Google Play store, they can create a free account and then add their property to their Check-in Scan account through a web dashboard. Once complete, the user has to

open the app on a smartphone, choose the property and arrival and departure date. Next, using the camera, the guests' passport and/or ID cards are scanned and then they are invited to sign on the mobile's screen. After clicking 'Finish Check-in', the information is immediately sent to the police.

While the app is still in its relative infancy, it is already available across the country. "The app works all over Spain and is compatible with the four different police systems. There are some small regional variations but our app currently addresses the main concerns as a national legal requirement and we are working to address specific regional needs as part of our ongoing



The Check-in Scan stand at Fitur last week. :: SUR

development," said Smith.

Check-in Scan was present with its own stand at the Fitur travel fair in Madrid last week and in total, over 450 demos were made during the five-day event. "We are very happy with the response. It

was our first year at Fitur so we didn't know what to expect but we had large queues of people waiting to get a demo," said Smith. "It was very rewarding to see that our solution answers a very specific need in the market."

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## HERE AND THERE

**Second phase of Torre pedestrianisation due****TORRE DEL MAR**

:: **A. P. Vélez-Málaga** town hall has announced that work to pedestrianise the northern section of Calle del Mar in Torre del Mar is due to start imminently and is expected to take three months to complete. The work is an extension of the pedestrianisation of the southern part of the same street, which was completed four years ago. Businesses in the area have expressed their concerns about disruption during the work.

**School cycling initiative to be extended****RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA**

:: **E. C.** Rincón de la Victoria town hall has announced plans to extend its cycling to school project, 'STARS' to include a further seven schools. The European Union initiative, which was started in the town two years ago, was the first of its kind in Andalucía. Participating centres will roll out a series of activities throughout the academic year to encourage pupils to cycle or walk to school, with dedicated monitors helping children on their journeys.

**75,000-euro funding for local organisations****VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

:: **A. P.** Vélez-Málaga town hall met last Tuesday with representatives of the four local associations set to receive a total of 75,000 euros from the 2018 budget. The town hall will share the funding between two food banks, ATIS and EMÁUS, which between them provide around 400 meals per day in the area, alcohol rehabilitation programme, ARAX, and Proyecto Hombre which helps addicts and their families with rehabilitation and social inclusion programmes.

**Organisations and local residents discuss 'Brick Beach' project plans**

A recycling and treatment plant is set to be built in Vélez-Málaga and representatives hope it will stop the illegal dumping of building waste

**:: EUGENIO CABEZAS**

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** The organisations and entities involved in the so-called 'Brick Beach' project to regenerate Mezquitilla beach in Vélez-Málaga met with residents last Tuesday to discuss the project and to answer their concerns.

The project involves regenerating part of the beach which started to disappear 40 years ago as a consequence of the Caleta de Vélez port development, with treated building rubble. Four million of the total five million euro budget is set to come from the European Union, which has set a deadline of 2021 to complete the project.

Residents sought assurances that the plans include underwater breakwaters, so that the beach would not be washed away again during storms, which has been a problem along the coast in recent years. Another question was over the type of materials that will be used to regenerate the beach, to which Francisco Xavier Neill Castanera, professor of Ecology at the University of Malaga, replied that laboratory tests are "currently being carried out" to determine the composition and character of different materials" and that it is important to "control the levels of sulfates" in the materials used.

The next step in the project will be to build a recycling and treatment plant, which is expected to be situated next to Vélez-Málaga's sewage treatment plant, once an environmental impact evaluation report has been completed by the Junta de Andalucía's environmental delegation.



UMA, town hall, Aula del Mar and AGRECA representatives. :: **E. C.**

Representatives highlighted the importance of getting people on board with the project to stop the illegal dumping of construction waste, which is a major problem in the area.

Juan Jesús Martín from Malaga's Aula de Mar praised the project, saying that it is "sustainable, accessible and innovative," while mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, said the project is "pioneering".

**SCHOOL PUPILS RUN TO RAISE 1,222 EUROS FOR CUDECA**

Around 100 pupils from schools in the Rincón de la Victoria area, including Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, in the hamlet of El Valdés, have raised 1,222 euros through a sponsored 'peace run', for Cudeca. The money will go towards providing professional care for cancer patients.



:: SUR

**Health workers' union files official complaint over broken hospital X-ray machine****:: E. CABEZAS**

**TORRE DEL MAR.** The CSIF union which represents health workers at the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar has put in an official complaint about the state of the X-ray machine on the accident and emergency unit, which the union claims has been broken for almost a year.

Union members have complained that hospital management have only provided temporary solutions but not tried to repair or replace the existing machine. They have also highlighted the extra pressure being put on hospital porters to take patients to other parts of the hospital to have X-rays done.

The management team has responded by saying that "care has been guaranteed at all times", and that a new machine was purchased in August last year, through a call to tender, but is currently the subject of an appeal, which is the reason for the delay in replacing the broken machine.

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# Teachers warn that Fortnite is causing academic performance to “deteriorate significantly”

El Limonar school in Malaga has sent out a letter to parents warning of the dangers of this videogame

ALMUDENA NOGUÉS

**MALAGA.** A Malaga school has issued a letter to parents warning of the dangers of the increasingly popular videogame Fortnite.

The letter, signed by the head of the student support at the Colegio El Limonar in Malaga, Isabel Maria

Alonso, warned: “We have been observing some worrying behaviour among our secondary and upper primary school pupils which is getting worse by the day.

“We are seeing academic performance deteriorating significantly, as well as pupils’ self-control and their

relationships with others.”

This problem, however, is not just limited to this school. The letter started being circulated widely around Whatsapp groups of parents whose children go to other schools in the area as concern about the addictiveness of the game start to grow.

The Malaga Gamblers Rehab Association (AMALAJER) has warned that “a drop in academic performance is normally the first warning sign”. The organisation’s president, Francisco Abad, said: “When they put their studies to one side and they start seeing their friends less, that’s when measures need to be taken.”

AMALAJER is worried about the effect of Fortnite on children, some as young as six, who are hooked on the game which is free to play and available across a number of platforms, hence its more than 125 million users around the world.

## HERE AND THERE

### Animal shelter unable to meet demand because of scarce resources

MALAGA

II. LILLO. The president of the Refugio de la Sociedad Protectora in Malaga, Carmen Manzano, has announced that the animal shelter, which currently has around 900 animals in its care, doesn’t have the resources to look after further animals.

While the income of the shelter has not increased, its expenditure has - by 5,000 euros a month - because of the increase in the minimum wage and associated costs.

“The only thing it has achieved is that we can help less. Before we’d rescue hundreds of animals; now we have to close our eyes,” said Manzano.



### Venezuelan investors buy building on iconic square for tourist lets

MALAGA

J. HINOJOSA. The purchase of buildings in the historic centre of Malaga by multinational companies has accelerated considerably in the last few months, with a number of investors keen to capitalise on the surge of tourist interest in the city.

The latest is the purchase of the building on the northern corner of the iconic Plaza de la Merced where it joins with Calle Victoria. It has been bought by Orinoquia Real Estate behind which is a Venezuelan family business, located in Spain, which has already made multimillion-euro investments in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

The building, which will be refurbished, will be turned into tourist accommodation and be ready to welcome guests in four months.

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# IT'S ALMOST LIKE HAVING IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

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## Gibraltar and Cadiz join forces for a cultural art exchange

The agreement gives artists the opportunity to make their work better known and forges closer links between the two communities

BY DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** Seventeen artists from Gibraltar are currently exhibiting their work in Cadiz city, as part of a cultural art exchange between the Gibraltar government and the Cadiz provincial authority, the Diputación.

The exhibition, called 'Easterly Winds', or 'Vientos de Levante' in Spanish, was inaugurated on Tuesday at the Diputación headquarters by Gibraltar's Minister for Culture, Steven Linares. He said: "Gibraltar will continue to have its doors open to Spain and to the rest



Officials and artists at the inauguration of the exhibition. :: SUR

of the world for any exchange, as Gibraltar always moves forward. I have no doubt this cultural exchange will encourage new opportunities and future collaborations between the two countries whether educational, cultural, sport, tourism, or leisure for that

matter. This will allow us to open new doors for all our citizens."

Under the cultural art exchange agreement, artists from Cadiz will be holding a reciprocal exhibition of their works at the Gustavo Baccarisas Gallery in Gibraltar in March.

## UK politicians remain firm in their support for Gibraltar

BY D. BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** Another day, another Brexit discussion. In view of the ongoing negotiations, Gibraltar's chief minister, deputy CM and attorney general took advantage of a pre-planned trip to London this week to hold discussions with UK parliamentarians and members of the House of Lords, saying they wanted to meet "opinion-makers"

on both sides of the Remain-Leave argument.

Afterwards, chief minister Fabian Picardo said it had been very encouraging to see the high level of political support for Gibraltar in Parliament on every side of the argument, and that frontbenchers and backbenchers all understand and remain completely supportive of "our plight and our work".



Picardo and Garcia with Emily Thornberry. :: SUR



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# British resident figures go up in Marbella for the first time in years

Brexit is thought to be the reason why more British citizens have registered for the first time since the economic crisis

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

**MARBELLA.** Uncertain what the future holds due to Brexit, some British citizens on the Costa del Sol have decided to forge closer links with their adoptive home.

After years of an apparent mass exodus (between 2013 and 2016 around 2,000 British residents came off the population register in Marbella), the number of those registered at the town hall (on the Padrón) has suddenly gone up. It may be only a small increase, of 48 people, but the council says it is important because this is the first time the number has risen in at least five years.

Foreign residents' associations in Marbella say Brexit is the reason many people have decided to take this step. At a meeting with British residents organised recently the British consul in Andalucía, Charmaine Arboin, recommended that they apply for residency as soon as possible, and it is necessary to be on the 'padrón' as part of that process.

The council has also been carrying out information campaigns to encourage people to register, not least



The mayor and councillors met residents in Las Chapas. :: SUR

because the amount of funding from the Spanish government depends on the number of people officially registered as living in the town.

The local authority believes that around 100,000 people resident in the town are not on the population register, and of them 60 per cent are not Spanish. This week the mayor and some of the councillors went to meet British residents in Las Chapas as part of the latest campaign.

Last year Marbella's official population rose to just under 150,000, after a further 2,000 people added their names to the register. Of those, 1,887 were foreigners.

Although many residents left during the economic crisis, this is still the second largest foreign community in Marbella. The latest figures show that Moroccans top the list, with 5,075 registered at the town hall (up from 4,919 in 2017), followed by British (3,866, compared with 3,818 the previous year); Ukrainians at 2,632 (up from 2,522), Russians with 2,293 (previously 2,186) and Italians (1,952 compared with 1,886 in 2017).

These five nationalities, out of a total of 141, represent nearly 40 per cent of all foreign residents on the municipal population register in Marbella.

## SUR to examine broader consequences of Brexit

:: SUR

**MALAGA.** 'Brexit. Views and Perspectives' is the title of a seminar event taking place in Malaga on Thursday next week (7 February). Organised by SUR, the morning will include talks and discussion in Spanish by professionals and authorities from both Spain and the UK.

Whether Brexit is an opportunity or a challenge will be discussed by the British ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, whose view will be followed by that of Eduardo Barrachina, the president of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK.

Representing the Spanish government will be Fernando Valdés, the undersecretary for Industry, Commerce and Tourism, who will discuss how this country is prepar-

ing for Brexit, deal or no deal.

After a break for coffee, a panel of experts will discuss how they see the UK's exit from the EU and its consequences. They include representatives from the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, the Unicaja foundation, the British embassy in Madrid and Malaga city hall, among others.

Whether Brexit is a product of the past or the future will be discussed by Daniel Brennan, a life peer in the House of Lords; and finally BBC World News presenter Tim Willcox will look at the consequences of a no-deal Brexit.

The event will be conducted in Spanish and attendance must be confirmed by the organisers. See page 31 for more details.

## Ambassador to speak to British residents at Manilva meeting

Manilva Foreign Residents Department is hosting the town's 4th Brexit seminar on Wednesday, 6 February. Keynote speaker will be the British ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, who will update residents on the latest developments with regard to Britain's exit from the EU. The ambassador will be introduced by Manilva councillor Dean Tyler Shelton while other speakers include the mayors of Manilva and Casares, Derek Langley of the British Chamber of Commerce Andalucía, Alex Radford of My Lawyer in Spain and Myra Azopardi of the Citizens Advice Bureau Spain. A question and answer session will follow the speakers. The event starts at 4pm at Villa Matilde in Sabinillas.

## Brexpats group takes call for help over Brexit uncertainty to council meeting

A representative of the British community on the Costa del Sol told Marbella council that people are very worried about the impact of the UK leaving the EU

:: H. B.

**MARBELLA.** Victoria Westhead, the secretary of Brexpats in Spain, an organisation "fighting for expats dealing with Brexit", addressed the council meeting in Marbella last Friday to ask for help because of the uncertainty caused by the complex negotiations over Britain's departure from the European Union.

She did so at the invitation of the Izquierda Unida party, which had presented a motion asking the council to make an official statement of support for the British community. The motion was unanimously approved.

Reading first in Spanish and then in English, Victoria, a solicitor, pointed out that of the approximately 300,000 British people currently living in Spain, around 4,000 are registered in Marbella, and are part of the community of the Costa del Sol.



Victoria Westhead. :: SUR

## Of the 300,000 British people who live in Spain, about 4,000 are in Marbella

She also said that despite the current concerns over Brexit, British residents had faith in the Spanish authorities, and pointed out that Spanish nationals are also being affected by the situation.



:: SUR

## CONSUL TAKES BREXIT ADVICE TO CAP

The British Consul Charmaine Arboin was invited to the weekly meeting of Club Charity and Pleasure (CAP) last week to answer questions on Brexit. While there was still no firm news to impart to the 110 attendees, the consul encouraged members to ensure they are officially resident if they want their rights to be protected if and when the UK leaves the EU. It was stressed that both Spain and the UK are working to protect the rights of expats in both countries. The consul is pictured above with CAP President Terry Hannam.

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# Uber and Cabify pull out of Barcelona due to new legislation

The taxi strike continues in Madrid where the regional government has rejected the proposals made by the drivers

## :: SUR

**MADRID.** Uber and Cabify announced that they were pulling out of Catalonia on Thursday after the authorities agreed to limiting private hire drivers to journeys booked in advance.

A new decree, which states that there has to be a 15-minute time lapse between the reservation and the service, was passed by the regional government, the Generalitat, on Tuesday, as a concession to taxi drivers before they called off their strike last week.

The announcement by Uber and Cabify came the day before the new regulations come into force.

"The obligation to wait 15 minutes before travelling in a VTC [private hire car] doesn't exist anywhere else in Europe and is totally incompatible with the immediacy of the services in demand, like

UberX," said the firm on Thursday. Meanwhile Madrid taxi drivers went into the 11th day of their strike against private hire cars on Thursday. The drivers began their action on 21 January to call for the regional authority to bring in tougher restrictions on the cars that are run by brands such as Uber and Cabify.

## Tension

After a tense few days, in which a VTC driver was injured after being shot at with a pellet gun on Sunday, the drivers stated that they were willing to negotiate new regulations with the regional authority. The regional president Ángel Garrido had previously rejected three proposals put forward by the drivers, stating that he would not give in to "blackmail".

Garrido said he wouldn't "legislate to exterminate the VTCs as Catalonia has done".

Meanwhile around 300 taxis, according to the drivers' federation arrived in Madrid from Galicia on Thursday to show their support for their colleagues as their protest continues in the capital.



A striking taxi driver hails the blockade of Madrid's Paseo de la Castellana avenue earlier this week . :: EFE

## Andalucía buys time and avoids strike for now

The new regional government in Andalucía appears to have

stalled the possibility of a taxi strike in this region at least for the time being. On Thursday regional minister Marifrán Carazo, who only took up her post with the rest of the PP/Cs government last week, announced the creation of a working group that

would examine the situation with industry representatives. "This is a matter that can't be referred to local town halls, and neither can there be 17 different regional regulations as that would be detrimental to the customer," said Carazo.

# D.O.MAR

by Oscar Velasco

Óscar Velasco meets with the Mediterranean









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## IN BRIEF



Pepu Hernández, in a file photo. :: EFE

### Sánchez picks former basketball coach as candidate for mayor

#### MADRID

**:: SUR.** Prime minister Pedro Sánchez announced this week that he is putting forward the former Spain basketball coach, Pepu Hernández, to be the Socialist party's candidate for mayor of Madrid in the

May local elections.

The coach, who still has to win a primary election held in Madrid, was named by Sánchez after several ministers, former ministers and top officials turned down the role.

His squeaky-clean image was tarred on Thursday when it emerged that Hernández created a firm to manage properties and income to save on tax, according to the newspaper El Confidencial.

### Speed limit down to 90km/h on many roads

#### MALAGA

**:: I. LILLO.** From last Tuesday, main roads outside urban areas that don't have a double carriageway have a lower speed limit of 90km/h. Some 2,000 kilometres of roads in Malaga, mainly in the interior of the province, have been affected. The government has spent over half a million euros changing speed-limit signs.

### Spanish journalist arrested in Venezuela

#### MADRID

**:: COLPISA.** A Spanish reporter is among the five foreign journalists arrested in Venezuela. Gonzalo Domínguez, along with two French and two Colombian colleagues, had arrived in the country on Thursday last week, said news agency Efe. Domínguez was said to be in the custody of SEBIN, the Maduro government's intelligence service.



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# Unemployment rate in Spain at the end of 2018 was 14.45%

Data from the trusted EPA survey shows the lowest jobless percentage since 2008

**SUR MADRID.** Spain closed 2018 with an unemployment rate of 14.45 per cent, according to government data published this week.

The data is from the EPA active-population survey, published every three months and seen as more re-

liable than the monthly social security department data, which excludes those who have signed off jobless registers.

According to the last EPA data of 2018, the country had 3.3 million out of work, a fall of 462,000 over the year, although this decline slowed down in the last three months of the year.

The amount of new jobs created also accelerated in 2008. Last year, the total size of the workforce grew by 566,200, the most for 12 years.

In the Andalucía region, the total number of unemployed fell to 834,300 in December, a rate of 21.26 per cent, down from over 30 per cent at the height of the financial crisis.

New regional employment minister, Rocío Blanco, said the figures, "could have been much better if Andalucía had carried out the reforms needed to generate employment and make people more employable".

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, unemployment is now at 16.56 per cent.

THE EURO ZONE  
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## FIGURING IT OUT



The statistics are in and, on the face of it, 2018 was a good year for Spain: the country's economy expanded at a rate of 2.5%, slower than the 3% posted over the last three years but still ahead of the eurozone average. It's a figure that leads us to a couple of revealing conclusions.

Over the last few years, Spain's macroeconomic performance has showed indifference to the country's chaotic politics - and 2018 was no exception. After ousting Mariano Rajoy as prime minister with a no-confidence vote in June, Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez took the helm of a minority government that has since been paralysed by its weak grip on power (it holds just 84 seats in the 350-seat congress).

All the proof one needs of this is found in the farce surrounding 2019's budget. The spending plan remains a draft document on Sánchez's desk, requiring the (unlikely) approval of a hostile congress later this month. Yet the government's inability to actively manage Spain's economy hasn't impacted on macroeconomic reality: in the last quarter of 2018, the country's GDP expanded at 0.7%, up from 0.6% in the second and third quarters. The eurozone average in the final three months of last year, by stark contrast, was just 0.2%.

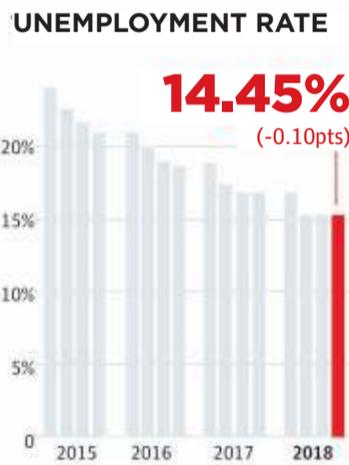
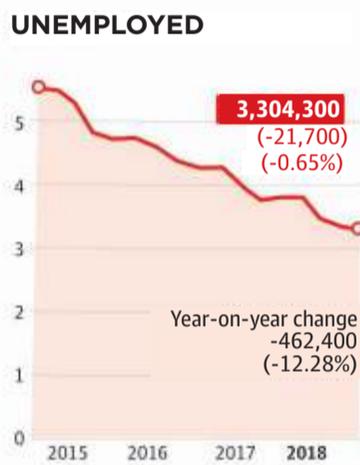
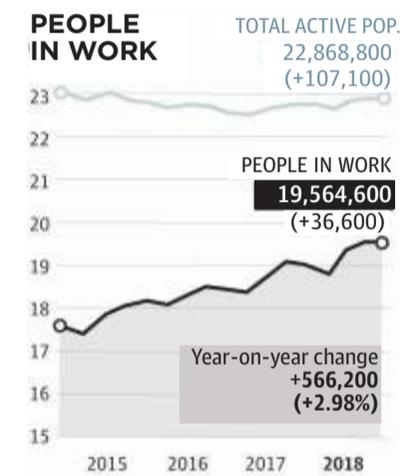
The prospect of Brexit, on the other hand, did have an effect on Spain's economy throughout 2018. A report pub-

lished this Thursday by the Bank of Spain shows that expansion during Q4 last year was partly driven by an increase in exports - but not exports to the UK. Overall throughout 2018, Spanish exports to EU countries rose by 8%; but during the same period, sales of Spanish goods to Britain fell by 6%.

