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MALAGA CF

Víctor Sánchez, the new man in the hotseat

He replaces coach Juan Ramón Muñiz, sacked following Malaga's 2-1 loss to Extremadura **P56&57**



A WEEK OF PASSION

Holy Week celebrations have taken over the Costa this week, but all eyes are on the weather ahead of its climax this weekend **P14&15**



Petals are thrown as the Señor de la Pollinica passes through Malaga city centre on Palm Sunday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

High Court rules against Mijas council in home auction scandal

A British couple found their holiday home had been sold off to cover an unpaid local tax bill

The Andalusian High Court has confirmed a previous ruling in a civil case against Mijas town hall, which, under former mayor Ángel Nozal, auctioned properties whose owners owed local taxes without notifying them first. **P9**

Sucking the life out of villages. Rural depopulation has seen Malaga province lose a third of its inland inhabitants in a decade **P4-6**

Marbella's Puerto Deportivo marina to get new quay for shuttles in bid to attract cruise ships to visit the town **P2**

Check out our Home Improvements special for information and advice for your new renovation projects **P39-45**

Final autopsy report confirms that Julen died immediately after fall

The document rules out the theory put forward by lawyers that the injuries were caused during rescue attempts

The parents of the two-year-old whose body was recovered from the bottom of a borehole after a 13-day rescue operation in January have said the final post-mortem report has brought them some "relief" despite their grief. The 25-page document, which contains the findings of all the forensic testing, concludes that the boy died instantly when he fell down the

hole. These results rule out the suggestion put forward by the defence team of the landowner, the only individual under investigation in the case, that the boy's head injuries were caused by a tool used during the early stages of the rescue operation. The boy's parents have called for the investigation into a possible case of negligent manslaughter to be kept open. **P3**



Royal Caribbean unveils its first vessel for the Chinese market in Malaga

The company also announced that it will bring 40,000 passengers to the city this year on its other scheduled ships

PIJAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Cruise line Royal Caribbean chose Malaga this week to unveil its first ship dedicated to the lucrative Asian market. Spectrum of the Seas will be based in Shanghai and recently left a German shipbuilders for the long journey to China. The cruise line has chosen Malaga in previous years to unveil new ships to world press and travel agents.

The new liner has space for 4,246



Inside Spectrum of the Seas, focused on Asian customers. :: P. M.

passengers and has a crew of 1,551 made up of 55 different nationalities.

Unveiling the vessel were head of Sales in Spain for Royal Caribbean, Sergio Arévalo, and the head of Malaga port, Carlos Rubio. "Both the port and the city of Malaga are key for Royal Caribbean, which is why we've decided to unveil our new ships to the world here, as we did last year with Symphony of the Seas," said Arévalo.

He added that the company plans 11 scheduled stops for six of its ships in Malaga port this year, bringing 40,000 passengers to the city.

In terms of the new Spectrum of the Seas, this will start an inaugural cruise from Barcelona to Shanghai. The ship is the first to have an area set aside for full suites and will have restaurants serving Asian food.

The Costa del Sol basks in bumper start to Semana Santa for visitor numbers

PIJAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol has seen one of its busiest periods of the year in the last few days, helped by good weather at the start of the Semana Santa week and despite the unsettled conditions for the second half of this holiday period.

Malaga Airport said that, starting last weekend, it was expecting to handle over 800,000 passengers in the period up to Easter Monday, 22 April. In total, 4,780 incoming and outgoing flights will use the airport over Easter, which is up on the 4,083 flight movements for Easter last year.

Last Saturday was the busiest for Easter activity at the airport, with over 80,000 passengers expected. Tomorrow, Saturday 20th, will be the second busiest day, as many people start to return home after a few days away.

Cruise terminal record

The port of Malaga was expecting a record week for passengers arriving to visit the city on cruise ships. More than 37,000 were due to discover the city during the period of Semana Santa processions on eight different ships.

Rail operator Renfe has also put on more seats on the high-speed service from Madrid as well as night services on the Cercanías lines running between Fuengirola and Malaga on Wednesday and Thursday to cope with more people travelling into Malaga to see the processions.

The Spanish tourist board, Tur España, was also predicting that hotel and self-catering accommodation would be 78 per cent full nationally this week. The government said that eight in ten reservations were for coastal destinations.

Marbella to get new quay to take shuttles from visiting cruises

The council wants to use the central Puerto Deportivo marina to disembark passengers and win a slice of this lucrative market

MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. A further step was taken by Marbella this week towards its dream of becoming a port of call for the lucrative cruise ship market.

