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March 29th to April 4th 2019  
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**BREXIT**

## Costa Brits join Spaniards for London march

As the UK's exit from the EU remains unclear, residents support calls for a people's vote **P18**



The historic Willow steamboat partially sank in Benalmádena marina this week due to the rough sea. :: **SUR**



## THE COAST FALLS VICTIM TO THE WAVES

Beaches have been battered just two weeks before tourists flock in for Easter **P2&3**

## Coín has dumped enough sewage to fill a reservoir, says investigation

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**Malaga return to league action tonight** after a 1-0 victory over Nàstic brought smiles back to the fans' faces at the weekend **P48&49**



AGENCIA LOF

**Davidovich reaches the quarterfinals of the Casino Admiral Trophy** which continues at Puente Romano until Sunday **P51**

# Phone-tapping revelations shock Mijas mayor and council

It's not yet known who is behind the suspected spying which was discovered in the municipal TV and radio station

Events in the minority Ciudadanos council of Mijas took a surprising turn this week when it emerged that an internal investigation is under way into the bugging of phone calls and WhatsApp chats of the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado, and some opposition councillors.

A check on a blocked email ac-

count, after the director of the council-owned broadcaster was removed, recently raised the alarm.

On Thursday there were signs the bugging may have affected other departments in the town hall when the head of the key Treasury department froze all activity, to the annoyance of the mayor. **P13**

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**Malaga.** Waves crash against rocks on Tuesday in the Sacaba district. :: SALVADOR. SALAS



**Axarquía.** The sea touched the N-340 in Vélez-Málaga. :: EUGENIO CABEZAS



**Benalmádena.** The bar at Maracas Beach was flooded. :: JUAN SOTO

# Wave-battered beaches need fast action to be ready for Easter

This week's rough seas left serious damage to beaches along the length of the Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical

:: IGNACIO LILLO

**MALAGA.** Waves of a height of nearly six metres battered the Costa del Sol on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, leaving the beaches worse for wear, just two weeks before the peak Easter holiday season.

The Levant wind caused the state meteorology office to issue a yellow weather warning for rough seas earlier in the week, which it upgraded to amber for Tuesday evening and much of Wednesday.

At six o'clock on Wednesday morning the weather buoy in

Malaga Port recorded a height of 5.96 metres. The mean or "significant" wave height, the value used to measure the waves' destructive potential, was set by the weather office at four metres, meaning that the damage caused to beaches was not as great as originally predicted.

Nevertheless a preliminary report issued by the central government's Coasts department, known as Costas, said that beaches in Fuengirola town centre and parts of San Pedro and Estepona had suffered the worst battering from the waves.

No serious structural damage had been caused, said the report, although the beaches had suffered significant erosion, losing breadth in many areas.

The authority's final assessment of the damage will not be released

until next week, however, as the yellow weather warning was still in place for Thursday and Friday.

Meanwhile the owners of businesses on the affected beaches have called for immediate action, especially with the Easter holiday period just around the corner.

"We're asking Costas to replace the lost sand as soon as possible [...] and to take action on the most damaged beaches in time for Easter," said Manuel Villafaina, president of the Association of Beach Business Owners. Villafaina said on Wednesday that the impact was not as bad as it could have been as business owners had been forewarned in an email from the association. Sunbeds had been piled up near the promenades and business owners had put up sandbag barriers.

The province's fishing fleet, made up of around 250 boats, stayed in port on Tuesday and Wednesday. Ferry company Trasmediterránea cancelled services across the Strait on Tuesday, but the 3pm ferry from Malaga to Melilla sailed as planned on Wednesday.

**Marbella**

**Waves expose infrastructure**

The rough seas took their toll on beaches in Marbella, San Pedro and Estepona. In Lindavista, San Pedro, the sand was washed away to expose sewage pipes. The town hall has been announcing plans to move these pipes for years, but there are archaeological remains in the area and authorisation is needed from the Junta de Andalucía. In Ventura del Mar the waves invaded the brand

new pedestrian walkway and in Las Chapas rows of wooden posts set up to control the movement of the dunes have disappeared, with some of the dunes being washed away.

**Benalmádena and Torremolinos**  
**Chiringuito flooded**

Numerous beaches between Torremolinos and La Carihuela suffered damage. Water flooded beach bars such as Maracas Beach, near the Castillo Bil Bil, on Tuesday night.

In La Carihuela the area near the Playa Miguel beach bar bore the brunt of the rough seas as the water crossed the promenade, reaching even some of the businesses further away from the shore. The forewarning from the met office and the business association prevented further damage. "When we left [on Tuesday night] we piled up 75 sandbags," said one employee.

**Fuengirola**

**Already damaged in autumn**

At the beginning of March, the town hall sent a request to the Coasts authority warning that the central Fuengirola beach had been damaged by the weather in autumn and winter and was not wide enough to in-



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**Guadalmar.** The waves left sand and stones on the prom. :: S. SALAS



**Marbella.** The state of El Fuerte beach on Wednesday. :: JOSELE-LANZA

stall the summer facilities. Now the sand has receded even further, said municipal sources, adding that now the town hall is going to reiterate its request for new sand before Easter.

#### Malaga city

##### Baños del Carmen flooded

Early on Wednesday morning the waves invaded the Baños del Carmen restaurant in Malaga city, always the first spot to suffer from rough seas.

## Benalmádena's Mississippi steamboat sinks

#### ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**BENALMÁDENA.** The rough sea claimed another victim, this week, the old steamboat moored in Benalmádena marina, which had partially sunk by Thursday.

With the help of divers, the Willow was stabilised to prevent it tipping over until further measures could be taken.

The Willow, which has been moored in Benalmádena for decades, was built at the beginning of the last century to sail on the Mississippi. After being brought to Benalmádena it was used for some time as a floating nightclub, as well as a restaurant and even a secret brothel.

The authorities have said that the boat no longer has any fuel or ma-

chinery onboard but in any case the port has been asked to put up an anti-pollution barrier as a precaution.

The Willow has been in disuse for some time and the town hall had reached an agreement with the owner to pay the debt run up for its berth in the port in installments. The local authorities and the owner had previously been advised of the boat's poor state of repair in recent months due to a lack of maintenance.

The Willow, which was refurbished in Liverpool before coming to the Costa, is one of the few Mississippi steam boats to be found in European ports.

Water entered the main dining room, despite the attempts by employees to keep the place dry by putting up wooden barriers and sand bags the day before.

Other city beaches affected were Huelin, Guadalmar and El Dedo (El Palo) where council workers were brought in on Wednesday to remove sand that had been deposited by the waves on the promenades.

Malaga councillor Teresa Porras said, however, that the beaches would be in optimum condition by the start of the Easter holiday period, when thousands flock to the city to watch processions and enjoy the sunshine.

The sea came up as far as the main N-340 coast road, stripping the beaches of their sand. The Levant wind caused general damage on beaches from Nerja to La Cala del Moral. Sand has been washed away from La Torrecilla and El Chucho beaches in Nerja; from several stretches of the El Peñoncillo, Ferrera and El Morche beaches in Torrox; in Lagos and Mezquitilla in Vélez-Málaga; and Los Rubios and La Cala del Moral, in Rincón de la Victoria.

Experts from the different affected town councils started to assess the damage on Wednesday in order to repair the beaches in time for Easter.

#### Costa Tropical Almuñécar

Almuñécar is among towns along

the Granada coastline that suffered the effects of the rough sea this week. Especially hit was Velilla beach, where sand has receded significantly. Along a 200-metre strip of beach all that could be seen on Thursday were large rocks uncovered by the waves.

What is most worrying however is the damage caused to the Velilla breakwater near the Aquatropic waterpark.

Cotobro, Marina del Este and Peña Parda beaches have also suffered from the waves as well as Velilla, said councillor Luis Aragón on Thursday.

**i** Contributors to this article: **Mónica Pérez, Agustín Peláez, Juan Soto, Eugenio Cabezas and Mercedes Navarrete.**

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# Pastures new for abandoned animals

A four-acre farm donated by a kind-hearted vegan will become an animal sanctuary



TONY BRYANT  
✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

**MALAGA.** After much deliberation concerning the future of her country house set in four acres of land in the Montes de Málaga, an Irish woman with a heart of gold has decided to donate the property to be used as an animal sanctuary.

Gráinne O’Carroll, known locally as Grace, ran a vegan bistro in Benalmádena for several years, but decided to return to Ireland to be with her family. She sold the restaurant, however did not know what to do with her house. Her options included long-term rental or putting it on the market. Countless stories of nightmare tenants put her off renting, and the sales market would mean selling at a huge loss, or waiting years for a buyer. Neither option seemed particularly appealing, so, after careful consideration, she decided to donate it to benefit animals.

Grace, a militant vegan and passionate animal lover, had originally intended to use the land as an animal refuge herself, but the project never materialised.

“My plan had always been to use my land as a sanctuary, so it made more sense for me to pass it on to someone who would use it wisely. If I sold the house quickly, the loss would have meant less money for me to use to help animals,” the benevolent vegan explained to SUR in English.

**Suitable applicants**

Grace sought the assistance of Veganos por Malaga, a local vegan group, that ran an online campaign to find suitable applicants who



Fran Canto Montero and some of the ‘family’ of animals that will soon move to their new home. :: SUR

would use the donation wisely.

Grace was inundated with replies and, although she considered them all, one in particular stood out.

Fran Canto Montero and his partner, Juan, have been looking after abandoned and mistreated animals at a rented property in Malaga for more than 17 years. Their efforts have been sponsored by Fran’s employers, Galgau, a Malaga-based pet product wholesalers.

The couple’s dedication and tireless work with animals (and the fact that they are both staunch vegans) convinced Grace that they would be suitable applicants. Before making her final decision, Grace met with Fran and instantly knew that giving her house and land to him was the right thing to do. Fran in-

troduced her to his ‘family’ of rescued animals, which currently includes seven greyhounds, three donkeys, several feral cats and songbirds and chickens that had been abandoned by their owners.

“Really, it was just a feeling. They were vegan, so I knew all animals would be loved and welcomed; plus they already had animals that they supported personally, so I knew they weren’t just looking for a freebie. I didn’t mention the house at first [only the land] because I wanted to make sure the recipient was sincere. I met Fran alone at first; when he introduced me to his gang, it was friendship at first sight,” Grace said.

Grace moved back to Ireland in February, but returned to Malaga this week to sign over the deeds and

hand the keys to the new owners of the property.

Fran and Juan will now begin to transform the land into a sanctuary and are looking forward to a new chapter in their lives thanks to the generous gift of a like-minded animal lover.

“We are so happy, it’s difficult to explain. It is a unique situation and a unique moment in our lives. We think it is amazing that someone can love animals so much to make a decision like this: we have been so lucky.

“Grace is an incredible woman, she has a heart of gold and she will always have a special place in our hearts. She will always have true friends here and we will always be thankful to her,” Fran said.

## Founder of top US jazz venue visits Malaga to support idea for Astoria-site cultural centre

**:: JESÚS HINOJOSA**

**MALAGA.** The founder and head of SFJAZZ, currently one of America’s trend-setting musical venues, was in Malaga this week to give his backing to a project to transform the site of the old Astoria cinema on the city’s Plaza de la Merced.

Randall Kline launched his San Francisco venue in 2013 and developers from Cordoba invited him to see for himself how they want to build a theatre space below street level, with bars and restaurants above and room for an extension to the Fundación Picasso birthplace foundation.

The project to replace the disused building still needs to clear several hurdles. After demolition, an archeological dig will be needed to see if the theatre can be built.

Kline said, “The museums are fantastic here, tourism is obviously great, but having a cultural centre in the heart of the city could be something really transformational.”



Kline in Malaga. :: S. SALAS

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# Take control of your finances in an uncertain world

By Chris McCann, Partner, Blevins Franks

They say the only certainties in life are death and taxes, and this has never seemed more true! As the UK enters uncharted waters with Brexit, there is much we do not know about what the future will bring.

However, there are some things you can be sure of and can control to your benefit, whatever happens around us.

## Taxation of assets

Double tax treaties, such as the one between UK and Spain, are independent of the EU. So if you are resident here, your existing tax treatment will not change with Brexit, or other external influence. Something that can make a significant difference to the way you are taxed is the way you structure your assets and wealth.

You can usually find Spain-compliant investment opportunities that can offer significant tax benefits, while also providing additional benefits like currency and income flexibility.

Meanwhile, expatriates who favour UK-centric assets and investments could see increased taxation with

Brexit, as some non-EU/EEA assets are treated differently. For example, if you sell a home in Spain to buy a British property once the UK leaves the EU/EEA, you may no longer be eligible for capital gains tax relief.

At any time, the UK can potentially increase the tax burden for non-residents, as has happened recently with property. 2015 brought new capital gains tax liability for non-residents on UK residential property; from 5 April this will also apply to commercial property. In 2017, UK residential property owned through certain offshore structures became liable for UK inheritance tax alongside other worldwide property.

Tougher tax rules are also possible following a change in UK government, including the possibility of a new wealth tax on higher-value UK assets.

A locally-based adviser can advise about asset protection and taking advantage of tax-efficient opportunities in Spain.

## Taxation of pensions

A similar threat hangs over UK pensions. Today, UK pensions can

potentially be accessed by Britons abroad without paying any UK tax (under the double tax agreements). Brexit will not change this, but the government may take steps to recoup more taxes from expatriate pensions.

The 25% 'overseas transfer charge' introduced in 2017 may indicate things to come. Currently, EU residents are only affected if transferring UK pension funds to Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes (QROPS) outside the EU/EEA, but the scope may increase after Brexit.

Once have left Britain, you may find fewer advantages to keeping UK pensions where they are, but it is essential to take regulated, personalised pensions advice to establish the most suitable approach for your circumstances and goals. If you are considering transferring, review your options now, before the tax-free window potentially closes.

## Investments

It is not just Brexit that can disrupt investment and currency markets today. At any given time, external influences and events can unexpectedly shift the direction of

markets.

Diversification is the key to minimising risk. A portfolio made up of a mixture of asset types – including cash, equities and bonds – from different countries, regions and market sectors is best placed to ride out turbulence. This approach reduces exposure to under-performance in any single area and enables the opportunity to produce positive returns over time.

Conversely, if you mainly hold UK assets, your returns will be more vulnerable to the fortunes of sterling and the British economy during these uncertain times.

Of course, you need to make sure your investments offer the right balance of risk and return for your peace of mind. An experienced financial professional can use appropriate tools to create a clear and objective risk profile for you.

## Estate planning

While we cannot avoid death, with good estate planning we can control who receives our legacy and when.

Even after Brexit, you can override local 'forced heirship rules' by

applying the law of your nationality to your estate through the EU regulation, 'Brussels IV'. While this would ensure your legacy is distributed according to your wishes, beware this can have tax implications.

If you are seen as UK-domiciled – as many expatriates are – your estate is liable to UK inheritance tax as well as Spanish succession tax.

You may be able to restructure your wealth to reduce tax liabilities, while ensuring your chosen heirs receive their inheritance at the right time, so explore your options.

With careful tax, pensions, investments and estate planning, you can steer your financial future in the right direction. Cross-border financial planning is complex and needs to be designed around your specific circumstances and wishes, so take advice from a cross-border specialist firm like Blevins Franks for the best results. [www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com)

*All advice received from Blevins Franks is personalised and provided in writing. This article, however, should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation or investment advice.*

## Thinking of moving your pension out of the UK? Is it risky to wait?

Many British expatriates in Spain benefit from transferring their UK pensions into a QROPS without a UK tax charge – but time may be running out. The UK already imposes a 25% 'overseas transfer charge' on EU residents who transfer to QROPS outside the EU or EEA. After Brexit it could start charging transfers within the EU too.

You should always take regulated advice to establish if a QROPS is suitable for you, but do so now, rather than risk losing 25% of your pension if the rules change.

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# Coín has dumped enough polluted water to fill a reservoir, inquiry says

Despite council putting sewage into a protected area for years, the Junta has only ever issued two fines of 1,200 euros each

by JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

**MALAGA.** The investigation into the dumping of sewage and polluted water by town councils in Coín and Nerja continues to throw up some eye-watering data, showing just how much untreated waste is allowed to flow into the Guadalhorce basin or the Mediterranean.

Last week it was revealed that Guardia Civil investigators have estimated that there is a nine-tonne "mountain" of used wet wipes on the seabed near Nerja. This week it has emerged that the same team believes that Coín council has allowed enough polluted water to flow into its local rivers to fill the equivalent capacity of Malaga city's El Limonero reservoir.

Eleven former and current local politicians and officials have been quizzed by police as part of the inquiry that has now been moved up a level to an investigating judge. Town councils are responsible for correctly handling sewage from



An algae-covered "lifeless zone" in the river near Coín. :: SUR

homes and businesses. But the officials, including mayors and former mayors, strongly deny any wrongdoing, saying it is the job of the Junta regional government (or national government in the case of Nerja), to provide promised proper treatment works. Sewage plants that will serve both towns are planned but have been repeatedly delayed.

In the case of Coín, waste water has traditionally been allowed into tributaries of the Pereila river, a

protected natural area. All but one of the tests on the water affected taken between 2010-2016 had high readings of bacteria from faeces.

Investigators estimated that, from 2001 to 2018, 32 million cubic metres of waste was dumped by Coín, more than the 25 million cubic metres stored in the medium-sized El Limonero reservoir behind Malaga city. Despite the pollution, the regional government had only ever issued two fines of 1,200 euros each.



Electrical works are ongoing at Nerja's unopened plant. :: E. CABEZAS

## Junta boss: sewage gives shameful impression of Costa

by SUR

**MALAGA.** The new Junta de Andalucía president, Juanma Moreno, was critical of the previous regional administration's behaviour over the dumping of sewage this week. On a visit to the Guadalhorce area on Monday, he said it was "shameful" the image that was being portrayed of the beaches of the Costa del Sol, referring especially to Nerja, and promised to speed up plans to bring missing treatment plants into service.

It has emerged that the pipe taking raw sewage out to sea at Torrecilla beach, Nerja, has broken

close to shore three times since 2017 and the last time was in February this year. The contractor who repaired the first break has said he was asked to use normal plastic rather than more expensive metal but that that repair subsequently broke.

Meanwhile, Nerja is still waiting for its treatment plant, paid for by central government due to its strategic importance. Work started in 2014 but the constructor ran into financial trouble. Restarted in February last year, it is now delayed again awaiting approval of technical modifications.

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# Around 30 hotels reopen after the winter following 27-million-euro improvements

The Costa is waking up early from its winter slumber in a bid to counter the effects of seasonality

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MÁLAGA.** The winter is over and the Costa del Sol is, in the most part, ready for the next influx of visitors for the high season. The majority of hotels which close during the winter have already reopened while the remainder will do so over the next week; the objective is for the destination to be 100 per cent operational by the start of April as part of a concerted effort to reduce the effects of seasonality.

What's more, the level of investment, as well as the money spent on improvements, has increased. A total of 31 establishments, with a total of 9,000 beds, have made the most of the winter stoppage to carry out improvements of more than 27.3 million euros, 175,000 of which have gone on refurbishing tourist apartments, according to figures from Aehcos, the Costa hotel sector association.

Its president, Luis Callejón Suñé, said that since 2015, the sector has focused its efforts on bringing its facilities up to date, spending 162 million euros not only on improving the aesthetics of the buildings, but also installing energy-saving facilities, better accessibility and the installation of new technologies.

"The sector knows that this is the right path to follow but now it's time for public authorities to take action to ensure that all of the facilities that are needed for holidaymakers are in



The refit of the Hotel Aguamarina is complete. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

place," said Callejón.

Among the biggest investments made in recent times has been in the Meliá Costa del Sol hotel in Marbella, which now has a new façade and will soon boast a new night terrace and facilities for 'premium' customers. These are scheduled to be finished by mid-May. In Torremolinos, the Aguamarina is being turned into a superior four-star hotel, with all rooms converted into suites.

The tourism sector is now focused on the imminent arrival of Semana Santa but one project that won't be ready is the old Hotel Don Miguel in Marbella with the completion date for its 64.5-million-euro overhaul being set back to after July.

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## HERE AND THERE

### Estepona grants land for first trilingual school and residence

ESTEPONA

:: C. MÁRQUEZ. As part of its drive to improve educational facilities in the municipality, Estepona town will offer up two plots of land in Torrevigia, close to the Selwo Aventura park and the soon-to-be-completed Russian Orthodox church, for the creation of a private trilingual school.

The school, which will consist of two buildings (one for teaching, another as a residence), will cover an area of 22,498 square metres, and come at a cost of 41,882 euros a year rent over the course of the 75-year lease.

The town hall has stressed that this project would provide extra revenue from a peripheral area of the town which is in disuse.

### New management for overhaul of Felipe VI auditorium

ESTEPONA

:: C. M. The Felipe VI auditorium in Estepona will finally have a year-round programme of events after a new company was awarded the contract for its management.

SEDA, which has operations all across the country, is seeking to maximise the potential of the space and "devise a quality line-up of events", both inside and out, including theatre productions, concerts and cinema screenings. "For us, Estepona is the jewel in the crown," said new manager, Pepe Iglesias.

The first act to maximise the venue's appeal has been to change its name to TAF (Teatro Auditorio Felipe VI) Estepona Costa del Sol.



:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

### MÁLAGA WAVES GOODBYE TO NORWEGIAN SPIRIT

Cruiseline Norwegian Spirit, which welcomes guests with a multi-million-euro Versace rug (pictured), left the Port of Málaga on Tuesday after 13 trips of ten days each since November, moving some 26,000 passengers. Now the ship, with capacity for 2,200 passengers and 900 crew, will go to a dry dock for refurbishment

## Recreational use of La Concepción reservoir banned after death of several dogs

:: SUR / AGENCIES

**MÁRBELLA.** The Junta de Andalucía regional government has ordered the prohibition of recreational use of La Concepción reservoir in Istán, near Marbella, after the discovery of algae which has been linked to the death of a dog.