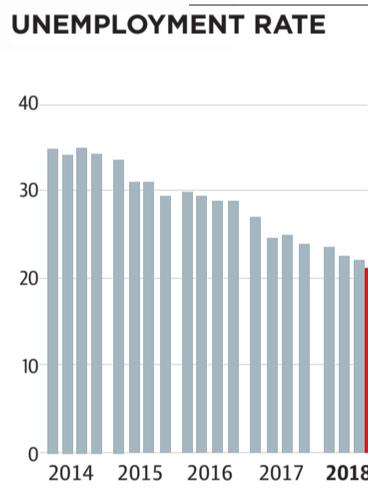
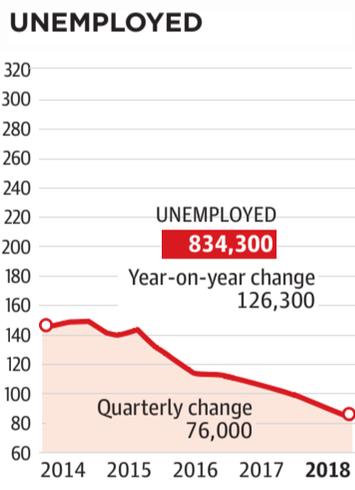
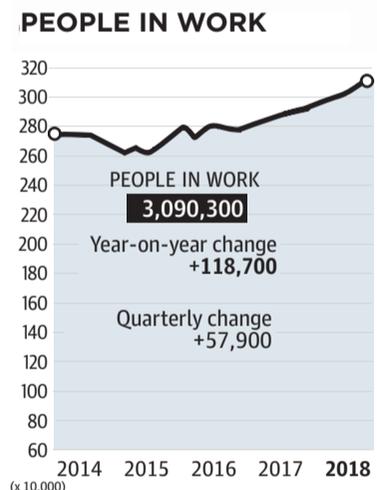
Another statistic also tells us that Spain's export market is increasingly wary of Brexit. Between 2012 and 2017, the number of Spanish companies exporting goods to the UK rose steadily, yet in 2017, the year after the Brexit referendum, there was a 0.8% decrease in such businesses. The Bank of Spain notes that the "elevated uncertainty" now surrounding Britain's withdrawal from the EU makes it difficult to predict how Spanish exports to the UK will perform in the medium-term future. No "you-know-what", Sherlock.

Despite a dip in Spanish exports to the UK, though, the relationship between Madrid and London is as robust as ever (leaving the perennially sensitive issue of Gibraltar aside). The two governments' recent agreement, which secures the voting rights of Britons in Spain and Spaniards in the UK in case of a no-deal Brexit, is eloquent proof of this. Indeed, both these groups of expatriates have good reason to believe that the coming months will not be as chaotic as the scare-mongers - with their terrifying and largely ungrounded predictions - like to make out.

### Spain



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

## Travel tips

I loved reading Andrew Forbes' travel hacks this week - the article reminded me that it was his mention, a long time ago, of travel pockets, that led me to buy a pack of five different sized ones, and they are a real boon. I use them for underwear, tops, adapters and chargers and cables, and take an empty one to put dirty laundry in. Thanks for that, Andrew!

I am not convinced by the priority boarding tip though. It

seems to me that most people pay for it, and then as often as not you get put on a bus to go to the plane and lose any advantages it might have given you.

My own preference if I am not paying for luggage is to be the last to board, have my essentials in my handbag, and hope that there is no space for my carry-on and someone will take it and put it in the hold for free. Maybe I am just a cheapskate...

MEGAN JONES  
BY EMAIL

## Taxis

The war that taxi drivers have been waging in Madrid and Barcelona is not worth paying attention to; we're used to groups using us as hostages if they can. The same thing happens with airline pilots, lorry drivers and now the taxi drivers in their fight against progress. In my humble opinion, it's clear that the taxi drivers don't want to share their pie with the new competition, born, directly or indirectly from internet, although they know themselves how difficult it is to stop it from happening.

The crux of the matter for me lies in the dealing with taxi licences, permits that in theory

don't cost money, but when it comes down to it are sold at the price of gold.

I know, through an acquaintance, that one of these licences in Santander was sold for more than 120,000 euros, and since then it will have increased in value.

I'm afraid that the taxi drivers are scared to admit that that licence, which they guard as if it were a treasure, and that some pay a high price for, could suddenly be worth nothing. Although that's not the fault of the competition.

RAFAEL SALAS  
BY EMAIL

THIS  
WEEK'S  
WINNING  
LETTER

## Emergency surfeit

PETER EDGERTON  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

What's a medical emergency? Having your ears full of wax certainly isn't one by any stretch of the imagination and yet, I'm embarrassed to say, on more than one occasion I've turned up at a Spanish (and English, actually) A & E department to seek help in this regard.

"Good afternoon, what seems to be the problem?"

"Sorry, pardon? Can you speak up a bit, please?"

"WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?"

"Er, well, I've got waxy ears."

"Hmm, that's not really an emergency is it?"

"Yes and no. Well, no more than yes, obviously, but I've got an important concert tomorrow night and I can't hear a thing."

"Lord Almighty. Just follow him, up on the right."

"Yes, yes, tomorrow night."

"No, I said j... oh, I'll take you."

With doctors' surgeries everywhere creaking under the strain of impossible workloads, more and more of us are using A&E as a sort of drop-in centre for minor ailments. In my experience, they all have similar triage system which becomes a Top Trumps of affliction.

"I think we're in for the long haul here, love. That marble stuck up the nostril and the thumb the size of Madrid, well they certainly beat your mildly twisted ankle."

Some people are basically professional A&E patients, a bit like season ticket holders, if you like. I once saw a middle-aged couple produce a fold-out picnic table and proceed to fill it with a vast array of foodstuffs including chicken wings and a thermos flask of soup from the enormous carrier bags they'd brought. I'm not sure what their emergency was but I think we can safely assume it wasn't malnutrition related.

I'm not sure what the answer

is to all of this. Waiting times to see your GP have become such these days that you need to plan your illnesses a couple of years in advance and, even then, you're obliged to run the gauntlet of the attack dog receptionist who wants to know every last detail of your whole family's medical history until she'll deign to squeeze you in two years on Wednesday.

Currently, Malaga's A&E departments are besieged by huge numbers of patients with the flu. Well, unless you're a very old person or a little baby and thus more vulnerable, I don't think there's much point in being there. The doctor can only repeat what your grandmother always said - stay in bed, keep very warm, drink hot drinks and lots of water and just wait for the virus to pass through its natural cycle.

Our doctors really do need to be devoting their time to more important matters - like blokes with waxy ears, for example.

## SANSÓN



SUR in English

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The first time I felt a real clash with the next generation was just over a year ago when, in a meeting with adolescents, the distance between us opened up like an abyss when I happened to ask what Fortnite was. This survival videogame, I learned, was the latest craze among the younger generation, which is no longer mine, and has been made popular by YouTubers - nouveau riche kids who are real celebrities in a certain social environment but totally unknown to the rest of the world. And while anyone over 50 might find this incredible, there are millions of people who find it interesting to sit in front of a screen, not to play, but to watch the games that other people have played.

Don't blame  
Fortnite

TXEMA MARTÍN

I have never tried Fortnite, despite the attraction of it being free. That's because years ago I decided to banish videogames from my life, mainly to avoid the foreseeable possibility of becoming addicted.

In my adolescence I lived through the videogame boom, but

I nearly always played them in the company of my friends and neighbours. We had Atari, Master System, Super Nintendo and a thing that kids of today would think came from Mars - games you loaded from a cassette that you had to rewind to be able to play. At a certain age

I decided to give it all up and promised myself that I would never download any entertainment again. That was perhaps one of the only times in my life that saying "this is the last time" has really led to me giving it up.

At university we had to read a whole lot of nonsense that said that videogames were responsible for school massacres and suicides and were in general an epidemic against world peace, not to mention the epilepsy caused by the colours on the screen.

Fortunately it was also at university that we learned that people are not psychopaths because they play a videogame and neither are they going to start to kill people to emulate the game. Those who did probably had that madness al-

ready inside their heads, waiting for something to detonate it.

Now a letter is circulating around schools in the Malaga area, warning that Fortnite is to blame for poor academic performance. I imagine there was no room to go into detail about the shortcomings of the education system or to invite parents to impose more restrictions on their children rather than expect their teachers to bring them up. They just have to plug them into a screen to forget about them with little interest in controls or filters. All this is not going to cause a real Battle Royale in the playground, but we will have less chance of them enjoying other things, knowing how to write well or opening a book from time to time.

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# The road to the stars

Wealthy young people, some with famous surnames, are training to run hotels at Les Roches Marbella, a school where strict discipline and uniforms are part of teaching them about service

SUSANA  
ZAMORA



Still chewing the last mouthfuls of their food, the stragglers start rushing out of the room where a buffet breakfast is served every day. It's time for the first class, and there is zero tolerance for bad timekeeping here. Today, time has caught up with them, and especially for their classmates whose turn it is to work in the kitchen and clear the tables this week.

It is nearly 9am at Les Roches Marbella, a top-level private hospitality management school whose mother campus opened in Switzerland in 1954. The second campus opened in Marbella in 1995.

The pupils are rushing to take their places, and the noise is raucous. Mr Djeebet is about to arrive, and the tension can be felt in the air. This British teacher is strict and imposes an almost military discipline. He may have taken on the role of 'bad guy', but he also happens to be one of the most respected and best-loved teachers among former pupils, with whom he maintains an affectionate relationship.

The class falls into an almost deathly silence as soon as he appears. Every day, this coordinator of the practical classes inspects nearly 200 pupils, carefully examining their appearance from top to bottom: from the head, where hair must not reach the shirt collar, to the feet, which must be in beautifully polished shoes. No piercings, no tattoos, no long or varnished nails, not too much make-up. Hassan Djeebet sets an example to his disciples, today wearing an impeccable dark jacket, white shirt and discreet tie.

A first group of students files in front of him, with smiling faces and apparently impeccable appearance; but nothing escapes the eye of this teacher, who orders several of them to take off their jackets so he can check that their shirt sleeves are also perfectly ironed. Two of them are reprimanded for having double crease lines and are told not to do it again.

He continues with a roll call: "Alejandro, Pedro, Elena, Karina..." "Yes, sir," they answer immediately, because a delay of even a few seconds can result in a penalty and lost points. All the pupils start off with six points. If the number drops to four, their parents are phoned and told that their children are doing badly.

On the Marbella campus of Les Roches (there are another two, in



Pupils at Les Roches Marbella learn to make beds to the standards demanded by the hotel sector. :: J.L.



Carlos Díez de la Lastra CEO

"If someone tries to use their position to get their way, there is a direct penalty"

Switzerland and Shanghai) there is an air of refinement and exclusivity, reminiscent of those elite boarding schools in paradisiacal surroundings for the children of the rich. At this elegant and cosy facility, however, the heirs of foreign dynasties, aristocrats, children of ministers and others with famous surnames are being trained to manage hotels and restaurants.

At the moment about 30 per cent of the pupils are studying thanks to a grant, and some because their parents have mortgaged themselves to finance the degree in Global Hospitality Management, a course which lasts three and a half years and costs 120,000 euros.

Students have to be over 18 years of age, have completed their secondary education, speak good English (a score of at least 525 in the 'English as a Foreign Language' test) and demonstrate ample motivation during

Alfonso de Borbón Student

"It appears to be easy, but serving in a restaurant is hard"

their personal interview.

However, neither a healthy bank balance nor a famous surname excuses these wealthy youngsters, who are accustomed to a comfortable life, from having to make beds, cook, clean floors, wash dishes or take the rubbish out. All, with no exceptions, take turns in different departments during the first six months to learn how every single task in a hotel is done and how to meet the sector's rigorous standards. Most arrive here without ever having fried an egg or picked up an iron in their lives.

## Long hours

Alfonso de Borbón had to learn quickly. This 19-year-old had some help from his mother before starting at the school a few months ago. Nevertheless, he is finding it hard to get used to the marathon hours involved at times, starting to cook

Mano Soler Student Services

"We want to teach young people to overcome adversity"

## THE SCHOOL

### Origin

Les Roches Marbella is a top-level private hospitality school which originated in Switzerland. Since 1995 it has been teaching university and post-graduate degrees through the New England Association of Schools & Colleges. As well as the campus in Marbella there are two others in Switzerland and Shanghai (China).

### Volunteering

All the pupils are obliged to do voluntary work as well as their studies. They collaborate with 16 NGOs in Marbella. Each term they donate the money they have raised from solidarity events to a charity organisation.

# 120,000

euros is the cost of a university degree in Global Hotel Management, which takes three and a half years.

at 6.30 in the morning and not finishing his day until 10 o'clock at night.

Alfonso has learned to work in a team, to coordinate with his fellow pupils to get the plates out on time and simultaneously, to pile three plates at a time on his arm when removing them from the table and, above all, to understand the delays that can occur and the effort involved behind a service.

"It seems easy, but serving in a restaurant is very hard," says this student, who avoids talking about the fact that he is a member of the Spanish royal family. "I'm just a pupil like all the others here," he insists.

However, the objective of this school is not to learn to cook or know how to clean bedrooms. "It's to learn how to supervise the work of someone else and how much time that work takes, in order to manage those resources well," explains programme coordinator Rocío Montero.

Sara González Ex-student

"Never forget, to be a good manager, you have to be a good person"

There, the school has recreated a luxury resort with four different restaurants, a bedroom and a reception area where the 752 pupils of 82 nationalities do their first practical classes. They learn the trade, discipline, strict compliance with the rules and, above all, humility.

They all wear the same working clothes and if anyone arrives with airs of grandeur, that doesn't last long.

"In some countries, a person with power and money can do anything they like, when they like, and almost without limits, and some pupils come with the feeling that if they want something they can have it, but that type of conduct is unacceptable here. If someone tries to impose their will because of their power or their financial status, there is an immediate penalty. However, in most cases they end up realising for themselves that this prepotent attitude, which may work well for them in their own country, isn't valid here and in fact it isolates them from the rest of the group," says Carlos Díez de la Lastra, CEO of Les Roches Marbella.

Carlos is exquisitely discreet, but admits that he has had to deal with the occasional difficult situation. He copes with all types of pressures in his day-to-day life, including the threat of legal action by someone who didn't want their son to have to share a room. However, living in the residence is an essential part of this educational model and it is evaluated just like other, more academic subjects such as accounting,



Students are reprimanded if their shirts, including the sleeves, are not properly ironed. :: JOSELE-LANZA

digital marketing, economics and financial management.

"There is always conflict in co-existence and from the time they arrive we want them to be exposed to those situations so they learn to resolve them," explains Mano Soler, director of Operations and Student Services.

#### Vocation for service

Nevertheless, the students' youth, lack of experience and cultural differences sometimes create unbreachable walls between the two beds in the same room, and that's when Sandra Becerra intervenes.

### The Saudi prince who came with an aide

He had decided he wanted the cultural experience of going to a top level academic institution in Europe. A few years ago a Saudi prince enrolled at Les Roches Marbella and brought his personal assistant with him. This is strictly against the rules, because all pupils wear the same working outfit and are taught that serving others is what is important. "Everybody

is treated equally here," insist the staff at Les Roches, so they made it clear to the prince that another person could not do his work for him, and that another solution had to be found. In the end the aide also enrolled, and studied the same course. The only help he was allowed to give was occasionally carry the prince's books. The others thought they were just good friends. After graduating, the aide left his job with the prince and took another with a major hotel chain.

She is a psychologist and pupils go to her with such trivial problems as someone using their shampoo without asking first, but there are also more serious matters.

"Some ask themselves what they are doing here; their parents want them to carry on the family business but have never asked them for their opinion. We had one pupil who recognised the huge effort his parents had made to pay for him to study at Les Roches, but he admitted to me that what he really wanted to do was train to be a pilot," says Sandra.

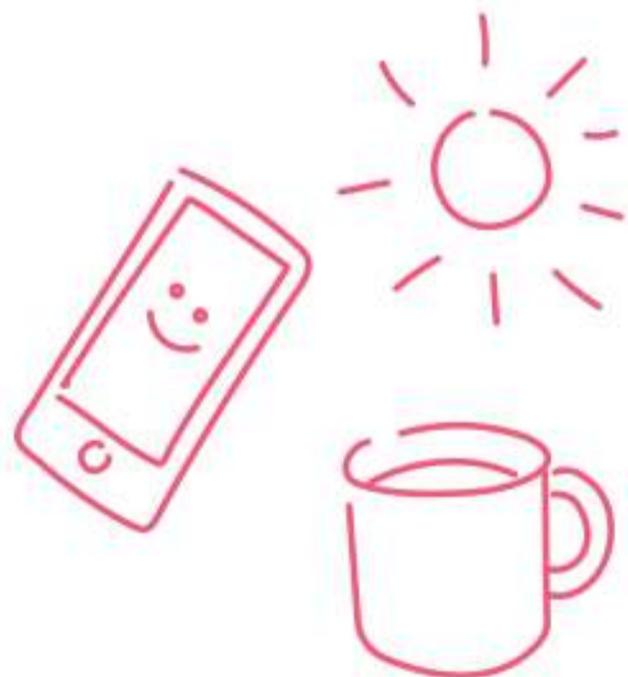
Every term, five or six pupils are expelled for different reasons. "We don't hesitate, where necessary," stresses Díez de la Lastra. The pupils are randomly woken up early for alcohol and drugs tests and, although it is "very rare" for anyone to test positive, it is treated very seriously. Others don't adapt and their frustration takes the form of rebellion.

"On one occasion, we suspended a pupil for a term because of discipline problems and his father, an important Syrian businessman, asked for a meeting to discuss the matter. We thought he was going to complain about the decision but in fact he ended up in tears, pleading with us to reinstate his son because he had seen that this was the only place that had succeeded in changing him," says Soler.

All the pupils have the chance to spend a term in the other two Les Roches campuses, but for some the 'little United

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➤ Nations' they have in Marbella is sufficient.

About 95 per cent of the pupils receive good job offers before they graduate. Hundreds of companies look to this campus when recruiting their future management, and not all are in the hotel or tourism sector. Apple, Qatar Airways, Louis Vuitton...

"They are brands that sell experiences and they need professional staff with training in social skills, who are able to empathise and place themselves on the clients' level so they are satisfied," explains Soler.

The CEO of Les Roches is well aware that a high socio-economic level doesn't always mean that somebody has good manners.

"It's all well and good to aspire to run a hotel, but the pupils must not forget that they are there to serve the client. That position of humility, of understanding that you are working to make somebody else happy, is the key to our model," stresses Díez de la Lastra.

That philosophy remains imprinted in the minds of those who have previously assimilated the way of life at Les Roches.

One example is Sara González who, after graduating from Les Roches, now manages the Vincci Aleysa, a five-star hotel in Benalmádena (Malaga) where she has put into practice all the skills she was taught and where she never forgets that to be a good hotel manager you need to be, above all, "a good person".

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#### REF. C. S. I.

A year ago I decided to sue my ex-husband for not paying alimony. The debt was about 14,000 euros, but I did not have any money at the time, so I received a court-appointed lawyer. Finally, my husband was sentenced to pay, and when I got the money, my lawyer told me that I had to pay him

his fees (about 2,700 euros) because the court had not ordered my husband to pay all the costs of the trial. My question is, do I have to pay the lawyer his fees, if he is a public defender, even though I now have money?

If you have the right to receive free legal aid, you do not have to pay anything, even if your husband has not been expressly ordered to pay the costs. We advise you to bring these facts to the attention of your local Bar Association, where you will be informed of your rights and of the possibility of filing a complaint against the lawyer if necessary.

#### REF. T. I. U.

I am own a flat and the tenants are renting it out, when this is strictly forbidden by the contract. I have all the

evidence to confirm it. In addition, they have stopped paying the rent. I wanted to file a lawsuit for breach of contract, but can it be quicker to file a lawsuit for non-payment? Can I file two lawsuits? My goal is to get them out of the property as soon as possible so I can rent it again, and I fear that if I sue them for non-payment, they will pay what they owe and continue to live there. What is the best procedure?

In this case, it is not necessary to file two lawsuits, since you can ask for the eviction and the payment of the amount that they owe all in the same claim. However, by law the tenants have the right to catch up on the rent, in which case they could simply pay what they owe (and probably also the costs of the lawsuit) and continue to live there. However, they can only resort to this option once. If they stop paying the rent again, they will have to leave on the date the court established.

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## PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



## Snuggling up

As you scrape the ice off your car's windscreen, the thought passes the mind that this is not weather associated with sunny Spain. What is all this about global warming? It seems to get colder every year; we recall sitting in the sun on the beach at Marbella some thirty years back.

Our pets feel the cold as well and owners go to extremes to keep their pets warm but not always in the right way. They make the old mistake of thinking out the situation in human terms.

Dogs feel the cold but they do not have the heat loss in the same way as humans do, through the skin. What you need to do is improve their ability to retain heat. Retention of heat is the key to their comfort. What is essential is to keep them out of draughts. We humans live at a greater height than even a large dog which walks at around a metre off the ground and a Yorkie or equivalent sails along on its little legs barely making twenty centimetres or so. Imagine lying on the floor near a doorway with the draught coming through the unavoidable space under the door.

It would not be too pleasant.

The best way to keep a dog warm in winter is to buy a plastic moulded dog bed from a vet or good pet shop. There you can get advice on the right size. If you purchase a bed from a general store you may not find an assistant who has experience with different breeds of dogs. Line the base of the box with several layers of newspaper, a fine insulator. Then place a rug in the box, position it well away from any draughts and your dog will be fine. It is not a good idea to place the box near a fire. It is a fire risk and not healthy for the dog. It will generate its own heat and be snug and happy. You may find the dog pulls its rug away from the box. That's Fido's idea of a game so do not worry about it.

If the box and contents are kept dry and well away from draughts then your dog will spend a warm and happy winter. When you return from a walk, make sure the dog is rubbed dry with a towel kept especially for dogs. Do remember that a small dog is a "low level flyer" and can get very wet just from dew.

# Prestigious Andrés Segovia prize goes to talented German guitarist

Sixteen young guitarists from 13 different countries took part in this year's international guitar competition, which is in its 34th year

## :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**LA HERRADURA.** Twenty-two-year-old Julia Trintschuck from Stuttgart in Germany is the winner of this year's international Andrés Segovia guitar competition.