In the absence of a port big enough to take full-sized cruise ships, the local council has awarded a contract to build a small quay ex-

tension in the main Puerto Deportivo marina, near the old town. This will take shuttle boats from large ships anchored offshore. Tenders are common sights in many smaller destinations used by cruise ships.

Cruise companies have shown an interest in calling at Marbella for some time and a recent plan to build a proper terminal in an expanded La Bajadilla marina (to the east of the old town) did not materialise.

The town hall says the work at the Puerto Deportivo, which will see a 58-square-metre waiting area added to a stretch of quay near the port's mouth, should take two months to complete once started.



The area marked in yellow will be used to dock the tenders. :: SUR

Businesses operating in the well-used marina, including bars and restaurants, will be consulted over the best time for the works to start.

A new pedestrian path will lead from the quay to the main area for port visitors, avoiding the nearby

pumps used for refuelling boats.

Puerto Deportivo is the only one of the four marinas in Marbella run directly by the council and bosses also still want to build an improved link from the Paseo Marítimo to the marina's own bars and restaurants.

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Final autopsy report confirms that Julen died instantly as a result of his fall down the borehole in Totalán

Tests and a study of the toddler's injuries suggest an immediate death, ruling out the hypothesis of the landowner's defence team

:: JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. The final autopsy report has finally cleared up some of the unknowns that had arisen around the death of two-year-old Julen, who fell into a unsealed borehole 22 centimetres in diameter on 13 January in Totalán, near Malaga. The body of the minor was recovered after an enormous operation lasting 13 days.

Almost three months after the post mortem examination was carried out, the head of the Pathology Service has handed over the final report to the court in Malaga investigating the case, after receiving the results of all the forensic tests carried out.

Its main conclusion coincides with the doctors' theories at the time of performing the autopsy: Julen died from the blows suffered in the fall, which caused two head injuries. Therefore, his death was immediate, or almost.

Specifically, the report establishes



Machinery at the scene of the borehole. :: SUR

the time of death at around 1.50pm. It explains that the minor had two head injuries, one near the left temple and another on the back of the head. It also establishes that the first of these injuries would have been caused by an object and, the second, caused by the fall itself.

The 25-page document, signed by four forensic doctors, states that

the main cause of the child's death was the fall and the immediate cranioencephalic trauma.

Doubts dispelled

The final autopsy report, which also includes the complementary analyses requested from the National Institute of Toxicology, dispels one of the doubts raised by the defence of

"Despite the pain, it's a relief to know he didn't suffer"

Julen's father, José Roselló, said this week that it was a "relief to know that my son didn't suffer". In an interview he and Victoria García, Julen's mother, gave to Canal SUR television, the couple said they expected the results. They also said that they had no longer any relationship with the landowner, David Serrano, José cousin's boyfriend.

The parents' lawyers called this week for the court to continue investigating a possible case of negligent homicide.

David Serrano, the only party under formal investigation in the case (and the owner of the land where the events took place).

The law firm Lawbird Legal Services, representing Serrano, presented a report at the beginning of March in which it was suggested that one of the instruments used during the first hours of the rescue

to break through the layer of earth that had formed on top of the child, could have hit the minor on the head and even caused his death.

However, the final report states that this tool, a kind of long pick with a hooked end, did not cause any of the injuries. For the pick to have been able to cause the injury to the left temple, Julen's head would have had to be tilted. The report states that the child's head was straight as the position of his clothes and arms prevented any tilting.

In any case, this was not used until 5.29pm so, "in the unlikely event" that it did hit him, he would have already been dead for more than three hours.

As a result of these findings, the judge has confirmed that Serrano remains under formal investigation and, as the owner of the land, could be charged with negligent manslaughter.

However, Serrano's defence team continue to insist on new tests and interviews with rescue workers being carried out, a request rejected last month, and have also suggested that the man responsible for digging the borehole should be investigated further as, they allege, he lied to the judge when he came in to testify.

The investigation continues.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

Rural depopulation - sucking the life out of inland villages

Inland areas of the province of Malaga are suffering a drop in population that has seen some municipalities lose up as many as a third of their inhabitants in a decade



FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

Carlos Montañez is 26 years old and the only person of his age in Canillas del Aceituno. The majority of his friends have left the village. He didn't. "The people who stay are the ones who have stability - the rest leave as soon as they find a job," he says as he serves customers in his family's bar in the square of this tiny village in the Axarquía.

José is younger (15) and while he's still not sure what he wants to do with his future, he's already seeing how in his groups of friends,

formed by around ten young people of his generation, almost all of them are planning to leave. "A lot are already studying somewhere else," he says before riding off on his bike down the quiet streets of the village. He's just come back from the secondary school in Periana which is 40 minutes away by bus.