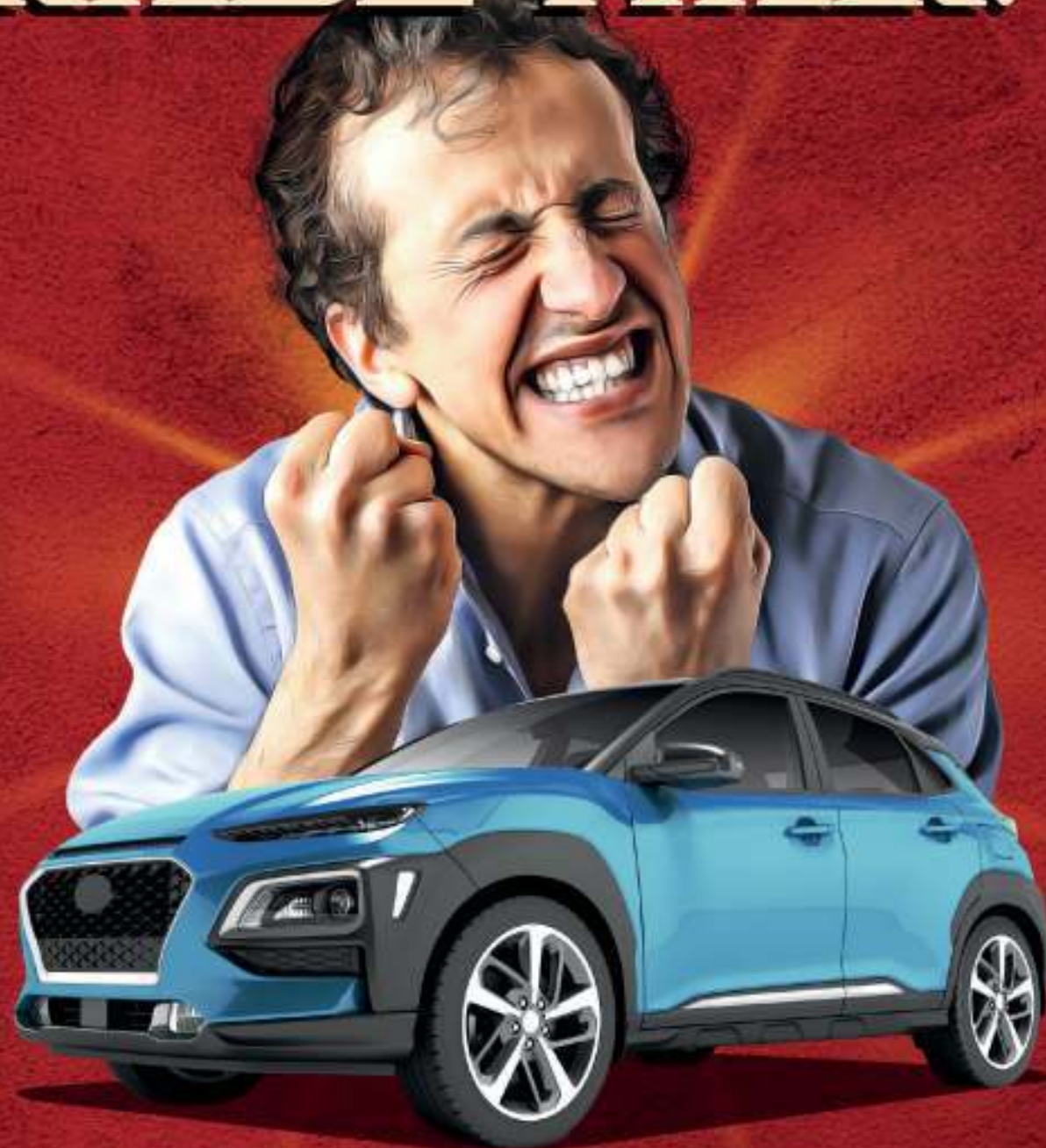
Though a ministerial order preventing personal use is already in place (as it is a reservoir for the sole purpose of drinking water), the Junta wanted to reiterate the message after a woman, whose dog died, took a sample of the water to a laboratory for testing. There it was found that an alga, which in high concentrations can be harmful to animals, was present. Tests are ongoing to verify whether it was the official cause of death.

This news alerted the environmental branch of the Guardia Civil, Seprona, who have launched an investigation and identified various other dogs who have died after being in the area, initially thought to have consumed some sort of poison. However, they have not been able to rule out that they drank water from the shore.

Sources from the Junta have insisted that the water is safe for drinking as it must still go through the treatment process. But, while further tests are carried out and the investigation continues, over the weekend and on Monday additional cleaning measures were taken to eliminate any toxins and to ensure that the water coming out of the tap is safe to drink.



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Some 27 nationalities helped at last Saturday's beach clean-up. :: SUR

## Costa Tropical's international community joins beach cleaning efforts

Five hundred volunteers representing 27 nationalities collected 40,000 cigarette butts and almost a tonne of rubbish last Saturday

:: JENNIE RHODES

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Twenty-seven nationalities took part in a clean-up operation on Almuñécar's and La Herradura's beaches last Saturday.

Forty thousand cigarette butts and almost a tonne of plastic and other rubbish were collected by more than 500 volunteers through-

out the day.

This was one of a number of similar activities the organisation Playa Patrol has planned this year.

The next will take place on 13 April on Cantarriján beach and two more are scheduled for 30 June and 22 September, which is International Coastal Cleanup Day.

### HERE AND THERE

#### Bad weather hampers Residents' Day plans

**NERJA**

:: **J. R.** Nerja's annual Residents' Day, which was due to take place last Sunday, was postponed to 31 March due to bad weather. However, with forecasts predicting more rain and wind for this weekend, the Foreigners Department has cancelled it once again, with the possibility of the event taking place on 7 April.

Confirmation will be made via the town hall Facebook page and email next week.



The burned-out bar. :: SUR

#### Beach bar burned out days before opening

**TORRE DE BENAGALBÓN**

:: **E. C.** Guardia Civil officers are looking for the people responsible for a suspected arson attack on the Aquí Mismo beach bar in Torre de Benagalbón. The fire took hold late last Thursday evening. A resident who spotted flames coming from the promenade alerted emergency services at around midnight. The bar, which started off as a kiosk and has been extended over the years, was due to open for the summer season last Friday.

#### Body pulled from sea metres from Balcón

**NERJA**

:: **E. C.** The body of a middle-aged man was pulled from the sea just 50 metres from Nerja's Balcón de Europa on Monday afternoon. Police have confirmed that the man, who was fully clothed, is not local and haven't ruled out the body belonging to a migrant. The famous balcony was cordoned off for the police investigation on Monday and an area was set up for forensic tests to be carried out.

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SOS volunteers with some of the dogs that need new homes. :: SUR

# SOS Animals to close after 22 years of caring for abandoned dogs

The charity was founded in 1997 and run by a small team of dedicated volunteers and supported by SOS Sweden and Costa Canine Rescue UK

**TONY BRYANT**  
**COÍN.** Inland dog charity, SOS Animals, is to close in June and is urgently appealing for people who can offer a loving home to any of its dogs.

The land where the Coín-based refuge is situated was sold after the owners returned to the UK and volunteers at the charity have been unable to find suitable, alternative accommodation for both the dogs and for the volunteers who help care for them. The refuge centre, which has rehomed thousands of dogs over the last 22 years, has announced that it can no longer accept dogs and is focusing all its energies on rehoming the animals in its care.

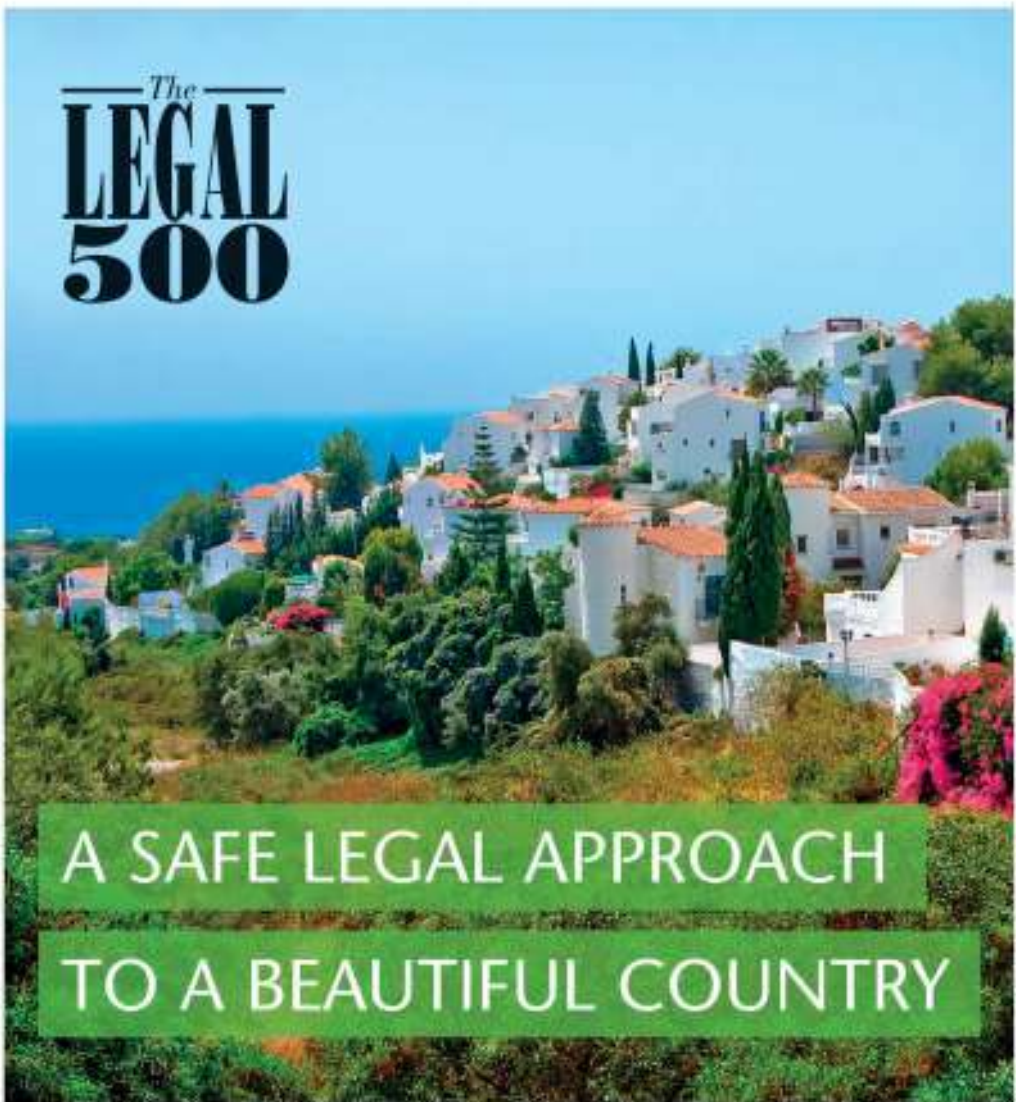
SOS (Spay Our Strays) was founded on the Costa del Sol in 1997 and has been run by a small team of dedicated volunteers and supported by its sister charity, SOS Sweden, and Costa Canine Rescue UK.

“We are working really hard with our Swedish charity to rehome

dogs and we have put urgent appeals on the websites of colleagues in the UK, but we anticipate that despite this we could end up with up to 20 dogs still looking for homes. In some cases they are dogs that have been with us a while. We are definitely going to find some way of keeping the dogs safe and have been exploring all options,” Andrea, the organisation’s spokesperson, told SUR in English.

SOS co-founder Tony Byford said: “We are very sad to say that SOS has to come to an end. It has been a huge privilege for all of us involved over the years to have made a difference to the lives of literally thousands of dogs. We would love to hear from any people who live locally who may feel that they could offer a place in their heart to one of our residents.”

**More information :**  
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# Bancosol urgently needs oil, milk and tinned food for next “Operación Kilo”

The food bank will carry out its spring collection across selected large supermarket chains in the province on two weekends in April

**JUAN SOTO**  
**MALAGA.** The Costa del Sol food bank, Bancosol, is in urgent need of olive oil, milk and food in tins and jars to keep up with the demand it is facing. Around 48,000 families rely on its network of 198 food bank associations across the province.

On Monday, the treasurer of the charity, Diego Vázquez, explained that this year’s so-called “Operación Kilo” collection, to take place on two weekends in April, will aim to beat the 215,500 kilos of non-perishable food that was collected last year. Volunteers will be at Carrefour stores on 5-6 April and Mercadona, Maskom and Eroski will be participating on 26-27 of April.

During a launch event, Vázquez thanked the Unicaja foundation and the other organisations sup-

porting the initiative. Around 1,400 volunteers and 99 supermarkets all over the province will take part.

Vázquez also gave more details of the organisation’s programme in schools which aims to combat food waste. “Forty per cent of the food that is wasted is at home,” he said. In addition, he announced that the next Gran Recogida, which is the largest food-gathering campaign of the year, will take place on 22 and 23 November.

The head of Social Solidarity and Education for Unicaja foundation, Ana Cabrera, reaffirmed her commitment to Bancosol. She explained that the charity represents “the most positive face of Malaga society” and is beginning to tackle the struggle of social exclusion and help more vulnerable people.

Following suit, Maskom’s founder, Sergio Cuberos, thanked Bancosol for including them in the initiative, as it helps them develop their social responsibility activity.

Likewise, Mercadona’s external relations manager, Francisco Rodríguez, praised the volunteers collecting the food from the public, “who are the real stars”.

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## Telephone bugging of Mijas mayor and councillors is uncovered

The identity of those reportedly spying on the phone calls and chats of Juan Carlos Maldonado and other local politicians is unknown

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

**MIJAS.** Just months from municipal elections, Mijas council has been rocked by a potential spying scandal and all political parties have expressed their shock at the revelation.

Recently an independent audit began on a blocked management email account at the council-owned television and radio station, Mijas Comunicación, following the removal of its director. The check, ordered by the new director, led to some startlingly conclusions.

According to a secret report given to the board of the municipal broad-



Mijas town hall :: I.G.

caster at a meeting last Friday, details of which have been passed to SUR, a form of eavesdropping on the board of directors has been discovered. The board is made up of the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado of

Ciudadanos (Cs) and eight other councillors from all parties. Only one board member, from Cs, doesn't so far feature on either the recordings or copies of WhatsApp messages found, reports said.

According to the technical study, two pieces of malware were being used, and at the meeting, computer files of at least 800 gigabytes were discussed and extracts read out. What isn't known is who is behind the emerging scandal. Investigations continue and the final report is likely to be passed to police.

On Thursday, the story took a new twist, when the head of the Treasury department, responsible for handling municipal funds and taxes, stopped all activity and ordered staff to turn off computers, amid fears that his department was also affected. Reports said the mayor had been taken by surprise by that decision and was asking for it to be reversed.

## Councillor caught out for removing vehicle from car pound without paying fine

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**TORREMOLINOS.** The councillor for Culture in Torremolinos, Aida Blanes, has been at the centre of a growing political row in the last week over allegedly abusing her position.

Last week sources reported that Blanes had avoided paying a fine and costs after her car was towed away while she was attending evening functions on official business in the resort on 9 March. A subsequent Local Police report said that the councillor had parked in a space reserved for Guardia Civil but without any kind of permit.

On returning to the car at 3am and finding it was missing, the report continues, she was given a lift in a police car to the municipal car pound where she was allowed to drive off without paying the fine or towing charges.



Councillor Blanes. :: SUR (FILE)

Although Blanes subsequently paid the charges, opposition councillors have accused her of abusing her position while Blanes said it had been a "misunderstanding".

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# 'Malagueños' unite in London for Put it to the People march

British residents on the Costa del Sol met up with Malaga-born Spanish residents in the UK for the demonstration that attracted more than a million people on Saturday

by JENNIE RHODES

**LONDON.** A group of 'Malagueños' were reunited for last Saturday's Put It To The People march in London. Numerous British residents living on the Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical travelled to the UK especially for the protest, where they met up with Spaniards originally from the province who live in Britain. The Malagueños were joined by Brema in Spain members and Spaniards who have made Britain their home.

John Moffett, Theresa O'Shea and Tamara Essex were among the Brits who travelled from Malaga airport to London for the weekend. Meanwhile while María Barquin, who is originally from Marbella but has lived in the UK for 19 years and currently works for the NHS, travelled from Cambridge to march.

She was joined by Malaga-born Mercedes Frías and her seven-year-old son, Martín, who was born in the UK. Mercedes and Martín travelled from their home in Kent to take part in the protest.

O'Shea, who has lived in Spain for over 20 years and was therefore unable to vote in the 2016 referendum told SUR, "I'm really pleased I came. It is unfair that over an issue that affects us so much, many of us were unable to vote, so I am voting with my feet."

Carmen Ortega and José Luis Millet, originally from Vélez-Málaga, have lived in London for five years and both work as teachers in state primary schools in the capital. They



Malagueños united in London for last Saturday's march. by J. RHODES

didn't want to miss the opportunity to show their support for another say on Brexit.

"As a Malagueña I have felt really welcome at today's protest, with so many people supporting the option

for the UK to remain in the EU," said Ortega during the march.

## Biggest demonstration to date

It proved to be the biggest anti-Brexit demonstration to date with over a

million people taking to the streets to ask for another chance to vote on Brexit. The enormous array of flags from different EU countries as well as the blue and yellow EU flag and imaginative placards bearing messages such as "Don't blame the Hungarians and Bulgarians; blame the Etonians" and "Ikea has better cabinets", captured the attention of the international press and kept protesters entertained during the peaceful event.

The Put It To The People march set off from Park Lane at 12pm and ended with speeches at Parliament Square. Speakers included Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, pro-European politicians including Labour's David Lammy, Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon, and veteran Conservative and pro-European Michael Heseltine. Loud applause came when Heseltine said, "You, the people, must be given the right to vote to remain."

There has been no official comment from either Theresa May or Jeremy Corbyn about last Saturday's protest.

Protesters also spent the day looking at their mobile phones to check on the status of a UK Parliament petition to revoke Article 50, which has now been signed by over five million people. It has broken records as the petition with the highest number of signatories every recorded. Parliament is due to debate the petition on 1 April, drawing both criticism and jokes from social media as to the "ironic" choice of April Fools Day to hold the debate.

## Consulate steps up campaign to inform British residents

by SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** UK nationals resident in Spain have further opportunities to put their Brexit questions to consular staff at meetings in San Roque and Fuengirola. Consul Charmaine Arbouin and her team will be joined by representatives from the local town halls to provide information

on a range of issues, including residency, registration, healthcare and pensions.

Charmaine Arbouin said: "We recognise the current uncertainty for British people living in Spain and we will continue to do all we can to update citizens as and when we have more information.

"In the meantime, I continue to urge all UK nationals living in Spain to ensure you are correctly registered and to stay up to date with the latest news, by signing up for email alerts and visiting the Living in Spain guide on gov.uk and following our Brits in Spain social media channels, including on Facebook."

The meetings will take place on Wednesday 3 April (5pm) at the Juan Luis Galiardo Theatre in San Roque and on Tuesday 23 April (12pm) in the Casa de la Cultura, Av. Juan Gómez Juanito, Fuengirola. There is no need to register beforehand.

JENNIE RHODES

## WE LOVE EU AFTER ALL



Over a million people attended the Put it to the People march in London last Saturday and a petition to revoke Article 50 has attracted more signatures than any of its kind before it. While a small majority of people voted for the UK to leave the European Union in June 2016, it would seem that pro-EU sentiment in the country has never been higher. It is no secret that the UK has always been rather unsure about its relationship with the rest of the EU.

When I worked as an assistant to an MEP and was studying European Politics at university at the end of the '90s and early 2000s, I soon realised that beyond my circle of Brussels friends and fellow students, the EU was probably the least important thing in most people's lives. I would get frustrated at others' lack of knowledge over the workings of the EU and do everything in my power not to wallop anyone who mentioned straight bananas and bendy cucumbers.

Then came the referendum. The EU has never felt so much love from (half-ish of) the UK. The EU's 12 yellow stars adorn thousands of Facebook profiles and an internet search brings up endless websites selling all sorts of EU paraphernalia allowing Brema iners to embrace their new found love affair, through heartfelt declarations on T-shirts, berets, flags and badges: things like "I Love EU" and "Fromage not Farage". So it seems we do love the EU after all!

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# Gibraltar bans the release of helium balloons to protect the environment

The move has been warmly welcomed by numerous environmental and animal welfare groups at home and abroad

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** Gibraltar already has a reputation for innovation in protecting the environment and this has just been enhanced further with the introduction of a ban on gas-filled balloons. This follows on from the decision a few years ago to stop the release of thousands of red and white balloons which was always a feature of the National Day celebrations, a move which was applauded by environmental organisations all over the world. This latest ban on the deliberate release of helium balloons is part of the Gibraltar government's commitment to clean seas, free of plastics and other non-biodegradable materials which cause so much harm to wildlife.

The move has been welcomed by the Animal Interfaith Alliance, an international association of faith groups founded in Britain which is concerned about the welfare of



Dr John Cortes, Environment and Heritage Minister. :: SUR

animals. The Alliance's member organisations and individual members include Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs who are united by their common concern for animals, based on their various faiths.

The Alliance, which has expressed its concerns as to the damage caused by plastics to the environment, especially the seas, and the destruction caused to vulnerable marine creatures, has sent a letter to Gibraltar's chief minister Fabian Picardo and environment

minister Dr John Cortes, praising the initiative and ending the letter with "Thank you for this enlightened advance and we hope that it will be emulated by many other governments, including that of the UK".

In response to the letter, Dr Cortes said, "Surrounded as we are by sea, we accept that we have a responsibility towards marine life, both in our waters and beyond. It is gratifying to receive letters such as this as a result of our environmental policies."