Trintschuck was awarded 10,000 euros and a handmade guitar by Granada luthier, Aarón García Ruiz. The winner will go on to perform at the City of Úbeda international festival of music and dance later this year. "I am very happy with this great prize. The level was very high and we're all playing in the same league," said Trintschuck as she accepted her prize.

The guitar competition, which takes place annually in La Herradura, ended last Saturday with the announcement of the winners. Second prize went to 28-year-old Mircea Gogoncea from Romania. Gogoncea won a 4,000-euro cash prize as well as a handmade guitar by La Herradura-based British



Some of the winners with Aarón García Ruiz and Stephen Hill. :: SUR

luthier, Stephen Hill.

This was the 34th year of the competition, which is held every January in memory of the legendary Spanish guitarist, Andrés Segovia, who had a holiday home in La Herradura until his death in 1987.

This year's event also celebrated the 80th birthday of Cuban guitarist, Leo Brouwer, who was one of the judges at the competition. A spe-

cial prize was given in his name to Italian guitarist, Domenico Mottola, who received the panel's vote for his performance of Brouwer's 'La Espiral Eterna'.

This year 16 musicians from 13 different countries took part in the event, which is open to guitarists under the age of 35 and aims to promote the legacy of Segovia and the Spanish classical guitar.

# Pianist Billy O'Brien delights audiences on the Costa del Sol

## :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** The Irish international soloist and chamber pianist Billy O'Brien was on the Costa del Sol last week to give two recitals, at the Kempinski Hotel in Estepona and Las Brisas Golf Club in Marbella, organised by Project Music.

O'Brien performed Four Mazurkas Op 17 by Chopin, which he followed with two of Ravel's Miroirs movements, Une Barque sur l'Océan and Alborada del Gracioso, and concluded with Polonaise Op 53 by Chopin.

"Both the Mazurkas and Miroirs

are technically fiendishly difficult to perform but the soloist's mastery of the task was adequately demonstrated," said critic Morris Bishop after the Marbella concert.

The Polonaise received an ovation of several minutes in contrast to the "more subdued" applause for the rest of the programme, commented Bishop.

"Musically, the parallel to 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder' might be 'melodiousness is in the ear of the listener' and artists should always be cognizant of this," he concluded.



Billy O'Brien at the Kempinski Hotel, Estepona, last week. :: SUR

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# Around the world in a campervan

Tired of the rat race, two friends quit their jobs and bought a campervan to embark on the trip of a lifetime

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**ESTEPONA.** It's a dream most people have had at some point in their life: pack in your job and then go off exploring the world.

But these two friends turned that dream into a reality after setting off from Norway to circumnavigate the globe on 1 December last year.

Armed with a 1986 Fiat Ducato campervan affectionately called Murphy Number 1, Snorri Sigurbjörnsson and Harald Brevik are currently in Estepona, having already driven through Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and the east coast of Spain.

From the Costa del Sol the pair plan to drive through Europe to Bulgaria, before catching a ferry to Georgia. From there, depending on what visas they are granted, they will head through Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mongolia, Russia (Vladivostok), take a ferry to South Korea and Japan, a freighter to Canada, then on to the United States, before driving all the way down through Central and South America to Cape Horn, on the southern tip of the continent.

Snorri, 28, from Iceland, a physiotherapist, told SUR in English: "We just wanted to travel and we got the idea that travelling in a campervan would be cheaper and more fun. We quit our jobs with not too many savings, so we thought we would help out on farms along the road or do any odd jobs along the way to buy food."

Harald, 32, from Norway, who used to manage a restaurant in Fredrikstad in southern Norway, where both friends lived until they started their trip, added: "We talked about travelling all the time and came up with this idea and it just evolved and escalated very quickly."

"In the beginning we planned on going to India. I thought, that's a cool idea, but why stop there? And then we just thought why don't we just go to Cape Horn, the end of the world - sort of. It's almost the furthest you can go from Norway in a van."

As for what they are looking forward to the most, Snorri said: "Mostly to seeing how it is to travel and how we are going to figure things out along the way, and how we will communicate with people. The most fun part will be when we get to spectacular places, take some photos and write some things about the countries that we will post on our website."

"At the moment we've been to countries that a lot of people have



Snorri and Harald have arrived in Estepona and are looking for work. :: ASH BOLTON



The friends enjoying a drink in Verdun, France. :: SUR

already been to, but when we go through Russia and the Stan countries (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan), it's going to be more special. And more interesting I guess."

### "An impromptu thing"

After they quit their jobs the pair told their family and friends, who Snorri said, thought they were "mad".

"They said we should wait a few years and save more money. There

were many disagreements but they kind of understood it in the end. It was sort of an impromptu thing where we said, we've got to go now."

Harald added: "When we talk about this to people then say, oh that's cool, we always wanted to do something like that, but you've just got to fire the gun and do it. The longer we wait, the more we get entrenched into what we do - it's better to just get going."

### Minimal finances

After splashing out on 3,500 euros

for their van, the pair had minimal savings for their trip. "Our journey is not financed. Except for the help from a few well-wishers and a few sponsors that have assisted in covering some of the starting costs and equipment. Thus, and this is part of the goal, we have to work our way from place to place. We have to work for food, drink and gasoline," said Snorri.

"We'll rely on people's goodness to a certain extent. And that's also part of the premise of travelling by van, to see how people are around the world meeting with total strangers. Often we have preconceived notions of other people, but when you meet people in smaller groups, the dynamic changes, and so that will be interesting to see. Most people we meet are helpful."

The friends are set to stay in Estepona, where a family friend has a flat, until March or April while they look for work and apply for the many visas they will need over the coming year.

In addition, they are writing about the experience on their Facebook page and website, as well as uploading video content of their journey.

### Different languages

One of the highlights of their trip so far was the Duvel Moortgat Brewery in Belgium. Snorri said: "We had a good night meeting local people, playing pool, talking; they locked the door of the bar and made some food for us. We had a really good time talking to them;

they talked English though, so it was easy to communicate. We'll be going to countries where we don't speak the same language, so we'll just have to try and communicate somehow."

However, the pair also ran into some trouble in Coma-ruga near Barcelona, when someone tried to break into their campervan while they were parked overnight in a Carrefour car park. Luckily, the would-be burglar left them alone before the police arrived. "It was an experience as well," explained Snorri.

"We sort of know that it won't be the last time. And if we have to drive away it takes about five minutes for the van to warm up," he joked, before adding that they have a golf club for protection.

### Breakdowns

So far the campervan has only broken down once, in their home town, shortly after buying it. Snorri said: "We named it Murphy Number 1, after Murphy's Law, as it broke down in the middle of rush hour in our city on the way to the garage. Loads of people were joking that we didn't get far, but all PR is good PR."

Harald added: "We're not worried about it falling apart; the rust is tightly holding it all together. But we're realistic optimists. So no matter what, we'll keep on fighting; we'll make it to Cape Horn, one way or another!"

As for how it feels to quit their jobs and embark on the adventure of a lifetime, Harald added: "Quitting our jobs wasn't easy but we knew it was the right thing to do, so in the end it felt like a relief, like the beginning of something new, something real, something we've always wanted to achieve."

"Long-term we're hoping that the creativity we foster and share with our followers on this trip will be the foundation of something we can live off in the future. So in a way, our journey is our job. That said, we still have plenty of room for stickers on Murphy No. 1, and even more on our websites, should there be any sponsors or generous souls out there."

### In it for the long haul

As for how long the friends will spend travelling, Harald said "as long as it takes". "When we get to Cape Horn, we'll have to figure out if we want to keep going. If we want to continue we can take a freighter over to Africa and start driving from the bottom of Africa up to Norway again. We'll see."

If you would like to contact the pair, you can email them (harald.brevik@gmail.com).

**To follow the pair's journey visit:**

www.facebook.com/snorriharald or www.snorriharald.com



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## GARDENING

## Perfumed elephant's ear

**Phalaenopsis gigantea, a rare and delicate giant orchid, has flowered for the first time in Estepona's Orchidarium**

Despite the robust sounding nickname 'elephant's ear', this orchid that has just flowered in the Orchidarium in Estepona is very delicate and finicky. It needs very special conditions to grow: the right light, humidity and temperature, and for that reason is prized among collectors and botanists.

Phalaenopsis gigantea is the biggest orchid in the Phalaenopsis family and has characteristically enormous leaves that make it a unique species.

This type of orchid can have leaves up to 90 centimetres long and 40

wide, big enough to hide a toddler behind.

The director of the orchidarium, Manuel Lucas said that this orchid is very rare, "because it takes up a lot of space making it difficult for many collectors to grow".

The flowers are large and beautiful with bold, maroon splashes on the pale yellow petals. They have the additional attraction of being sweetly scented.

Unusually, this plant grows down towards the ground, with the roots and leaves above the hanging, flowering stems.

Phalaenopsis gigantea originates from the areas of Merutai and La Montaña del Tigre in Borneo. Its rarity is not only because of the size of

its leaves but also for the difficulty in getting it to flower. Lucas says that the temperature has to be kept above 16 degrees and when its above 30 degrees "it's as happy as Larry". For this reason the plant can only be viewed in the mornings on warm days as it will not withstand any cold air. The rest of the time the orchid is constantly monitored and kept warm in the director's office.

"Each plant is like a person to us and we go out of our way to look after it," explained Lucas.

According to the director, Phalaenopsis gigantea should continue flowering for two weeks although he fears the polar vortex, which is threatening parts of the country at the moment, may prematurely end the flowering period.



Visitors photographing the giant orchid and a close up of the blooms (inset). :: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

## READER'S PHOTO



:: JOHN LINCOLN

## AN AGAVE'S ELEGANT DEMISE

This photo of two Agave attenuatas (Swan neck Agave) was sent in by John Lincoln who asked how often this occurs. Well the answer is both simple and sad, Agaves flower once and only after many years, then die. They usually leave lots of off-sets around the base which will eventually flower too, but it may take up to ten years.

## GARDENING IN FEBRUARY

## Who's for compost tea?

Although compost tea has been around for many years it became very popular during the 70s when being self-sufficient was brought into the spotlight by the TV series The Good Life. It is a simple idea, put a shovel full of well rotted compost into a sack and leave it submerged in a bucket of water for several days. The resulting dark-brown 'tea' is then diluted and used to water plants or as a foliar feed. The nutrients and beneficial bacteria leeches into the water and is

passed on to the plant. However, if tap water is used then the resulting liquid may not have any benefits at all as it is treated with a number of chemicals specifically aimed at killing all bacteria. Compost that isn't aged enough, or if the tea isn't diluted enough, may burn the leaves and/or the roots of the plant eventually killing it. Also some compost carries E coli and salmonella bacteria - definitely not something to be used on the vegetable plot.

## 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) or Twitter (@SUR\_English)



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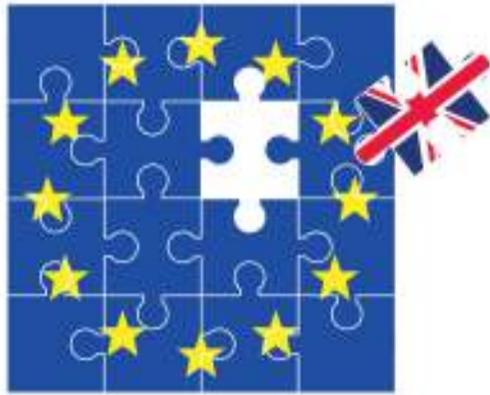
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# BREXIT

## Views and perspectives



Thursday 7 February 2019, 9am  
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 Acera de la Marina, 3. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Malaga



**Manuel Castillo**  
 Editor-in-Chief of SUR



**Francisco de la Torre**  
 Mayor of Malaga



**Braulio Medel**  
 Chairman of Fundación Unicaja



**Simon Manley**  
 British Ambassador to Spain



**Eduardo Barrachina**  
 President of Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom



**Fernando Valdés**  
 Undersecretary for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Spanish Ministry for Industry, Trade and Tourism



**Javier Fernández Hidalgo**  
 Vice-president of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom



**Ignacio Morillas-Paredes**  
 Partner Solicitor and Abogado at Colman Coyle, London



**Paul Clark**  
 Senior Financial and Economic Officer at British Embassy in Madrid



**Javier de Pro Rueda**  
 Finance Director at Fundación Unicaja



**María del Mar Martín Rojo**  
 Deputy Mayor and Head of Productive Economy, Tourism and Promotion at Malaga City Hall



**José Vicente Astorga**  
 Assistant Editor of SUR



**Lord Daniel Brennan**  
 Member of the House of Lords, UK Parliament



**Timothy Willcox**  
 Journalist and BBC World News Presenter



**Pedro Luis Gómez**  
 Director of Publications SUR

**9.15am Welcome**

**Manuel Castillo**  
 Editor-in-Chief of SUR  
**Francisco de la Torre**  
 Mayor of Malaga  
**Braulio Medel**  
 Chairman of Fundación Unicaja

**9.55am Brexit, opportunity or challenge?**

**Simon Manley**  
 British Ambassador to Spain

**10.20am Brexit, balance and perspectives**

**Eduardo Barrachina**  
 President of Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom

**10.45am Prepared for Brexit**

**Fernando Valdés**  
 Undersecretary for Industry, Trade and Tourism  
 Spanish Ministry for Industry, Trade and Tourism

**11.10am Coffee break**

**11.40am Views of Brexit**

**Javier Fernández Hidalgo**  
 Vice-president of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom  
**Ignacio Morillas-Paredes**  
 Partner Solicitor and Abogado at Colman Coyle, London  
**Paul Clark**  
 Senior Financial and Economic Officer at British Embassy in Madrid

**Javier de Pro Rueda**  
 Finance Director at Fundación Unicaja  
**María del Mar Martín Rojo**  
 Deputy Mayor and Head of Productive Economy, Tourism and Promotion at Malaga City Hall

Moderator:  
**José Vicente Astorga**  
 Assistant Editor of SUR

**12.50pm Brexit, product of the past or way forward for the future?**

**Lord Daniel Brennan**  
 Member of the House of Lords, UK Parliament

**1.05pm A hard Brexit and its consequences for Europe. Why is it necessary to reach an agreement?**

**Timothy Willcox**  
 Journalist and BBC World News Presenter

**1.20pm Closing remarks**

All talks and discussion will be in Spanish.

Limited places. Information on 952 649 644. Confirmation of attendance essential. Attendance by invitation.

DARYL FINCH



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

1 FEBRUARY 2009

# Tornado causes eight million euros of damage across Malaga

According to the Spanish Met Office, it was one of the strongest ever tornados to have hit mainland Spain

The western side of Malaga city painted a bleak picture on Monday 2 February 2009, the morning after a tornado swept through the city at speeds of between 185 and 220 kilometres per hour.

Roofs of buildings had been blown off, trees had been pulled up by their roots and cars had been

smashed by flying bricks and fences. The worst hit areas were the San Andrés, Carretera de Cádiz and Cruz del Humilladero neighbourhoods, though parts of the city centre were affected too.

As well as the damage to buildings and parked vehicles, 35 people had to be re-housed in hotels, while hundreds of others went to stay with relatives.

A total of 25 people were treated for cuts and other injuries but only one was kept in hospital overnight.

The tornado started up at around 9.25pm on the western side of the city, close to the Valdicio industrial estate, and advanced in the direction of the city centre.

With winds of up to 220 kilo-



Extensive damage to the bus station roof. :: CARLOS MORET



Industrial units bore the brunt of the strong winds. :: SUR

metres per hour, the tornado gained the EF2 classification (considerable damage caused).

According to the Spanish Met Office (Aemet), this was one of

worst tornados to have hit mainland Spain since records began more than 150 years previously.

The bill for the damage caused was estimated at around eight mil-

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Tornado	Tornado
Viento	Wind
Tejado	Roof
Volar	To fly
Árbol	Tree
Barrio	Neighbourhood
Estación	Station
Autobús	Bus
Oeste	West
Atmosférico	Atmospheric
Fenómeno	Phenomenon
Ladrillo	Brick
Nave	Warehouse
Devastador	Devastating
Velocidad	Speed
Suministro	Supply
Desprenderse	To break off
Estructura	Structure

lion euros. Industrial warehouses and buildings, including the Municipal Transport Company (EMT) garages (where the tornado caused damage to 40 buses as well as the building itself), were among those worst affected.

The most striking damage, however, was caused to city's main bus station where the tornado removed the roof completely, with some parts landing in Plaza de la Merced, more than two kilometres away.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



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# Marbella digs deep for charity

## Thousands raised at an event in Puerto Banús are destined to help children in Tanzania

BY ASH BOLTON

**MARBELLA.** A pre-Christmas Marbella event raised 9,500 euros to help vulnerable street children and orphans in Tanzania, organisers have announced this week.

Over 100 people attended the fundraising evening at La Sala restaurant on Tuesday 18 December.

The money will be donated to the Marbella-based charity Collective Calling, who are building an education centre for street children in the East African country.

Paul Carr, who started Collective Calling with his wife Gemma three years ago, told SUR in English that the event had been "unbelievable".

He said: "That was way more than we thought we would be able to raise. It's been a blessing as La Sala has now chosen us as the charity to benefit from four charity golf

tournaments this year.

"It was a really enjoyable evening with an impressive turn out. It was good to see the people of Marbella coming together for a great cause."

The evening saw performers Mr Malph, Simone Lisa and Thomas Henry take to the stage, while an auction, raffle and several generous donations also contributed to the money raised.

The fundraiser was put on by event organisers Marbella with Love, whose co-owner Michael Harding now plans to travel to Tanzania to oversee the start of the project.

Paul, 35, who is originally from Leicester in the UK, and has lived in Marbella for 14 years, explained that the charity hopes to have the centre in Kasulu village completed by this summer, but that another

17,500 euros were still needed for its completion.

Paul added that the Spanish-registered non-governmental organisation also helps local homeless people and underprivileged children in and around Marbella.

This includes serving food to around 15 people twice a week from their homeless centre in Diana Park, and working with around 25 children in the El Ángel neighbourhood of Marbella, by providing them with packed lunches for school every week.

Collective Calling currently has between 40-50 volunteers in Marbella, but are looking for more helpers. Paul added that they currently need help in the homeless centre, with translation and to make sandwiches for the children in El Ángel.

**More information :**  
<http://collectivecalling.org> or  
Facebook CollectiveCalling



Some of the fundraisers at the Marbella event. :: SUR

# Walkers bring a change of air to Parkinson's centre

## A charity walk in Estepona raised funds for a new air conditioning unit for the local association

BY A. BOLTON

**ESTEPONA.** A group of fundraisers are celebrating after raising 310 euros for the Parkinson's Association in Estepona last Sunday.

A total of 15 people and 10 dogs took part in the sponsored 8km family walk around the ruins of the Castillo del Nicio.

It was hoped the event would raise 300 euros for a new air conditioning unit for the charity's community room - and the volunteers managed to raise 310 euros.

The event was organised by British expat Michele Yanez-Bowker, whose mother, Violet Bowker, has Parkinson's.

Michele, 48, who is originally from London and has lived in Spain for 10 years, told SUR in English: "We had a brilliant walk; the weather was tremendous, as if we had booked it."

"We also had donations from four people that didn't walk and we made

310 euros. So yes we made our target and I'm absolutely delighted."

The President of the Parkinson's Association in Estepona, Carmen Ramos, also took part.

Carmen told this newspaper: "We are very happy with the donation. It will allow us to have air conditioning in the painting and crafts room, and thus provide a better service to people with Parkinson's."

"We liked the walk because the area is very familiar and everyone has been very nice to us. It's a fantastic initiative for our association and will help us to continue with our projects."

This is the fourth charity walk around Estepona that Michele has helped to organise through her Fun and Fund Facebook page.

The next walk will take place on Sunday 3 March and will be in aid of the newly formed Gatos de Manilva charity. The charity helps trap, neuter and release street cats in order to control their numbers in Manilva.

**More information :**  
Facebook Funandfund and  
Gatosdemaniiva



Walkers last weekend in Estepona. :: SUR

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**EXHIBITIONS**

**Azahares**

**Estepona.** From 1 February until 2 March. Casa de las Tejerinas, Plaza las Flores.  
An exhibition of contemporary art work.

**Art in Action**

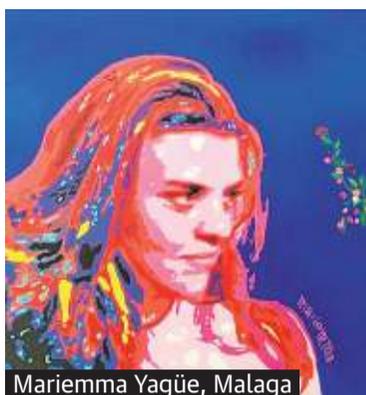
**Benahavis.** 3 February. Gran Hotel Benahavis.  
Although there are events planned all weekend, over thirty artists will be attending Art in Action on the Sunday as well as Totem Ceramics and sculptor Venancio Sánchez. There are activities for children, demonstrations and entertainment as well as a competition 'Start a Novel, Win a Bottle'.  
www.theartsocietybenahavis.com or email: info@theartsocietybenahavis.com

**Emilia Rebollo**

**Malaga.** Until 28 April. Museo de Patrimonio Municipal.  
Emilia Rebollo was a textile artist in Malaga in the nineteenth century. The museum has rescued her original designs and will be displaying twenty of them in a special exhibition.

**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



Mariemma Yagüe, Malaga

problems of the country through their art.

**Picasso's Aquatints**

**Malaga.** Until 3 February. Picasso Museo Casa Natal.  
Similar to the process for making etchings, Picasso made aquatints with acid on metal plaques from which he then printed off his images.

**Referencias Andaluzas**

**Malaga.** Until 3 February. Museo Picasso Malaga.  
A collection of works demonstrating the influence of Mediterranean culture on Picasso's art.

**Inflatable art**

**Malaga.** Until 10 February, 9.30am - 8pm. Centro Pompidou.  
An exhibition 'Constuir el aire. Arquitectura y diseño hinchable, 1960-1975' is based on inflatable furniture and other objects that were designed in the period between 1960 and 1975.