"I'm not leaving, but not because I don't want to," says Vanessa Hidalgo, who, in a few months' time will give birth to one of the four babies the village expects this year. This figure is among the lowest in recent years in a municipality where grey hair and walking sticks are three times more common than toys, and where the deaths double the births.

In fact the ageing of the population is getting to such a point that there is almost as much work for home helpers as there is in the tex-



Eliana Castillo and her children, born in Argentina, have brought new energy to Canillas. :: SALVADOR SALAS



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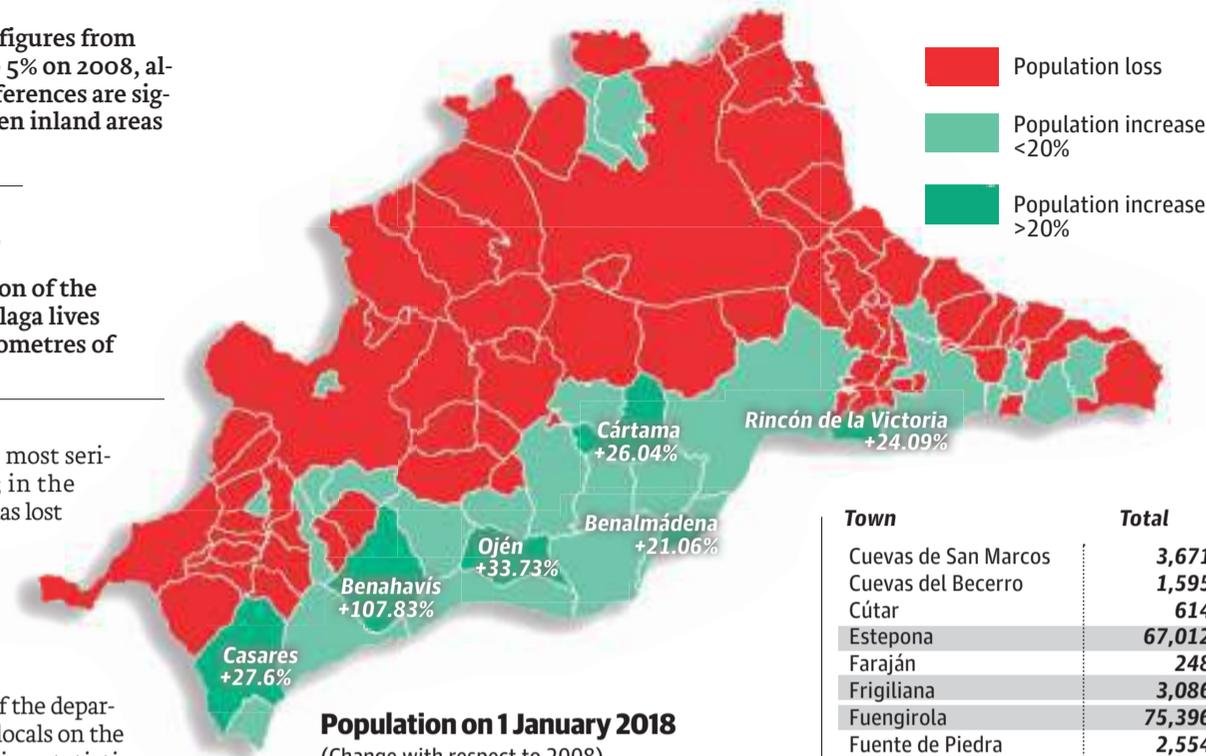
29 municipalities in the province of Malaga have fewer than a thousand inhabitants. Four decades ago there were 14.

1.64 million people live in Malaga province, according to the mu-

nicipal padrón figures from 2018. This is up 5% on 2008, although the differences are significant between inland areas and the coast.

80% of the population of the province of Malaga lives within two kilometres of the coast.

POPULATION CHANGES IN THE PROVINCE OF MALAGA (2008-2018)



tile workshop or the avocado warehouse.

In recent years the local primary school has been grouping together children of different ages in the same class. This has been happening for a while in more isolated villages in the Genal valley, but never here.

There are only seven pupils in the class of three-year-olds; one of them is the oldest child of Eliana Castillo, whose family is the exception in the village. They come from the bustling city of Buenos Aires and have been in Canillas for two months.

"My husband is from here. He works away but we've come to the village because it's pretty and peaceful," she says as she waits outside the school gates which every year are less busy.

Last month thousands of people from central Spain protested in Madrid to call for the authorities to do more to stop rural area from literally "emptying" of people.