## IN BRIEF



Professor Daniella Tilbury is the new UK representative. :: SUR

### Gibraltar becomes a representative on UN Economic Commission

GIBRALTAR

DB. Professor Daniella Tilbury, Gibraltar's Commissioner for Sustainable Development, has become the UK Representative on the Steer-

ing Committee of the United Nations Economic Council for Europe, with a special focus on matters relating to education and sustainable development. This is believed to be the first time an Overseas Territory has represented the UK on an international body of this nature and it gives Gibraltar the chance to make its needs and interests visible.

### New pay and display car park on Europort Road

GIBRALTAR

DB. A new pay and display parking scheme came into force adjacent to Europort Road on Wednesday 27 March. It is operative from 9am to 9pm on Mondays to Fridays and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays. Parking in this area will be free on Sundays and public holidays.

### Smart Neanderthal book published

GIBRALTAR

DB. The image of Neanderthals as clumsy, heavy-browed cave dwellers easily outcompeted and overwhelmed by our modern ancestors is revoked in a new book from Professor Clive Finlayson, which was officially presented on Tuesday. The Smart Neanderthal has been published by Oxford University Press.

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# Power companies confirm plan to phase out nuclear power by 2035

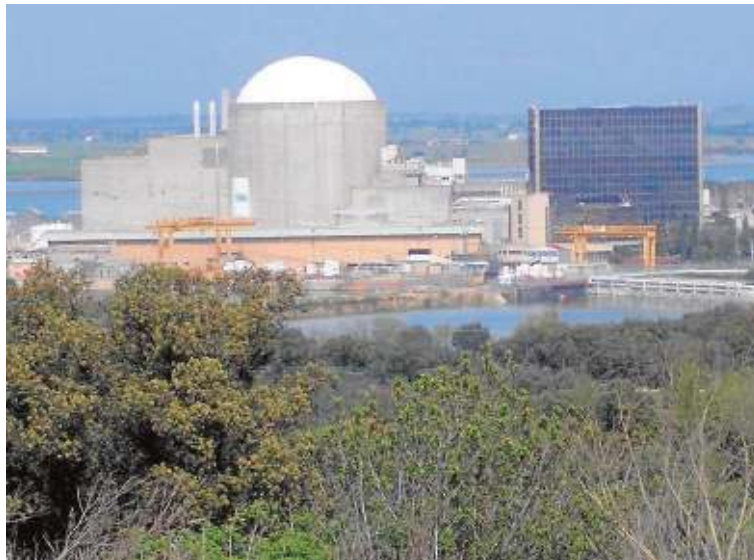
Three big operators have jointly agreed to ask for extensions to existing operating licences beyond planned wind-down dte

:: JOSÉ M. CAMARERO / NEIL HESKETH

**MADRID.** Spain appears to be edging towards finally phasing out nuclear power by 2035, an extension of seven years on the existing timetable. At a late-night meeting last week the big power generation companies who jointly operate much of the country's nuclear capacity agreed on a proposed exit timetable.

The government will now be asked to approve the companies' plan to wind down the five plants with seven reactors still remaining and their investment plan for handling nuclear waste in the meantime.

In 2017, over a fifth of Spain's power came from nuclear energy, the second source of power after renewable energy, which accounts for a third, and just ahead of coal. Successive governments have maintained a freeze on new nuclear plants for many years, citing the risk to the environment, and all plants were expected to close



Almaraz, in Extremadura, that could stay open several years more. :: SUR

by 2028.

Improved technology has meant nuclear power production has increased in existing plants and operating companies and government have been looking to agree how long the plants can really go on for. The facilities provide significant employment in rural areas, and political parties are sensitive to the impact of closure on local voters.

In the agreement last week, Iberdrola, Endesa and Naturgy, that

jointly operate the Almaraz nuclear power station in Extremadura, agreed to extend the life of that plant until 2028 when the current operating licence expires in 2021. Currently the last plant set to close is Trillo, in central Spain, in 2028 and under this new pact, it would go on until 2035. Companies also want the government to agree a spending cap on handling nuclear waste in the extension period to make it viable.

# Mexico asks Spain to say sorry for imperial "wrongdoing"

:: SUR

**MADRID.** The president of Mexico, Manuel López Obrador, said this week that he had written to King Felipe, as well as the Pope, asking them to say sorry for "the wrongdoing" carried out against indigenous peoples during the Spanish imperial conquest of the Americas.

"I sent a letter to the King of Spain and another to the Pope that lays out the offences and asking for them to say sorry to the native peoples for violations of what we now call Human Rights," the left-wing politician said in a message on Facebook.

The president launched his message on the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Centla, considered the first confrontation between the Spanish 'conquistadors' and the original inhabitants of Mexico. "There was slaughter, use of force. The so-called conquest was carried out by the sword and the Cross," he added. He said he hoped for a reconciliation before the 200th anniversary of Mexican independence in 2012.

The Spanish government has replied saying, "The arrival of the Spanish 500 years ago... can't be judged from a modern-day perspective".

# Opinion poll shows close race between left and right ahead of general election

:: SUR

**MADRID.** An opinion poll published by pollsters GAD3 this week suggests that the sum of the three right-of-centre parties may not be quite enough to oust the Socialist

government of Pedro Sánchez in the forthcoming general election on 28 April.

Sánchez's PSOE would still be the largest party on 131-134 seats but would need to pact with other parties for a 176 absolute majority.

The total of seats for the conservative Partido Popular, far-right newcomers Vox, and centre-right Ciudadanos would not be enough to make 176 either.

The split of the vote on the right showed up this week in tensions between those three parties, which the PSOE has been exploiting.

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# Low citrus prices are placing growers in a difficult situation

The prices depend on demand and supply, among other factors, and avocados are also being badly hit by imports from other countries

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

**MÁLAGA.** Agriculture is one of the sectors of the economy in which the price of the products is set by the market and not by the producer. It depends on supply and demand, and other factors which are impossible to control, such as the growth of the same products in rival countries.

At present, two products in particular are suffering a price crisis. The citrus fruit sector, where prices are nearly 50 per cent lower than last year, and olive oil, where prices have dropped between 30 and 35 per cent. However, they are not alone. Avocado producers have also been affected by a drop in prices, although these are now recovering. Others such as asparagus, garlic, mango and tomatoes were in a similar situation last year.

At the moment citrus fruit producers are not earning enough to cover their costs, and a similar situation is affecting the olive growers whose



Even with such low prices consumers aren't buying. **SUR**

products are used for oil.

Guillermo Aranda is the head of 'Citrimasat', the association of citrus fruit growers in Cártama. It has around 50 members, who produce oranges, mandarins, lemons and grapefruit in the Guadalhorce Valley. He says the present situation is disastrous for producers because prices are so low, but "we are still collecting the harvest,

not because it is profitable but because we have to think about the next one. If we leave the fruit on the trees, they won't produce as much next time," he explains. Low demand is also exacerbating the situation. "It is incomprehensible that people aren't buying oranges, which are high in vitamin C, when the price is so low," he says.

The farmers believe they just have to hope things improve. "Some people say we should grow something else instead, but it's not that easy," says Aranda.

Olive growers feel the same. As many trees grow on mountainsides, the olives used for oil have to be picked by hand, which involves costs of around 3.20 euros per kilo. If the oil is sold for less, they lose money. The bad news is that the ministry for Agriculture thinks things could get worse as the year goes on. At present olives for extra virgin oil are being sold for 2.47 euros a kilo, 2.13 euros a kilo for virgin oil and the lampante olives for 1.97 euros a kilo.

BERNARD FAY

## THE NEW TREATY ON GIBRALTAR



**T**he tax agreement reached to protect the financial interests of the respective parties is aimed at creating an effective cooperation between Spain and Gibraltar with respect to taxation. This is the first international treaty signed between Spain and the UK in relation to Gibraltar since the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 by which Britain gained sovereignty over Gibraltar.

The agreement has the ingredients of a win-win and parties involved or affected seem content with the outcome. Spain gain their long-demanded transparency from Gibraltar; the UK obtain Spanish support in the EU for their Brexit plans and Gibraltar obtains security for its people and residents who spend time in Spain, and the removal of Gibraltar from Spain's list of tax havens.

The agreement which was signed on March 4, is due to come into force imminently once each country has fulfilled its own approval processes which include cabinet and parliament approval.

The key elements of the agreement include clear "tie-breaker" rules on residence of individuals where there is a potential conflict of residence, the treatment of Gibraltar companies as resident of Spain where their main assets are in Spain or Spain constitutes their main source of income, or the owners or management are based in Spain.

The agreement also includes a provision for the respective tax authorities to eliminate double taxation where considered relevant in line with the respective internal legislation.

Another key element of the

agreement is the provision for a thorough cooperation between the respective tax authorities.

This cooperation will not be restricted to an exchange of information, but will include full disclosure, cooperation and mutual support in all administrative aspects of taxation including tax collection and not only of national tax authorities but also of local entities.

This cooperation will remain even after Brexit. All provisions in place within the EU for mutual administrative assistance will be replaced with equivalent measures to ensure that cooperation takes place in the broadest terms as applied in the OECD and the EU. Any new standards introduced in the future by the OECD and G20 will also apply.

Gibraltar will provide Spain with ample information regarding cross-border workers resident in Spain and vessels, aircraft and vehicles registered in Gibraltar belonging to Spanish residents. Direct and free access will be provided for the Spanish authorities to the Registrar of Companies, beneficial ownership information as is public or on request to the Commissioner of Income Tax in Gibraltar, including information regarding settlors, trustees, beneficiaries of trusts as well as other legal structures when the settlors, trustees, protectors or beneficiaries are Spanish residents.

This treaty should contribute to improving the relationship between Spain and Gibraltar.

*Bernard Fay is one of the managing partners of UHY Fay & Co in Spain, member of UHY International.*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Nineteen puppies

Nineteen puppies last week, three litters: one thrown into a rubbish container, another in the gutter, another outside the shelter. Poor puppies of hunting dogs, poor mothers of hunting puppies, hunters' waste. Noble and beautiful animals abandoned and mistreated by hunters.

Five galgos rescued from their owner. "I don't kill them, I take them to you or to the pound," said the star pupil of Pontius Pilate and his wash-basin.

Seprona announced that this last year only 61 galgos had been abandoned... well most of them are in our Malaga shelter... I'm not sure about the rest. Something has always caught my attention about galgos, apart from their kind faces and their calm and serene temperament: I've always seen them with their tails between their legs, a clear image of fear and insecurity. It's now, at the shelter, that I see them walking with volunteers, playing in the yard and something has changed in them, their faces are happy, their mouths smiling, and their tails wagging cheerfully. They have overcome their fears, they know they are safe, that no one will hurt them again.

Those figures really amaze me. I suppose this Alice in Wonderland calculation doesn't include the ones they kill every day in the dog pounds, the ones

that die in wells or are hanged, the ones that simply disappear, invisible dogs that have no chip. Let's be serious, neglect and cruelty are serious. Nobody can joke about the death and cruelty of being abandoned, which is the direct result of the lack of control the authorities over hunters.

The other day, after more than four hours' search, we rescued a large mongrel dog in the mountains with no chip, covered in wounds, which in turn were covered in maggots of one centimetre in length, its poor and beaten body full of pellets, having been used as a target, its front leg broken... these things make me think that we have turned Earth into animal hell.

I have sometimes received emails from people indignant at our requirements for adoption; they don't understand that for us it is vital to know that our adopting families really understand what it means to adopt an animal from the shelter; if they can't even understand that they have to fill in a questionnaire, go through a filter, sign an adoption contract and allow us to monitor progress, that we will choose which animal is most suitable for each family, then they haven't understood anything. We are talking about a living thing and we can't afford to make mistakes.

**CARMEN MANZANO**  
MALAGA

## Sense and sensor ability

**PETER EDGERTON**  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

**I**magine you live in a posh house with movement-sensor-operated lights in the bathroom. You've been tootling along nicely for three or four years, swishing in and out for teeth cleaning purposes, etc. without ever needing to flick even the merest of switches.

Then, one evening, you pop into the bathroom just before bedtime and... well, nothing. No light whatsoever. You crash about in a very undignified manner until you're eventually able to locate the door knob and make good your escape, bloodied but unbowed.

As you sit there on the edge of the bed with an ice pack glued to your head and your wife's gleeful laughter ringing in your ears, what's on your mind apart from "If she thinks we're still going shopping on Saturday, she can think again"?

I'm pretty sure it'd be something like "I must get a new bulb

for the bathroom light tomorrow."

So, the next day you replace the bulb and then.... nothing. Your wife's schadenfreude is, by now, morphing into mild irritation and you're thinking "It must be the sensor. I'll get one tomorrow." So, you replace the sensor and then... nothing. Well, not nothing exactly, since you manage to short out the circuit and nearly fall off the ladder. You're wife is ominously silent by now and you think it may be prudent to do the shopping thing after all.

As you lie in bed that night, mulling over your next move in what has undisputedly become something of a soap opera, it hits you like, well, like a shorted out circuit, actually. The fuse! If it's not the bulb and it's not the sensor, it must be the fuse! And, sure enough, leafing through your age-addled memory banks, you do recall meddling in the fuse box on the night in question. You must

have lowered the wrong switch, you fool. You race to rectify everything in the fuse box and put the old bulb and the original sensor back in. And then.... light! Wahaaay! Success. All you need to do now is tuck the sensor and its cables back into the ceiling panels and then... Crack! It shorts out again and you nearly fall from your ladder again and you really think your fuming wife might just give you a little nudge this time to make sure.

You call an electrician. He comes and fixes everything in a jiffy. You're life is a total failure and you're very definitely going to be traipsing around Zara at the weekend.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is a reasonable synopsis of this week's bathroom light antics at The Shakespeare although I do admit to adding the wife character just to make my life seem more interesting.

I know, it hasn't worked.

## IDÍGORAS

TWENTY  
THOUSAND  
LEAGUES  
UNDER  
THE SEA



**SUR** English

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**I**t might be a good idea to start proposing the traditional 'chiringuito' beach restaurant for world heritage status along with the skewered sardine espetos, because they're an endangered species. It's such a shame because these are things that we don't celebrate much when we have them, but we'd miss dearly if they started to disappear. And every year there are fewer of them.

You can dine well in a whole lot of restaurants in Malaga, but just as well, and with almost the same things on offer, as in any other city or town in Spain and abroad. The majority have nothing special to make them worth remembering. Just ask people who come for the weekend or on holiday where they would like

to eat and what they want to order.

The chiringuito is one of those things that you find here and only here, along with the 'venta' inns in the Montes de Málaga, the stalls in the central market where you squeeze in to eat tapas, and the ability to eat fresh fish with your feet in

the sand, a beer in your hand as you gaze out across the Mediterranean. Who needs meditation with this dose of mindfulness. We're lucky that the Montes mountains are not an area likely to be pinpointed by a multinational to set up a branch of the type of restaurants that are opening now,

which all look like they've been cut from the same pattern, Nordic-looking new furniture with a fake vintage look and chairs that don't match.

Globalisation has done so much damage. We hadn't realised that if we all watched the same series, wore the same clothes, celebrated Halloween and graduation parties after every possible year and travelled to the same places, other things that we did like are going to change as well.

What can you expect from a new generation of kids who might not like having breakfast at home because the milk tastes of cow, but when they start going out with their friends, the coolest thing to do is go to a cereal bar for a bowl of brightly coloured milk with cereals, marshmallows, Smarties and a load of top-

pings. In other words what we used to call a bowl of milk and cocoa pops. And they charge them five or six euros each, as if it were a gin and tonic. And they love it.

Some time ago I decided that the dishes I like best are those whose flavours hold memories for me: a traditional stew; a proper paella, a cold gazpacho and a slice of potato tortilla.

And the truth is that however many new things I try, some of them really good, I don't get up in the morning with the idea of going back for more of that dish whose ostentatious name I can't remember or its flavour.

We'll end up all drinking coffee in large plastic cups as we hurry through the streets. All in good time.

## From sardines to cereals

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# Under the spell of San Miguel de Allende

This romantic city boasts colonial architecture, contemporary art and fabulous food

ANDREW FORBES

Twitter: @andrewaforbes

At this time of year, the light in the central highlands of Mexico is clear and intense. It's reminiscent of the seductive spectrum of Tarifa or Tangier, yet instead of bouncing off Atlantic blues, here it illuminates a warm palate of earthy tones and striking colours that could only be Mexican.

The elegant façades of San Miguel's Spanish colonial era architecture have the weatherworn patina of age: terracotta, saffron, rusty orange and ochre. There are shades of violet and rose too; and accents of bright crimson from swathes of bougainvillea and the bubble gum pink of flowerbox geraniums.

## Romantic wanderers

The city has captured the imagination of visitors for more than a century. Writers, artists and romantic wanderers have come seeking inspiration or escapism among the narrow streets of colourful buildings. Over the decades many have stayed, also seduced by the warm, dry climate, superb food and hospitable locals.

The dreamy spires and domes of San Miguel are dominated by the pastel pink neo-gothic Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel church. It has a fairy-tale look, with elaborate pinnacles added to the tower in the 19th century. The adjacent garden square is filled with the aromas of street food vendors by day; and the tunes of the local mariachi bands by night.



A typical street in San Miguel de Allende; colour choices have to be approved. :: A. FORBES

While strolling through town, expect to be captivated by richly ornate palaces; or enticed to explore garden patios and tranquil courtyards glimpsed through archways.

As a Unesco World Heritage site, the city authorities take preservation and conservation very seriously. I passed a historic house under renovation; the bare exterior walls featured four half-metre squares painted in different shades of brown. My curiosity led me to discover that these are the colour choices approved for the owner. A carefully curated palate means that San Miguel's joyous juxtaposition

of colour and texture looks set to be maintained for the future.

## Cosmopolitan city

The magic isn't broken by ugly corporate signage or shop promotions either. Look out for multicoloured ribbons hanging from the wrought iron window bars; they are your sign that there's a coffee shop, gallery or boutique open for business. There is an impressive array of sophisticated stores, galleries, bars and restaurants that cater for locals, visitors, and the growing number of residential tourists from Canada and America. Almost a fifth of the population are for-

Writers, artists and romantic wanderers have come seeking inspiration or escapism

Multicoloured ribbons are your sign that there's a coffee shop, gallery or boutique

eign residents; artists, artisans, and retired people enjoy the high quality of life offered in this safe, clean and elegant town. I'm told some 60 nationalities call San Miguel home.

Its early lunchtime and I've headed up to a shaded 'azotea' roof terrace to try a few tacos. It's a welcome respite from the strong sunshine (San Miguel sits at almost 2000 metres above sea level), and a moment to rest tired feet after treading the unforgiving stone-cobbled streets.

The roof terrace bar is busy with locals; the sound of chatter and laughter fills the space. San Miguel may be a tourist favourite, but it's

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also very much a living place where the residents enjoy the city as much as the visitors.

The server brings our drinks - margaritas of course! Yet not made with classic tequila. Instead, it is 'Mezcal de Tamarindo', made with mezcal, a strong alcohol (like tequila) fermented from the 'piña' heart of the agave. It has a delicious smoky flavour. The tamarind adds a tantalising sweet-sour taste.

It perfectly complemented the creative 'taco de jicama', filled with tasty fried prawns and a light dressing of tamarind sauce. There's a wealth of creative cuisine in the city from local taco joints to upscale north American steak houses and modern Mexican fine-dining.

For a flavour of local produce, head to one of San Miguel's markets. The main fruit and vegetable market in the old town is fascinating - look up and you will see dozens of papier mâché piñatas hanging over the neatly laid stalls of regional produce.

#### Rural Mexico

I had arrived at Mexico City airport and took a car transfer for the three and half drive up to San Miguel. The route is mainly motorway, passing a few of the fast-growing cities of central Mexico like Querétaro, reminding me that this is indeed



Flowers and piñatas in San Miguel market. :: A. FORBES

North America. Yet once away from the cities, one sees the more humble, slower pace of Mexican country life: roadside vendors selling baskets of fresh strawberries; and mobile taco stands, surrounded by hungry lunchtime customers.

The scenery becomes increasingly arid, with tall cacti and distinctive acacia trees lining the road. As one approaches San Miguel, the landscape becomes dotted with large farmsteads. Some of these cowboy ranchos have become B&Bs, weekend retreats for city slickers or luxury homes for retired North Americans.

Yet it's in town that one will find

most hotels and guest houses. The luxury hotel groups have begun to arrive, like Belmond (with their alluring 17th century heritage property, Casa de Sierra Nevada); and Rosewood (with a purpose-built estate on the edge of old town).

Yet to truly feel immersed in the sensory experience of this colourful city I recommend staying in a boutique property.

#### Romantic Oasis

San Miguel is all about art and architecture - and you'll find plenty at 'Casa No Name'. It was once the home of fashion photographer Deborah Turbeville, and this 18th



A traditional street vendor. :: A. FORBES

century house exudes a creative, artistic ambiance. Elegantly restored, the property is renowned for its frescos that adorn the courtyard walls. Even if you don't stay, it is worth a visit to enjoy a drink and take in the mix of ancient and modern art.

#### Modern Mexico

Hotel Matilda, found on one of the city's most picturesque streets, 'Aldama', is where one discovers a fresh perspective of artistic San Miguel. Created by Tennessee businessman and local resident Harold Steam, the hotel is all about modern Mexico. The clean lines and muted

tones of this contemporary property are the perfect showcase for Mexican art, including sculptures by internationally renowned artists Javier Marín and Rodrigo Lara Zendejas.

I stayed one Sunday night in early February. Relaxing in my room, before dinner, it was a joy to feel the warm evening air, sweet with the floral scent of jasmine outside. Below I heard classic vocal jazz tunes mix with the chatter and laughter of dinner guests in the hotel's Moxi Restaurant. It was one of those simple yet captivating moments.

A visit to San Miguel de Allende will create many such memories; it's spellbinding.