**Antoine Dureau**

**Malaga.** Until 18 February, Antinoo Fine Art, Callejones del Perchel 2.  
French artist Antoine Dureau is holding his first exhibition *Alien*, which consists of a series of collages.

**Malaga Cathedral**

**Malaga.** Until 28 February, 10am - 6pm.  
'Unfinished Symphony' is the title of the exhibition at Malaga Cathedral. It demonstrates the development process of the cathedral which has been in construction through several periods of history from the Renaissance, from 1527 to 1588; and the Baroque, from 1721 until 1782. This architectural treasure is yet to be completed.

**Pedro de Mena**

**Malaga.** From 16 March until 14

**July. Palacio Episcopal.**

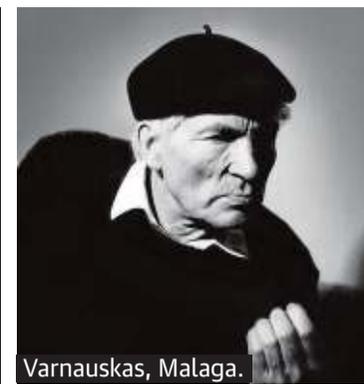
The exhibition will consist of religious works created by sculptor Pedro de Mena y Medrano.

**A trip to New Guinea**

**Malaga.** Until 2 March. The Rectorada of the Universidad de Málaga.  
Artist Ángela Calero is exhibiting a collection of souvenirs, photos and works he amassed during his 15 years in Papua New Guinea. The majority of souvenirs are pieces of jewellery.

**Mimi Ripoll**

**Malaga.** Until March. The staircase to 'Colección Utopías Modernas, Centro Pompidou'. Free.  
'Melodías Rítmicas' is the title of the exhibition which uses strong symbolism using black lines, shapes and textures which change in the natural light that floods in from the stairway next



Varnauskas, Malaga.

to the collection.

**La Furia del Color**

**Malaga.** Until 3 March. Carmen Thyssen Museum.  
The museum is exhibiting a selection of works by Francisco Iturrino, commissioned by Lourdes Moreno.

**José María Báez**

**Malaga.** Until 10 March. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.  
Around 150 works by artist José María Báez (Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz, 1949), are on display.

**Dionisio González**

**Malaga.** Until 17 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.  
Parresia y Lugar is the latest exhibition at the CAC in Malaga. It is the most important solo exhibition by Dionisio González in Spain in recent years. Around a hundred works are on display, among them photographs, videos, holographic prisms and scale models.



Papua New Guinea, Malaga



**MOVIE LISTING**  
From Friday 1st to Thursday 7th February  
ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTTLED SPANISH



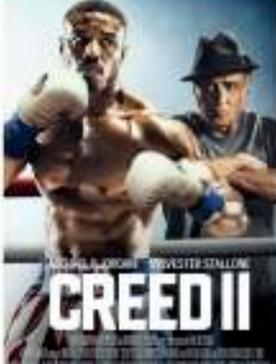
**THE OLD MAN & THE GUN**  
Director David Lowery  
Starring Robert Redford, Casey Affleck, Sissy Spacek  
BIOGRAPHY - 93 min.  
Based on the true story of Forrest Tucker and his audacious escape from San Quentin at the age of 70 to an unprecedented string of heists that confounded authorities and enchanted the public.  
Friday 1: 18:10, 22:45  
Saturday 2 and Sunday 3: 18:00, 22:45  
From Monday 4 to Thursday 7: 18:00, 22:30



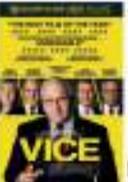
**BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY**  
Director Bryan Singer  
Starring Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Gwilym Lee  
BIOGRAPHY - 134 min.  
Golden Globe Awards for 'Bohemian Rhapsody'  
BEST MOTION PICTURE - DRAMA  
BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A MOTION PICTURE - DRAMA  
'Rami Malek'  
From Friday 1 to Sunday 3: 17:45, 22:45  
From Monday 4 to Thursday 7: 17:45, 22:30



**GREEN BOOK**  
Director Peter Farrelly  
Starring Viggo Mortensen, Mahershala Ali, Linda Cardellini  
BIOGRAPHY - 130 min.  
A working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South.  
Friday 1: 18:00, 20:15, 22:45  
Saturday 2 and Sunday 3: 15:40, 18:05, 20:15, 22:45  
From Monday 4 to Thursday 7: 18:00, 20:00, 22:30



**CREED II**  
Director Steven Caple Jr.  
Starring Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone  
ACTION - 129 min.  
Friday 1: 18:00, 20:15  
Saturday 2: 15:45, 18:00, 20:15  
Sunday 3: 11:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15  
From Monday 4 to Thursday 7: 18:00, 20:10



**VICE**  
From Friday 1 to Thursday 7: 20:00



**GLASS**  
From Friday 1 to Sunday 3: 20:15  
From Monday 4 to Thursday 7: 20:10

**Jorge Rando Varnauskas**

**Malaga.** From 4 February until 4 May 2020. Museo Ralli Marbella. An exhibition of works by Lithuanian artist Zenonas Varnauskas (1923 - 2010). The works cover the pre-war period, the Soviet Republic and the recuperation of independent Lithuania.



Hermanas Sister, Wall Bar

**Cristóbal Toral**

**Antequera.** Until 26 April. Museo de la Ciudad de Antequera. Internationally famous, local artist Cristóbal Toral returns to his roots with a magnificent exhibition of over fifty of his large format works. The paintings were created over the last forty years and there is also a display he has made comprising 500 suitcases and holdalls.

**Juan Leiva**

**Mijas.** Until 18 February. Casa Museo de Mijas. An exhibition of macrame and leatherwork by Juan Leiva. [www.cueroymacrame.com](http://www.cueroymacrame.com)

**Mariemma Yagüe**

**Torremolinos.** Until 17 February. Casa de los Navajas. The exhibition 'Our Voice', reflects the discrimination against women in workplace and in wider society. The artist will be displaying twelve, colourful acrylics depicting the plight of women in Africa, Latin America and India.

**Juan Antonio Pérez**

**Mijas.** Until 25 February. Casa de la Cultura. Las Lagunas. An exhibition of works by Juan Antonio Pérez entitled Re\_Plegado.

**Galería Krabbe**

**Frigiliana.** Until 13 April. C/Rosarico. Collective exhibition of art at the Krabbe gallery. Email: [galeriakrabbe@gmail.com](mailto:galeriakrabbe@gmail.com)

**'Buly' exhibition**

**Vélez-Málaga.** Until 10 February. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Huelva artist Aurelio Díaz Trillo, known as 'Buly', is exhibiting nine of his works which include drawings, paintings and sculptures.

**Easterly Winds**

**Cadiz.** Until 15 February. Palacio de la Diputación Provincial de Cadiz. Gibraltar are taking part in a cultural exchange programme with Cadiz and are holding an exhibition by Gibraltar artists. Cadiz will in turn be exhibiting works in the Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery in Gibraltar in March.

**CHARITY**

**Golden Oldies charity dinner dance**

**Gibraltar.** 1 February, from 8.30pm. Boyds Leisure Centre. 25€

A dinner and dance with music from the 60s and 70s to raise money for Clubhouse Gibraltar, a mental health charity. Tickets from The Jewel Box in Main Street; Clubhouse Gibraltar, Wellington Front and Rock Bastion.

**Jumble sale for charity**

**Almayate.** 9 February, from 11am. El Llano, Almayate bajo. Jumble sale in aid of abandoned animals at ADA Animal Defence. Homemade cakes, refreshments etc. Call: 722278992

**Age Concern Estepona and**



Mäbu, Malaga

**Manilva**

**Estepona.** 22 February, 7.30pm. Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. 10€ A concert, 'Classical Fantasia', is being given by the '3 Divas', namely Marika Rauscher, soprano; Sonia Garcia Quintero, soprano and Clarice Williams, mezzo soprano. The pianist Vera Sonia, is a professor in piano at the University of Jaen. The CantoLibre choir will also be performing. Tickets available from the Age Concern shop in C/ Zaragoza, Estepona or call Tony: 608458555. Facebook: Age Concern Estepona and Manilva

**Golf for Cudeca**

**Marbella.** 15 February, 9.30am. Marbella Golf and Country Club. The Marbella Golf and Country Club is organising its popular and traditional open tournament, the Memorial Members Charity Tournament to help the Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. Golfers will play in Stableford Individual format. Prizes will be awarded to the top three and to the nearest ball of ladies and gentlemen. Registration fee 35€ for members, 75€ for non members (both include 14€ donation to Cudeca). 20€ for lunch. Email: [reservas@marbellagolf.com](mailto:reservas@marbellagolf.com) or call: 952830500

**MUSIC & DANCE**

**The Wall Bar**

**Malaga.** Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free. 2 February. Richard Ray Farrell,



Richard Ray Farrell, Estepona

the New York bluesman. 9 February. Hermanas Sister. Vocals and guitar, international funk jazz. 16 February. Irissoboe. Oboe and acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop music. 23 February. Susan Valery & Adrian Lombardi. Voice and guitar. Jazz style.

**Mary Poppins musical**

**Torremolinos.** 2 February, midday. Casa de la Cultura. Free. The production is suitable for all ages, especially children and tells the classic story of Jane and Michael and their magical nanny, Mary Poppins.

**Mäbu**

**Malaga.** 3 February, 8pm. Cochera Cabaret. 12-15€ Mäbu celebrates ten year in the music business with the presentation of their new album 'Decimo'. Tickets: [www.wegow.com](http://www.wegow.com)



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## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

## Violin and piano duo

**Marbella.** 2 February, 9pm. *Gran Hotel Melia Don Pepe.*  
The Amigos de Música association presents Iván Zenaty (piano) and Martín Kasik (violin). They will play pieces by Schumann, Webdal and Grieg.

## Remember Queen

**Almuñécar.** 8 February, 8pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura*  
A concert by Queen tribute band with Piero Venery as Freddie Mercury. Tickets from the cultural centre, Viajes Ecuador or [www.bravoentrados.es](http://www.bravoentrados.es)

## Piano and oboe recital

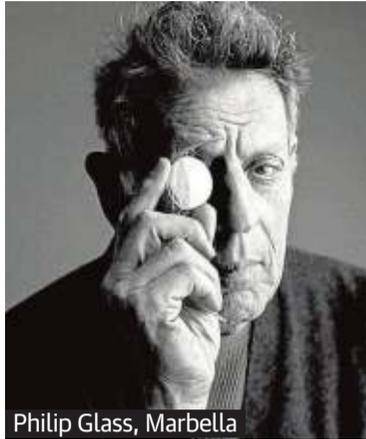
**Estepona.** 8 February, 8pm. *Centro Cultural Padre Manuel.*  
A concert of chamber music with piano (Claudio Gómez Martínez) and oboe (José María Benítez). Pay after the show.

## Beatles versus Rolling Stones

**Estepona.** 9 February, 9pm. *Auditorio Felipe VI.* 12€ in advance, 15€ on the door.  
The Silverbeats and the Honky Tonk Cats will be playing tributes to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

## Chamber Music concert

**Malaga.** 7 February, 8pm. *Sala Unica de Conciertos María Cristina.*  
Cuban pianist, Leonel Morales, will be playing works by Beetho-



Philip Glass, Marbella

ven and Chopin as part of a quintet made up of Marina Peláez (violin 1º), Silvia Pecile (violin 2º), Claudia Lappus (viola), Tullman Mahrenholz (cello) and Carsten Markwardt (double bass).

## Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**Malaga.** *Auditorio Edgar Neville* 8 February, 8pm.  
Conducted by Arturo Diez Boscovich, the orchestra will play works by composers Gershwin, Martino, Tadd Dameron and many others. 9 February, 8pm.  
A concert with soloist Daniel casares playing pieces by Rodrigo and his own compositions.

## Malaga. Museo de Málaga

3 February, midday.  
The Mendelssohn chord quartet from Escuela Reina Sofia will be playing works by Haydn and Beethoven.

**Malaga. Teatro Cervantes** 14, 15 February, 8pm. The first part will include works by R Strauss (Four Last Songs) and the second half will be Symphony N° 4 in G major by Gustav Mahler. Soprano Raquel Lojendio. Tickets: [www.teatrocervantes.com/es/genero/ofm/ciclo/164/espectaculo/2176](http://www.teatrocervantes.com/es/genero/ofm/ciclo/164/espectaculo/2176)

## Música Con Encanto

**Marbella.** 16 February, 7pm. *Les Roches, Urb Lomas de Sierra Blanca.* 25€  
A tribute to Philip Glass with a concert of two pianos played by Alborado Moreno and Ignacio Torner. Also pieces by Ludovico Einaudi, Leroen van Veen and Meredith Monk. Info: <http://www.musicaconencanto.org> Tickets: 689000 944

## Promúsica chamber orchestra

**Malaga.** 2 February, 8pm. *Sala María Cristina.*  
'Piazzola Tangos to fall in love to is the title of the concert with Argentinean dancers Barbara and Al-



Silverbeats, Estepona

fredo Tosto and the orchestra conducted by Javier Claudio.

## Sinoidal sax quartet

**Malaga.** 1 February, 8pm. *Sala María Cristina, C/Marqués de Valdecañas.* Free.  
Ana Lencina Sánchez, Elisa Urrestaerazu Capellán, Fernando José Laguna Bermúdez and José Miguel Cantero Tomás are presenting their CD 'De la Copia al Original' which includes their interpretation of classical pieces originally written for piano such as Bach's Italian Concerto. [www.sinoidal.com](http://www.sinoidal.com)

## Santana tribute

**Benalmádena.** 2 February, 8pm. *Moonlight Bar, Sunset Beach Hotel.* 15€ on door.  
Jingo Experience will be perform-

ing a tribute to legendary band Santana. Bookings: [www.costa-deldisco.com](http://www.costa-deldisco.com) or call: 658579695

## A Touch of Class

**La Cala de Mijas.** 8 February, 7pm. *Avanto restaurant.*  
A special concert by a Touch of Class for Lux Mundi Fuengirola.

## Rockin Race Music Festival

**Torremolinos.** 6-10 February. *Main stage in Auditorio Príncipe de Asturias, also Hotel Barracuda, Plaza del Remo and the Paseo Marítimo Playamar.*  
A five-day music festival featuring music from the 50s with over 40 international bands, solo musicians and DJs. 50s attire and hairstyles as well as classic cars from the era and jitterbug and sock-hop dance classes. More info, tickets etc: [www.rockinrace.com](http://www.rockinrace.com)

## Opera Cádiz

**Estepona.** 15 February, 7pm. *Teatro Padre Manuel.* 10€.  
The Ópera Cádiz will be performing arias from Bizet's Carmen. The cast includes alto Clarice Williams and baritone David Geary.

## FLAMENCO

## Flamenco in the Museum

**Malaga.** *Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franquelo.* 8.30pm.  
7 February. Ale Baho and flamenco group.  
9 February. José M Millán 'Manu' and flamenco group.  
14 February. Bastián Soto and his flamenco group.  
For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email: [info@flamenka.com](mailto:info@flamenka.com)

## LECTURES

## Essential Christianity

**Estepona.** *Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm.*  
Rev. Adrian Low, the Church of England Chaplain to the Anglican Church in Costa del Sol West, will be leading a course, in English entitled 'Essential Christianity'. It is open to all (14 years upwards) who want to find out what Christianity is about, look at the beliefs of the Christian church, the sources of the Bible and the relevance of the faith in our world today. At the end of the course, if you wish to be 'confirmed' as an Anglican, that can be arranged. [www.costachurch.com](http://www.costachurch.com).

## Mental health support

**Gibraltar.** 7 February, 10am-12.30pm. *Clubhouse Gibraltar, 24 Wellington Front.*  
A Time To Talk offers the opportunity to ask questions and find out about the support available.

## U3A Lectures

**Fuengirola.** *Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€.* Email: [u3afuengirola@gmail.com](mailto:u3afuengirola@gmail.com)  
**A Mixed Bag: 'Royal Air Force: Bomber Command 1939-45'.**  
5 February, 11am. Geoff Cooke describes a visit to Lincolnshire's Famous Bomber Command commemorative sites and their history. It is 100 years since the formation of the RAF and 80 years since the beginning of WWII. He examines why the bombing tactics used during WWII were employed and justified and why we owe such a debt to bomber aircrew.

## 'Britain's Heritage Railways - A tribute to mark the end of the main steam line'

19 February, 11am.  
Geoff Cooke describes how four grammar school boys kick started the concept of Heritage Steam

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San Antón, Axarquía

Railways to become the most popular weekend family attraction and why we are building new steam engines.

**Science and technology:**

**'Do your genes make you fat?'**

6 February, 11am. A talk by Giles Yeo.

**Guided tour and talk**

**Riogordo.** 2 February, 5.30pm. *Riogordo olive mill and museum.*

There will be a guided tour of the Riogordo olive oil cooperative in English at about 5 pm, followed by a talk and a guide to tasting olive oil in the museum. This year, a guest speaker from Cambridge, Dr Simon Poole author of *The Olive Oil Diet*, and general authority on the nutritional benefits of Extra Virgin Olive Oil will be giving a talk. Entry is free but a place must be reserved:

lamoliendariogordo@gmail.com or through:  
www.facebook.com/lamoliendade-riogordo/

**Lux Mundi Art Appreciation**

**Torre del Mar.** 18 February, 10.30am. *Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre.* 2€

The Great Artist Series', a BBC arts documentary tells the stories behind great artists. Following a short introduction about El Greco the documentary will be played and followed by a discussion.

**FESTIVALS**

**Olive oil month**

**Vélez-Málaga.** Until 2 February. The Vélez-Málaga Museum (Muvel) is holding various activities related to olive oil such as guided tours of the olive mills in Vélez and Periana and assisted tastings of olive oil.

**San Antón**

**Árchez.** 3 February. The romería de San Antón is a popular festival with many people

bringing pets and domesticated animals for a blessing. There will also be music, local gastronomy and horse races.

**Fiestas de la Candelaria**

**Axarquía.** 2, 3 February.

Many towns and villages will be celebrating the Fiestas de la Candelaria this weekend in honour of the Virgen de la Candelaria. Traditionally the festivities include a candlelit procession of the virgin through the streets on the Sunday.

**Fiesta de la Matanza**

**Ardales.** 3 February from midday in the main square.

Promoting local gastronomy is the main purpose of this event that celebrates the traditional annual killing of the pig. Besides tastings of various dishes there will be live music and stalls selling local produce.

**EVENTS**

**Weekend market**

**Coín.** Behind Bar Los Arcos.

Artisan products, fresh vegetables, British food products, craft beer, wine and general bric-a-brac. Stalls have to be booked in advance on the Facebook page Los Mercado.

**Trip to Osuna**

**Fuengirola.** 22 February Various departure points. 26€

Includes visit to Renaissance Collegiate Church. Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840

**Trip to Gibraltar**

**Torre del Mar.** 21 February, 21 March, 25 April Various departure points. 12€.

Coach trip to Gibraltar. Passports required. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

**Trip to Écija**

**Torre del Mar.** 27 February. Various departure points. 25€.

Visit Écija and the Benamejí palace, Plaza del España or Palacio de Alcántara. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

**O. V. FILM**

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



Pacho Flores. :: SUR.

**Award-winning trumpet virtuoso visits Gibraltar**

**GIBRALTAR.** The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society has invited Venezuelan virtuoso trumpeter Pacho Flores to play in a recital with pianist Pepe Gallego. The concert is sponsored by the Parasol Foundation.

Pacho Flores was awarded first prize in the Maurice André International Trumpet Contest, the most renowned trumpet contest in the world, as well as many other competitions. He trained in the Orchestra System for Youth and Children in Venezuela, receiving top recognition for his performances.

As a soloist, he has performed with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Kiev, the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of Düsseldorf, and the Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra, among many others.

Pianist Pepe Gallego was born in Valladolid. He attended the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid. After his studies he trained

at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest and in Amsterdam. He is a winner of several national and international competitions.

The programme will feature compositions for trumpet and piano by Charlier, Sarasate, Neruda, Piazzola, Flores, Sánchez, Baez Cervantes, Paquito de Rivera and Oscher.

**INFORMATION**

▶ **When.** 13 February, 8pm.

▶ **Where.** Convent Ballroom.

▶ **Tickets.** Tickets £20, available from Sacarello's coffee shop, The Silver Shop or www.buytickets.gi. A limited number of tickets at £10 for senior citizens and students are available from John Mackintosh Hall. Tel: 0035020072134 or www.philharmonic.gi.

**Glass:** 18.40, 21.20 (Tues).

**The Favourite:** 18.30, 21.00 (Mon-Thurs).

**Green Book:** 18.40, 21.20 (Tues).

**Cinesur Miramar**

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

**Creed II: The Legend of Rocky:** 21.25, 0.00 (every day).

**Glass:** 16.15 (Mon-Thurs).

**The Favourite:** 16.00 (Mon-Thurs).

**Green Book:** 12.00, 16.25, 19.00, 21.45, 00.25 (every day).

**The Old Man and The Gun:** 20.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

**Opera: Norma:** 7 February, 20.00.

**Cines Teatro Goya**

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatro-goya.com

**Creed II: The Legend of Rocky:** 11.30 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 18.00, 20.15 (Fri-Sun); 20.10 (Mon-Thurs).