Here in the province of Malaga the problem has always been associated with the tiny villages in the Genal valley such as Atajate (169 registered residents), Júzcar (225) or Pujerra (294). Now though, the problem is spreading to many other larger places. Canillas de Aceituno

is perhaps the most serious example; in the last decade it has lost almost a third of its registered population, which fell 30% to 1,620.

The effect of the departure of young locals on the population statistics

has been mitigated to a certain extent by the arrival of foreign residents, most of them British, who now make up a fifth of the local population. The majority, however, are seen little mixing with the locals in the village itself as they tend to live in country homes on the mountainside.

However the arrival of foreigners is not going to pull places like Canillas out of their vicious circle. Remedios Larrubia, head of Geography at Malaga university, points out that most of the new residents from other countries are older people who may have helped to stabilise the population figures but are past reproduction age so are not going to increase them further.

Lack of services

The symptoms of depopulation are numerous in this village that sits, tucked in beneath the peak of La Maroma, the highest mountain in the province. At the doctor's surgery there is only a GP seeing patients on weekday mornings. In the afternoon patients have to travel 11 kilometres to La Viñuela health centre or to the district hospital in Vélez (21 kilometres). The bus only comes at 7am and 4pm and only once on a Saturday and not at all on Sunday or public holidays.

So what is there to entertain the young people? A disco-bar, the municipal swimming pool and a football pitch. To go to the cinema or shopping you have find someone who has a driving licence. Even that is more complicated now - the driving school in the village closed down several years ago.

"Except in fair week and the Morcilla festival [27 April - a celebration of the village's famous black pudding] there's never anything going on round here," says Juan Antonio López, who, at 23 years of age is

Population on 1 January 2018

(Change with respect to 2008)

Town	Total	% Change
Malaga (province total)	1,641,121	4.98
Alameda	5,366	-1.11
Alcaucín	2,239	-9.32
Alfarnate	1,105	-18.87
Alfarnatejo	394	-23.64
Algarrobo	6,367	3.63
Algatocín	778	-16.25
Alhaurín de la Torre	39,911	18.90
Alhaurín el Grande	24,123	5.87
Almáchar	1,802	-4.96
Almargen	1,984	-7.85
Almogía	3,770	-12.65
Alora	12,951	-3.61
Alozaina	2,015	-9.96
Alpandeire	252	-9.35
Antequera	41,154	-8.62
Árchez	391	-10.53
Archidona	8,288	-6.54
Ardales	2,493	-5.50
Arenas	1,177	-17.17
Arriate	4,147	2.09
Atajate	169	15.75
Benadalid	225	-13.79
Benahavís	7,989	107.83
Benalauría	443	-12.80
Benalmádena	67,746	21.06
Benamargosa	1,496	-8.89
Benamocarra	2,999	-2.63
Benaolán	1,488	-8.66
Benarrabá	458	-19.65
Borge, El	933	-10.80
Burgo, El	1,823	-10.06
Campillos	8,517	-0.30
Canillas de Aceituno	1,620	-30.17
Canillas de Albaida	732	-18.85
Cañete la Real	1,691	-16.45
Carratraca	748	-18.96
Cartajima	247	2.07
Cártama	25,758	26.04
Casabermeja	3,507	-0.06
Casarabonela	2,510	-9.29
Casares	6,121	27.60
Coín	21,716	1.08
Colmenar	3,392	-6.43
Comares	1,323	-15.73
Cómpeta	3,745	-1.29
Cortes de la Frontera	3,181	-15.44
Cuevas Bajas	1,392	-4.85

Town	Total	% Change
Cuevas de San Marcos	3,671	-11.37
Cuevas del Becerro	1,595	-12.36
Cútar	614	-6.26
Estepona	67,012	6.63
Faraján	248	-16.22
Frigiliana	3,086	3.63
Fuengirola	75,396	9.83
Fuente de Piedra	2,554	-1.08
Gaucín	1,573	-20.68
Genalguacil	393	-25.29
Guaro	2,182	-2.15
Humilladero	3,310	2.95
Igualeja	762	-23.11
Istán	1,458	5.19
Iznate	863	-5.99
Jimera de Líbar	376	-17.00
Jubrique	559	-30.39
Júzcar	225	9.76
Macharaviaya	442	-10.16
Málaga	571,026	0.81
Manilva	14,977	12.97
Marbella	141,463	8.36
Mijas	80,630	14.47
Moclinejo	1,230	-2.69
Mollina	5,020	1.15
Monda	2,523	7.73
Montecorto*	585	-8.6
Montejaque	970	-3.39
Nerja	21,061	-2.59
Ojén	3,568	33.73
Parauta	253	4.55
Periana	3,068	-14.78
Pizarra	9,118	5.39
Pujerra	294	-11.98
Rincón de la Victoria	46,093	24.09
Riogordo	2,701	-12.59
Ronda	33,978	-6.99
Salares	174	-17.14
Sayalonga	1,658	8.22
Sedella	606	-12.68
Serrato*	477	-5.2
Sierra de Yeguas	3,356	-5.52
Teba	3,818	-10.23
Tolox	2,083	-12.29
Torremolinos	68,262	8.22
Torrox	16,465	0.43
Totalán	715	-1.24
Valle de Abdalajís	2,568	-11.69
Vélez-Málaga	80,817	10.95
V. de Algaidas	4,218	-8.34
V. de la Concepción*	3,288	-4.5%
V. de Tapia	1,490	-10.83
V. del Rosario	3,373	-6.64
V. del Trabuco	5,300	-1.58
Viñuela	2,020	2.38
Yunquera	2,880	-12.36