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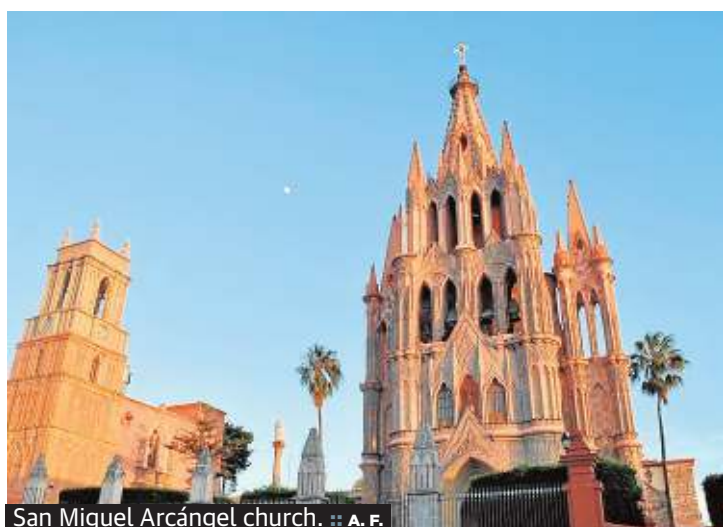
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## THE INSIDER GUIDE

# San Miguel de Allende



San Miguel Arcángel church. :: A. F.

## ANDREW FORBES

This Unesco World Heritage city, in Mexico's central highlands, is the American Capital of Culture for 2019.

## STAY:

### Hotel Matilda

Hotel Matilda is a boutique property that fuses the colonial colour of San Miguel's past with the contemporary creativity of modern Mexico. It is home to the stylish Bar Müi, known for its creative mixology; a beautiful spa; pool and terrace; and signature contemporary Mexican dining at Moxi Restaurant.

I believe this is the only contemporary hotel in the city. Guestrooms have an uncluttered aesthetic; and luxurious bathrooms. Expect large flat-screen TVs, Bluetooth speaker too.

The property is a remarkable showcase for contemporary Mexican style. For example, hanging in the central atrium, bringing together all the floors of the building, is 'Blue Pangaea' by Bosco Sodi, probably the hotel's signature masterpiece. It is like staying within a living art gallery. It's more than décor; it's the soul of the property. One that perfectly complements San Miguel as a centre for international art. Every space of Hotel Matilda is defined by creativity from collages, paintings, photography, to sculpture.

**HotelMatilda.com**

### Casa No Name

This historic former bishop's palace has to be one of the most romantic places in San Miguel de Allende. Once linked secretly to the nearby convent by hidden tunnels, Casa No Name is full of old-

world charm. The six guest rooms are cosy - and each is unique in style. Exquisite attention to detail even extends to the beautiful signature scent.

The courtyard patio is the stand-out feature of the property. Guests can enjoy breakfast while enjoying the extraordinary rare frescos that adorn the walls. At the back of the house is a secret garden, the 'Jardin Lorca', a space dedicated to the Spanish poet where guests are invited to sit, relax, and maybe "meditate on the poetry that is life". Take the time-worn stone staircase up to the roof and discover the contemporary terrace. By day, take a plunge in the small pool, relax on sun loungers, or enjoy a massage in the spa tent. At sundown this azotea becomes the hip place in town for cocktails. This artsy hotel also hosts cultural events throughout the year as part of San Miguel's vibrant art scene.

**CasaNoName.com.mx**

## EAT:

### Moxi Restaurant

Moxi Restaurant is an integral part of the sophisticated contemporary guest experience at Hotel Matilda. Here the team of Executive Chef Francisco Ibáñez celebrate Mexican cuisine from a modern perspective. Try starters like Burrata with salsa verde and fried tortilla; and main dishes of ceviche with ginger; or Tatemado avocado, sautéed prawns with lime mayonnaise. If you don't make it for dinner, then certainly try and reserve a table for Saturday brunch.

**Moxi.com.mx**

### Luna Rooftop Tapas Bar

To experience a memorable sunset across the rooftops and spires of San Miguel, head to the Luna Rooftop Tapas Bar at the upscale Rosewood Hotel. This destination bar is where mixologists prepare artisanal cocktails; and the menu includes flatbreads and pizzas from the wood-fired oven, as well as creative tapas like Octopus and Potatoes Bravas Style, or gourmet tacos including Ribeye, with Guacamole and Grilled Chiles.

**RosewoodHotels.com**

### Bovine Brasserie

Found within the uber stylish Código Postal Design building - a



Hotel Casa No Name.



Hotel Matilda.

where you can enjoy a special menu inspired by the tequila Casa Dragones.

**BovineRestaurant.com.mx**

### La Azotea Tapas Bar

Unesco has recognised traditional Mexican food as a world treasure. Yet that doesn't stop San Miguel's chef's creating new taco recipes. La Azotea is a good choice to try some of the best.

### Café La Sacristía

Coffee shop with charming courtyard patio.

**La-Sacristia-Patio-Cafe.nego-cio.site**

### Quince Rooftop

ively late-night place for drinks and music.

**QuinceRooftop.com**

## DO:

### Bellas Artes Fine Art School

San Miguel has more than a hundred galleries showcasing folk to contemporary art. The city's art scene is said to have been kick-started by a Peruvian artist who established the Escuela de Bellas Artes Art School in 1927. Permanent and temporary exhibits to be enjoyed.

### Fábrica La Aurora

This cool Art & Design centre also has some truly tempting boutiques selling artisan products.

**FabricaLaAurora.com**

## TRAVEL:

To get up up-to-date information on the city's Food, Art and Cultural festivals check the Mexican Tourism website and search 'San Miguel de Allende'

**VisitMexico.com**

San Miguel is served by two regional airports; Queretaro Airport (QRO) about an hour away; and also Leon's Del Bajío Airport (BJX), the most popular, about 75 minutes away.

Most intercontinental flights from Europe arrive at Mexico City's Benito Juárez airport (MEX). Here one can pick up a rental car or pre-book a private or shared shuttle transfer from suppliers such as BajíoGo.



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## WHERE IN THE WORLD?



# King for a day

**T**his fashionable and iconic neighbourhood, known for its narrow canals, trendy shops and 'nine little streets', will take on a completely different ambience on 27 April as the city, as well as

the nation, celebrates King's Day. Amid live music, DJs, parties and a citywide flea market where the locals turn out to sell their unwanted goods, you'll find an electric atmosphere in the streets and on the many canals which

become filled with brightly-decorated boats.

Food stalls also pop up to provide revellers with much-needed sustenance. King's Day may be a public holiday, but it certainly isn't a day of rest, with fun tra-

ditionally beginning on the eve of the big day. Thousands of people, especially from abroad, flock to the city for an extended break.

One distinguishing feature will be the colour on show, chosen because its name features in



FEBRUARY'S PHOTO

that of the royal family. People from this country and its national football team are also closely associated with the colour.

Please send the name of the neighbourhood pictured and the colour so widely displayed on this day to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es). Only entries with your full name, address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed the French Quarter of New Orleans (USA) where the Mardi Gras celebrations, featuring large helpings of gumbo, took place.

Congratulations to Peter Rowland in La Viñuela who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

Send your answer to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es)

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Participants on the ARCH charity walk in Coín. :: RON ASKEW PHOTOGRAPHY



Brenda and Tommy Heanny (r) with Joe Tiernan and Kathy O Flynn. :: SUR

## SOCIETY SCENE

## Celebrating, learning and fundraising

A charity walk for horses, lessons in garden design and photography and a look back at interesting lives have all been on the agenda this week

## :: SUR IN ENGLISH

### English Cemetery Foundation Landscaping talk

Garden and landscape designer José Valdeón gave an illustrated lecture last Friday at the English Cemetery in Malaga, entitled 'Gardens around the corner: landscape architecture in Europe'.

Organised by the English Cemetery Foundation, the talk started with an indictment of some of the public spaces in the city, which Valdeón said were badly maintained and failed to provide the greenery and shade that Malaga badly needs.

He went on to comment on a series of public spaces around Europe, including gardens, parks and former industrial sites in the UK, Belgium, Spain and Germany, illustrating with photos how they had been designed to provide colourful and interesting environments and improved city centres.

The lecture was well received by an international audience with requests for further talks to be sched-



Gloria Nichols in Molina. :: D. GREY

uled on the English Cemetery's programme of cultural events.

## Mollina RBL

### A lifetime of entertainment

Members and friends of Mollina branch of the Royal British Legion recently heard the memories of Gloria Nichols who since the age of three has dedicated her life to the



Coín RBL photographers. :: SUR

entertainment of others. Starting off in revues produced by her aunt's dancing school, Gloria quickly progressed through various entertainment groups until she established her own professional dance troupe The Bow Bells, performing at theatres across the world.

Before retiring from the boards

after 79 years, Gloria produced an amateur theatre group in Mollina where she met up with Rita and Laurie Arundale who assisted with her presentation by wearing a small number of the many costumes designed and produced by Gloria.

## Retirement

### Farewell at the Banana Tree

Brenda and Tommy Heanny, proprietors of the famous landmark Banana Tree restaurant on the Paseo Marítimo in Marbella for the past 25 years, celebrated their retirement on Sunday having sold the successful business. They invited all their many clients, staff and friends to a banquet to celebrate and thank all for their loyalty.

## ARCH

### Charity walk for horses

A charity walk along the river in Coín raised over 500 euros for ARCH, the Andalucian Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys.

It was organised by Sabrina Hope, who adopted the Shetland mare Pepita and also celebrated the first birthday of Pepsi, Pepita's foal. Both mother and son were suitably dressed up for the occasion.

ARCH is now open to the public each Sunday morning from 9am until 12 noon. Visitors can meet the current rescue horses and chat to volunteers.

Visit [www.horserescuespain.org](http://www.horserescuespain.org), Facebook page 'Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos' or telephone 610845491 or 656935613.

## Coín RBL

### Photography competition

The Coín branch of the Royal British Legion held its annual photographic competition at La Parilla de Pepe on Wednesday last week.

The subject was 'doors' and submissions were judged in a single category.

First place was awarded to Kerry Newell for a photograph of a quaint door framed by two huge trees.

Second place went to Rosie Brown and third to Monique Mansfield.

## What are you up to?

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

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JENNIE RHODES

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

29 MARCH 1985

## Successful end to Spain's talks to join the EEC

Then Prime Minister, Felipe González, addressed the country in a televised speech about the "hope" and "modernity" that membership of the European Economic Community would bring

On 29 March 1985 over 20 years of negotiations with what was then the European Economic Community (EEC) reached a positive outcome when Spain's accession to the bloc was agreed.

The announcement was made following a visit to Madrid by a delegation of EEC negotiators from Brussels, who were met at the city's Barajas airport by Spain's foreign affairs minister of the time, Fernando Morán, and secretary of state for relations with the EEC, Manuel Marín.

## Hope

That evening then prime minister Fe-

lipe González addressed the nation in a televised speech during which he delivered a message of "hope" and "modernity" for the country's future. He spoke of an "irreversible step" to join the EEC and of a "solution to the age-old isolation" of Spain.

The news was welcomed in Malaga and SUR published an interview with five lecturers from the University of Malaga, who felt that in particular the province's tourism and agriculture sectors would receive a "boost" from membership.

Juan Antonio Gallego, an Economics teacher who was working



The EEC flag is added to Granada city hall. :: SUR



González and Morán sign the treaty. :: SUR

in Brussels at the time, said that it signalled "a new era for Spanish businesses". Despite concerns over the introduction of VAT in the tourism sector, Enrique Torres, a lecturer of economic policy, was confident that tourism in Malaga would "continue to be the cheapest in Europe". His com-

ments came amid fears that Greece, which had joined the EEC in 1981, might veto Spain's membership over concerns about the impact on its tourism industry.

The first application made by Spain to join came in February 1962 by the then foreign affairs minister, Fernando María Cas-

tiella. However, Spain was still in the grip of Franco's dictatorship, which went against the EU's principles of democracy. In 1977 Adolfo Suárez's government tried again and he was accepted onto the Council of Europe. This was taken as a positive sign that the country was well on its way to EEC membership.

On 12 June 1985 the accession treaty was formally signed by the EEC and Spain and the country officially joined, along with neighbouring Portugal, on 1 January 1986.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Negociación	Negotiation
Europeo	European
Esperanza	Hope
Acuerdo	Agreement
Tratado	Treaty
Discurso	Speech
Economía	Economy
Relaciones	Relations
Socio	Partner
Modernidad	Modernity
Entrevista	Interview
Mercado	Market
Solución	Solution
Solicitar	To apply for
Aeropuerto	Airport
Miembro	Member

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## REF. N. U. A.

I am Belgian and have been in a relationship with a Moroccan citizen for three years now. We are both residents in Spain and have just had a daughter. My partner's sister wants to come and live with us in Spain. Could we obtain the necessary documentation for her to be here legally, bearing in mind that she is going to help us with our daughter?

Unfortunately, that is not possible. Foreigners from countries that do not belong to the European Union, as in the case of your sister-in-law, need to obtain a work and residence permit in order to live in Spain, as being the sister of a resident does not grant preference. This preference applies only to spouses and children, but not to siblings. Therefore, your sister-in-law may come to visit you for a period of up to 90 days applying for the corresponding visa or process her documentation to obtain work and residence permit through the usual channels.

## REF. Y. H. C.

We have been looking for some time for a tourist apartment where we can spend our holidays in Spain. We have seen an apartment that is near the beach, and we have already contacted the owner, in order to get info about the rental conditions, which

would be for the whole month of August. In general, the information he has given us seems fine, but in relation to the electricity and water, he tells us that we will have to pay separately. When he receives the invoices corresponding to the month of August, he will send us an e-mail so that we can pay him the amount. I find this a little strange and very impractical, as we want to know beforehand how much we are going to spend on our holidays. Should the amount of supplies not be included in the rental price?

It all depends on what you agree with the owner. However, normally, in this kind of apartment, and because it would not be reasonable to change the name of the supply contracts for a single month, and it would also be difficult to calculate the exact cost of consumption, the price of water and electricity should be included in the rental price.

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DENISE BUSH



## GARDENING

## Sticky corkscrew lily

**Native to South Africa, this unusual little plant has corkscrew leaves and fragrant green and yellow flowers**

*Albuca spiralis* is a member of the Asparagaceae family and native to a wide area around the Cape in South Africa where it grows in dry grassland, open woodland and on scrubland.

It is a perennial bulb that flowers during the winter and early spring and goes dormant during the summer. Common names include spiral-leaved *Albuca*, slime lily (the stems exude a slimy sap

when broken), sticky corkscrew lily and helicopter plant. It can be planted in containers or in rock gardens but small groupings are best for the most striking effect.

It is extremely unusual to look at as it has corkscrew leaves (some species are more twisted than others and those in more sunlight also curl more tightly) and has the added attraction of elegant, tall flower stems with loose racemes

of nodding, green flowers edged with creamy white or yellow. The flowers are scented and said to smell like vanilla. Each bulb produces just one flowering stem up to a metre tall and the flowers and the foliage are covered with fine, downy hairs. The characteristic leaves are produced when the summer is over and the temperature drops; during the summer they start to wilt and turn yellow and can then be removed.

*Albuca spiralis* is not resistant to frost but is drought tolerant, once established. When first planted, the bulbs will need regular watering but this can then be reduced. In order to ensure flowering the following year, it is a good idea to feed with a liquid fertiliser during the growing season. The soil should be free draining as like most bulbs, they can rot if they sit in waterlogged soil.

Propagation can be carried out from sowing fresh seed although they hybridise easily and resulting plants may not be the same as the parent and they can take three years to flower. Some species, but not all, produce bulblets which can be removed and potted up.

The *Albuca* genus has around 150 species but few are cultivated; the cultivar 'Frizzle sizzle' is said to have curlier leaves than other species.



The sticky corkscrew lily and close-up of flowers. :: WIKIPEDIA / FLICKR

## READER'S PHOTO



:: JILL REYNOLDS

## A BEE MAGNET

Wisteria really comes into its own in the spring and SUR in English has received lots of photos of some beautiful specimens. This one is growing over the terrace railings belonging to Jill Reynolds and must be attracting lots of attention, not just from the bees.

## GARDENING IN APRIL

## The battle begins

The arrival of spring means lots of fresh, succulent new shoots are appearing which slugs and snails find irresistible. Check pots, especially underneath, for lurking molluscs. They love to hide in dark, damp places during the day so you can trick them by placing scooped-out halves of oranges or grapefruits, cut side down, near vulnerable plants but check them frequently. Jam jars half-filled with beer (apparently Guinness is preferred) sunk in to the ground will also attract them. You can now buy or-

ganic slug pellets, made with ferric phosphate instead of the lethal metaldehyde but the debate is ongoing as to whether these are as safe (or as effective) as they say. Encouraging other wee beasts will also help reduce numbers of slugs and snails. Beetles and centipedes both devour slugs (not millipedes however, they prefer the young shoots of plants...) and will appreciate a small pile of dried grass or straw and a few stones, under an up-turned box.

## PHOTOS

## Calling all gardeners

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

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

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## IN THE FRAME

## Art influencer

**A**rt and language are words that flow together well. Back in the Swinging Sixties, a group of British artists known as Art & Language founded Art-Language, The Journal of Conceptual Art. More familiar to the general public, as Yoko Ono was one of its figureheads, the Fluxus visual and performing arts collective also made waves in the 1960s.

Now, Ida Willadsen, the owner-director of the Malaca Instituto, an award-winning language school based in Malaga, has brought a fresh twist to “in situ” - or, should we say, “in bed with” - art, via Flow & Art, an on-going artists residency project.

**Flow & Art**

Ida creates a welcoming atmosphere at the Malaca Instituto, a “mini campus”, offering a palette of in-house facilities including a buffet restaurant/tapas bar, a gym/flamenco/salsa room and a swimming pool in the summer.

“Our key words are ‘cariño’ and ‘cuidado’, there is somebody at reception round the clock and one of our secretaries is a qualified nurse; details like this are reassuring, when you’re away from home - discovering a new country,” she reflects.

The school celebrated its 45th anniversary a couple of years ago. However, it is hard to beat in terms of educational and commercial creativity. The fruit of informal brain-



Ida Willadsen outside her school in Malaga. :: SUR

**Ida Willadsen takes ‘creative fluency’ to new heights, at the Malaca Instituto, her language school, in the hills above Pedregalejo**

GEORGINA OLIVER

storming sessions, during which teachers and managers join forces, Flow & Art is a shining example of this inventive approach.

The bright spark behind Flow & Art is managing director, Nieves Poza, and her face lights up when she recalls how her brainwave materialised; how online applications “flowed in” from a first batch of artists “from all over the world and of all ages”; how “each of them received plans and pictures” of the bedrooms and bathrooms requiring a makeover; and, above all... how much she enjoyed accompanying the winners to supplies stores, where they could select materials. The deal? Board and lodging plus a free language course, in exchange for letting their imagination run wild.

A corridor, on the fifth floor, sets the tone; a Chilean artist has decked its walls with interlinked lines “representing universality”; behind each door, equipped with a hotel-like electronic lock, lies a unique concept; each decor tells a story.

In the Picnic Room a stylised outline of a deer’s head displayed on a triangular sky-blue background takes pride of place above twin beds, beckoning the occupants into a bucolic haven; in another room, a British painter has drawn inspiration from Andalusian rock formations. Yet another, called Correspondencias, features a “guest book” installation with wall pegs, on which students are invited to hang cardboard luggage tags,

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penning personal impressions.

Sounds more like a cutting-edge marketing college than a run-of-the-mill language school? Funnily enough, I spotted a Flow & Art mug in the glass cabinet, facing the reception counter. Talk about merchandising. Customised wine bottles are showcased in the lobby, alongside course manuals and excursion announcements.

### Roommates

Ida and I go back a long way, so I know where she's coming from, when she asserts that "Experience, experience... and more of the same..." is her school's chief asset, but that experience "can be a danger too". Letting ideas flow, keeping up the creativity, are buzzwords, which she updates with the determination of a diligent student, who has blossomed into a seasoned entrepreneur.

Before Erasmus, before our respective countries, Denmark and the UK, joined the EU, Ida and I were part of the ebb and flow of language students that stream in and out of the Costa del Sol every summer. Enrolled in the same school, across the road from our host family, we were roommates, and struck up a friendship.

Both beanpoles (she, 6ft plus, like a catwalk model...), both mini-skirted "guiris" (she, sporting a pudding basin cut à la Mary Quant; me, in flower power regalia), we were head-turners - nay, traffic-stoppers - in Franco-



## A collector from youth, Ida's home is filled with a mix of edgy eye-catchers and works by Dámaso Ruano

### Both beanpoles and mini-skirted "guiris", we were head-turners in Franco-era Malaga

up in a creative environment: "My mother kept an open house, receiving artists and writers, at all hours", we had common interests, which we still share.

#### Art of living

"Art has always been part of my life," Ida Willadsen declares. A collector from youth, her home is filled with a mix of family treasures and edgy eye-catchers, such as the iconic pendant lamp - "present in all Danish homes" - designed by Poul Henningsen for Louis Poulsen, hanging above the dining table, and paintings by Dámaso Ruano. Lauded for his geometric landscapes streaked with poetic rips, Dámaso died in 2014, within a month of being awarded the City of Malaga's medal of honour. "I visited his studio in Tetuán in the early 70s, and was enthralled by his native Morocco, full of contrasts," Ida muses.

Striking a balance between cash

flow and art de vivre can't be easy. Forever getting something fixed, my former school buddy is a "walking, talking" powerhouse. Drilling sounds and the smell of damp cement added to the excitement, when Flow & Art was under way, and last time I popped in, the administrative wing was abuzz with preholiday urgency. The Instituto is a hive of activity, open all year round except at yuletide, and its queen bee was off to a Babette's Feast, with her nearest and dearest.

Having visited Denmark since our youthful encounter, I see where my fellow art lover's urge to embellish daily life springs from; during a post-prandial walk - among the highlights of a trip to the Asger Jorn Foundation, in Jutland - I peeked into people's homes; it was summer yet a feel of wintery cosiness emanated from those modern living rooms.