**Bohemian Rhapsody:** 17.45 (every day); 22.30 (Mon-Thurs); 22.45 (Fri-Sun).

**Glass:** 20.10 (Mon-Thurs); 20.15 (Fri-Sun).

**Vice:** 20.00 (Fri-Thurs).

**Green Book:** 15.40, 18.05 (Sat, Sun); 20.00, 22.30 (Mon-Thurs); 20.15, 22.45 (Fri-Sun).

**The Old Man and The Gun:** 18.00 (Sat-Mon); 18.10 (Fri); 22.30 (Mon-Thurs); 22.45 (Fri-Sun).

**Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor**

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

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

**Green Book:** 12.45 (Sat, Sun); 16.10 (Fri, Mon, Wed, Thurs); 19.00 (Tues).

**The Favourite:** 19.10 (Wed); 21.40 (every day except Wed)

**If Beale Street Could Talk:** 16.20 (Mon-Thurs); 20.10 (Tues).

**Bohemian Rhapsody:** 18.50 (Tues); 21.25 (every day except Tues).

**Vice:** 21.50 (Tues).

**Glass:** 20.25 (every day except Fri, Wed).

**Instant Family:** 14.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Tues).

**Aquaman:** 13.15 (Sat, Sun).

**Creed II: The Legend of Rocky:** 13.20 (Sat, Sun); 20.20 (every day).

**Opera: Carmen:** 2 February. 18.55. Direct from New York Metropolitan theatre.



Fiesta del Candelaria, Axarquía

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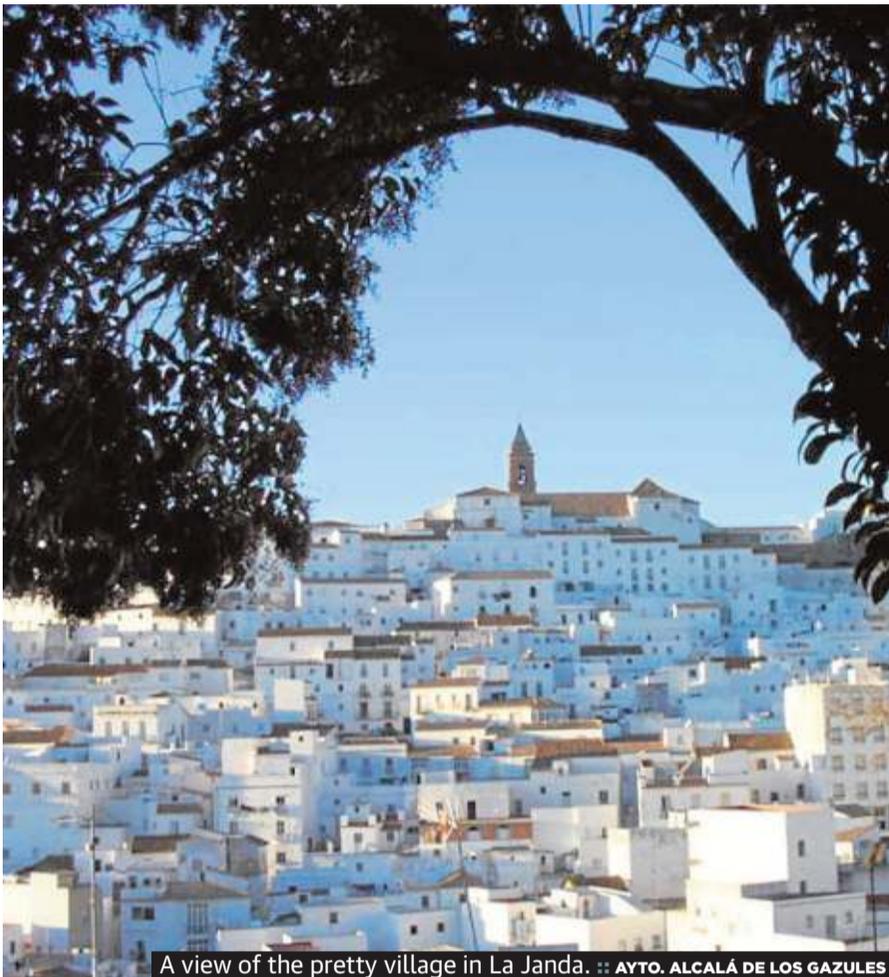
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**Hästens**

## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



A view of the pretty village in La Janda. :: AYTO. ALCALÁ DE LOS GAZULES

JAVIER  
ALMELLONES

## A white village at the heart of Cadiz

**2 days in Alcalá de los Gazules**  
Car + walking.

Journey time: 2 hours from Malaga.

Visits to monuments: 5 hours.

Walking routes: 3 hours.



**A**lcalá de los Gazules has many attractions for visitors: a fascinating history with remains from different civilisations, mountains and beautiful countryside, walking routes and delicious gastronomy based on local products, to name just a few.

This village is in the area known as La Janda and in Los Alcornocales natural park, practically at the very heart of Cadiz province. It is also a very good base for following some of the tourism

routes which the authorities have created in this area, such as the White Villages Route and the Route of the Bulls.

It must be said, though, that Alcalá actually has enough attractions to captivate tourists for a whole week. Anyone who enjoys nature will love the Sierra del Aljibe, the mountain range shared with Cortes de la Frontera, in neighbouring Malaga province. You can go walking or cycling through this corner of Los Alcornocales natural park, and the highly rec-

ommended walking routes in spring and autumn include the one which goes up to the top of El Picacho, the second highest peak in Cadiz province, the Aljibe walk, La Garganta de Puerto Oscuro and the Ruta de los Molinos, which takes you past the old mills.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the history of Alcalá de los Gazules will also find plenty of monuments and historic remains to visit, and there is evidence that even before becoming a settled community its territory was inhabited by the first humans.

The 'Laja de los Hierros', for example, has anthropomorphic, animal and religious carvings dating back to Neolithic times, and from a later period is the Mesa del Esparragal, of which the most visible part today is a tower built by the Visigoths with Roman materials.

From the period between the beginning of history and the decline of the Roman Empire there are water deposits, the Salada fountain and a Roman bridge over the Barbate river.

From the era of Al-Ándalus, there are the remains of an old fortress, although little more than one tower remains today. Believed to have been built on Roman foundations, it was in good condition until French troops almost completely demolished it in the War of Independence.

Alcalá de los Gazules also has some interesting religious buildings including the churches of San Jorge and La Victoria, the convents of Santo Domingo and Santa Clara and the chapel of Nuestra Señora de los Santos.

For those who like their food, Alcalá specialises in dishes made with products from the mountains and plains: hot gazpacho and asparagus soup are just a couple of the delicious options which ought to be tried here.



The Neolithic Laja de los Hierros. :: SUR



### QUICK GUIDE

#### What to see in Alcalá de los Gazules

◀ **San Jorge church.** Built on the site of a mosque, it has been remodelled several times since.  
*Plaza de San Jorge, s/n. 11180 Alcalá de los Gazules.*

**Mesa del Esparragal .** A settlement of Phoenician and Roman origins. The Lascuta Bronze, the first Roman inscription in Spain, was found here.  
*Beside the Alcalá-San José del Valle road. 11180 Alcalá de los Gazules.*

◀ **Castle.** Built by the Moors, but destroyed in 1811.  
*Above the Plaza de San Jorge, 11180 Alcalá de los Gazules.*

**Nuestra Señora de los Santos chapel.** Built in the 14th century.  
*Six kms from the village.*

**Roman water deposits and Salada fountain.** From 1st and 2nd century  
*Calle Nuestra Señora de los Santos, s/n. 11180 Alcalá de los Gazules.*



You are not going to have some good times here, you are going to make every moment count. Because living is not the same as living **intensely**.

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# Mediterranean diets on prescription

## Dr Simon Poole will be giving a talk about extra virgin olive oil in Riogordo on Saturday



JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes\_jennie@hotmail.com

**RIOGORDO.** Dr Simon Poole will be giving a talk in English at the olive oil cooperative tour and talk in Riogordo tomorrow, Saturday 2 February.

Dr Poole, 55, is a Cambridge-based medical doctor, author and member of the Advisory Board of the Olive Wellness Institute, among a long list of well-known medical organisations. He is considered by his peers as an “internationally-renowned authority on the science, application and communication of the Mediterranean diet”.

Dr Poole explains that he first became interested in the benefits of extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) and the Mediterranean diet about 15 years ago when he found himself producing prescription after prescription for people with heart conditions and weight problems. He started to read up on “lifestyle medicine” and alternative ways of preventing chronic diseases. Many of the articles he came across, he says, referred to the Medi-

terranean diet.

The family doctor says that he has “seen improvements” over the years in his own patients who have taken his advice about following such a diet and that his and other research has shown a 30 per cent decrease in illnesses such as heart disease, stroke and some cancers when sticking to the healthy eating plan that the diet provides.

He is co-author of a Gourmand International prize-winning book, The Olive Oil Diet, which has just been translated into Spanish and describes the role of extra virgin olive oil at the heart of the Mediterranean diet, relating the nutritional science to production, taste characteristics and health benefits. In the book he describes extra virgin olive oil as “the original super food” and Simon himself has been described as “the most passionate advocate of the Mediterranean diet and a tireless ambassador for good quality olive oil”.

### Living in Spain

During his talk, Simon will be explaining the benefits of following a Mediterranean diet which has extra virgin olive oil at its heart. He says that he would like to encourage the audience to “make the most of living in Spain” and to “connect with the

community of olive oil producers”.

He will touch on the links between the Mediterranean diet and health, as well as the nutritional value of extra virgin olive oil in terms of antioxidants and links to the reduction in some cancers and cardiovascular conditions. The doctor will also pay tribute to the work of local olive and olive oil producers.

On this occasion Dr Poole is flying from the UK to Malaga solely for the talk, although he says his work regularly brings him to Spain as well as other Mediterranean countries, including Italy. In 2017 he gave a talk

to the Vatican Pontifical Academy Food Values initiative. While he says that he has tasted excellent extra virgin olive oil all over the Mediterranean, he admits that Spain, which is where he travels to most for his work with extra virgin olive oil, “produces exceptional oils” and that Spanish producers are “really starting to take pride in their oil and market it well, rather than sending it all to Italy”. He also says that there is increasing interest in Mediterranean EVOO in the USA, in terms of export to the States and researching its health benefits.

It goes without saying that “extra

### OLIVE OIL TOUR & TALK

► **Where.** Riogordo olive oil cooperative Paraje del Campo (at the entrance to Riogordo from Vélez-Málaga) for the tour; the talk and tasting is at the town’s ethnological museum (Calle Iglesia, 14).

► **When.** Saturday 2 February. Tour starts at 5pm at the cooperative.

► **More information.** By reservation only. Email: lamolienda.riogordo@gmail.com or Facebook: La Molienda de Riogordo.

virgin olive oil is the only fat” in Dr Poole’s kitchen in Cambridge and that he uses it for cooking as well as in salad dressings. Further information can be found about Dr Poole online (www.fletcherassociates.net).



Dr Simon Poole speaking at a recent event on EVOO. :: SUR

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# Culinary promise from the Costa del Sol

**Marbella chef Fernando Alcalá won the young chef's award at Madrid Fusión and Puri Morillo's dessert won her third place in the up-and-coming pastry chef competition**

**:: ESPERANZA PELÁEZ**

**MADRID.** Both young and veteran chefs from around the country have been in Madrid this week for the gastronomy fair Reale Seguros Madrid Fusión.

While the three-day event includes talks, workshops and demonstrations by some of the country's most veteran and influential chefs, including Ferrán Adrià and Ángel León, it also gives young, upcoming professionals the chance to make a name for themselves in the industry.

One of the highlights of Madrid Fusión is the announcement of the prize for the best 'Cocinero Revelación', for young, upcoming professionals. This year's award went to local Marbella chef Fernando Alcalá, 27, who runs the kitchen in the restaurant Kava, where he claims that his menu aims to revive the term 'signature cuisine' with dedication while also taking risks.

After receiving his prize, he explained that he hadn't expected it as



Fernando Alcalá in Madrid on Wednesday. :: ALBERTO FERRERAS

"all the candidates were really good and some better known than me".

The organisers select a total of 80 judges among industry professionals and food writers and critics from around the country.

Alcalá is a self-taught chef who only took up cooking professionally after graduating in Law and completing a Masters degree in Switzerland.

It was then that his father told him that restaurant premises that belonged

to the family had been vacated and available to use. "I haven't studied at catering college. I'm self-taught and I believe that to a certain extent that's an advantage, because I've had to learn a lot by myself and have avoided being influenced," he said.

There was more good news for the province of Malaga earlier in the week when Puri Morillo, who runs



Puri Morillo.  
:: JOSÉ RAMÓN LADRA

## Veterans impress with science

The star of the first day of Reale Seguros Madrid Fusión was Ferran Adrià, who returns to the forefront of haute cuisine after an absence of eight years. Anyone hoping for an announcement of a new restaurant to dine in like his world famous El Bulli, was disappointed, however. Adrià instead said that his new project ELBulli846 will be a "showcase laboratory" where around 20 researchers from different fields will form the first intake of experts. Another well known chef, Ángel León, known as the 'Chef of the Sea' performed "miracles" with salt, cooking shellfish with a salt solution that crystallises instantly. The Best Chef award for his professional career went to Eneko Atxa, whose restaurant Azurmendi has three Michelin stars.

the patisserie, Daza, on the west side of the city, won third prize in the competition for promising pastry chefs. Morillo worked under Malaga's star chef Dani García at his former restaurant Tragabuches in Ronda and later in Calima, Marbella.

**T**here is little argument about whether the famous Michelin Guide punches above its weight. For a publication that has tiny sales figures, there is hardly a restaurant in the world that would not roll over on its back to be featured. I have never bought a copy, nor ever seen anyone buy it, nor read it. So what's the point? It must be assumed to be newsworthy, so any mention of a chef or a restaurant, or even a dish, will be guaranteed international coverage if the word Michelin can be somehow factored in. Marbella's favourite culinary son, Dani García, announced last month he would be closing his Michelin-starred restaurant. This

ANDREW J. LINN

## MICHELIN CLAIMS



'news' was published all over the world.

When yours truly recently published an article in Diario SUR, the Spanish sister paper of SUR in English, about "Michelin chefs", it was referred to, and indeed plagiarised, at an international level. So is it fair game to use a Michelin reference to bait a hook? Recent events show

that it is, however misleading it may be. A five-star Marbella hotel announced last week that it will hold an event in May at which "26 of Spain's best chefs will be attending... who between them can count 45 Michelin stars". As I, and many other food writers, never tire of pointing out, there is no such thing as a "Michelin chef". The fussy lit-

tle guide sends out its inspectors to anonymously assess restaurants (NB: restaurants, not chefs). The final decision about star quality is taken in Michelin's Paris head office, based on the reports submitted from the front. The food is important, but - Michelin refuses to give details - so is the service, the politeness of the staff, the seating arrangements, the general atmosphere, the wine list, etc. It is certainly not rated only on the quality of the cooking.

So how can this landmark hotel, founded in 1962 and whose restaurant was the first hotel restaurant in Spain to be awarded a Michelin star (nice touch this!) be advertising an event based on those claims?

## Pago de Cirsus Vendimia Seleccionada

Navarra has always been the poor cousin of Rioja, even though it nestles right up to its bigger brother geographically and climatically. This is precisely why wines from the region are good value. Pago de Cirsus VS red is a real cracker, a special vintage Pago Finca Bolandín, 12 months in oak, using Merlot, Syrah and Tempranillo at the very satisfying price of around 8.50 euros.





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# Communities unite to #SaveSoraya

## Fundraising is being organised in the hope that a Leukemia treatment can be found

BY JENNIE RHODES

**MALAGA.** The British and Spanish communities of Malaga province are uniting to help 33-year-old Soraya Pérez Bradley in her fight against Leukemia, by organising a series of fundraising events to help towards urgent medical treatment.

The first event took place in Benajárfé last Sunday, which Antonio Moreno Ferrer, Mayor of Vélez-Málaga and Councillor María José Roberto attended. Soraya's mum, Katrina Bradley, told SUR in English that the town halls of Malaga and Vélez-Málaga have "given the Save Soraya campaign their full support."

More events are planned in February, with a benefit concert and dinner taking place tonight at Plaza Beach restaurant in Calahonda, where 15 euros of the 35 euro ticket price will be donated to the fund. On Sunday, 3 February a charity paella will be cooked on Plaza de la Mezquita in Benálmadena, which is where the family lived before moving to Benajárfé.

A concert featuring a wide range of local musicians is being held in Arroyo de la Miel on Saturday, 9 February and Katrina says that there are plans for more events in the pipeline. "There is so much going on I can't



Katrina Bradley, Cllr Roberto and Mayor, Moreno Ferrer . . . SUR

keep up with all of it," she admits, adding that her focus at the moment is on finding treatment, in or outside Europe, for her daughter. "I am on the phone to hospitals in the USA in the middle of the night trying to find treatments," she explains.

Soraya was diagnosed with the disease in July 2017, while she was working in Edinburgh, in her mum's na-

tive Scotland. Doctors there found that it had spread to 98 per cent of her body and Soraya returned to Malaga immediately to start receiving treatment at the Carlos Haya hospital.

The family was told that the strain of Leukemia that Soraya had was more common among children and

that it has a "Poor prognosis" in adults, Katrina explains. Soraya went on to receive aggressive chemotherapy which her mum says she "didn't respond well to." Despite this, Soraya did seem to be making progress and was well on the road to recovery, after a bone marrow transplant from her older sister in December 2017, who was a perfect match.

However, almost a year later, in November 2018, doctors found an unrelated, but malignant ovarian tumour, which resulted in Soraya having her ovaries, appendix and lymph nodes removed and then the family received the worst news during a routine check up on Boxing Day 2018, a year on from the bone marrow transplant; the leukemia had returned.

Soraya was still too weak from the operation to remove the ovarian tumour to receive more chemotherapy, and both the doctors and Katrina agreed that the treatment wouldn't work. Soraya is now at home and taking steroids and anti viral medication, with the hope that the correct treatment will be found and that she will be well enough to receive it.

CART - T Cell trials or treatment, says Katrina, is a possibility, but she goes on to say that it is currently only available in the USA and in many places is still being trialled. If treatment can't be found, the family says the money raised will be donated to local charities including CUDECA. For further information about Soraya and the charity events visit: Facebook: Save Soraya, or Go Fund Me #SaveSoraya.



Soraya Pérez Bradley. . . SUR

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# Santiago makes his debut in the Costa del Sol hospital kitchens

The well known chef and restaurant owner prepared a meal for 500 patients and medical staff, to celebrate 25 years of the hospital providing service and care

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

**MARBELLA.** "I owe a lot to this hospital, and so when I have the opportunity to give something back, I do it. It is nothing compared to what they have done for me," said Santiago Domínguez, owner of Restaurante Santiago, a restaurant that has run successfully in Marbella for several decades. On Wednesday 23 January, the 80-year-old restaurant owner set up his kitchen in the Costa del Sol hospital to prepare a meal for about 500 patients and staff. While it was a very different kitchen to that which he was used to, he tried to keep the menu traditional to what is served at 'Restaurante Santiago', adapting a few things to cater to everyone.

A created a healthy menu of creamed vegetables with croutons for the starter, followed by sea bass with sautéed Swiss chard, wild mushrooms and glazed beans, and a special sponge cake with cream as dessert. "It is not easy trying to



Santiago Domínguez, in the kitchen with hospital director, Torcuato Romero. :: JOSELE-LANZA

make a menu that suits everyone, but I have a very good team in the kitchen. With Alejandro Sanjuán at the helm, the whole team knows what to do when we are cooking

at another site." said Santiago, hours before the special menu to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the hospital was served.

Those who already know the te-

nacity of Santiago and his team will not be surprised to learn that they were extremely dedicated to the task at hand. "They were here all day yesterday (22 January), pre-

paring everything, and again first thing this morning" explains the hospital's managing director, Torcuato Romero.

Santiago himself was a patient at the hospital. "I have been a patient here several times, once with cancer. I know how it feels to be a patient here. One day, Dr. Sanchez Cantos asked me to make a special menu for this anniversary, and of course I accepted. Whenever I can do something nice for others, I try to. When you get to my age, spending a few hours doing something for other people costs nothing. I was delighted with all the staff here, from the director to the nurses," he points out.

## 25 years of the hospital

"The meal is the finale of the 25 year anniversary celebrations of the hospital," the managing director proudly explained. "Santiago is a great professional and a marvellous person.

We wanted to organise this culinary experience for the patients and staff, catering for everyone. Santiago and his team have been here working alongside the hospital kitchen team.

For them it is also a great opportunity to have someone with so much experience in the kitchen," says Torcuato Romero. "Patients were told that they would be served a special meal, showing that the hospital is not only about providing healthcare but that it is also an integral part of the community.

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# HYALURONIC ACID, AN ARTIFICIAL JOINT FLUID THAT HELPS YOUR JOINTS TO KEEP GOING

## BENALMADENA

Osteoarthritis of the joints is, next to lower back pain, the most frequent health problem an orthopaedic consultant has to treat. Osteoarthritis is usually a slow on-going process and due to the missing nerve connection inside the joint, the initial phase of this disease cannot be felt.

Arthritis within a joint starts slowly with the loss of the elasticity of the cartilage, like a rubber cushion getting brittle over the years, and therefore losing the capacity to resist pressure. In addition the normal joint fluid, produced every day by the joint synovial tissue (the membrane around the joint), is losing its nutritious effects, eventually causing the cartilage to dry out. The cartilage gets weaker and thinner until it starts to break up in some areas. This results in part of the articular joint surface not being covered and protected anymore, leaving the bone exposed. Advancing further, these areas of exposed bone inside the joint get that big that the joint practically moves 'bone on bone'.

The signs of the early stages of this disease are repetitive joint swelling following 'on your feet' activities, occasional warmth, aches or pains at night, or pain after sitting for a prolonged period of time. Alarming signs would be swelling of the joint in the morning, sharp pain on motion or decreased range of motion due to pain. Having experienced any of these symptoms one should consult a bone and joint specialist (orthopaedic surgeon) to verify the stage of the disease. A thorough physical exam will be performed as well as taking radiographic images

of the joint(s). Regarding the knee joint in particular these radiographic images should be taken in standing position to show the true joint gap. A MRI scan, or other scans of the joint are usually not needed.

Should the arthritis be in an advanced stage (grade III or IV), a surgical procedure might be needed. In the early or moderate stage of the arthritis (I - II) conservative treatment would be the treatment of choice. Usually this consists in physiotherapy, specific exercise programs, non-steroidal (no cortisone) anti-inflammatory tablets, acupuncture, diet and similar. It might sometimes be necessary to support the conservative treatment by injecting Cortisone into the joint to reduce the inflammation.