(* There are only data for Villanueva de la Concepción as a municipality in its own right from 2011. In Serrato and Montecorto, from 2016. Source: Padrón 2018

The coast will still act as a magnet over the next decade

Despite the depopulation of inland Malaga, the province is still acting as a magnet for new residents thanks to economic activity and the attraction of residential tourism on the Costa del Sol. Forecasts made by the National Statistics Institute (INE) state that Malaga will be, along with Madrid, the Spanish province to gain the most new residents between 2016 and 2030. In proportional terms, this growth of 6.7% contrasts with the fall predicted for the country as a whole (down 1.2%) and with the fall in Andalucía of 0.2%. If these forecasts are right, Málaga will have 1,748,554 inhabitants by 2030.

waiting for the chance to earn a living somewhere else, even though he would never turn his back on his roots. This month he's been working on fitting out a new bar due to open in a few weeks.

"There are no young people and fewer and fewer of us oldies. It's dead," says Fernando

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Only 32 of the 103 municipalities in the province have grown in the last ten years with most of the increases on the western Costa del Sol and the Malaga commuter belt

➤ Jiménez, 80, as he enjoys the sunshine on a bench near the church.

“Life is good here, but there’s nobody,” adds Manuel González, of the same age, who shares Fernando’s bench and conversation.

Far from this being an exception, the loss of population has accelerated in rural areas of the province of Malaga over the last decade while figures continue to increase on the Costa.

On the whole the province has gained population, with 5% more registered inhabitants since 2008, taking the total to 1.64 million. But when you zoom in on those results, the coast/inland contrast is clear. Being on the wrong side of the motorway means fewer job opportunities, little access to basic services and isolation.

The coast

In the province only 32 of the 103 municipalities have gained residents since 2008.

Way ahead of the rest is the exceptional case of Benahavis which has doubled its population in ten years (up 107.8%) thanks to the wave of residential tourism pushing up from Marbella. This wave has also hit, but less directly, Casares (up 27%) and Ojén (up 33%) where the once rural hillsides are now scattered with residential developments whose inhabitants are mainly foreign.

Towns such as Rincón de la Victoria (+24%), Alhaurín de la Torre (+19%) and Cártama (+26%) have also seen a rise in inhabitants; they grew up as commuter towns and now have populations to rival those of the bigger towns of Antequera or Ronda, which have lost 8% and 7% of their populations, respectively.

Most of the villages in the Sierra de la Nieves, the Serranía de Ronda, the upper Axarquía and the Vega de Antequera have suffered population losses of around 15%. Today there are 29 villages with fewer than a thousand inhabitants in the province; 40 years ago there were 14.

It’s a vicious circle that never stops turning: less life leads to less business, less employment and fewer services and therefore even fewer people.

The number of bank branches has gone from 1,393 in 2008 to 764 now, the same as back in 1987. One in four villages has no bank. In Alpendeire (252 inhabitants) the council lays on a bus once a week so that residents can go to the bank in Ronda. A mobile bank visits Bena-dalid (225).

Sharing a doctor

In some of the smaller villages in the Serranía, the Genal and the Ax-



In Canillas there are 452 people over the age of 65 and only 163 under-15s. :: SALVADOR SALAS

arquía residents only have a doctor in town four hours a week as several places share one.

One of the GPs is Guillermo Téllez, who drives a hundred kilometres every morning to spend just an hour with patients in the “auxiliary” surgeries in Cartajima, Júzcar, Faraján and Alpendeire. The auxiliary part means that it is not a real doctor’s surgery, just a room and little more.

“I start in Cartajima at 8.30am and finish in Alpendeire at 1.30pm,” he explains, “And Wednesdays are reserved for the care home for the elderly in Faraján.