Ida Willadsen has exported her homeland's legendary "Hygge" - warm, welcoming spirit - to sun-drenched Malaga. Catering to every learner profile under the sun - from beginners to linguists requiring a qualification to teach Spanish; from gap year students to university graduates; from business buffs to globetrotting retirees... - she whips up activities to get them talking. Cooking classes are an opportunity to gather around the stove or chopping board, preparing Spanish specialties.

Flow & Art is an apt metaphor for Ida's artful management style. Here,

everybody - from the head of studies to her international sales reps - has an office, a place to call home, but they convene - at the drop of a marker pen - to get their creative juices flowing.

The running joke, among Ms Willadsen's teamsters? That she's done "incredibly well" for "a Viking in Macholand". She strikes a pose, the epitome of casual executive chic, in her pencil-skinny jeans and multi-zipped jacket. For a split second I fear that she may have lost her wry sense of humour, but "nej!" "Every time I pick up an award, I think they're talking about somebody else," she jests, surrounded by trophies. "I wonder whether we tricked the jury into believing the school has so much to offer."

#### Mucho arte

Walking down the slope leading from Cerrado de Calderón, the leafy residential enclave where my Nordic pal has set up school, to Pedregalejo, our erstwhile "playground" on the seafront, I look at an urban mural left by a Flow & Art participant.

Katrina Kolk "came back especially" to paint a skit of Picasso's Guernica, revisiting symbols of Malaga - Pablo, his dove of peace, "espetos", a wine jar, Semana Santa.

My "Brilliant Friend" has become an art influencer, on the Costa. As they say in Andalucía, "Tiene mucho arte!"



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Sí  
Oui  
Ja  
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## EXHIBITIONS

**Julia Roder****San Pedro.** Until 8 April. *Arte Sonsoles, C/Santa Gemma.*A new exhibition of works by artist Julia Roder. Open afternoons 5-8pm, mornings by appointment only. [info@artesonsoles.com](mailto:info@artesonsoles.com) [artesonsoles.com](http://artesonsoles.com)**Filip Cusic****Malaga.** Until 15 May. *La Térmica, Avda de Los Guindos.* Free.

The Spanish/Croatian artist Filip Cusic, is exhibiting a selection of his works under the title Homo-? The audio-visual display symbolises the evolution of mankind in which Cusic tempers the negativity and tragedies of the past with an optimistic iconography.



Filip Cusic, Malaga

**Matisse****Malaga.** Until 9 June. *Centro Pompidou, Muelle Uno.*

A selection of 50 works by the French artist Henri Matisse are on display at the centre.

**Lázara Moreno****Mijas.** Until 1 April. *Casa de la Cultura de las Lagunas, Mijas.*

An exhibition by Lázara Moreno. The artist explores feelings, dreams and abstract drawings, in surrealist and realist styles.

**Photograph exhibition****La Herradura.** Until 30 March. *Centro Cívico.*

The II Muestra Fotográfica Colectiva Granada Nueve is organised by the FotoClub Almuñécar / La Herradura and is a collection of around one hundred

# Torremolinos unites for two-day multicultural festival

:: TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** Representatives from 18 countries will participate in the Foreign Residents Day festival in Torremolinos next Saturday, 6 and Sunday, 7 April. This year will be the 25th edition of the multicultural festival, which will promote the cultural traditions of the different nationalities in the town.

The festival will be held in Plaza La Nogalera and will offer examples of the diverse gastronomy of South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. A small street market will be installed in the square, where visitors can browse among the many stalls offering aromatic spices and perfumes, traditional clothing, handmade jewellery and crafts. Several local associations and organisations will also be represented, including Cudeca, the Royal British Legion and La



The festival promotes the folklore and cuisine of 18 countries. :: TB.

Cala Lions Club.

The festival will begin with the colourful parade of the participating countries at 12pm on Saturday. Live performances of different world music, including flamenco, Argentinian tango, calypso and jazz, will take place throughout the day until 11.30pm. The festival con-

tinues on Sunday from midday until 5.30pm. The event is an ideal opportunity to experience the cultural diversity of the town's cosmopolitan backcloth. More than 13,000 foreigners from 120 different countries live in Torremolinos and represent approximately one fifth of the total population.

photos on various themes taken by the members of the 14 Granada groups that come under the Granada Nueve umbrella.

## CHARITY

**Mods and Rockers****Mijas.** 30 March. *Millenium Bar, Calahonda.* 10€

Local musicians including One Wish Steve, will be performing at a concert to raise money for DEBRA, the charity for children and adults who suffer from 'butterfly skin'. DJ Steve Goodey will also be there and Los Motos Locos Scooter Club will be exhibiting their Lambrettas and Vespas. Tickets: the Millenium Bar in Calahonda or DEBRA offices in

Marbella.

**Piano Paradiso****Malaga.** 30 March, 7pm. *Conservatorio de Música Martín Tenillado.*

Fifteen film sound tracks and 17 pianists plus the school orchestra and guests Marco Socias (guitar) and Anabel Conde (vocals). Money raised to support Fundación Andrés Olivares and the Sociedad Protectora de Animales y Plantas de Málaga charities. Tickets: ticketea.com More information on Facebook Piano Paradiso.

**Salliver School Charity Run****Fuengirola.** 31 March, from 11am. *Reserva del Higueron urbanisation.* To raise money for Cudeca cancer Hospice, the Salliver School has or-ganised a 4km and a 8km charity run with the support of the staff at Reserva del Higueron. Inscription is 5€ and can be done at the school, at the Reserva or by email ([sport-club@reservadelhigueronresort.com](mailto:sport-club@reservadelhigueronresort.com)).**Charity dinner for El Refugio del Burrito****Mijas Costa.** 5 April, 8pm. *Da Bruno Ristorante, Centro Idea.*39.90€  
A charity three-course dinner with live entertainment and raffle with 10€ of each ticket going to the donkey sanctuary. Reservations: 952460724 or email [mijas-costa@dabruno.com](mailto:mijas-costa@dabruno.com) or 654513380, [starbabi-es5@gmail.com](mailto:starbabi-es5@gmail.com)**Concert for Autism charity****Estepona.** 5 April, 10.30pm. *Louie Louie Rock Bar.* 15€.

The Habituales Rock band Clásicos del Rock and The Never To Late Band (UK) will be playing. All the money from ticket sales will go to the Asociación Autismo Estepona

**ADANA Dog Show****Estepona.** 14 April, from 10am. *Palacio de Congresos.*Cups and rosettes for each category, ADANA dogs for adoption, stalls selling pet related items and refreshments. [info@adana.es](mailto:info@adana.es) or [events@adana.es](mailto:events@adana.es)

## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

**The Wall Bar****Malaga.** *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.***30 March.** Chela Jazz Duo. Guitar and vocals, jazz and blues.**Amy Winehouse tribute****Almuñécar.** 3 April, 8pm. *Casa de la Cultura.*

A concert in tribute to Amy Winehouse.

**Louie Louie Live****Estepona.** *Louie Louie Bar.***29 March, midnight** Top Secret in concert. 5€.**30 March, 11pm.** Break The Senses. 5€**Trumpet and Organ concert****Almuñécar.** 30 March, 8pm. *La Encarnación church.*

Santiago Rosales and Pedro Hernández will be in concert.



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## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

**Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra****Malaga.** Auditorio Edgar Neville  
**5 April, 8pm.**

Schumann's Concerto for piano and orchestra in A minor with Pablo Amorós on piano. The second part: Shostakovich's Symphony n°9 in B flat Major.

**Malaga. Teatro Cervantes****29 March, 8pm.** Paul Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice; Astor Piazzolla Escualo for horn in D with string orchestra and Invierno Porteño; Heitor Villa-Lobos Bachianas Brasileiras for horn in F with string orchestra. Pablo Sarasate Aires Gitanos with Paco Flores on trumpet. In part two: Ralph Vaughan Williams Fantasy on a Theme by Thomas Tallis and Ottorino Respighi The Pines of Rome. Conducted by José M Moreno.**Malaga. Auditorio Museo Picasso**  
**2 April, 8pm.**

The Cuarteto con Fuoco will play Haydn's The Seven Last Words of Christ.



Gary Ryan, La Herradura.

**Malaga Municipal Band****Malaga.** 31 March, 8.30pm. Malaga Cathedral.

This special easter concert will feature works by Molter, Berlioz, Chuguev, Ferrer, Artola, García López and Font Anta.

**Piano recital****Malaga.** 2 April, 8pm. Museo Thyssen.

Composer, writer and pianist Luis Agius will be playing some of his own compositions along with those of Enrique Granados.

**Gary Ryan****La Herradura.** 30 March, 8.30pm. Centro Cívico.

Gary Ryan is one of the most significant names in the world of clas-



Brothers José Enrique and Juan Fernando Gistaín. :: SUR.

## The Moreno Gistaín Dúo link Olga Khokhlova, ballet and Picasso

**MALAGA.** The life of Olga Khokhlova (1891-1955) acts as a frame in which to set one of the most important phenomena of Russian cultural life at the turn of the 20th century: the music of the great ballets. Borodin's famous Polovtsian Dances premiered in 1890, one year before Olga was born. The exoticism and energy of the music led it to be chosen years later for the repertoire of the first performance in Paris of Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, the company that revolutionised the European stage and thanks to which Olga Khokhlova and Pablo Picasso first met.

Glazunov's Raymonda is entirely inspired by late Romanticism, and a successor to Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and Wagner. Its place on the programme is a nod to Olga's years of ballet training and serves to underscore the

## DETAILS

► **When.** 12 April, 8pm.► **Where.** Museo Picasso Málaga. [www.museopicasso-malaga.org](http://www.museopicasso-malaga.org)► **Repertoire.** A. Borodin: Polovtsian Dances; A. Glazunov: Raymonda; Variation IV, Variation I; Stravinsky: Petrushka; Danse Russe, Chéz Petrouchka, La Semaine Grasse; Prokofiev: Cinderella, Suite del Ballet; Quarrel, Cinderella waltz.

enormous aesthetic leap to the second work on the programme, Stravinsky's Petrushka, which premiered a decade later. Prokofiev's ballet Cinderella received its premiere in 1945, a transcen-

dental year for Europe.

Brothers José Enrique and Juan Fernando Moreno Gistaín trained mainly with pianists Ramón Coll and Josep Colom. They also took masterclasses from renowned pianists, and attended classes given by Maurizio Pollini during the International Music Festival in Lucerne (Switzerland). They also took courses with leading conductors such as Josep Pons, George Pelhivanian, Bruno Aprea and Jesús López Cobos.

Both brothers, as soloists or as a duet, have performed around the world at major festivals and venues such as the International Music and Dance Festival in Granada; the Castell de Peralada International Festival; the Gijón International Music Festival; the Schubertiada Festival and the Barcelona International Music Forum.

sical guitar. Tickets can be obtained an hour before from Stephen Hill's workshop in Calle Canalejas 12

**Cello concert****Malaga.** 30 March, 8pm. Sala Unicaja María Cristina.

Ten cellists from the Malaga Superior Conservatorio plus guest musicians, will be playing works by Bach, Klengel, Vivaldi, Bruch, Falla, Newhouse and Piazzolla. Tickets:

[www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)**Mamajuana Primavera Festival****Malaga.** 30 March, from 2pm.

Auditorio Municipal Cortijo de Torres.

The spring festival will include concerts by Lola Indigo, Cruz Cafuné, El Canijo de Jerez and Henry Méndez among others. There will also be food trucks and a free bar until 4.30pm. Tickets from Instagram, El



Primavera Festival, Malaga

Balneario, Tasty Poké, Hollywood, El Corte Inglés.

**Opera recital****Nerja.** 30 March, 7pm. Restaurante Playa & Sol. Paseo de Antonio Mercero.Alba Chantar, soprano, Ruth Delgado mezzosoprano and pianist Daniel Díaz will be performing music from composers Bizet Gluck, Vivaldi, Mozart and more. Tickets 48€ include welcome drink and buffet. Bookings: 690 073 871 or email: [ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com](mailto:ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com)

## LECTURES

**U3A Lectures****Fuengirola.** Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. Email: [u3afuengirola@gmail.com](mailto:u3afuengirola@gmail.com)**"The science of conservation and restoration"**

3 April, 11am. The uses of science and technology in the conservation and restoration of art and antiques.

**Debate in Spanish****La Cala de Mijas.** 4 April, 7pm.

Salón de Actos in the town hall.

**"Esté el periodismo de investigación en proceso de extinción?"**

Agustín Rivero, reporter for El Confidencial; Damián Ruiz Fájula, freelance journalist who worked for El Mundo; Mats Björkman, head of editorial for Sydkusten and Jesper Sander Pederson, president of the Costa Press Club will be debating the topic in Spanish. Organised by the Costa Press Club with the support of the Press Association of Malaga and the Foreigners Department of Mijas town hall.

## EVENTS

**Día de la Vieja****Arriate.** 31 March.

The day is celebrated by spending it in the countryside with a picnic. In the past it was believed to be a day to eat and drink before the rigours of the Easter fasting.

**TOPS comedy play****Alhaurín el Grande.** 29, 30 March, from 6.30pm. Asfahal, La Rosa Industrial Estate. 20€. Quartet is a comedy written by Ronald Har-wood and directed by Marjorie Arthurs. Tickets from Cristina's or [topsforcharity@gmail.com](mailto:topsforcharity@gmail.com)

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# Weekend Beach lineup unveiled

Organisers hope to beat last year's records of 140,000 visitors and 3.5 million euros of revenue for Torre del Mar

by J. RHODES / E. CABEZAS

**TORRE DEL MAR.** With just over three months to go until this year's Weekend Beach festival in Torre del Mar, organisers unveiled the official lineup on Tuesday with confirmation that Welsh heavy metal band, Skindred, will be performing at the event.

Skindred, who originate from Newport, are coming to Torre del Mar as part of a European tour to promote their latest album, 'Big Tings', which features singles including 'Kill the Power', 'Volume' and 'Union Black.'

Earlier this year the organisers also announced that American pop group, The Black Eyed Peas, who are best known for I Gotta Feeling, Where is the Love and Meet Me Halfway, had confirmed as well as The Original Wailers, who first performed with reggae legend, Bob

Marley. The festival will take place on the same site as in previous years, on Playa del Poniente, to the west of the town and will take place from Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 July.

### Headline acts

The Original Wailers will be headlining on Friday, 5 July and The Black Eyed Peas will be the big name on Saturday, 6 July. Skindred will also be performing on that night and Becky G, who has appeared on the American Billboard charts with songs such as 'Shower' and on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart, will be singing on Friday evening.

As always the festival involves an eclectic mix of musical styles, from heavy metal through to reggae, pop and dance. There'll be three stages inside the festival ground itself and as in previous years, the Sunrise Stage will be located outside the perimeter fence, near to the campsite and will be free for everyone, with or without a ticket.

In just five years the Weekend Beach festival has propelled itself into Spain's top ten most popular outdoor music events and organisers have not changed the magic



Festival-goers at last year's Weekend Beach. by SUR

formula for this, its sixth year.

As before there will be a camping area, bars and food stalls as well as a chill-out zone and a market area selling clothing, accessories and merchandise.

Organisers believe that the combination of big national and international acts as well as the proximity of the festival ground to the beach is what has made Torre del Mar's music festival such a success.

In previous years the town has managed to attract the likes of The Offspring, Skrillex, David Guetta, The Prodigy, Hardwell, Sepultura, Jimmy Cliff and Damian Marley to its festival and this year's signing

of The Black Eyed Peas shows that the Weekend Beach has well and truly put the town on the international musical map.

Last year the event attracted 140,000 people over the four-day period and generated 3.5 million euros of revenue for the town. Organisers are aiming to beat those records this year.

### Other big names

French electronic music producer and DJ, Laurent Garnier (also known as Choice) is another big name for the festival. Garnier, who began DJ-ing in Manchester during the late 1980s, will be perform-

### KEY PERFORMANCES

4 July: Chris Liebling, Dubfire

5 July: The Original Wailers

5 July: Becky G

6 July: The Black Eyed Peas

6 July: Skindred

6 July: Laurent Garnier

ing on the Sunrise Stage on Saturday night, following Chris Liebling and Dubfire on Thursday.

Another name to look out for on Saturday is the reggae group Morgan Heritage, formed in Brooklyn, New York, in 1994 by five siblings whose father is reggae artist Denroy Morgan.

A number of well-known Spanish musicians will also be performing including Weekend Beach regulars like Miss Caffaina and La Pegatina.

Tickets for the full weekend are currently available for 62 euros, while tickets and camping are 77 euros. Children under the age of seven may go free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult. Anyone between the ages of seven and 17 must have the correct authorisation form which is available on the website.

**Full programme and tickets:** [www.weekendbeach.es](http://www.weekendbeach.es)

MOVIE LISTING  
From Friday 29th March  
to Thursday 4th April

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTTLED SPANISH

**US**

Director Jordan Peele  
Starring Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss  
HORROR - 116 min.

A family's serenity turns to chaos when a group of doppelgängers begins to terrorize them.

Friday 29: 22:45  
Sunday 31: 22:45  
Monday 1, Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4: 22:30

**THE MULE**

Director Clint Eastwood  
Starring Clint Eastwood, Patrick L. Reyes, Cesar De Leon  
DRAMA - 116 min.

A 90-year-old horticulturist and Korean War veteran turns drug mule for a Mexican cartel.

Friday 29: 17:50  
Saturday 30 and Sunday 31: 18:00  
From Monday 1 to Thursday 4: 17:50

**DUMBO**

Director Tim Burton  
Starring Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito  
FANTASY - 111 min.

A young elephant, whose oversized ears enable him to fly, helps save a struggling circus, but when the circus plans a new venture, Dumbo and his friends discover dark secrets beneath its shiny veneer.

Friday 29: 18:00, 20:10  
Saturday 30: 15:45, 18:00, 20:10  
Sunday 31: 12:00, 15:50, 18:15, 20:30  
From Monday 1 to Thursday 4: 18:00, 20:10

**CAPTAIN MARVEL**

Director Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck  
Starring Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn  
ACTION - 123 min.

Carol Danvers becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races.

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

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD**

Saturday 30: 16:00  
Sunday 31: 12:00, 16:00

**GREEN BOOK**

Winner 3 Oscars: Best Motion Picture of the Year  
Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role - Best Original Screenplay

Friday 29: 20:05 - Saturday 30 and Sunday 31: 20:20  
From Monday 1 to Thursday 4: 20:05



## EVENTS

**TAPAS Spring Fair and Easter Bake-Off**

**Coin.** 30 March, noon -3pm. Bar El Cruce.  
Stalls selling gifts, refreshments, crafts etc plus music and raffles. The TAPAS choir will be performing live. Contact Angela Stopforth: 685386923 or email: publicity@tapasociety.com.

**Expo Tattoo**

**Estepona.** 29, 30, 31 March. Mid-day until 10pm. Palacio de Exposiciones y Congresos. 5€ a day or 12€ for three days.

Around 170 tattooists will be attending the convention including four-times world champion Fulbio Berdina, Mexican Kuri Okampo and Japanese Kouji Nishimura who are considered to be among the best in their profession.

**'Blood Brothers' theatre visit Torre del Mar.** 1-5 April. Various departure points. 31€.

Blood brothers is a musical by Willy Russell being performed at the Salon Varietés, Fuengirola. The story is about fraternal twins Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one subsequently being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family.

**O. V. FILM**

SUR in English advises calling



Expotattoo, Estepona

cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

**Cine Albéniz**

C/Alcazabilla 4, Málaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com  
**Green Book:** 20.20 (every day).  
**At Eternity's Gate:** 22.10 (every day).

**Cinesur El Ingenio**

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.  
**Mule:** 18.00, 20.15 (Tues).  
**Dumbo:** 12.20, 22.10 (every day); 16.45, 19.05, 21.20 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).  
**Captain Marvel:** 19.35 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

**Cinesur Miramar**

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengi-

rola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.

**Dumbo:** 12.05 (Sat, Sun); 15.50, 18.05, 20.15, 22.25, 0.25 (everyday).

**The Fall Of The American Empire:** 16.15, 21.15 (Tues).

**Us:** 21.30, 0.00 (everyday); 16.20 (Mon-Thurs).

**Captain Marvel:** 12.25 (Sat, Sun); 16.00, 18.45 (everyday).

**The Greatest Gift:** 20.00 (Mon).

**Cines Teatro Goya**

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

**Green Book:** 20.05 (Fri, Mon - Thurs); 20.20 (Sat, Sun).

**Dumbo:** 12.00, 15.50, 18.15, 20.30 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat); 18.00, 20.10 (every day except Sun).

**Captain Marvel:** 20.10 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 20.20 (Sat, Sun); 22.30 (Mon-Thurs); 22.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

**How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World:** 12.00 (Sun), 16.00 (Sat, Sun).

**The Mule:** 17.50 (Fri, Mon-Thurs) 18.00 (Sat, Sun).

**Us:** 22.30 (Mon, Wed, 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

**Alita: Battle Angel:** 19.50 (Tues).

**Dumbo:** 17.30 (Fri- Thurs); 19.20 (Tues); 12.35 (Sat, Sun).

**Captain Marvel:** 12.50 (Sat,

Sun); 19.30 (Tues).

**How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World:** 18.30 (Tues).

**Escape Room:** 12.30 (Sat, Sun) 20.10 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 20.40 (Tues)

**The Mule:** 19.25 (Tues).

**Us:** 12.45 (Sat, Sun); 19.10 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria.** Calle Arroyo Totalán

Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es

**Dumbo:** 19.20 (Tues).

**Captain Marvel:** 22.10 (Tues).

**The Mule:** 20.00 (Tues).

**Us:** 20.10 (Tues).

**Escape Room:** 22.45 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 19.15 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Vialia.** Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es  
**Alita: Battle Angel:** 22.30 (Tues).