Hyaluronic acid, comparable

## Should the arthritis be in an advanced stage (grade III or IV), a surgical procedure might be needed

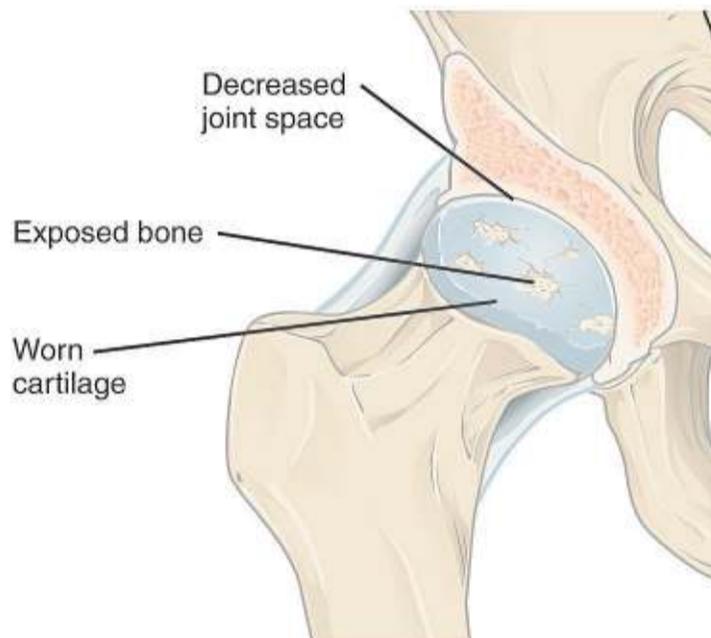
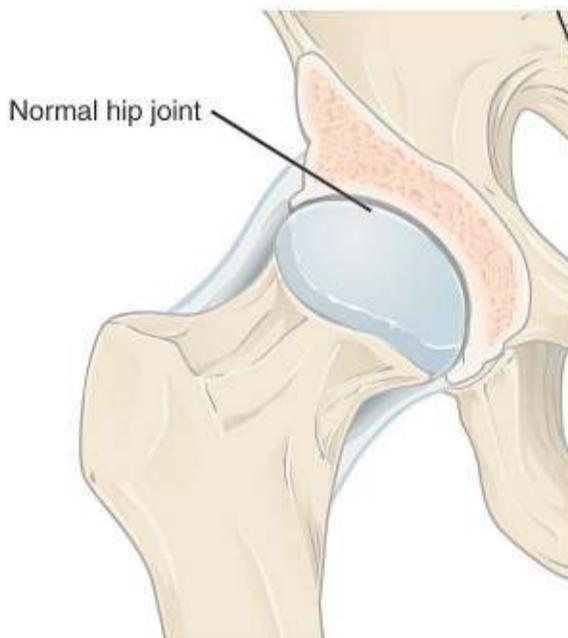
with a WD40 liquid, injected straight into the effected joint, has proven to be a very helpful 'tool' to treat the symptoms of early arthritis. It has first been used in 1942 as a bakery product. It is found in joint fluid, cartilage, tendons, hair, skin, lips and eyes. Hyaluronic Acid is a carbohydrate - sugar - which changes into a thick 'jello' by at-

taching itself to water. This gel covers the joint surface like a cushion and acts like a suspension. It also reduces the inflammatory reaction as the joint can move with less resistance (being 'oiled'). This effect of one injection could last between 6 and 24 months, very much depending on how badly the joint is worn out. As a synthetic 'oil' without any chemical additives it has no side effects at all and can be repeated as desired.

The knee joint is the most often injected one, but ankle, hip and shoulder joints are also frequently injected. Even smaller joints like wrist and elbow can be injected, usually applying only half of the medication is used.

Unfortunately there is no healing potential inside a joint, destroyed or degenerative cartilage cannot re-grow. Hyaluronic

acid joint injections can't change this fact either but they have shown to reduce pain and increase joint mobility at least temporarily, allowing to return to some sport activities and restore some life quality.



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Cellulite principally affects women and occurs mainly on thighs and buttocks. :: 123RF

# Understanding cellulite can help to combat it

**The problem affects 90 per cent of women and just ten per cent of men**

**SUR**

There are a lot of myths about cellulite. Most people believe it is caused by excess weight or fluid retention, but it can actually be due to different factors and some of them are difficult to control.

In medical terms, cellulite is an inflammation of the cellular tissue

below the skin. This swelling produces wrinkling which looks like orange peel and particularly affects the area around the muscles, buttocks and abdomen (although it can also occur elsewhere on the body). Although there can be different degrees of cellulite and it can be more or less visible,

around 90 per cent of women have it, and about ten per cent of men.

This alteration isn't directly related to weight, because it can affect people who are slim or fat and there can be several causes including genetic factors, hormonal changes, circulation, lifestyle habits and diet.

Depending on the origin of the problem and the area it affects, three types of cellulite have been identified: soft, hard (or compact)

and edematous.

The first is associated with a lack of muscle tone and appears with age or weight gain. It is often accompanied by varicose or thread veins. In hard cellulite the skin is smooth but looks like orange peel. This normally occurs in adolescence and increases over the years. Finally, edematous cellulite, which is the least common, occurs as a result of poor circulation caused by fluid retention.

**Diet and exercise, essential**

Although they don't remove the problem entirely, there are ways to prevent cellulite or reduce its effects. The first is to eat a healthy diet and drink plenty of liquids. It has been shown that there is a relationship between a high index of toxins in the body and the appearance of cellulite, so experts recommend avoiding fast food, processed food, alcohol, fats, coffee and sugary drinks. It is also advisable to drink two litres of water a day and eat foods which are high in fibre, diuretic and citric, because vitamin C strengthens blood vessels and helps to control venous edemas.

Sport is equally necessary to keep cellulite at bay. Sit-ups and upward and side kicks are good exercise, whether the adiposity is in the buttocks or the legs.

It is also necessary to tone the muscles in which the fat has accumulated to an excessive extent, for example hips, thighs, abdomen and upper arms.

Other dynamics which favour the reduction of cellulite are fast walking, cycling, aerobic exercise or weights, and walking up and down stairs. This type of exercise should be done constantly for at least 30 minutes a day, because that is the only way they will be effective.

However, it is important to point

**Depending on the cause and the area affected, there can be one of three types of cellulite: soft, hard or compact, edematous**

out that all these exercises are aimed at reducing cellulite but not eliminating it completely because, as we said earlier, it is caused by different factors so different processes are needed and these may be more or less effective depending on the genetic predisposition of each individual.

**Beauty treatments**

In addition to diet and exercise, in the most serious cases of cellulite you can consult experts in health and cosmetic medicine. Massage is one of the most popular therapies, because massaging an area with cellulite can improve circulation and help to dissolve the nodules of hard fat which have formed, thereby reducing them.

These massages can be performed by hand or with suction machines which work on the section of skin with light movements, aiming to activate cellular exchanges, eliminate residues and make the fat circulate again.

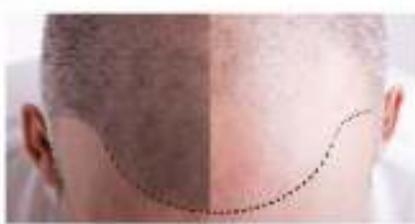
There are numerous options in terms of technological treatments. Through ultrasound the fat nodules can be dissolved and circulation in the area improved, while pressotherapy activates venous and lymphatic circulation.

Other recent methods use electrical or infra-red currents. These are applied through electrodes placed on the areas which need to be treated, or via special equipment placed on the skin. These have three effects: the temperature of the tissues in question is raised, the cellular permeability of the adipocytes is increased and the connective tissues are broken up. All this helps to improve appearance and smooth out the area which is being treated.




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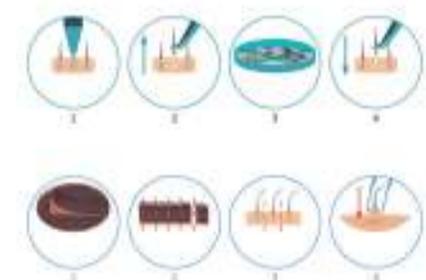
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# Flu is now reaching an epidemic level in Malaga

The incidence so far is described as 'moderate' and the viruses which are circulating this year are predominantly Type A

## ANGEL ESCALERA

**MÁLAGA.** The flu epidemic has begun in Malaga, and the health authorities believe it will reach its peak in mid-February. It has occurred later this year than last year, probably because of the mild, dry weather.

So far, the incidence of flu is described as 'moderate'. The viruses which are circulating appear to be type A: AH1N1 and AH3. Last year, there was a predominance of type B viruses. Judging by results so far, experts believe the peak, when it comes, will not be very high.

The accumulated rate of flu in Malaga province is 211.28 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, lower than the average for Andalucía, which is 263.59 cases per 100,000. Malaga has the second lowest rate so far, after Almeria with 155.27 cases per 100,000. In Cordoba, however, the situation is diffe-

rent, with 544.33 cases of flu per 100,000 inhabitants. In Seville province, the rate is 267.22.

Although the vaccination campaign has now finished, Yolanda González, the head of Public Health in Malaga province, recommends that anyone who is in a group at risk should be vaccinated. She points out that flu is a viral illness for which there is no specific treatment, but there are ways of treating the symptoms. There is no point in taking antibiotics, because they don't combat the virus. As preventive measures, people are advised to wash their hands frequently, cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing, use disposable tissues instead of cotton handkerchiefs, not to go to work or school to avoid spreading the illness, and air homes for ten minutes every day.

"Flu is like being hit by a car or run over by a train. It makes you feel as if you have been beaten up," says GP Juan Manuel Jiménez. He explains that intensive muscular pain and a high temperature (from 38.5 to 40 degrees) are the two main symptoms of flu. Other signs of the illness are generally feeling unwell, headache, a

sore throat and a dry cough. Flu doesn't normally involve sneezing or a runny nose.

Flu is highly contagious and can be passed easily from one person to another through the air, and through direct and indirect contact.



A flu vaccine helps to prevent catching the flu and spreading it to others :: SUR

## Spanish Cancer Association puts helpline number on water cartons for patients

The initiative, introduced by the Spanish Cancer Association, hopes to make the Infocancer phone line easily accessible to cancer patients and their families

## AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

**MÁLAGA.** One of the aims of the Spanish Cancer Association (AECC) is to make the services it offers available to patients and their families at any time of day, any day of the year. With this in mind, the Malaga headquarters of the association has reached an agreement with Ly Company Malaga. The Spanish Cancer Association will put their 24-hour cancer care line on the Ly Company's cardboard water containers.

The cardboard water container has already been distributed in the Costa del Sol Hospital, and over the next few days the same will be done throughout Malaga province hospitals. The association explains that it is thanks to the selfless collaboration of the Ly Company that it is possible to share this important campaign.

The phone line works as an 'online' consultation service, available at any time of the day, throughout the year. People can ask questions, and be given information, support



22,000 water cartons will be distributed. :: SUR

and advice by the team of volunteers and professionals at AECC Malaga.

"The first thing that many people do when they arrive at the hospital is buy a bottle of water. Our volunteers distribute the water for free so that patients have our contact number and can get in touch any time," explained a spokesperson for the Spanish Cancer Association. The manager of the association in the Malaga province, Pedro González, explained that both Ly Company and Tetra Pak have provided the water and the cartons free of charge.

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Goalkeeper Munir denies Coniglio's effort with cat-like reflexes. :: AGENCIA LOF

**LA LIGA 123**

Results	Next match day
Zaragoza - Oviedo 2-0	<b>MALAGA</b> - Almería
Almería - Osasuna 0-1	Numancia - Lugo
Lugo - R. Majadahonda 3-2	Majadahonda - Gimnástico
Elche - Numancia 1-1	Córdoba - Albacete
Cádiz - Mallorca 1-1	Deportivo - Tenerife
Tenerife - <b>MALAGA</b> 0-0	Mallorca - Alcorcón
Albacete - Reus 0-0	Oviedo - Cádiz
Granada - Extremadura 0-0	Reus - Elche
Sporting - Deportivo 1-2	Osasuna - Granada
Alcorcón - Córdoba 2-1	Extremadura - Sporting
Gimnástico - Las Palmas 0-0	Las Palmas - Zaragoza

Table	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
★	1. Granada	23	12	8	3	30	15	44
★	2. <b>MALAGA</b>	23	13	4	6	26	17	43
■	3. Deportivo	23	11	9	3	35	18	42
■	4. Osasuna	23	12	5	6	30	24	41
■	5. Albacete	22	10	9	3	30	20	39
■	6. Alcorcón	23	11	5	7	24	18	38
	7. Cádiz	23	9	8	6	29	18	35
	8. Mallorca	23	9	7	7	27	22	34
	9. Oviedo	23	9	6	8	26	28	33
	10. Almería	23	7	9	7	25	22	30
	11. Sporting	23	7	9	7	23	20	30
	12. Las Palmas	22	6	11	5	28	26	29
	13. Numancia	23	6	9	8	27	30	27
	14. Lugo	23	6	8	9	23	25	26
	15. Zaragoza	23	6	8	9	26	30	26
	16. Tenerife	23	5	11	7	20	25	26
	17. Elche	23	5	10	8	22	29	25
	18. Majadahonda	23	6	5	12	20	31	23
▼	19. Extremadura	23	5	7	11	28	32	22
▼	20. Reus	21	5	6	10	16	27	21
▼	21. Córdoba	23	3	9	11	27	42	18
▼	22. Gimnástico	23	4	5	14	13	36	17

# Munir saves a point for Malaga on tricky away day

The Moroccan keeper's double save in the second half ensured the Costa side returned from the Canary Islands with a precious point

**DARYL FINCH**  
✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

The draw means the Blue and Whites stay in the automatic promotion spots, one point behind leaders Granada who also drew

**MALAGA.** Tenerife may be languishing in mid-table, but no team has had an easy ride this season on their visit to the Heliodoro Rodríguez López. For Malaga, who were hoping to return to the top of the table, they knew they were going to have to be at their best from the outset on Saturday evening if they were to become only the second team to win on the holiday island.

Coach Juan Ramón Muñoz, evidently dissatisfied with his wide options in recent weeks and months, seems to have finally stumbled on a formula he's happy with.

For the third successive game, Keidi Bare started in the centre alongside Alfred N'Diaye, with Adrián slotting in to make a compact three, allowing Dani Pacheco and Jack Harper to occupy the free space in behind Gustavo Blanco Leschuk.

The first half produced very few chances, with both sides happy to maintain their shape and possession where possible. Blanco Leschuk, who has now not scored in his last 12 matches, had the first chance as he nodded Pau Torres' knockdown over the bar.

Also from a set piece, at the other end Filip Malbašić's deflected header

landed on the roof of Munir's net.

The half-time oranges certainly injected a little bit of life into proceedings as both sides started to find more space and create openings. The first clear chance of the second half came when a misplaced pass ricocheted off the shin of a defender and broke for Dani Pacheco who whipped the ball just wide of the far post with keeper Dani Hernández scrambling frantically to his left.

Another lucky break came for Harper but the Scotsman couldn't keep his left-footed shot from the right-hand corner of the box down.

## 0-0 TENERIFE-MALAGA

**Tenerife:** Dani Hernández; Luis Pérez, Alberto, Jorge, Héctor; Suso Santana, Milla, Racic, Naranjo (Coniglio, 66'); Borja Lasso (Nano, 87'), Malbasic. Unused substitutes: Galván, Cámara, Carlos Ruiz, Undabarrena, Borja Larena.

**Malaga:** Munir; Cifu, Diego González, Pau Torres, Ricca, N'Diaye, Keidi, Adrián; Harper, Blanco Leschuk (Seleznov, 83'), Dani Pacheco (Ontiveros, 69'). Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Iván, Lombán, Laca, Juanpi.

**Goals:** None.

**Referee:** Ais Reig. Yellow cards for Jorge, N'Diaye and Harper.

**Ground:** Heliodoro Rodríguez López. (14,366 spectators)

Javi Ontiveros, making his return from injury, made an instant impact off the bench after replacing Dani Pacheco, adding penetration to the visitors' play with his direct running. Just minutes after entering the fray, the local boy tested his range with a rasping effort from 30 yards which passed inches over the cross bar.

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Up next

## ALMERIA (H)

It's time again for yet another Andalusian derby as Almeria take the coastal road to La Rosaleda for tonight's clash (kick-off 9pm).

'Los Indálicos' are making this trip for the second time this season after having knocked Malaga out of the Copa del Rey in September (2-1), just eight days after Jack Harper scored the only goal in the reverse league fixture at the Estadio Mediterráneo.

Harper, however, will be unavailable for tonight's game after picking up his fifth yellow card of the season in Tenerife at the weekend.

Almeria, likely to start former Marbella players Luis Rioja and Corpas on their wings, come into the game on the back of seven draws from their last ten games though they lost their last game, at home to Osasuna (1-0).

Malaga could go top with a win with current leaders Granada set for a tough away trip to the aforementioned Osasuna.

It was not all one-way traffic, however, and Tenerife had arguably the best chance of the game when, from the corner, Munir plunged to deny Borja Lasso's header from just six yards out, before leaping up to claw the ball away from Fernando Coniglio who looked certain to bundle in the rebound from point-blank range, sealing a valuable point for Malaga on the road.

"It all happened very quickly," the Moroccan keeper told reporters after the game. "The cross was very good and the header came in from very close so I had to react as quickly as possible but the ball was still free so I had to try to get to it first."

### "A good show"

Malaga coach Muñoz for his part said in his post-match press conference that "the fairest thing would have been for both teams to win". "Both teams performed very well and there were chances at both ends. It was a hard-fought and even game and we put on a good show."

Malaga remain in the automatic promotion places, one point behind leaders Granada who also drew (0-0 at home to Extremadura).



The 27-year-old started training with his new side on Tuesday. :: MALAGACF.COM

## Erik Morán completes Malaga switch to bolster the midfield

The holding midfielder is the side's second signing this January after Yevhen Seleznov

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO / ANTONIO GÓNGORA

**MALAGA.** Spanish central midfielder Erik Morán became Malaga's second signing of the January transfer window on Tuesday having completed the necessary paperwork and passed a medical.

The 27-year-old joins on loan until the end of the season with an option to buy from Greek side AEK Athens, where he has hardly fea-

tured at all this season.

Morán, who is defensively minded but comfortable in possession, has had experience of playing in Spain, both in La Liga and Segunda having represented Athletic Club, Leganés and Real Zaragoza.

He was signed for the Greek side in the summer by fellow Spaniard Manolo Jiménez but the coach has since left the club, leaving Morán in the wilderness.

Morán will give Juan Ramón Muñoz's side more depth in the middle of the park - a position where they have been left short since the sale of José Recio (to Leganés) and the release of Manuel

Iturra during the summer. What's more, with Alfred N'Diaye's expected absence at the African Cup of Nations during the final month of the season, recruiting a new central midfielder has been a priority for sporting director José Luis Caminero this window.

The Basque will be the Blue and Whites' second signing this winter after the arrival earlier in the month of Ukrainian striker Yevhen Seleznov.

Morán is not likely to be ready in this for Friday's game against Almeria but will most likely feature against Las Palmas the following week.

## Iván Alejo arrives on busy deadline day for Malaga

:: A. GÓNGORA

**MALAGA.** Malaga left it late but it appears that they got their man as Getafe winger Iván Alejo arrived to complete a loan deal on deadline day.

At the time of going to press, Alejo had arrived in Malaga to add the final touches to a deal which will see him join until the end of

the season.

The wide man, who is comfortable playing on either flank, reinforces an area of the field that coach Juan Ramón Muñoz has been unhappy with, frequently turning to youth players Hicham and Hugo Vallejo to plug the gaps in his squad.

However, this was not expected to be the last of the club's transfer

business. With Andrés Prieto being allowed to join Leganés on a free, a new third-choice goalkeeper was being sought, though sporting director José Luis Caminero said at a press conference on Wednesday: "We're also looking at the work of the youth teams to see how they might be able help us out [in that regard]."

But regardless of whether a keeper is signed, movement out of the club before midnight was expected with Héctor's move to Rayo Majadahonda awaiting the seal of approval from parent club Atlético Madrid and reported interest in midfielder Badr Boulahroud.

## Femenino in the drop zone for first time in 14 match days as winless run continues

AT. MADRID 4 MALAGA F. 1

:: MARINA RIVAS

**MALAGA.** Malaga Femenino are back in the relegation zone for the first time in 14 match days after suffering a 4-1 defeat to league leaders Atlético Madrid in the capital on Saturday.

A superb hat-trick from Jenni Hermoso and a strike from Olga García sealed what was, in the end, a straightforward win for the hosts, after Slovenian midfielder Dominika levelled the scores in the 32nd minute.

Results elsewhere worked against Malaga's women's side whose downturn in form will be a concern. In just a matter of weeks Antonio Contreras' charges have squandered a seven-point cushion and are facing an immediate return to the second division.

## Malagueño dreaming of salvation after latest win reduces the gap to eight

TALAVERA 0 MALAGUEÑO 1

:: OPTA

**TALAVERA DE LA REINA.**

Atlético Malagueño picked up an unexpected but deserved win on Sunday afternoon against Talavera to increase hope of salvation from relegation back to the fourth tier.

Malaga's reserve team picked up all three points on their travels thanks to a goal from Deco just before half time. The midfielder smashed the ball past keeper Gianni after the ball broke kindly to him in the area from Ismael Casas' right-wing cross.

Malagueño remain bottom of Segunda B group IV but have reduced the deficit to eight points.

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# "I wouldn't say I was Spanish; I'm a Scottish 'malagueño' and it's my dream to play for Malaga"

## Jack Harper Malaga striker

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO



Twitter: @Plalonso27

"The fans have the right to demand more from the team but we are giving everything to earn promotion," he said

**MALAGA.** Brit pop, not reggaeton; and not a tattoo in sight. Jack Harper (Malaga, 1996) is not your typical footballer. This "Scottish malagueño" has not had a typical career either. After trading the world-famous Real Madrid academy for Brighton and Hove Albion, the centre forward is now finding his feet in the professional game after returning to the city of his birth.