“We try to be flexible but we always have to be looking at the time; if we’re delayed at the start of the day the last village we visit suffers,” explains the GP.

Benahavis, a white village taken over by luxury tourism

Benahavis is a village of contrasts. On one hand it’s a small Andalusian white village like many others. There’s no secondary school and the doctor’s surgery is only open three hours a day. However, it also has 13 golf courses and hundreds of mansions and luxury villas in areas such as Los Flamingsos, Los Arqueros, La Heredia and La Zagaleta, the latter considered the most exclusive residential area in Europe.

In the last decade the population has doubled to 7,989 inhabitants; the real number is thought to be 15,000 in winter and as many as 30,000 in summer, as it’s quite common for residents not to join the ‘padrón’ (population census).

Barely 7% of residents were born in the municipality and 64% are not Spanish. Going back 20 years the population born in the Benahavis has increased by 305, while foreign residents are up 4,368.

The town’s padrón has 80 different nationalities on it although 34.2% of them are British, followed by French (4.3%) and Germans (3.5%).

112 REPORTS

Police rescue elderly woman in house fire

ESTEPONA

➤ **C. MÁRQUEZ.** National Police officers rescued an elderly woman trapped in a house fire in Estepona last Sunday. A call to the emergency services to report the sound of an explosion alerted the police who were first on the scene at the house which had a huge pall of black smoke coming from it. The woman, who lived alone, was lying in a doorway to the patio and unable to move. The police quickly grabbed a blanket and used it as a stretcher to carry her to safety while firemen put out the blaze.



The Renault Megane. :: SUR

Kamikaze driver injures eleven officers

MALAGA

➤ **J. C. / Á. F.** A man has been jailed without bail after a police chase from Benalmádena to Fuen-girola ended up with eleven officers injured on Wednesday last week. After he failed to stop at a breathalyser check, a high-speed chase ensued with the 31-year-old ignoring red lights and driving towards oncoming traffic. Police fired shots into the air and at the tyres when the car mounted the pavement to avoid a road block. The driver eventually collided with a lamppost and tried to flee on foot but was arrested when a taxi refused him access. Seven patrol and two private cars were damaged in the chase. The same man was arrested in January for raming his car into Malaga police station

Man stabbed in the thigh with a machete

MARBELLA

➤ **C. M.** A 40-year-old Spanish man has been arrested in Marbella for robbery with violence after assaulting another man with a machete. The victim suffered several wounds including one in the thigh which needed surgery. The attack happened in Calle Albéniz near the sports stadium when the victim was approached by an individual who demanded he hand over anything of value.

Five days later the attacker handed himself into the police station.

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.

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Sandro Morelli speaks to SUR in English after receiving the Golden Pin for raising 160,000 euros over the years for Cudeca Hospice

MARBELLA. A Marbella businessman is celebrating after receiving a prestigious award for raising more than 160,000 euros for the Benalmádena-based charity Cudeca.

Sandro Morelli raised the money by organising numerous fundraising dinner galas at his restaurant Villa Tiberio on Marbella's Golden Mile since 2011.

Naples-born Sandro received Cudeca's Golden Pin Award at the charity's annual presentation ear-



Sandro with Susan Hannam and Marisa Martín of Cudeca. :: SUR

lier this month.

The yearly honour is given to fundraisers for outstanding commitment to the charity, which was founded in 1992 by British resident Joan Hunt MBE.

Sandro, who was originally encouraged to open his restaurant by James Bond star Sean Connery, told SUR in English: "When I first met Joan Hunt, she was building up Cudeca slowly from her home with

the help of the local authorities.

"At first I couldn't believe we had a hospice this important in this part of the world.

"So I've been fundraising every year to support the charity and a lot of people have helped me to raise that money, including celebrities such as Harry Redknapp, Des O'Connor and Martin Brundle.

"Now we have something to be proud of with this charity. And to think Cudeca looked after over 1,000 people last year. It's an incredible organisation and I feel very strongly that everyone should try to help it."

Sandro, who opened his restaurant 30 years ago, added: "When they gave me this award to recognise my help, it was something that made me very proud."

The hospice, which has been operating on the Costa del Sol since 1991, helps to provide palliative care for terminally ill patients and support for their families.

Sandro, who has also raised over 480,000 euros for the UK-based charity, Children with Cancer, with his fundraising dinners since 2007, added that he is planning his next event at his restaurant on Sunday 2 June, for Children with Cancer UK.

He said: "I am an Italian that lives in Spain that helps children with cancer in London; it just shows you that Brexit or no Brexit, we in Europe care regardless. It doesn't have to be a national problem, it's a problem for everyone in the world, which we should acknowledge and help."