**Captain Marvel:** 22.00 (Tues).

**Laurel and Hardy:** 16.20 (Tues).

**The Kid Who Would Be King:** 15.55 (Tues).

**Escape Room:** 22.25 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 20.05 (Tues).

**The Mule:** 19.10 (Tues).

**Us:** 20.30 (Tues).

**Musica Con Encanto**

Urb La Alzambra, Puerto banús Marbella. Bookings: 689 000 944. Beethoven: **Immortal Beloved**: 6 April, 8pm. Vasari Centre. A film by Bernard Rose. 12€.



Enjoying the fun at last year's Grand National event. :: SUR

## Raising the stakes for the Cudeca Hospice

**:: T. BRYANT**

**MIJAS.** The Cudeca Goldies will host their annual fundraising Grand National afternoon at the Tamsia Golf Hotel on Saturday 6 April. The event begins at 2pm and will show all of the racing live from Aintree on several large television screens, starting with the Gaskells Handicap at 2.45pm. The Grand National, which is watched by an estimated five million people worldwide, will be shown at 6.15pm and there will be a book-maker on site for those who fancy a flutter.

This is the fourth consecutive

year the Cudeca Goldies have organised the event, which includes fun activities like the inflatable horse racing contest, a raffle and live entertainment supplied soul and gospel duo, Mr Maph and Simone. The music will continue throughout the day with popular local disc-jockey, Lee Jay.




Tickets cost 35 euros (ten euros of which will go to Cudeca) and includes welcome drinks and a grand buffet, which will be served from 2.30pm.




Reservations can be made on 952 58 59 88, or at reservas@hotelamisagolf.com

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# April, a month filled with foodie events around Malaga

Every year, more and more towns and villages join in with spring festivals which celebrate local dishes and produce

✪ JAVIER ALMELLONES

**MALAGA.** April is going to be a busy month for many towns and villages around the province as it is a popular month for a wide variety of food festivals.

The first one is Día del Pipeo in Casarabonela on 6 April. It is based

on a typical dish of the area, Pipeo - a stew made with lettuce, artichoke, asparagus, garlic and onions.

On the same day, Istán is dedicating a festival to local gastronomy and the orange. Hundreds of litres of orange juice will be given out to visitors and there will be plenty of other typical dishes to taste.

The weekend of the 6 and 7 April is when Casabermeja is offering a special menu in many of its bars and restaurants featuring spring produce. There will also be a market selling cheese and local products.

Periana is celebrating the local ver-

dial olive oil on the same weekend with plenty of opportunities to try the 'liquid gold'.

On 13 and 14 April, Casares will be showing off its local dishes in a festival which will have competitions, tastings and a food market.

Villanueva del Concepción celebrates the broad bean on 27 April with a festival dedicated to this versatile vegetable.

On the same day is Día de la Morcilla (black sausage) in Canillas de Aceituno and the local delicacy will be accompanied by plenty of beer and local wine.



Día de Pipeo comes to Casarabonela on 6 April. ✪ SUR

ANDREW J. LINN

## BACCHANALIA 2019



While those of us on the Coast were enjoying the best weekend of the year so far, strolling on the beach, participating in a sport, or just sitting on a sunny terrace, a group of 90 knowledgeable wine tasters were confined to the Baroque salons of the Madrid Casino.

From Thursday to Monday these adjudicators of the Bacchus 2019 wine awards sampled their way through a blind tasting of 1,650 wines from all over the world.

They had no way of knowing whether their glasses contained wine from Turkey, Lebanon or Washington State, only that they had a few minutes to classify each one by its visual appearance, smell and taste.

This can only be referred to as an express tasting. Some judges commented privately that they did not have the physical or mental capacity to appraise so many wines at one sitting.

Indeed, often unhappy with group scores, a few conscientious participants apparently took the trouble to re-taste the wines they had assessed 15 minutes earlier. They found them to be invariably improved, thanks surely to longer periods of exposure to air.

The Bacchus competition is one of Spain's best-known, but since volume-selling wines are not normally entered, final results cannot give a complete picture. The top scorers included wines from Spain, Brazil, Israel, Slovakia, France and Portugal.

Who benefits from events such as these? Out in front are the organisers, in this case

Spain's Association of Sommeliers, netting a quarter of a million up front in entry charges.

Their costs included logistics, premises, and bringing the 90 judges to Madrid from all over the world.

You don't have to be an accountant to deduce that the only losers are the producers of wines that pay to be judged but never get a mention.

Winners can display a natty little seal on their bottles, and the organisers are laughing all the way to next year's competition.

So far this week I have received the results of three other wine classification events in Europe. Interesting, but does my heart give a little extra beat of joy when I see the wine I have bought or ordered in a restaurant has been awarded a prize in one of these multiple events? Er, hardly.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Muga rosado 2017

Spring is in full swing, so it is time to stock up on what for many people signifies the coming long hot days of summer - rosé wine. Muga is one of the best-known and unfailingly superior Rioja wineries, and in its early years only produced red wine. Now its white and rosado are excellent value and among the best of the bunch. Around 9.50 euros.





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## SUR showcases unique gourmet products and exclusive wines

**SUR Wines & Gourmet** this week presented a huge selection of wines, both national and international, and many exclusive products

### ■ MARINA MARTÍNEZ

**MÁLAGA.** Nearly 90 exhibitors and 40 companies from the wine and gourmet products sectors were at the first edition of SUR Wines & Gourmet on Monday and Tuesday. The event, organised by SUR, its gastronomy publication Málaga en la Mesa and Grupo La Reserva, was held in the Pórtico de Velásquez Restaurante in Málaga.

There was a huge selection of wines on display and with so many to investigate, Cristina Socorro of the Molino Lario hotel commented at about 5.30pm: "I arrived about half one and I've barely got through half of them!"

There were classic wines as well as new, from Ronda to Penedés and Italy, whites and reds, sherries and sparkling wines and even ecological and biodynamic wines.

To assist with working out which wine goes best with what type of food, there were trays of bread with olive oil, cured ham and icecream.

The arranged tastings helped the attendees to keep tabs on what wines they were trying and there were quite a few familiar faces from

the gastronomic scene in Málaga: Paco García, director of the Michelin-starred El Lago; José Sánchez, manager of Los Marinos; José and Cristina Cánovas; and Diego Aguilar from Palodú.

### Duck foie

One of the exclusive foods presented at the event was foie (pâté), from ducks which had been fed with 90 per cent maize grown from recovered heritage grain. This light-yellow pâté is unique and comes from the Ferma d'Adour, a French association of breeders and manufacturers of duck products.

Local companies were also highlighted including Mondat, a company located in a 10,000-square-metre factory in Monda. From these premises, 4,000 kilos of white, rustic or gourmet breads, all with the Sabor a Málaga seal, are produced every hour, according to area manager Jorge Flores.

What makes them so special is



Pedro Belmonte, expert ham slicer. ■ SALVADOR SALAS



Members of the public visited the event. ■ SALVADOR SALAS

the technique which involves pre-cooking them

on an incandescent stone slab in a special furnace unique to Andalucía.

Olive oils were interspersed with the wine bottles with brands well known in Málaga such as Cortijo El Solano and Molisur. Ones from further afield included Espíritu Santo (Úbeda), which is produced from recovered, indigenous varie-

ties of olives.

Bread and olive oil go well with wine, just as manzanilla (fino sherry) goes with cured ham and the range of jerez (dry sherries) goes with other cured meats.

Expert cured ham slicer Pedro Belmonte, was on hand to advise on the best way to cut jamón at home (the leg fixed well to a support so that it doesn't move, a really sharp knife, the positioning of the hands etc).

There was plenty of cured hams to try including one, Extrem Puro Extremadura, 100 per cent Iberian,

which was used to make McDonald's 'Extrem' speciality burger.

There were cheeses from Málaga and manchegos from Marantona where they are cured in a cave, cooked meats and El Barquero cod, and even dessert from Frutas Eladio and Alonso icecream from Alicante.

Over the two days it is estimated that over 4,000 people visited SUR Wines & Gourmet and attended the tastings and workshops to discover more about the national and international wines and gourmet products that went with them.

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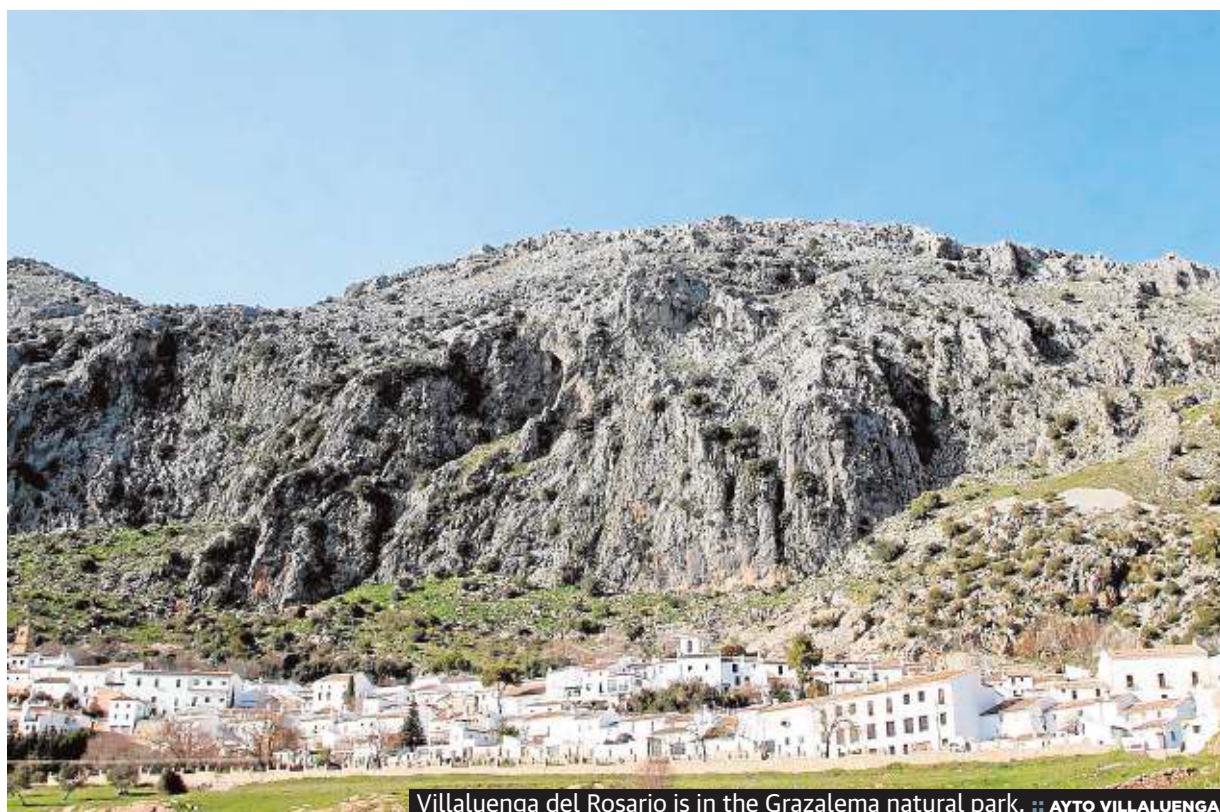
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## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Villaluenga del Rosario is in the Grazalema natural park. :: AYTO VILLALUENGA



The old bullring. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



### QUICK GUIDE What to see in Villaluenga

◀ **Casas Capitulares.** The most important civil building, now the town hall.  
*Calle Real, 19. 11611 Villaluenga del Rosario.*



◀ **El Salvador church.** Remains of a church dating back to 1772, destroyed by Napoleonic troops and now used as the village cemetery.  
*Calle Torre, s/n. 11611 Villaluenga del Rosario.*



◀ **Cheese museum.** Information centre about 'payoyo' cheese  
*Parque de La Albarrada, 11611 Villaluenga del Rosario.*

◀ **San Miguel church.** Dating back to the early 18th century, this is now the main church of the village.  
*Plaza de la Alameda, 8. 11611 Villaluenga del Rosario.*

◀ **Bullring.** The old bullring was built in the 18th century and was excavated out of the Sierra del Caíllo mountain.  
*Calle Moreno de Mora, s/n. 11611 Villaluenga del Rosario.*

# Passion for cheese in Cadiz

JAVIER  
ALMELLONES

### 2 days in Villaluenga

Car + Walking.

Journey time: 2 hours  
from Malaga.

Cheese Festival: 4  
hours.

Visits to monuments  
and museums: 4 hours.



Lovers of traditional cheeses are looking forward to an unmissable event in rural Cadiz province, specifically the beautiful village of Villaluenga del Rosario, which is at the heart of the Grazalema natural park. Its cheese festival attracts thousands of visitors every year, and cheese producers from all over Andalucía take part.

This is the 'Feria del Queso Artesanal', which

this year will be taking place from 5 to 7 April. There will be about 100 different cheeses to see, sample and buy, at a type of huge market attended by more than 30 different companies from all over the region.

For these three days, as well as discovering the variety and quality of the most traditional Andalusian cheeses, those attending can enjoy numerous activities which have been

organised as part of the programme. These include guided tasting sessions in which visitors can learn all about the different organoleptic qualities of the artisan cheeses.

An important part of this festival is the Sierra de Cádiz Traditional Cheeses Competition, in which dozens of Andalusian cheeses from different categories are judged each year. These include cheeses made with raw sheep's milk, semi-cured goats' cheese, mixtures and cheeses made to innovative recipes.

The other activities laid on for those who attend the cheese festival to enjoy are workshops on milking, how to make artisan cheeses, and there will also be the chance to bottle-feed a kid or lamb.

Additionally there will be an unusual raffle, with the winner taking away their own weight in cheese.

For many people, Villaluenga del Rosario is known as the capital of 'payoyo' cheeses, which are made with the milk of the 'payoya' breed of goat. Around six producers make this variety. There are also cheeses made with the milk of merino sheep.

The village has a cheese museum, where visitors can learn more about these traditional local products.



Traditional cheese competition. :: AYTO VILLALUENGA



# Prevention is in your hands



## Handshake-free zone

Dr Mark Slansky brought in the rule in 2017 in the children's ICU in his hospital in California; the initiative has spread to other US hospitals. :: R.C.

**Shaking hands is a way of spreading disease. Some American hospitals have now banned this type of greeting from certain areas. "Washing your hands is the cheapest and most effective way of preventing infections," say experts**

## INÉS GALLASTEGUI

In Western culture, it is very impolite to refuse to shake someone's hand. However, the days of this formal greeting which dates back to the Middle Ages, when knights would extend their right hand to show that they were not going to unsheathe their sword, may be numbered.

It has been proven that our hands are the main means of transmitting many illnesses, by direct or indirect contact, via the surfaces we touch with them, to the point that in some American hospitals the traditional handshake has been banned. And as if that were not enough, this well-intentioned gesture means that our DNA can also become scattered onto biological material and, with a bit of bad luck, it could end up on a murder weapon we have never actually touched.

There are as many bacteria as there are cells on any human body, between 30 and 40 billion, most of them in the digestive tract - from dental plaque and saliva in the mouth to intestinal microbiota - and on the skin. Resident and transient bacterial flora coexist on this protective layer; the latter, which causes illnesses, is acquired through contact and easily eliminated by washing.

It is important to note that our hands, among the most exposed parts of our anatomy, are what we use most to explore the world and as such are a festival for germs.

Do we know where that hand, which is being stretched out to us in such a friendly fashion, has been? An individual who has not washed their hands after going to the bathroom - and there are plenty of them: 49 per cent of women and 63 per



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cent of men, according to some studies - can spread bacteria which live in their intestine when they touch another person, handle foods or touch surfaces in public places. The same thing applies to viruses.

Dr Francisco Guillén, director of the Preventive Medicine Service at the Clínica Universidad hospital of Navarra, says that in the past doctors would always wear a mask when seeing patients with flu, to prevent them catching it through droplets. These appear when the patients talk, cough or sneeze and they can travel up to a metre in distance, but some years ago it was shown that contact is also an important means of contagion.

#### From mouth to hand

How is this chain of transmission produced? When someone with flu coughs or sneezes, covering their face with their hand or fist, the virus passes onto their hands and then, afterwards, anything they touch with them.

On the skin, influenza would barely survive a few minutes, but on inert surfaces - door handles, doors, banisters on staircases, or the button in a lift - it can survive for up to 48 hours. Afterwards, all it needs is for someone who has touched the patient or the object where the microbes have remained, to lift a hand to their face.

"Some studies have shown that we do that about 23 times an hour, on average," says Dr Guillén, who is also the secretary of the Spanish Preventive Medicine, Public Health and Hygiene Society.

Hospitals are also a propitious environment for the transmission of pathogenic micro-organisms, because the people there are more vulnerable, either because their immune system is depressed or they have an entry point for infections - a surgical wound, catheter or drip - or both. An aggravating factor is that an increasing number of bacteria are resistant to antibiotics. "About six per cent of patients pick up an infection during their stay in hospital," says Dr Guillén.

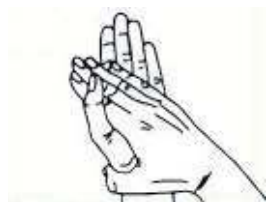
This is why health centres are stressing the need for clean surfaces and hygiene among their workers. "Washing your hands is the cheapest and most efficient way of preventing infections," says Amelia Fernández Sierra, director of the Preventive Medicine and Public Health unit at the Virgen de las Nieves hospital in Granada.

#### Insufficient washing

The staff, she insists, have to wash their hands before and after each task they carry out, to protect themselves and the patients. In some cases, this can be 30 or 40 times a day. However, the WHO programme to count the number of times a member of the medical profession should disinfect their hands and the number of times they actually do so shows that this routine is not sufficiently implemented in Spain.



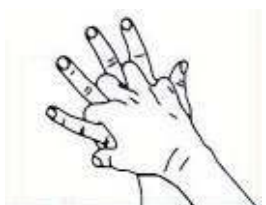
### THE CORRECT WAY TO WASH HANDS



1. Rub the palms together.



2. Rub the wrists.



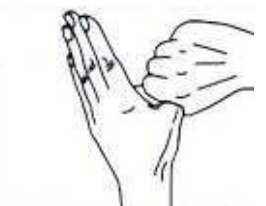
3. Rub the palm of the right hand against the back of the left hand with the fingers interlinked, and vice versa.



4. Rub palm against palm with the fingers interlinked.



5. Rub the back of the fingers against the opposite palm with the fingers folded.



6. Rotate the fingers of the closed right hand around the thumb of the left hand and vice versa.



7. Rotate the ends of the fingers of the right hand against the left palm and vice versa.

### CONTAGIOUS ILLNESSES

#### Cleanliness to combat flu

The precautions used in hospitals should also apply to any residential centre for the elderly or children, and everywhere that food is handled. Also, the general population should take precautions during the flu season, between December and March.

150

types of bacteria, on average, live on our hands. Most are innocuous, but others such as E coli can cause gastrointestinal illnesses.

Among the viral infections which can be transmitted via contact are colds, flu, measles, chicken pox, hepatitis A and B, simple herpes and mononucleosis.

5

months is the time the bacteria 'Clostridium difficile' can remain on inert substances. It causes diarrhea, while the cause of gonorrhea doesn't last for 20 seconds. In general, viruses survive for less time outside the body - between an hour and two days - because they need something to feed on and have no membrane.

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➤ Neither is it enough to just rinse your fingers under the tap a couple of times. Careful washing is needed, using a very precise technique to remove the germs from all areas. Water and soap can be used, or a hydro-alcoholic solution, which accelerates the procedure (about 30 seconds), is less aggressive for the skin and no towel is needed (those made of fabric are another focus of contagion). More and more hospitals are placing alcohol sanitiser dispensers in the rooms. Visitors and those accompanying the patients should also use them, says Dr Fernández, who points out as well that there is no point in using gloves unless they are changed regularly enough.

#### Use knuckles instead

As there is not much sense in taking so many precautions if everything is going to be ruined afterwards by people shaking hands with colleagues or patients, in some places handshakes have been banned. Some hospitals in the USA have put up notices and banned handshakes in potentially vulnerable areas such as children's intensive care, and during flu epidemics.

Some years ago, a Dr McClellan discovered that when two people greeted each other by knocking their knuckles instead of shaking hands, four times fewer bacteria were exchanged than when people's palms came into contact. The traditional 'social kisses', which are in reality a brushing of cheeks, could be even



▲ **'Cool' and clean.**  
Knocking knuckles transfers fewer microbes. :: R. C.

#### ▼ Recommended.

Sneezing or coughing into the inside of your elbow is better, from the point of view of public health, than using your hand, because that can spread viruses and bacteria to other people and objects. :: R. C.

less contagious, says Amelia Fernández. Or even a few pats on the arm would do, suggests Francisco Guillén.

However, germs are not the only things to be passed on by a traditional greeting. In the most recent meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, researcher Cynthia Cale revealed that a 10-second handshake can transfer the DNA of a person to an object they have never actually touched. In her experiments, on seven per cent of occasions after two people greeted each other in this way, a knife grasped afterwards by the second person showed the genetic fingerprint of the first.

Does that mean that evidence used in criminal investigation is invalid? The experts believe not. "The so-called secondary transfer was discovered many years ago, and it is due to the strength of current DNA analysis technology in the forensic field," explains José Antonio Lorente, a professor of Legal Medicine at Granada university.

In real life, the probability of minuscule biological remains of a person appearing in places where they have never been, or on objects they have never touched, is very low and the quantity of genetic material small.

However, maybe eventually we will all end up greeting people the Japanese way. For the Japanese, physical contact with people they don't know is an intolerable invasion of their private space, so their greeting takes the form of a slight and aseptic bow of the head.