In what was his first interview with the Spanish press (he previously spoke to the BBC), the 22-year-old spoke of his roots, inspirations and how helping Malaga get back into the big time is his main focus.

**-So, this is the first time you've spoken to the Spanish press...**

-Yes, the gaffer wanted me to be a hundred per cent focused on the games but now I'm starting to give a couple of interviews.

**-Your brother Ryan used to play for Polideportivo Ejido, Estepona, Guadalajara, Betis B, Fuenlabrada and Algeciras. In the end he played nine games in Segunda, scoring one goal. You've surpassed him now...**

-Yes, I think I have the record now for goals scored by Scots in La Liga 1|2|3 [currently on four]...

**-Maybe including Primera too.**

-I bet there was another Scottish player some time ago... Several British ones, for sure.

**-But despite your Scottish heritage, you were born on the Costa del Sol.**

-Yes, in Malaga [in the Hospital Gálvez]. It's strange; I wouldn't say I was Spanish but I do feel 'malagueño'.

**-Tell me a bit about how your family ended up here. Because your brother Ryan was born in Scotland, wasn't he?**

-Yes, I have two brothers and a sister. Basically, my parents, both from Glasgow, came here on holiday more than once and fell in love with the place. They wanted a better life for their children and a year later I was born. Then came my little brother.

**-They were looking for a better**



Harper, at the Ciudad de Málaga complex last week. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

### UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

**-What's your favourite song?**

-Any by Oasis. I have half an hour between Fuengirola and Malaga and I normally put on the 'Wonderwall' album [What's the Story Morning Glory].

**-Do you prefer to speak English or Spanish?**

-At home we speak English... Scottish English which is like speaking 'malagueño'. But I'd say that I'm bilingual. At school, with friends and with the team I speak Spanish.

**-Which sport do you like most, besides football?**

-Tennis. I wouldn't say I'm very good but I think I'd be all right if I put my mind to it.

**-What's the most Scottish part of you?**

-I'd say I have the Scottish courage and the heart of Braveheart, mixed with the Spanish 'tikitaka'.

**-Who was your idol growing up?**

-Sincerely, I'd say my brother. I remember going to see him play and celebrating his goals more

than my own.

**-Do you cook?**

-I'd say I cook quite well.

**-You must be the first footballer to say that...**

-No one has been sick when I've given them food! I lived on my own from 18 in Madrid and then in England. I learned a few things but I also get tips off my mother over Facetime.

**-What can you make best?**

-I'd say soup. At the end of the day, all you have to do is put all the ingredients together in water and it makes itself...

**-How many tattoos do you have?**

-None.

**-Are you so famous that you have a jacket with your surname on it?**

-It's a brand [Harper & Neyer] from Malaga that shares my name. They actually got in contact with me because of this coincidence and because they're a local brand.

**life but they stayed in the same job?**

-No. My parents retired when they came here and it's no small task bringing up four children.

**-Ryan is your agent now. Does he give you good advice?**

-Yes. My brother is very important to me. He's my agent but above all he's a great friend. We have many friends in common and I feel very close to him.

**-How are contract negotiations going?**

-I hope everything goes well. I only want to renew. My number one objective is for Malaga to go up and I can continue progressing with this club. We have the same ambitions.

**-What mark did your time at Real Madrid leave on you?**

-I went to the capital when I was 13. I stopped being a child and went to live on my own; thanks to that I've become the person I am now. Real Madrid developed me at what is one of the best academies in the world. They paid for me to go to a private school [SEK] and I lived with Febas [now at Albacete] who I played against a couple of months ago and we swapped shirts, and next door was Jesé [now at PSG] and José Rodríguez [Mainz].

**-Which coaches have you learned from most during your career?**

-I've been lucky to have good coaches, like Luis Miguel Ramis, who I had at Juvenil A [Real Madrid youth side]. He's very similar to Muñiz [Malaga coach Juan Ramón]: strict, hardworking and rewarding to those who worked hardest on the pitch. I also worked with Fernando Morientes, a goalscorer who I learned a lot about movement and sensing where the ball would drop in the area. When I was really young there was Javier Toledano, who more than just coached - he instilled the desire to live football. I have a lot of affection for him and I invited him to the game this weekend [the 2-1 win over Lugo on 19 January]. I was very fortunate to score with him in the crowd, it was very nice.

**-How did your departure from Real Madrid come about? Did you know it was coming?**

-In my year with Juvenil A they were already considering getting rid of Real Madrid C, which was my next logical step with two years still on my contract. I don't know if it was [club president Florentino] Pérez or the club that got rid of it but it put not just mine, but a lot of other players' futures in doubt. I opted to leave. I went to Brighton [under 23s] where I stayed for a year and a half, but I picked up an injury and it was a lot worse than we thought. I was out for six months and I never really got going. That's when I came to Malaga. It was what I needed.

**-After playing for Scotland at youth level, do you hope one day to play for their senior team?**

-Yes, I think they'll be looking at me. The majority of players are in the Championship [the English second tier], which is very similar to Segunda. I hope to be able to help my country. I think it's reachable. Sooner or later my chance will come.

**-Is that how you approached the summer? Did you think you had a chance with the first team?**

-I didn't think it would happen. It's a dream. In fact I didn't even know for certain if I was going to be staying at the club.

**-Last year you didn't always play and at times you were on the wing...**

-Yeah, under [Atlético Malagueño coach Manel] Ruano, but when Dely Valdés arrived, he appreciated my qualities as a forward.

**-You told the club website after the Lugo game that the boss had mentioned the possibility of you playing wide. What do you think of that?**

-He spoke to me and asked me if I felt I was capable. I told him that I had done it before on a couple of occasions and that if he needed me to, I'd give it everything.

**-When friends, family or people on the street ask you if Malaga are going up, what do you tell them?**

-Well I tell them what I really think. As someone who's from Malaga, I identify with them and to motivate them and so that they have ambition and support us, I tell them yes.

**-And is that what you really think?**

-I think so. We are all working towards it. In every game we want to win and be as high as possible.

**-People are saying that Malaga aren't playing well, that each game is a struggle and that you create few chances to score. But you're second and one point off top...**

-They don't give away points in this league. Getting all three is vital so winning is always really difficult and if you manage it, you've done very well. It doesn't matter who your opponent is, they're all tricky and you have to be on your toes for the whole game. The fans have the right to demand more from the team but we are giving everything.

**-What are your targets as a professional?**

-What really excites me is making progress. I feel that I am always improving but I don't like to look too far into the future.

**-Where do you think you've got room for improvement?**

-I think I'm understanding the play better. I'm listening to the advice of the coach and he has shown me how to press better and how to stay fresh during the latter stages of games. I've had a big change going from Tercera to Segunda; I've adapted well but I think I can give a lot more.



## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robopalmer



# Dog whistling

**Mauricio Pochettino and Maurizio Sarri are saying one thing, but meaning another - all to send a message to the decision makers in Spain**

Are you aware just how rife 'dog whistling' is right now in European football? I'm not talking a high-pitched noise to bring your pooch to heel. Normally employed by clever political speech writers, this week I'm convinced it has been adopted in the footballing world too.

'Dog whistling' is basically saying one thing but meaning something else. The popular definition is "political messaging employing coded language that appears to mean one thing to the general population but has an additional, different, or more specific resonance for a targeted subgroup".

Study Mauricio Pochettino's press conference this week or comments at Chelsea about Eden Hazard and you can see the message for the Premier League population, then trans-

late it for the 'targeted sub-group' - the Spanish media.

Pochettino was criticised back in London for his approach to the cup competitions, trying to convince the Tottenham fans to look at the bigger picture. "Tottenham, with no history of winning... I watch the video about the glory, it's with Nicholson. It's black and white. I watch it nearly every week."

Put that through the 'dog whistling' translation tool and it reads as "Real Madrid have history, it's there in full technicolour".

He added: "It is completely unfair to judge the club like you would Manchester City, Liverpool or Chelsea. We still need to finish our stadium." Notice here how there's no mention of Manchester United, but in the next sentences he brings in his other suitors.



Pochettino is in the frame for the Real Madrid job. :: AFP

"To build that quality or philosophy is tough. If you want Tottenham one day to be at the same level of Real Madrid [having this infrastructure] is the most important thing. The bigger picture is we are going to have amazing stadium. The day we sign a player and the player says, 'I am signing for Tottenham because I want to win titles', that is going to be the day the club is in

the last level."

Look back at that quote next June and it could be the coded warning that he's gone to a club that already has a world class stadium, the new stadium isn't draining funds and players want to sign for Real Madrid because they are on another level.

It's not just the Argentinian who is subtly trying to get a message to

the Spanish decision makers using the English press. An Italian is using the same methods; sometimes in English and sometimes in his native tongue.

Maurizio Sarri speaking about Eden Hazard: "Eden is 28. If he wants to go, I think he has to go. He has the potential to be the best player in Europe at the moment. Sometimes he's happy with something less. But I was really very happy with the last performance."

Use the 'dog whistling' app on your iPhone to decode it from Italian to English and then to Spanish football speak and it comes out as: "Let him go to Real Madrid. He's 28, let's cash in while we can. He's not living up to his reputation. He's had one good game recently!"

You may think I'm being cynical but a quarter of a century of asking football managers one thing and getting an answer about something else does focus the mind.

If you don't believe my 'dog whistling' theory, try remembering what was said when your friend asked your opinion about the horrendous, ill-fitting dress they've just tried on. "Oh, yes, it's erm, a nice colour."

Or the response when you ask if you can go play golf for four hours - "You enjoy!"

## Three wins in a row for resurgent Marbella

Goals from Dani Pérez and Juanma lift Los Blanquillos away from trouble and into mid-table

**MARBELLA 2 MELILLA 0**

**:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ**

**MARBELLA.** The Marbella recovery continues. Under the stewardship of new boss David Cubillo, the Costa del Sol side made it three wins in a row on Sunday with a deserved 2-0 victory at home against Melilla.

Around 1,000 fans turned out at the Antonio Lorenzo stadium for the visit of the north Africans - Marbella's most frequent opponent in Segunda B - caught up in the new



The players celebrate Dani Pérez's goal. :: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

wave of optimism surrounding the club since the turn of the year.

Melilla too were aware of the turnaround in fortunes for their hosts and set up to contain Los Blanquillos despite themselves occupying a play-off place.

The hosts were much the braver in the opening 45 minutes, using their superior height to their advantage, throwing balls into the box at every opportunity. Montero, however, couldn't make any of the opportunities count.

With the game on a knife-edge for much of the first half, chances were at a premium all round. However, around the hour mark, the visitors finally had their first effort on target but Wilfred in the Marbella

goal was equal to Igor Martínez's effort.

However, just as Melilla started to get into the game, Marbella struck. Dani Pérez bagged his first goal in a white shirt with a close-range effort after Montero failed to bring the cross from the left under his control.

Marbella could have doubled their lead shortly after but Dani Barrios gathered Juanma's shot from a close angle at the second attempt.

The hosts were clearly out to get more and backed by the vocal home crowd, the second finally arrived with stoppage time approaching. Juanma took advantage of some indecision in the Melilla backline, robbing Richi before striking the ball beneath the goalkeeper.

Despite an inconspicuous start to the season, Marbella now find themselves comfortably in mid-table.

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## CAROLINA MARÍN OUT FOR SIX MONTHS

Olympic badminton gold medallist Carolina Marín is in doubt for the World Championships in August after suffering ligament damage to her right knee during Sunday's Indonesia Masters final against Saina Nehwal. The Andalusian underwent surgery in Madrid on Tuesday and faces a six-month absence from competition during her recovery.

# Djokovic inflicts humbling defeat on Nadal in Melbourne

The Spaniard lost against his old rival in the Australian Open final in three sets - a career first

by DARYL FINCH

World number one Novak Djokovic surprised everyone in Sunday's Australian Open final by racing to a resounding 6-3 6-2 6-3 victory over eternal rival Rafa Nadal to seal a record seventh victory in the tournament.

The Serb overtook Roger Federer and Roy Emerson (on six each), while in the process dishing out the first ever three-set defeat in a final for Nadal, who looked out of sorts and committed 28 unforced errors during the clash, putting paid to the idea that it would be a tight final.

But despite not dropping a set on his way to the final, Nadal's lack of match practice (he had not played competitively since the US Open in September because of injury) meant that he was ultimately not up to the standard required to topple Djokovic



Nadal and Djokovic pose with their trophies after the final. :: AFP

who currently has three Grand Slams in his possession.

"Even though tonight was not my night, it was very important for me in coming back from injury," said Nadal following the final. "I be-

lieve I played a good two weeks of tennis and it is a great energy and inspiration for what is coming. I will keep fighting and keep practising to give myself better chances in the future."

### IN BRIEF

## Javier Fernández bows out with seventh European title in a row

MINSK

Spanish figure skater Javier Fernández drew a line under his career with victory in the European Championships in Minsk on Saturday.

With 271.59 points, Fernández finished ahead of Samarin (Russia) and Rizzo (Italy). This was the 27-year-old's seventh consecutive victory in the tournament.

The two-time world champion (2015 and 2016) and bronze medal-

ist at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games announced at a special event on Monday, attended by friends, family and sporting authorities that this would be his farewell.

"I am convinced that I won't come back [to competitive sport] because when I set myself a target I do everything to try and achieve it," he said.

The reason, he said, was that he needed to busy himself with "other things". "I am going to continue doing shows, giving classes to children and I'll still be at all of the competitions, even if I won't be competing," said Fernández before thanking all those who helped him throughout his career.



With his medal. :: REUTERS

## Fuengirola Lions come out on top in inline hockey Winter Cup

FUENGIROLA

The Lions Winter Cup officially inaugurated the new floor at the Santa Fe rink in Fuengirola over the weekend. The tournament brought together a total of eight teams from across Andalucía and Europe. The hosts from Fuengirola brought their three regional league teams

along (Lions, Barona and Vikings) and they competed for the top honours against two sides from Finland, one from Portugal, and Sancti Petri and Team 8 (teams made up of players from different teams across the region). The tournament was won by the Fuengirola Lions, followed closely by Finnish teams Kattotutka Lights and Kattotutka Northern in second and third, respectively.

The last games of the first round of Andalusian league will be played in Fuengirola on Saturday from 10am.

## Club Nerja Rugby welcome El Ejido for first home game of the year

NERJA

Rugby action returns to the Estadio Enrique López Cuenca in Nerja this Sunday as Club Nerja Rugby welcome El Ejido for their

first home game of the new year.

The hosts are looking to maintain their place at the top of the Andalusian second division, after suffering a slight dip in form after initially winning six out of six.

The reverse fixture saw a 39-23 win for Nerja, so a free-flowing game can be expected.

All spectators are welcome.

## Marbella Golf & Country Club to host Cudeca tournament once again

MARBELLA

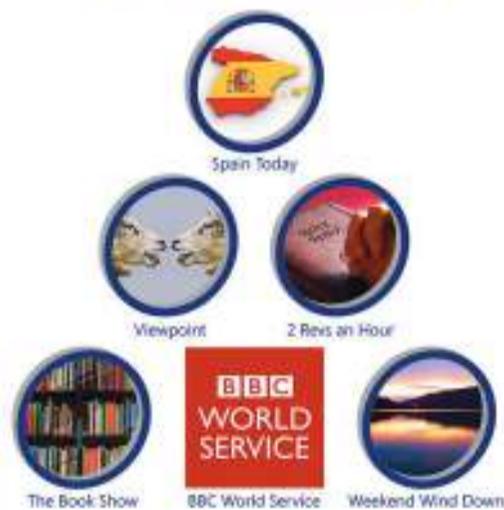
The Marbella Golf & Country Club will once more host the popular Memorial Members Charity Tournament in support of the Cudeca hospice in Benalmádena on Friday 15 February from 9.30am.

The individual Stableford tournament is available to MGCC members for 35 euros while non-members have to pay 75 euros (both include a 14-euro donation to the Cudeca Foundation).

Prizes will be awarded to the top three and after the morning's play is complete a lunch with drink will be served (included in the registration fee).

Lunch only tickets are also available for 20 euros.

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**MALE/ female** Viagra, kamagra jellies, cialis, delivered or mail order [viagra4you19@gmail.com](mailto:viagra4you19@gmail.com). 672883025

**VIAGRA (Kamagra) 100 mg, Cialis (Tadalafil) 20 mg, Jellies 100 mg.** Wholesale & retail. Free delivery all areas. For the best products & service. 617740250.24 hrs.

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**Satellite Installation**

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**GOLF**

**LOS NARANJOS** Golf Family Share for half price 16.000 Euros. (negotiable). Subs 2019 already paid. Contact: [elpago25@gmail.com](mailto:elpago25@gmail.com) or call 656491309

**COMPUTERS/ INTERNET / PHONES**

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**COMPUTER** problems solved! Error messages fixed, viruses removed. Hardware/software upgrades available. Kindle, iPad & Android help. Laptops in English. Also one-to-one training. Experienced, reliable service, no callout charge. Paul, 630652338/952493859

**PC DOCTOR** New address!!! Paseo Jesus Santos Rein 11 Fuengirola, opposite Tourist Office. 952 591 071



**PC DOCTOR** Nos mudamos!! Desde el 7 de Diciembre nuestra nueva dirección sera Paseo Jesus Santo Rein, enfrente Oficina de Turismo y cerca de las oficinas Aseguradora IBEX, a tres minutos andando de donde estamos ahora. ¡Ven a vernos pronto!

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**CLASSES**

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careers@domusvenari.com or call 952 831 220" data-bbox="42 700 493 780"/&gt;

estepona@publicidadsur.com" data-bbox="42 795 964 960"/&gt;

## CHURCH SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND/ EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**St George's Anglican Chaplaincy**  
www.stgeorgemalaga.org  
email: chaplain@stgeorgemalaga.org or wardens@stgeorgemalaga.org  
**Malaga**, St George's Church (in the English Cemetery, Av. de Pries) Sunday Holy Communion 11am. Contact: 951 287 382  
**Velez-Málaga**, La Antigua Capilla de S. José, C/. Linares 7. Sundays 10.30am  
**Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East)**  
Chaplaincy Office 952580600.  
**Los Boliches**, St. Andrew's Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun. Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun. Morning Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am. Holy Communion (BCP) Wed. 9.30am.

**Benalmádena Costa**, San José chapel, 9.30am; Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun; Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun.  
**Calahonda**, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am. Morning Worship 1st, 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.  
**Alhaurín el Grande**: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; Morning Worship 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.  
**Costa del Sol (West)**  
**San Pedro**, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.  
**Sotogrande**, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com  
**Nerja**: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.

**Almuñécar**: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.  
**Torre del Mar**: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.  
**Gibraltar**: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.  
**Benalmádena Costa**: Songs of Praise, Interdenominational church service, Castillo Bil Bil. Sun. 5.30pm. Oct. - May. 648666152.

### MUSLIM

**Marbella**: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.  
**Fuengirola**: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.  
**Malaga**: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 952228595.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

**Marbella**: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.  
**Fuengirola**: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.  
**Fuengirola**: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun.  
**Arroyo de la Miel**: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Sunday 1.30pm.  
**Calahonda**: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun.  
**Benalmádena Costa**: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sunday 10am.  
**Torre del Mar**: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel, 1-11. Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.  
**Chiclana (Cadiz)**: Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am  
**Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz)**: Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericordia  
**Malaga**: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

### METHODIST CHURCH

**Gibraltar**: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.  
**Sotogrande**: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced 1st and 3rd Sundays 11.45a.m. For more info. call 952 895 102.

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

**Mijas internacional**: 10 am Sun Calle Rueda 7, Los Boliches, 952469392 / 607521032.  
**Motril**: Sun 10 am. C/ Jesús del Gran Poder 34. 958 825665.  
**Malaga**: Sun 10.30 am, C/Babel 1.  
**Algeciras**: Sun 10.30 am. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956630894.  
**Nerja**: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Granada, 83. Tel. 607 522 671

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

**Arroyo de la Miel**: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n. Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.  
**Fuengirola**: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.  
**Malaga**: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.  
**San Pedro**: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm. Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.  
**Torrox Costa**: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.  
**Torre del Mar**: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.  
**Coín**: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.

### EVANGELICAL CHURCH/ BAPTIST CHURCH

**Los Boliches**: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728  
**Torremolinos**: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. 952384706  
**Torremolinos**: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300  
**Nerja**: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.  
**Nerja**: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.  
**Torre del Mar**: Cornerstone International Church. C/Solera 2. Sunday 11.30am. Wednesday 6.30pm Bible study.  
**Calahonda**: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.  
**Arroyo de la Miel**: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.  
**Calahonda**: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.  
**La Línea**: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.  
**Marbella**: Int. Christian F'ship. Sun 11.30 Ed. Milla de Oro. Tel. 952 932 216 .  
**Mijas Costa**: Iglesias Internacional Costa del Sol, C/José de Orbaneja 10. Sun 11am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 7  
**Puerto Banús**: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com  
**Salobreña**: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027  
**La Viñuela**: El Puente Christian Fellowship. Sundays 11am. Under Maroma Inmobiliaria. 952117145 / 952518185  
**Fuengirola**: Living Waters Community Fellowship. C/Pintor Nogales, Las Rampas. Sundays 11am.

**Torremolinos**: Christian ministry. Healing of traumatic memories. Tel.604199751  
**Gibraltar**: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister F. Baldachino.  
**Benalmádena Costa**: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Dave 695115496  
www.elimfamilyfellowship.com  
**San Pedro**: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 3.30pm. 695 115 496  
**San Pedro**: Faith Baptist Church. Sun 6.30pm, Edif Manantial. Tel: 911820806.  
**Fuengirola**: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11am, C/Rio Darro 2, Plaza Juncal. Tel.: 952 592 171.  
**Fuengirola**: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and "The Beauty of Holiness". Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.  
**Fuengirola**: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.  
**Malaga**: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday 11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm. C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa 951955354/672805789.