The next fundraiser will cost 75 euros for dinner and wine, with Sandro donating 25 euros of that to the charity, in addition to money raised on the night.

The evening will feature an auction and celebrity guests such as English football manager Harry Redknapp.

Since it opened in 1989, the restaurant has seen its fair share of celebrities walk through its doors such as Charlton Heston, Shirley Bassey and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Located close to The Marbella Club Hotel, the eatery is surrounded by some of the coast's most beautiful gardens and boasts an extensive menu featuring Italian and international dishes.

i For more information on the Cudeca Hospice Charity visit www.cudeca.org

EDITORIAL CONTENT

MAD ABOUT MOTORING?

Whether you're a car enthusiast or rely on your car for just about everything, keeping your vehicle on the road is a costly endeavor. Prices for car insurance can vary greatly between providers depending on different risk factors. While reducing your annual mileage and keeping your car in a secure location will help keep your premiums down, Linea Directa recommend shopping around for insurance quotes to get the best possible price with the best possible cover.

MINOR CAR PROBLEMS

At this time of the year in the early morning sunshine, condensation is particularly troublesome especially in older vehicles. Motorists and other road users are at risk. Accidents can be caused when drivers try to wipe down the windscreen. Here are some handy tips to help you tackle condensation. Wash your car regularly as dirt and dust attract moisture and early morning dew. Remove any damp items like towels or coats from inside the car. When safe to do so, leave the windows open for a few hours. Switch on the air conditioning and wipe down the inside of the windows. Finally, you can fill a sock with cat litter and place it in your car to help absorb excess moisture.

BUT WHAT IF IT DOESN'T START?

A flat battery is a great inconvenience, jump-starting your car from the roadside can be hazardous and new batteries are expensive and can be troublesome to fit. These tips can help prolong the life of your battery. Keep the terminals clean of residue that builds up over time. And remember to turn off air conditioning, lights, radio and other battery draining systems whenever possible.

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Council approves updated official plan to protect the character of Mijas Pueblo

The new PEPRI focuses on stimulating the local economy and maintaining the iconic white village's identity

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. The image of Mijas Pueblo as an iconic white village on the hillside looks set to continue for some time to come with the approval of an updated conservation plan by the council. The new planning document for the historic village also aims to make it easier for locals to get approval for minor changes to their homes or business premises.

The PEPRI plan, which already existed, has been updated to meet latest regional government guidelines and now needs to go to the Junta de Andalucía for approval.

Mijas councillor for Town Planning, Andrés Ruiz, said, "It's a landmark document for the historic heart of Mijas. Since 1969 our village has been listed as a Bien de Intérés Cultural, [asset of cultural importance, the highest level of conservation order in Spain], and the standard design of the architecture and planning has contributed to creating the heritage and tourist attraction that we see today. With this document we're going to protect it even more."

The two most improved aspects of the plan relate to stimulating the traditional local economy and preserving the traditional landscape.

In terms of maintaining traditional artisan skills, their importance in attracting tourists is recognised, and steps will be taken to allow them to flourish.

In terms of landscape protection, the plan specifies that the hillside



Tourism is the main source of income in Mijas municipality. :: I.G.

surrounding the village cannot be built on.

Three levels of architecture protection have been identified for the old village; the highest for the key buildings and sites; medium for where the council strongly believes there are remains to be protected; and a third, general level where it is suspected there are remains.

The new plan covers 27,000 hectares and 8,000 locals. "The plan makes it easier for residents in the village to reduce paperwork as well as guaranteeing the conservation of the village. We don't want Mijas Pueblo to be just a residential area. We want to facilitate businesses setting up to stimulate the local economy," said Ruiz.

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High Court rules against Mijas town hall in wrongful homes-sale scandal

The auctions took place under former mayor Ángel Nozal

In 2015 a British couple's home was taken over by the council and sold on for 80,000 euros without them knowing

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. The council in Mijas was coming to terms this week with the possibility of having to pay compensation to some 100 homeowners for wrongfully taking possession and auctioning off their properties.

The Andalusian High Court has ruled against the town hall in an appeal against the first judgement in a scandal involving the forced sale of



Mijas town hall. :: I. GELIBTER

people's property for not paying local tax debts.

The auctions took place under the previous mayor of Mijas, Ángel Nozal, and in a separate line of inquiry, he has been facing a criminal investigation, along with the head of Treasury and chief local tax collection officer at the town hall.

This recent, first judgement is a civil case against the council brought after a complaint by a British couple who, in January 2015, found out that a company was trying to make a forced entry into the holiday home they owned. The company gave them the surprising news that it had bought the property off the council.