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# Estepona council begins cardiac check-ups on 1,600 local secondary schoolchildren

The tests are to be carried out on pupils aged 14 to 16 to determine whether they are at risk from taking physical exercise and detect any anomalies

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

**ESTEPONA.** Estepona council is about to begin a pioneering initiative which involves carrying out preventive cardiac health checks on third and fourth year secondary school pupils to try to detect potential heart problems which could cause difficulties when they are playing sport.

The health check is completely free, as the cost is met by the town hall. The aim is to define the pupils' aptitude and risk factors so they can take part in a sport or physical exercise safely, independent of their competitive level. The doctor who carries out the check will refer the pupils to a specialist if he or she detects any potential problems.

The tests consist of an ECG and a clinical examination, and there will be additional checks if any anomalies are detected. This is the



Students at a local secondary school during a PE class. CHARO MÁRQUEZ

normal type of check-up undergone by anyone who is planning to take up some type of physical activity or sport. The check-ups will be carried out on children between the ages of 14 and 16, as this is the age that doctors say anomalies can usually be identified.

This initiative is part of the 'Este-

pona Ciudad Cardiosaludable' healthy heart programme, which includes different actions to enhance the detection of cardiovascular illnesses.

The cardiological check-ups are also part of an awareness campaigns among school-age children, with workshops, screenings and

interactive games.

Local health centres are also taking part in an overall plan to combat child obesity.

The mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, said that all these initiatives organised by the council are aimed at improving the quality of life of local residents.

**The survival rate of cervical cancer is over 90 per cent if the condition is detected on time**

SUR

**MÁLAGA.** In Spain approximately 2,000 cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed each year, but the illness has a survival rate of 90 per cent if detected on time, said Dr Andrés Carlos López Díaz, head of the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Department at the Quirónsalud hospital in Málaga.

The specialist was speaking on Tuesday, World Cervical Cancer Day, to raise awareness of the importance of prevention and early detection of this illness through regular gynaecological check-ups and the use of protection during sexual intercourse, he explained.

José Amores, the head of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the Quirónsalud hospital in Marbella, agreed that early diagnosis is essential.

Although the survival rate is 90 per cent when it is detected early, he explained, at present only about 46 per cent of cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed at an early stage.

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# More than a third of deaths from colon cancer could be prevented through screening

Fewer than 23 per cent of people are taking advantage of the test for blood hidden in faeces which is available in Andalucía to detect the illness early

✎ ÁNGEL ESCALERA

**MÁLAGA.** Colon cancer took the lives of 422 people in Malaga province last year, which is a rate of 26 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants according to the Observatory of the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC).

Of those deaths, 136 were people aged between 50 and 69 (a rate of 33 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), which is the highest age range for colorectal cancer. More than a third of these deaths could have been prevented with suitable screening for this type of tumour, says the director of the Oncology Unit of the public hospitals in Malaga and professor of Oncology at Malaga university, Emilio Alba.

To improve the early detection of colon cancer, a high percentage of the population needs to take a test for hidden blood in faeces; these are available in all health



Cancer association AECC volunteers raised awareness among members of the public in Malaga this week. ✎ FRANCIS SILVA

centres in Malaga and have been designed for people aged between 50 and 69.

Although it has been shown that screening is effective for this type of tumour (which is the most common in Spain when the figures for men and women are combined), Andalucía has one of the lowest screening rates in Spain at less than 22.74 per cent, according to the AECC.

## Prevention Day

These figures were made public in a statement this week to mark World Colon Cancer Prevention Day, which is coming up on 31 March. The AECC's aim is to make people between the ages of 50 and 69 (the age group with the highest risk) aware of how easy it is to take the preventive test, and to advise them that they will be receiving a letter from the Andalusian Health Service inviting them to do so.

Andalucía has taken up the challenge of reaching a 100 per cent take-up rate by 2021.

"Colon cancer develops gradually. First a polyp appears, then it grows and becomes a tumour and finally there is metastasis. If the polyp is found and removed on time, the cancer is prevented," said

Dr Alba. He stresses the importance of screening for this type of cancer, as the test is one of the most efficient in existence. "Screening for colorectal cancer is the most important development in public health in many years," he said.

Last year, 1,186 cases of colon cancer were diagnosed in Malaga province (26 cases per 100,000 inhabitants) of which 492 tumours were in patients aged between 50 and 69. Malaga is the second province in Andalucía in terms of incidence and mortality of this type of tumour among people in that age group.

The AECC stresses the importance of screening as a preventive measure. Colorectal cancer is the most common malignant tumour in Spain, with 37,172 new patients diagnosed in 2018. On the positive side, 90 per cent of those whose tumours are detected through the test are cured.

As well as preventing suffering and saving lives, this type of screening saves money. The test for blood hidden in faeces is simple and cheap. It costs two euros, and if it is positive, which is the case in six or seven per cent of people tested, a colonoscopy is carried out which costs the authorities about 180 euros, according to the AECC.

The average cost of colorectal cancer in Spain is more than 27,000 euros, considerably more if the latest biological therapies and neoadjuvant and surgical treatments are used.

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## Guadalhorce valley hospital operating theatres to be fully open within the next month

The operating theatres will be "100% ready" in the next four weeks, the regional president has confirmed

✎ FERNANDO TORRES

**MÁLAGA.** The president of Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, announced on Monday that "in four weeks" the operating theatres of the Valle del Guadalhorce hospital will be working "at 100%". Moreno said that for several years, the centre



Moreno at the hospital. ✎ SUR

had been "a phantom hospital", but now it will be fully functional and able to carry out more procedures on site.

On his visit to the hospital, accompanied by the delegate of the Andalusian government in Malaga, Patricia Navarro, and the mayor of Cártama, Jorge Gallardo, the president explained that health was one of his main focus areas, especially given that "half a million Andalusians" were on waiting lists. He explained, therefore, that now was the time to make a special effort to upgrade the hospitals in the region.

The announcement regarding the opening comes after years of delays and complications. The hospital initially opened without the theatres operational as the power supply was not sufficient enough to ensure there was no risk of regular power cuts.

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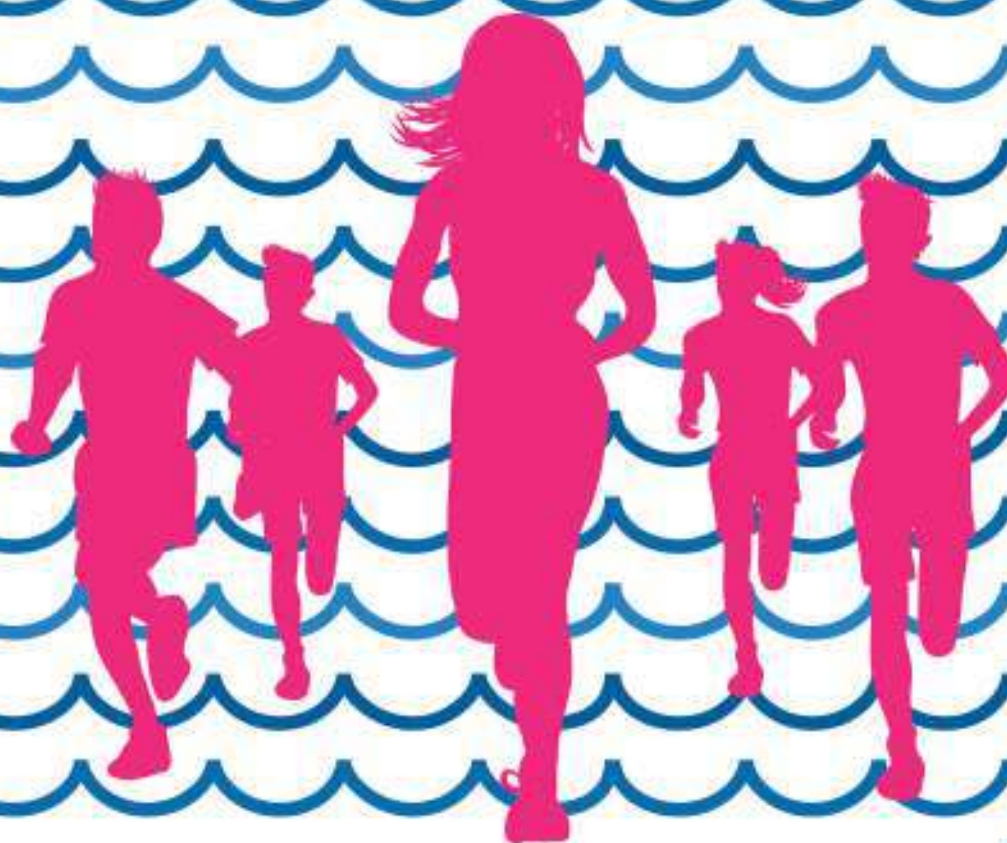
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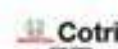
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Dani Pacheco, right, scored the winning goal in Tarragona on Sunday. :: AGENCIA LOF

LA LIGA 123

Results	Next match day
Tenerife - Osasuna 3-2	MALAGA - Sporting
Extremadura - Reus 1-0	Almería - R. Majadahonda
Deportivo - Almería 0-0	Numancia - Granada
Elche - Alcorcón 3-1	Albacete - Tenerife
Lugo - Albacete 0-3	Córdoba - Mallorca
Majadahonda-Numancia 4-0	Osasuna - Extremadura
Gimnàstic - MALAGA 0-1	Reus - Cádiz
Cádiz - Córdoba 1-1	Alcorcón - Lugo
Granada - Las Palmas 1-1	Oviedo - Deportivo
Sporting - Oviedo 1-0	Las Palmas - Elche
Mallorca - Zaragoza 3-0	Zaragoza - Gimnástica

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1.Osasuna	60	31	18	6	7	43	29
★	2.Granada	58	31	16	10	5	38	19
■	3.Albacete	56	31	15	11	5	40	23
■	4.MALAGA	54	31	15	9	7	32	22
■	5.Deportivo	53	31	13	14	4	40	22
■	6.Mallorca	51	31	14	9	8	41	28
	7.Cádiz	49	31	13	10	8	40	26
	8.Oviedo	47	31	13	8	10	34	33
	9.Almería	45	31	11	12	8	33	26
	10. Sporting	45	31	12	9	10	34	28
	11. Alcorcón	43	31	12	7	12	31	31
	12. Las Palmas	42	31	9	15	7	35	33
	13. Elche	39	31	9	12	10	33	36
	14. Numancia	36	31	8	12	11	35	40
	15. Tenerife	36	31	7	15	9	28	35
	16. R. Majadahonda	36	31	10	6	15	31	41
	17. Zaragoza	34	31	8	10	13	31	39
	18. Lugo	32	31	7	11	13	29	40
▼	19. Extremadura	30	31	7	9	15	34	41
▼	20. Gimnàstic	24	31	6	6	19	18	45
▼	21. Córdoba	23	31	4	11	16	35	57
▼	22. Reus	0	31	5	6	20	16	37

# Dani Pacheco rises to the occasion to gift Malaga a much-needed victory

The winger's first goal for his hometown club ended a miserable run of four matches without a win

DARYL FINCH



[dfinch@diariosur.es](mailto:dfinch@diariosur.es)

**MALAGA.** More than a month after their last win, Malaga fans were finally given something to cheer about as a second-half Dani Pacheco strike helped to see off Gimnàstic in Tarragona on Sunday evening.

After three draws and a defeat, Malaga coach Juan Ramón Muñoz

opted to abandon the much-maligned 4-1-4-1 system and restored striker Jack Harper to the forward line in a much more attack-minded 4-4-2 in the absence of both Alfred N'Diaye and Munir, away on international duty.

Pawel Kieszek, minding goal in the absence of the latter, was kept busy on the day, making five saves and picking up the man-of-the-match award for his efforts. In the first half he was kept on his toes, first when Luis Suárez's effort was deflected just wide of the post, then when José Kanté's long-range effort, bound for the top corner, needed tip-



Cifu, Kieszek and Luis Hernández celebrate the win. :: AGENCIA LOF

## 0-1 GIMNÀSTIC-MALAGA

**Gimnàstic:** Bernabé; Pipa (Sadik, 77'), Salva, Noguera, Fali, Abraham; Thioune, Ramiro Guerra (Viti, 58'), Imanal García; Kanté (Uche, 74'), Luis Suárez. Unused substitutes: Becerra, Josema, Barrada, Palanca.

**Malaga:** Kieszek; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Diego González, Ricca; Iván Alejo (Lombán, 90+1'), Erik Morán, Adrián, Ontiveros (Dani Pacheco, 54'); Harper (Mula, 58'), Blanco Leschuk. Unused substitutes: Werner, Brezanic, Renato, Keidi.

**Goals:** 0-1 Dani Pacheco 73').

**Referee:** Pulido Santana. Yellow cards for Pipa, Iván Alejo, Adrián and Pacheco.

**Ground:** Nou Estadi de Tarragona (6,212 spectators).

ping around the post.

Despite fighting for their lives at the wrong end of the table, the hosts made life difficult for their illustrious visitors who eventually grew into the game after the break.

Malaga almost took the lead early on through Gustavo Blanco Leschuk who turned neatly on the edge of the box before rattling the crossbar, as the Argentinian striker saw his goalless run extend to 20 games.

But it was another man on a barren run of his own that eventually got the breakthrough in the 73rd minute. Dani Pacheco, who had not netted since joining his boyhood club in the summer, may have to fight to claim this one as his shot from the edge of the box took an enormous deflection before nestling into the far corner, out of the reach of the out-

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Up next

## SPORTING (H)

Sporting de Gijón will visit La Rosaleda tonight (kick off 9pm) still with an outside chance of making it to the play-offs.

The Asturian side have not enjoyed their campaign so far, but after victory in the derby against Real Oviedo (1-0) on Sunday, the side relegated from La Liga two seasons ago find themselves just six points off sixth-placed Real Mallorca.

The club parted ways with coach Rubén Baraja after match day 14. Since then José Alberto López has overseen a steady, albeit unspectacular, turnaround in fortunes, spurred in large part by the form of summer signing Uros Djurdjevic, who has finally started to find the back of the net, with seven in total so far.

Sporting come to Malaga on the back of four wins on the trot but Malaga will have Pau Torres and Yevhen Selezynov available again, back from international duty and a knock, respectively.

stretched Bernabé.

### Confidence high

Filled with confidence, Pacheco had another go minutes later, from slightly closer in, but the keeper had no problems fisting it to safety.

By this stage, the visitors were firmly in the ascendancy and had a goal chalked off for the luckless Blanco Leschuk who was penalised for handball when there was precious little he could have done to avoid it.

The win sees Malaga climb up to fourth, six points off leaders Osasuna, but just five ahead of seventh-placed Cadiz, following Mallorca's thrashing of Real Zaragoza.

### A pessimistic city

Coach Muñoz was keen to highlight the "good work" of his team, while taking aim at the "pessimism" of Malaga as a city: "We are competing well but when we win 1-0, there are always people asking why we haven't scored three or four."

"We tend to look at things negatively here," he said following the game. "We have to show more appreciation and give some recognition for the good things that we are doing."

# Home form key to salvation for Femenino as they face the drop

Malaga's women remain bottom of the Liga Iberdrola with just five games left until the end of the season

### ■ MARINA RIVAS

**MÁLAGA.** It is now 15 matches without a win for Malaga's women's team after losing 1-0 in the capital to Madrid CFF on Sunday. Estela's penalty in the 23rd minute was enough to seal all three points for the hosts and to pile the pressure on the Costa side who sit bottom of the table, four points from safety.

Many questions are being asked, principally how a team which made 14 signings could underperform so badly. Reinforcements to the frontline also came in January and yet the side, managed by Antonio Contreras, has only scored six goals in the second half of the season.

Now, with just five games remaining, the saving grace is that six teams remain in the dogfight. Malaga, on 17 points, still have Albacete and Madrid (21 points each), Sevilla (22), Logroño and Sporting de Huelva (23) within reach. However, with trips to high-flying Barcelona and Athletic still on the horizon, Malaga's



Dominika returned to action during Sunday's loss. ■ OPTA

remaining home fixtures are key to their hopes of staying up.

This Sunday, Albacete come to the Malaga Federación ground (12pm kickoff), ahead of the visits of Huelva (weekend of 20

April) and Rayo Vallecano (week-end of 4 May). Three wins from three can surely be the only way Malaga won't be relegated back to the second tier after just one season in the elite.



■ GERMÁN POZO

## ILLUSTRIOUS OPPONENTS EDGE OUT MALAGUEÑO

Spain's oldest football team, Recreativo de Huelva, continued their charge at the top end of Segunda B group four with a narrow victory over Malaga reserve side, Atlético Malagueño, on Sunday. Topi scored what turned out to be the winner in the 51st minute as his side passed up further opportunities. Malagueño remain second bottom.



The Marbella players celebrate the opener. ■ J. RODRÍGUEZ

## The Marbella charge continues with comfortable home victory over San Fernando

### MARBELLA 2 SAN FERNANDO 0

### ■ JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

**MÁLAGA.** The season is going to finish too soon for Marbella. Now on a fine run of form, unbeaten in 11 matches, there aren't enough games left to make up for the damage inflicted at the start of the season to make the play-offs.

On Sunday, David Cubillo's side ran out comfortable 2-0 winners against promotion chasers San Fernando at the Estadio Antonio Lorenzo. Despite the visitors getting off to the better start, Samu Delgado got the go-ahead goal against the run of play in the 35th minute. The winger took the ball under his spell 35 metres from goal before unleashing an unstoppable volley past keeper Rubén Gálvez who couldn't get back to his goalline fast enough.

With the lead, and Añón on the field in place of the injured Paulo Vitor, Marbella enjoyed greater control in the second half.

Samu Delgado continued to be a menace to the San Fernando backline and spurned a number of chances before laying one on a plate for Añón to double the lead the 25 minutes to go.

There could have been more but Marbella, and especially N'Diaye, were wasteful in front of goal and had to settle for two.





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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbopalmer



# The retro approach

**Luis Enrique opted to bring back some old faces for the latest round of international fixtures**

While England took the talented teenager approach and Germany ditched their World Cup winners for the new generation, Spain decided to go all retro.

Luis Enrique opted to bring back the old faces who hadn't been part of a national team picture for many years and the unique approach worked - mostly.

Jesús Navas, a World Cup winner returned after five years without a cap to head up the experiment of recalling players who had been overlooked for several years. After impressing as the starting right-back in the 2-1 win against Norway, he returned to tee up a goal for Álvaro Morata in the 2-0 success in Malta.

Navas will be back when the

qualifiers reconvene in June.

As for the other old-timers who won a recall, the experiment wasn't quite so conclusive. Daniel Parejo's consistent form for Valencia earned him a chance at a second cap and if he continues to impress in the remainder of the season he'll come into consideration again.

Sergio Canales, now 28, didn't do anything to indicate that a second invite may be winging its way to Real Betis.

It was tough on Juan Bernat to be asked to play out of position when given his first chance in over three years. The Spain coach owes the Paris Saint Germain full-back for playing as a winger.

Iker Muniain also had little game time to prove that it was worth waiting since 2012 to double his cap count. The Spain manager will have a watching brief on him at Athletic Bilbao and also Jaime Mata of Getafe who was rewarded for his fairytale rise from the lower leagues to leading Spanish scorer in La Liga with a flirting cameo against Norway.

When Luis Enrique took over as Spain manager he claimed he had sixty players to choose from and now he's closing in on having trialled that number. It's almost as if one by one he's going through the register of players.

The man who benefited the most from the two games was Álvaro Morata. Against Norway he created a multitude of chances yet failed to convert any of them. It was astute management to select him from the start for a second time in Malta and it paid off with a brace of goals. Morata returned to Atlético Madrid a far more confident individual than the man who has struggled in the colours of Chelsea.



Álvaro Morata bagged twice against Malta on Tuesday. **AFP**

The other winners were his Atleti teammate Rodri who looks like a successor to Sergi Busquets, if or when the Barcelona ball-winner is not around. Mario Hermoso also looked assured in his first competitive start for his country. Hermoso was of course partnered in defence by the legendary Sergio Ramos.

Ramos is Spain's rock. Sadly, the coach had to depart abruptly to deal with urgent family matters; his captain took on the extra leadership responsibilities. While others may be uncertain of their international future Ramos ex-

cludes confidence.

When he was put on the spot with less than twenty minutes to go and the scores level against Norway, he stepped forwards to convert his twelfth penalty of the season. It wasn't just any penalty, it was what is commonly known as a 'Panenka'. This was named after a Czech player called Antonin Panenka in the 1970s. Since then many players have imitated the technique but Ramos has perfected it.

In fact, Ramos has pulled off the trick so many times it should now be named after him!



Jesús Navas. **EFE**

## Narrow defeat but a positive start to Euro qualifying for Gibraltar

Jeff Hendrick's goal gave Ireland all three points on Mick McCarthy's return to the dug-out last Saturday

**GIBRALTAR 0 IRELAND 1**

**DARYL FINCH**

Despite the latest international break yielding two defeats, the Gibraltar national team can hold their heads high after pushing the Republic of Ireland all the way in their European Championships qualifier at the Victoria Stadium last Saturday.

A combination of resolute defending and the elements contrived to make life hard for Ireland on Mick McCarthy's return to the dug-out.

Gibraltar, 194th in the world rankings, more than held their own in the first half and could have gone ahead after the restart through Roy Chipolina's header from a corner, denied by cat-like reflexes from keeper Dar-



Jeff Hendrick, wearing 13, scored Ireland's winner. **TWITTER /@FAIRELAND**

ren Randolph.

However, they came unstuck minutes later when Burnley's Jeff Hendrick stroked home a pull-back to seal a narrow win for the visitors.

**Friendly action**

The strong winds remained for the visit of Estonia for a friendly match

on Tuesday but again it was the visitors who claimed the win.

Gibraltar, who hit the crossbar from a freekick in the first half and who had a goal disallowed in the second, went behind in the 53rd minute when Konstantin Vassiljev's freekick curled in past the grasp of Kyle Goldwin.