**Marbella**: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.  
**Mijas Costa**: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com  
**Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int: Benalmádena**: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139  
**Fuengirola**: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074  
**Granada**: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074  
**Malaga**: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

### DUTCH EVANGELICAL

**Fuengirola**: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.  
**Torremolinos**: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Avenida Carlota Alessandri 12.

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN)

**Fuengirola**: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 952638245 or 952475474.  
**Gibraltar**: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.  
**Torre del Mar**: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

### SYNAGOGUES

**Torremolinos**: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.  
**Marbella**: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services, Fri in summer 8.30pm winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

### QUAKERS

**Malaga**: Quakers (Society of Friends). Info: zvi@gotadsl.co.uk

### NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

**Calahonda**: El Campanario, Av del Cortijo 3. Sun 4 pm, 952939800  
www.sjomannskirken.no/costadelsol

### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

**Fuengirola**: Sat 10am. Bible study, worship Calle Palangreros, 60. 952456672 / 633716651 ww.adventistasfuengirola.es.

## CONSULATES

<b>Great Britain</b>	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
<b>USA</b>	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
<b>Belgium</b>	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019
<b>Denmark</b>	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
<b>Norway</b>	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
<b>Canada</b>	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
<b>Germany</b>	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
<b>Sweden</b>	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
<b>Ireland</b>	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
<b>France</b>	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
<b>Italy</b>	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
<b>Austria</b>	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
<b>Finland</b>	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
<b>Greece</b>	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
<b>Iceland</b>	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
<b>Philippines</b>	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
<b>Hungary</b>	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

### 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
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### ESTEPONA

Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952802002
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

### FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

### MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

### MARBELLA

Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952774488

Tourist Office	952768760
Town Hall	952761100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760

### MIJAS

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

### NERJA

Bus Station	902422242
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531
Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

### TORREMOLINOS

Bus Station	902143144
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

### BENALMADENA

Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Bus Station	952503162
Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952541104

### GIBRALTAR

General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
Taxi	(00350) 20070027

## MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

### CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Norwegian Spirit	01/02	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Aidacara	02-03/02	-	-	08.00	18.00
Aidamar	05/02	-	-	10.00	19.30
Mein Schiff	09/02	Gibraltar	Valencia	07.00	21.30



**THE STARS**

**Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 19  
It is a romantic time of the year and so why not combine business with a little pleasure? You love hard work and can now see how big the rewards can be.

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
My, you are a strange fish sometimes! Being anxious is part of your personality. It gives you high standards and high demands.

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Even after a hyperactive weekend you may still feel that you could go on forever. Of course, you can't! We all need the chance to slow down.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
A feeling that something is about to happen is simply unnecessary stress. Live in the moment and be flexible about the future.

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
It is all very well being a superhero but it is ordinary, imperfect folk who are the most loveable. A smile between friends can work wonders! Stay practical.

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Time-wasting and ad hoc socialising are not part of your plans so it can be annoying when others interrupt or even disrupt your time. It is so hard but do try not to snap or whinge.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Avoid dwelling on what you can't do and concentrate on what you can do. You know that there are disruptions ahead. In the weeks to come you need to be determined but also flexible.

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Your usual cheery personality seems to be failing to lighten those around you. Everyone has their needs and ambitions sharpened at this time of the year. Don't take it too personally.

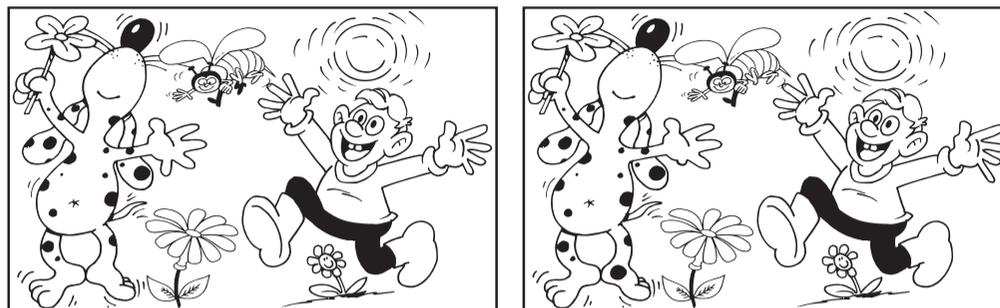
**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
As much as you hate to rock the boat, it seems that speaking up is the way forward. Some may be surprised at your direct approach. However, this is long overdue.

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
A brand new approach is needed that brings you up to date. Young people can be the key right now to getting a clearer picture. Don't be afraid to show what you don't know.

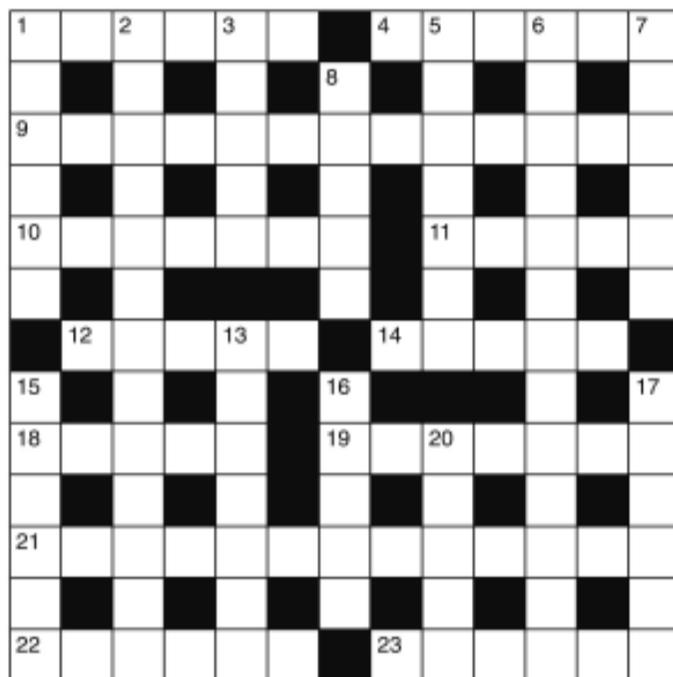
**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Now there is the chance to be in your element, comfortable in your skin and fulfilled. Just take those opportunities when they come and, what is it they say about a 'gift horse'?

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Honesty is the best approach on the home front. How will you improve your mood? Just look around you and make your own opportunities. Have a plan.

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11332**



**Across**

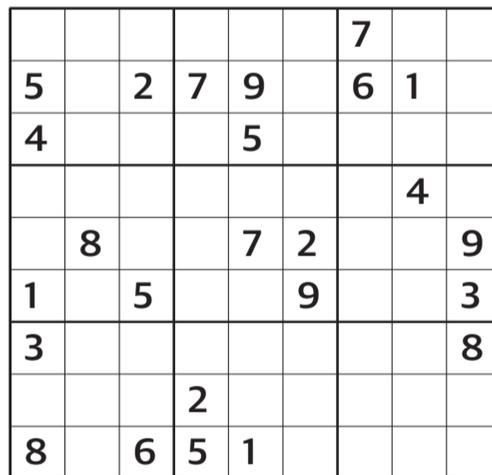
- 1 A poor sportsman who runs well (6)
- 4 Book intended for the lower classes (6)
- 9 A cause for concern (7,6)
- 10 Regards a paternal admonition (5,2)
- 11 Sluggish interchanging (5)
- 12 Has a pronounced impediment (5)
- 14 Edna's about to provide a seat for a chairman (5)
- 18 Some of the larger swallows (5)
- 19 Admit that you take in stolen goods? (7)
- 21 Perform a self-effacing action (6,7)
- 22 Turned to authorship in captivity (6)
- 23 Anyone in it is out (6)

**Down**

- 1 Consequence of reforming Ulster (6)
- 2 Unlucky flier (4,2,3,4)
- 3 Ron is involved in golf clubs (5)
- 5 Understand that lies are wrong (7)
- 6 Numbers are employed by him (13)
- 7 I tarry perhaps, and discover a curiosity (6)
- 8 Employing a rousing finale (5)
- 13 Hobby of father's era (7)
- 15 Its contents will be cracked (3,3)
- 16 Put on something saucy? (5)
- 17 Venerate an American patriot (6)
- 20 News broadcaster (5)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

**Instructions**  
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9



**THE WORDPUZZLER**

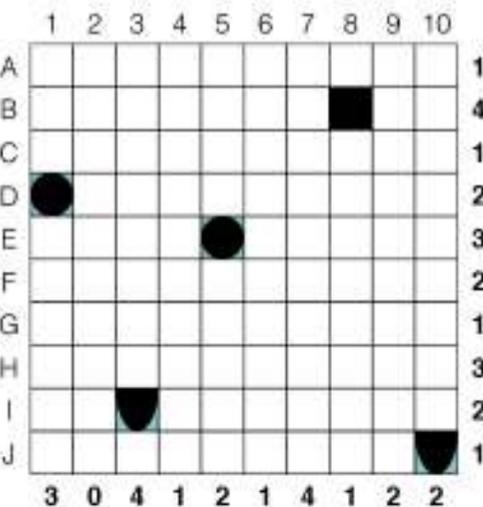
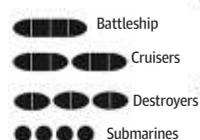


Can you identify the words missing from the titles of the Madness hits listed below?

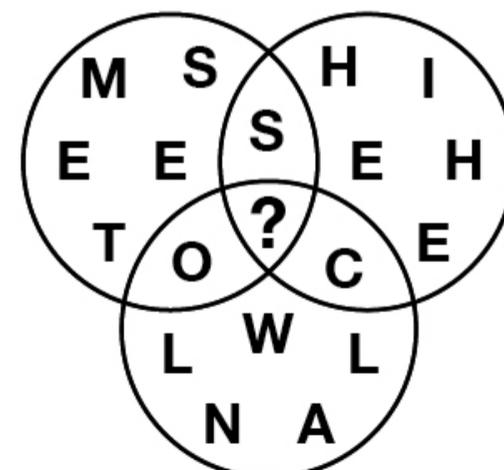
- 1. House of ---
- 2. It Must Be ---
- 3. Driving In My ---
- 4. The Return of the Los Palmas ---
- 5. Tomorrow's (Just Another ---)
- 6. Our ---
- 7. Wings of a ---
- 8. --- Trousers
- 9. One --- Beyond
- 10. The Sun And The ---

**BATTLESHIPS**

**Instructions** Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



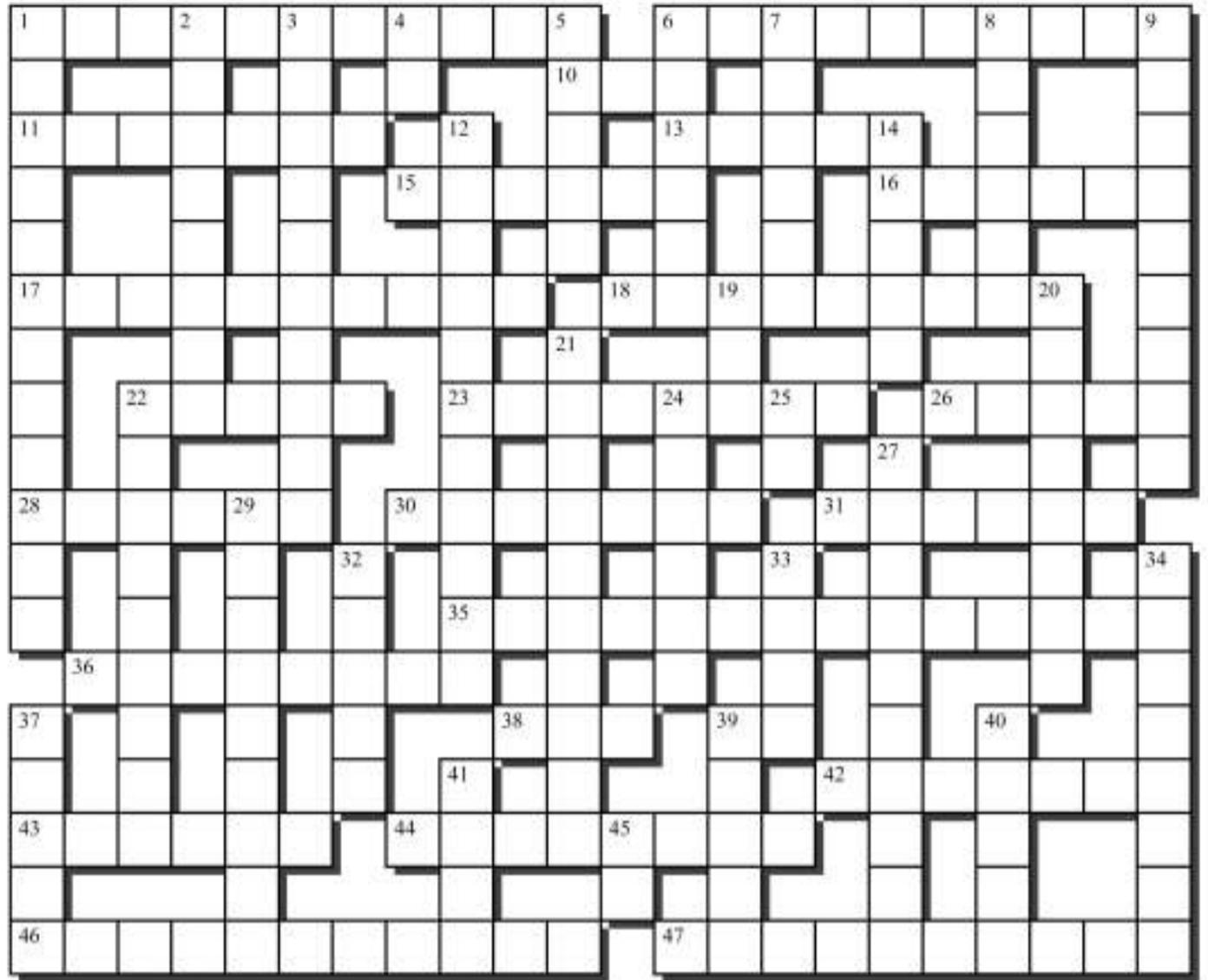
**CIRCLEGRAM**



**Instructions**  
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- 1) Dimensions (11)
  - 6) Structure (10)
  - 10) Even (3)
  - 11) System (7)
  - 13) Bleach (5)
  - 15) Athlete (6)
  - 16) Neighbourhood (6)
  - 17) Envious (pl) (10)
  - 18) Speed (9)
  - 22) I take note (5)
  - 23) Phenomenon (8)
  - 26) West (5)
  - 28) Trail (6)
  - 30) Trees (7)
  - 31) Towers (6)
  - 35) Characteristic (14)
  - 36) Brick (8)
  - 38) Echo (3)
  - 39) Me (2)
  - 42) Window pane (7)
  - 43) Block (6)
  - 44) Then (8)
  - 46) Suffering (11)
  - 47) Devastating (10)
- Down**
- 1) To break off (12)
  - 2) Station (8)
  - 3) Supply (10)
  - 4) You (pl) (2)
  - 5) To know (5)
  - 6) Link (6)
  - 7) Roof (6)
  - 8) Earth (6)
  - 9) Buses (9)
  - 12) Atmospheric (11)
  - 14) To open (5)
  - 19) He reads (3)
  - 20) To sack (8)
  - 21) Wrong (10)
  - 22) Abstract (9)
  - 24) Notch (6)
  - 25) No (2)
  - 27) Sympathetic (10)
  - 29) I reproduced (9)
  - 32) To fly (5)
  - 33) Boss (4)
  - 34) Relative (8)
  - 37) Clouds (5)
  - 39) It moves (5)
  - 40) Oyster (5)
  - 41) They unite (4)
  - 45) Nor (2)

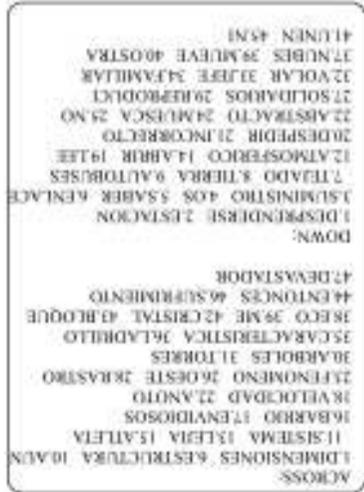


ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Of interest:** In Britain, 90-ball bingo was popular up until about 2005. Eighty-nine is one away from ninety hence 'nearly there'. In America the game is played slightly differently and with only 75 balls.  
**Answer:** Seventy-six.  
**Of interest:** This refers to the pre-decimal price of a marriage licence in Britain, 7/6d. Traditionally the bingo players shout back 'Every Penny'.

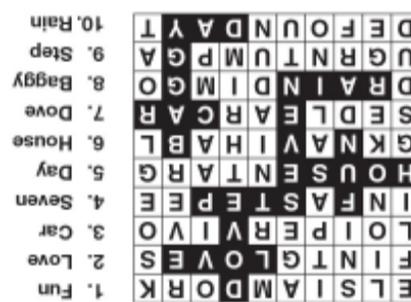
Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Rabbit; 4 Primer; 9 Serious matter; 10 Looks on; 11 Inert; 12 Laps; 14 Sedan; 18 Gulps; 19 Receive; 21 Commit suicide; 22 Penned; 23 Trance; Down: 1 Result; 2 Bird of ill omen; 3 Irons; 5 Realise; 6 Mathematician; 7 Ranty; 8 Using; 13 Pastime; 15 Egg cup; 16 Dress; 17 Reverse; 20 Cher.

Wordpuzzler solution



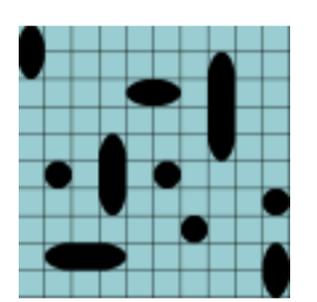
Sudoku solution

9	1	8	6	2	4	7	3	5
5	3	2	7	9	8	6	1	4
4	6	7	3	5	1	9	8	2
2	7	9	1	3	5	8	4	6
6	8	3	4	7	2	1	5	9
1	4	5	8	6	9	2	7	3
3	2	1	9	4	7	5	6	8
7	5	4	2	8	6	3	9	1
8	9	6	5	1	3	4	2	7

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is R. Somerset, Cheshire, Cornwall, all English counties.

Battleships



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



Last week: **Benalmádena**

This roundabout in Benalmádena is affectionately known as The Ferrero Rocher roundabout although officially it is called 'Reflejos de un Pueblo' and is covered with reflective bronze mosaic pieces.

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

A milestone - edition 1,800

This week's paper is the 1,800th edition of SUR in English, 1,800 Fridays or 34.52 years of keeping the English-speaking community in Andalucía informed about what is happening in this part of the world. With reports on all the big local news stories, sport, politics and finance, health, local clubs, charities and voluntary organisations, as well as giving our readers a space to voice their own concerns and comments, SUR in English tries to provide something interesting for everyone to read. Hopefully you will all still be reading the SUR in English for another 200 weeks, (3.8 years) so that we can celebrate our 2,000th edition together. Email us your views and news at [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es) or simply Tweet them to us @SUR\_English. We are also on Facebook (@surenglish).



To those from afar



# Mushing puts dogs in the limelight

Manilva played host to the Andalusian Regional Championship of this unique sport last Sunday



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The Tábanos pine forest provided an exciting circuit for this activity enjoyed by both dogs and their owners

**MANILVA.** Did you know that running or cycling alongside your dog is actually an official sport? Last Sunday the sixth annual mushing competition took place in Manilva, with 120 humans taking part and over 130 dogs. It is the only official event of its kind in Malaga province for a sport that is gaining more and more followers around the world every day.

Mushing originates in Lapland, Alaska and Canada and is a winter sport that is mainly done with sled dogs with sleds and skis, but can also be practised without snow.

On Sunday the contrast to those northernmost outposts was stark with the Tábanos pine forest playing host to the sport, with a spectacular circuit awaiting participants.

They competed in a number of different modes, including 'canicross' (running joined to your dog), 'bikejoring' (riding a mountain bike being pulled by your dog) and 'scooter' (riding a special 'skate' bike without ped-



One of the 'bikejoring' contestants. :: C. MÁRQUEZ



Getting across the finish line. :: C. MÁRQUEZ

als, pulled by one or two dogs).

The professional mushers, leaving at 20 second intervals to be timed, raced over a distance of five kilometres, between pine trees, round bends and up and down hills. For those wanting to try out the sport there were one- and two-kilometre courses, depending on the age of the participants.

Juan Alberto Sánchez from Tritacan, the club that organised the

**"It is not only a physical activity, it also helps to create a bond with your dogs"**

event, says that the sport is focused on "the enjoyment of the animal". Mushing is a great way to exercise and create a connection with your dog, he says. "It is also very important that humans get enough ex-

ercise, and this sport allows us to train together with our pets. It is not only a physically healthy activity, but also helps to create bonds with our dogs," emphasises Sánchez, who denies suggestions that the animal suffers during the sport.

Before each race, each dog has to pass a veterinary test to check that it is healthy and ready to race.

One of the most important rules of mushing is that the dog and owner must travel at a similar speed, regardless of the chosen sport. While the dog must always be in front, "at no time can you give up and let the dog do all the pulling, nor should you pull the dog", says the head of the race.

### Charitable event

In the past five years, proceeds from sign-up fees for the Mushing Manilva Race have gone to animal protection charities. This year, in collaboration with the town hall, the funds will be given to Mirada Libre, an animal protection association that lost its facilities in the heavy rains of October.

In Andalucía, mushing already has a dozen federated clubs, following the success of the sport in Catalonia, the Basque Country and Madrid.

The next step for organisers is to take their event to the snow in Sierra Nevada. They have requested the help of the organisers at the ski resort, and hope to have an event planned in the future.

In order to bring a greater audience to the sport an event has been organised for 23 and 24 March in Manilva. It will be the first Andalusian mushing symposium and it will be attended by world and Spanish champions. But of course, all eyes will be on the true stars of the show, the dogs.

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