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# Menéndez disappoints but Davidovich progresses to the quarters of the Marbella Challenger

The Casino Admiral Trophy, part of the ATP Challenger Tour, is taking place at Puente Romano tennis club until Sunday

by DARYL FINCH

**MARBELLA.** Local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich is through to the quarterfinals of the Casino Admiral Trophy after a convincing 6-2 6-0 win over fellow Spaniard Carlos Taberner on centre court at Puente Romano tennis club on Thursday afternoon.

His path to the quarters has not been entirely plain sailing though. On Tuesday, the youngster from Rincón de la Victoria cruised to a 6-3 win in the first set against Federico Gaio before the Italian fought back to claim the second and put Davidovich's progress in doubt. However, the 19-year-old kept his composure after a blip in the third to win 6-3.

### Another early exit

Marbella-born Adrián Menéndez is one player whose fortunes are not going so well. Menéndez (141st in the



Menéndez in action on Tuesday. by JOSELE-LANZA

### MEN'S SINGLES LAST 16

Monteiro-Bolelli	6-4 7-6
Vesely-Arnaboldi	6-4 6-2
Mager-Baldi	6-4 6-2
Paire-Díez	6-1 6-6 (ret)
Davidovich-Taberner	6-2 6-0
Martínez-García López	3-6 6-3 6-1
Vilella-Andújar	4-6 2-6
Giannessi-Brancaccio	4-6 7-6 6-3

### Programme for today:

**11.00:** Mager-Andújar. **Not before 12.20:** Paire-Giannessi. **Not before 15.20:** Vesely-Martínez. **Not before 17.20:** Davidovich-Monteiro.

\*Programme subject to change

ATP rankings), who is involved in organising the tournament in his home town, crashed out early once again, losing on Tuesday in the round of 32 to unfavoured Italian Raul Brancaccio (390th), 6-4 7-5.

### Tickets still available

Davidovich, alongside tournament favourite Benoît Paire and second seed Pablo Andújar, will be back in action today, Friday, and will take on Brazilian Thiago Montero who saw off Simone Bolelli, 6-4 7-6.

Tickets are still available online ([marbellachallenger.com](http://marbellachallenger.com)) for 25 euros. Entry for the semifinals on Saturday and final on Sunday can be purchased for the same price.

# Real estate firms invited to take part in padel tournament fundraiser

Organised by NVOGA, this charity tournament for industry professionals will be raising funds to build a school in Uganda

by SUR IN ENGLISH

**MARBELLA.** On 5, 6 and 7 April, Racket Club de Los Monteros in Marbella will play host to the first Real Estate Charity Padel Tournament on the Costa del Sol, bringing together developers, builders, lawyers, interior designers and architects from across the area.

The event, organised by NVOGA, will raise funds for the Rwenzori Child Care organisation to help build a school in Uganda.

To sign up for the padel tournament, which will be divided into different categories to ensure even games and maximum participation, costs 20 euros.

There will also be a football game on Saturday 6 between Spain and the Rest of the World for which inscription is 10 euros.

The event will be family-friendly with several other activities taking place for those not competing to enjoy.

To sign up or to find out more about the various packages available to businesses who want to promote themselves to fellow industry professionals at the event, visit [nvoga.com](http://nvoga.com), scan the QR code on the bottom of page 48 or contact the club directly on 680 55 63 78.

# Women rugby players raise funds for Cudeca with tournament this Saturday

by SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** This Saturday, 30 March, the sports complex on the Teatinos campus of Malaga university will host the seventh edition of the Women's Rugby-7 Tournament Against Cancer which this year will see all pro-

ceeds go to the Cudeca Hospice based in Benalmádena.

Teams from Malaga, Seville, Granada and Ciudad Real will all participate with the double aim of raising funds for the fight against cancer and to give greater visibility to women's rugby.

The day's events will begin at 9am with the inauguration act, attended by representatives from the city hall, Malaga university, the sports club and Cudeca before the action kicks off at 10am.

The games will run until around 5.30pm after which there will be a prize draw of gifts donated by sponsors.

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## THE MALAGA HALF MARATHON IN PICTURES



The route passed the cathedral. :: FRANCIS SILVA



Women's winner Lima with Ballesteros. :: N. SALAS



There was a fun family atmosphere. :: NITO SALAS



Winner Ortigosa crosses the line. :: NITO SALAS



More than 7,000 people took part. :: NITO SALAS

## A local winner as a new era begins

**Cristobal Ortigosa was first across the line as the Malaga Half Marathon took a new route, starting from the Paseo del Parque instead of the athletics stadium**

:: E. MIRANDA / F. MORGADO

**MÁLAGA.** Some 7,500 runners took to the streets for the Media Maratón Teatro Soho Caixabank Ciudad de Málaga on Sunday

morning - this year following a completely new route.

Traditionally starting and finishing at the athletics stadium, the 29th edition was moved to the

heart of the city and to the Paseo del Parque and had the added luxury of taking in the red carpet laid out around the historic centre for the Film Festival.

However, the biggest changes were on the podium where seven-time winner and favourite Abdelhadi El Mouaziz had to make do with second place, falling behind 30-year-old Cristóbal Ortigosa from Villanueva del Rosario (also from Cueva de Nerja-UMA) who recorded a time of one hour, five minutes and 24 seconds. This was the first time since 2010 that a 'Malagueño' has won the race.

Daniel Pérez (Club Atletismo Málaga) came in third.

Among the women there was a local flavour too as Janine Lima (Club Atletismo Málaga) came in first with a 1h21:50, followed by Mónica Ballesteros (Rincón Fertilidad Vélez) just seconds later.

There was a fun family atmosphere enjoyed by numerous nationalities all brought together for diverse causes.

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## LOCAL PAIR MISS OUT ON FIRST WPT OF THE YEAR IN MARBELLA

The first stop on the World Padel Tour (WPT) concluded at the Elena Benítez pavilion in San Pedro on Sunday with a victory for Argentinian pair Maxi Sánchez and Sanyo Gutiérrez (foreground) in the final against Andalusian pairing Paquito Navarro and Juan Lebrón. The two Martas, Marrero and Ortega, won among the women.



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**OLDER** gentleman WLTM a slightly younger and gently dominant male friend who has a quiet secluded venue, where we can have a drink and talk about mutual interests and needs which are open to mutual consent. gamesman\_36@yahoo.co.uk

**LADY** friends (32/44 years), WLTM friendly, active gents 40/75 years to share reliable relationship, for travel, dining out, etc. 616801141

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Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
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Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

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Bus Station	955038665
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Town Hall	952761100
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Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
Taxi	(00350) 20070027

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Marella Explorer	29-30/03	Gibraltar	Cartagena	08.00	23.59
MSC Divina	31/03	Lisbon	Valencia	07.00	14.00
Horizon	31/03	Cartagena	Puerto Torres	07.30	15.00
Ventura	31/03	Cartagena	Gibraltar	08.00	22.00
Crystal Serenity	03/04	Tenerife	Barcelona	13.00	23.59
Clio	04/04	Cartagena	Tangier	08.00	23.00
Balmoral	06/04	A Coruña	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Saga Sapphire	06/04	Motril	Cadiz	08.00	17.00



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**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Something is not what it seems in a situation and you need to start asking questions. The balance of your life has shifted.




**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Somehow the air seems fresher, the sun seems brighter and determination is renewed. There are things you want to change and this is a great time to do it.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Still feeling in a bit of a rut? Have a chat with friends and family to see how things can be moved on. This week gives you the chance to sort out any financial tangles.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
A bit of flirting midweek could see you taking an outcome for granted. Nothing too hasty, please! Keep thoughts to yourself for now.




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Although busy at home, keep a sharp eye on your working life. There are likely to be chances to progress and even improve your finances. Sometimes you really do know best.




**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
In a creative and social week you will find working well with others a real bonus. Try not to shy away from learning something that seems just too difficult.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
People can be a delight and people can be frustrating, but those that you care about need some help. It is not the time now to stir up disruptive emotions.




**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Check that loved ones are feeling well as some attention may be needed in that area. Give others a chance to open up to you by just being there and available.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Check out finances and hopefully find a way to save on a big-ticket item. Share the information with others. It's a really good feeling to be able to help loved ones.

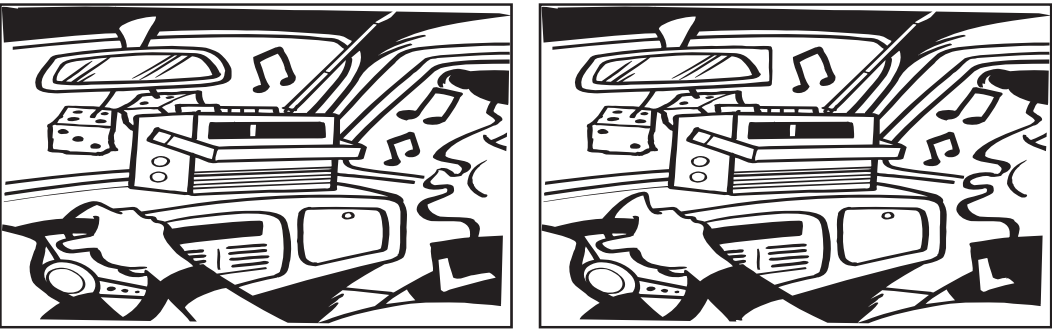


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Getting more fresh air and sitting around less is essential to your wellbeing. Give your diet an overhaul as you seek to do the best possible for your body. Isn't it worth it?

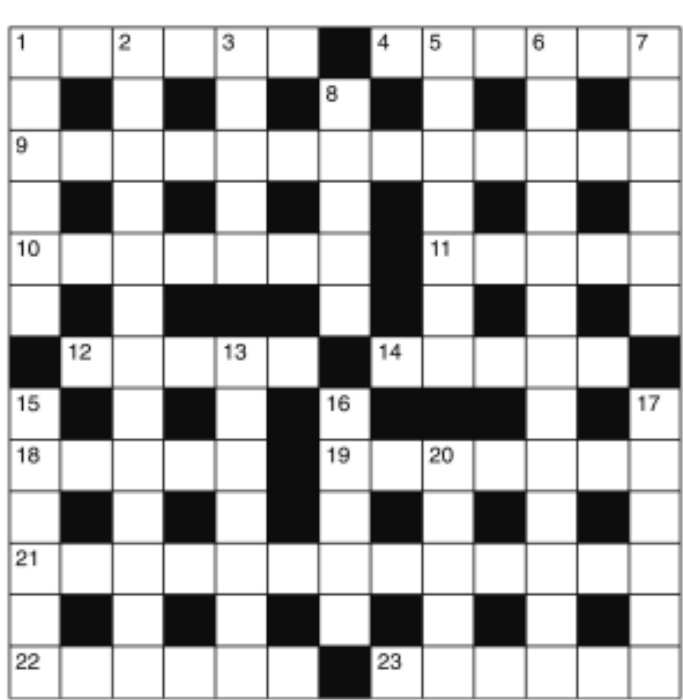


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Exploring new possibilities could involve taking a journey that you could only dream about before. To bring some experiences to life you may first have to have a longer-term plan.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11350



Across

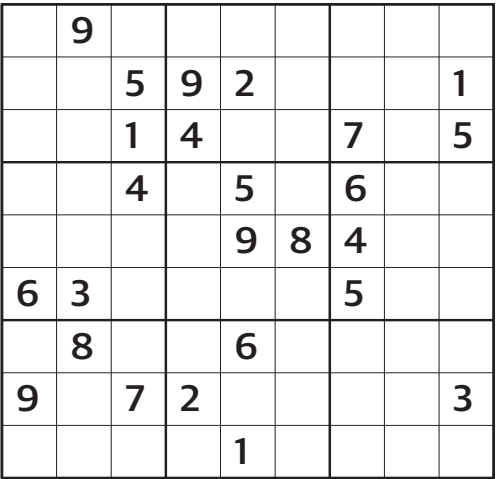
- 1 150 have fallen for this plant (6)
- 4 Dunderhead will incense to his peril (6)
- 9 What a clueless detective and a driver without petrol have in common (7,2,2,2)
- 10 Mirror to bring reproach? (7)
- 11 Lift, but not quite to paradise! (5)
- 12 She is essential to good husbandry (5)
- 14 We hear big fire may be here (5)
- 18 Reels on the reef, perhaps (5)
- 19 About poetry? The opposite! (7)
- 21 The ordinary soldier's wage? (7,6)
- 22 Staggered Communist ate fish (6)
- 23 Batsman's quick look at leg, perhaps (6)

Down

- 1 The bird from the islands (6)
- 2 Rusty, like a retired doctor? (3,2,6)
- 3 The pick of the literary world (5)
- 5 Not the same oar, then? (7)
- 6 Greeting which may imply an unsuccessful morning? (4,9)
- 7 Messenger needn't be without a bean! (6)
- 8 Stone at an entrance (5)
- 13 Perish round the ocean through illness (7)
- 15 Fitting sound support? (6)
- 16 Incomprehensible language? (5)
- 17 Worship sincere leader from 19 (6)
- 20 Mercenary in heaven also! (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 Martin Scorsese films listed below?

1. --- Driver

2. The Color of ---

3. Boxcar ---

4. --- Streets

5. The --- of Comedy

6. The Last ---

7. New --- Stories

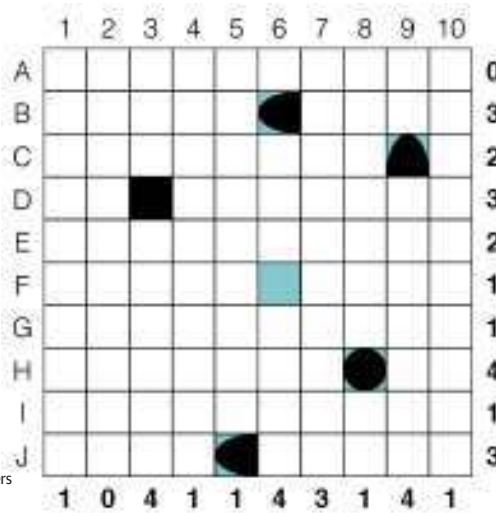
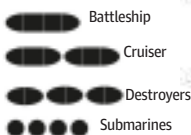
8. Raging ---

9. --- Doesn't Live Here Anymore

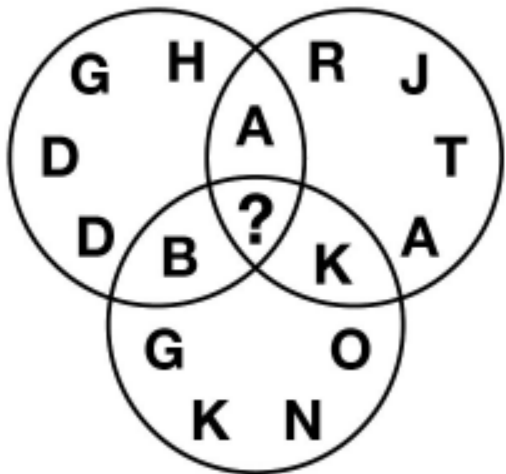
10. --- Fear

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) Agriculture (11)

6) Relations (10)

11) Shellfish (7)

12) Goal (3)

13) To smell (4)

14) Speech (8)

15) Sword (6)

16) Challenge (7)

18) This (4)

20) Wine (4)

21) Treaty (7)

23) Tribe (5)

25) Tourism (7)

28) Partner (5)

29) Positive (8)

34) Nations (8)

35) He examines (7)

37) Market (7)

38) Hunger (6)

40) It brings together (5)

41) Rum (3)

42) I was (3)

43) Economy (8)

45) Parsley (7)

46) To revoke (7)

49) Opportunity (11)

50) Interview (10)

Down

1) Airport (10)

2) Admission (7)

3) Striking (9)

4) Located (7)

5) Lift (8)

7) Spirit (8)

8) Common (5)

9) Negotiation (11)

10) Solution (8)

17) Petrol (8)

19) Shot (4)

21) You (2)

22) She writes (7)

24) Flamenco dancer (7)

26) Modernity (10)

27) To contain (8)

30) To equal (7)

31) Hope (9)

32) Former (2)

33) They camouflage (8)

35) European (7)

36) Agreement (7)

39) Bombs (6)

44) Eleven (4)

47) You (pl) (2)

48) From (3)

ANSWERS

**Quiz answers**

starting line with odds at 40-1.  
American 'pony' went to the horse ever to win the race. The won riding Battleship, the smallest months after turning seventeen. He Grand National in 1939, just three **Of interest:** Bruce Hobbs won the **Answer:** Seventeen and finished over two hurdles.  
a stone wall, crossed ploughed land brook. In those days, horses jumped fell at a the now world famous inaugural race and Captain Becher horse named Lottery won the National was first run in 1839. A **Of interest:** The Aintree Grand **Answer:** Nineteenth

Language Crossword

ACROSS:

1. LA GRACIA 6. RELACIONES  
11. MARSCO 12. GOL 13. OLER  
14. DESARRO 15. PRADA 16. DESARRO  
18. ESTO 20. VINO 21. TRAVADO 23. TRUHO  
25. TURISMO 26. SOCIO 29. POSITIVO  
34. NACIONES 35. EXAMINA  
36. ACORDADO 38. HAMBRE 40. LUNE  
41. KON 42. EUL 43. ECONOMIA  
45. PEREUL 46. DEROGAR  
49. OPORTUNIDAD 50. ENTREVISTA

DOWN:

1. AEROPUERTO 2. INGRESO  
3. EL ESPRITU 8. COMUN 9. NEGOCIACION  
10. SOLUCION 17. GASOLINA 19. TRHO  
21. TU 22. ESCRIBE 24. BATAJO  
26. MODERNIDAD 27. CONTENER  
30. BOTALAR 31. ESPERANZA 32. EX  
35. CANUTAN 36. BOMBAS 44. ONCE  
47. OS 48. ALUN

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions:

Across: 1 Clover; 4 Danger; 9 Nothing to go on; 10 Reflect; 11 Heave; 12 Bride; 14 Gate; 18 Rocks; 19 Reverse; 21 Private; 22 Reeled; 23 Glance; Down: 1 Canary; 2 Out of practice; 3 Elite; 5 Another; 6 Good afternoon; 7 Runner; 8 Agate; 13 Disease; 15 Proper; 16 Greek; 17 Reverse; 20 Venal.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Time

2. Money

3. Bertha

4. Mean

5. King

6. Waltz

7. York

8. Bull

9. Alice

10. Cape

Sudoku solution

7	9	8	5	3	1	2	4	6
4	6	5	9	2	7	3	8	1
3	2	1	4	8	6	7	9	5
8	7	4	3	5	2	6	1	9
1	5	2	6	9	8	4	3	7
6	3	9	1	7	4	5	2	8
2	8	3	7	6	9	1	5	4
9	1	7	2	4	5	8	6	3
5	4	6	8	1	3	9	7	2

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is A.  
Baghdad, Jakarta, Bangkok, all Asian capitals.

Battleships

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

The three ships of Columbus

Last week:  
Fuengirola

The open hand with a palm tree growing in the middle aims to reflect the generous character of the town and the town council's commitment to caring for the environment. It is situated on the Paseo Marítimo Rey de España.

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Where might that be?

For the last few months SUR in English has been asking readers “Where have you seen this?” on these popular Time Out pages. There are so many unusual roundabouts and sculptures around towns on the Costa del Sol and inland that it’s impossible to recognise them all, but hopefully some of the photographs featured on this page will have looked familiar.

If there’s an interesting roundabout or sculpture near you that we haven’t featured, and

that we may not have got round to photographing ourselves, then please send us a picture. As usual we’ll do our best to find out the story behind the monument, be it a modern sculpture or a piece of history.

Please send any images by email to english@diariosur.es marked “Where have you seen this?”

Don’t forget you can contact us with your news and views by emailing surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or via Face-

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# Age is no barrier for seven local athletes

**These 'Malagueños' have headed to the World Masters Athletics Championships Indoor in Poland this week**

**CAMILO LÓPEZ VEGA**



Twitter: @camylopez\_8

**MÁLAGA.** In sport, if you think that age matters, you're making a mistake. Believing that a number can prevent you from reaching the elite is wrong. Just ask the seven 'Malagueño' athletes who have this week joined 280 others from across the country at the World Masters Athletics Championships Indoor in Torun (Poland).

This competition, which got under way on Sunday and runs until tomorrow, 30 March, sees Fernando Peyrallo and Ana Martín take part in the 10-kilometre race walk, and Santiago Jiménez, José Manuel Romero, José María Carrillo, José Duarte and José Luis Casado in the half marathon.



Jiménez, Carrillo, Duarte, Martín, Romero, Peyrallo and Casado ahead of their Poland trip. :: NITO SALAS

Enthusiasm, passion and, above all, fun. This is what first brought together this group of friends who have known each other since 2006, when they decided to start competing in sports events together

across the world.

The biggest to date has been the '5 marathons, 5 continents' initiative, held between 2009 and 2012, which saw sponsors pay one euro for each kilometre completed. All

of the proceeds went to Save the Children to help the most disadvantaged children in society.

Since then, this group of veteran athletes has continued searching for competitions in which they

can participate and do what they like best, even if, as they told SUR ahead of their departure to Poland last week, that the possibility of a medal was a long shot.

That's not to say that they won't be competitive. After all, Casado managed to finish a marathon in two hours and 51 minutes, Carrillo ran the whole Camino de Santiago in ten days and Ana Martín won the 10km race walk in Montenegro in 2006.

## Motivation

"I'm especially thrilled to be wearing the Spanish national team jersey," said Santiago Jiménez, a sentiment echoed by the whole team. "Being able to represent my country is a source of pride."

However, that is not their only motivation. "The example you set for the rest of the family is tremendous; if parents do sports, children do," said Ana Martín, dentist, mother, wife and veteran walker.

But come what may in Poland, these veteran athletes know that a lot still lies ahead for them, even if it is just as an excuse to continue meeting up.

After Torun comes Toronto in 2020. "Of course we'll be there - and I mean all of us!" said Fernando Peyrallo. "We'll be in Toronto!"



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