Despite not having received any

notification, the Britons learned that the council had taken possession of their home, worth just under 250,000 euros, in compensation for unpaid local taxes of just 4,000 euros.

They said that, not only was there always enough money in a Spanish bank to pay the debt, but that they weren't aware of the debt nor of the proceedings against them.

The council was accused of not trying hard enough to contact them and ignoring other contact addresses it had for them and their lawyer.

Without their knowledge, the council had then sold on the home at a below-market price of 80,000 euros to new owners, and it is this undervaluing that is the centre of a separate criminal inquiry.

Investigators are looking at the supposed rapid speed with which the council took over homes then sold them again to trusted third parties.

Now, with this first civil court finding against the council and the company that bought the property afterwards, the fear is that all the other civil cases will go against them and compensation will need to be paid.

HERE AND THERE

Local musicians plead for a new town band

TORREMOLINOS

:: **A. GÓMEZ.** Musicians in Torremolinos have asked the council to honour its pledge to set up a municipal band again. In 2016 the council withdrew subsidies from the existing town band because the grants were "illegal" as it was a quasi-private organisation. In 2017, musicians were asked to set up a non-profit association but, as yet, they say, the council has not done anything else. They say a band would encourage music learning in the town and save money as there would be no need to contract outside musicians.



Hold-ups are common. :: N.S.

May start for Plaza Mayor MA-20 access

MALAGA

:: **J. SOTO.** Work will start in May on improved access to the Plaza Mayor shopping centre, near Malaga Airport, according to the owners. As part of planning permission conditions for extending the mall to include an outlet village, Plaza Mayor overall owners, Sonae Sierra and outlet operator, McArthurGlen, are required to improve access from the MA-20 westbound. Currently there is significant traffic build up on the motorway, especially on Saturdays, and extra, parallel lanes will be added to ease access.

Las Lagunas to get new underground parking

MIJAS

:: **I. GELIBTER.** Mijas council has awarded the contract to build a new underground car park four-storied deep in a densely-populated part of Las Lagunas, behind the waterpark. The new car park in the El Juncal area of Las Lagunas was a manifesto promise by the current mayor. Work will start in May and there will be disruption in the local area while construction takes place. The total cost of the work will be 3.3 million euros. Another new car park at nearby La Candelaria is planned.

HERE AND THERE

Aloha College raises 2,000 euros for charity**MARBELLA**

:: **A. BOLTON.** Marbella-based charity Collective Calling has received a cheque for 2,000 euros thanks to a collection earlier this month by students at Aloha College.

The charity helps vulnerable street children and orphans in Tanzania and is currently building an education centre.

Gemma Carr, 41, who started Col-

lective Calling with her husband Paul three years ago, told SUR in English: "I wasn't expecting it at all. I knew they were doing a small collection, so I was pleasantly surprised by the final amount."

Gemma, who has lived in Marbella for 19 years, added that the organisation also helps local homeless and underprivileged children in and around Marbella. This includes serving food to around 15 people twice a week from their centre in Diana Park, and working with around 25 children in the El Ángel neighbourhood.



Students present the cheque to Gemma. :: SUR

Marbella ended 2018 with 46m in the bank**MARBELLA**

:: **H. BARBOTA.** Mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, said on Monday that the council's accounts for 2018, which were closed on 1 April before a council vote on them next week, ended in a healthy state with 46 million euros in the bank. There was a net surplus in the year of 91.4 million euros. Muñoz praised the handling of the council's finances, which are in the hands of her San Pedro OSP coalition partner.

Works to finish the Costa del Sol hospital expansion will cost 30 million euros**HECTOR BARBOTA**

MARBELLA. Completing the expansion of the Costa del Sol hospital will require an investment of approximately 30 million euros. This was announced on Saturday in Marbella by the Junta de Andalucía regional government spokesperson, Elías Bendodo, who in his capacity as provincial president of the Partido Popular attended the presentation of candidates running for the upcoming municipal elections.

Bendodo explained that after having been at a standstill for a decade, a plan had to be devised for the hospital, as the previous one, carried out in 2007, no longer meets the needs of Marbella and its surrounding areas.

The creation of that plan, he said, will start coming days with the intention of starting the expansion works as soon as possible. The forecasts of the Junta are that the work can resume next year.

However, the Junta has not yet decided whether the extension will be carried out with public funds or as part of another concession to a private company.

Project to improve dangerous A-7 exits given the go-ahead

The Ministry of Public Works has approved a project which will increase road safety in the Los Monteros area

NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Traffic jams or slow-moving traffic have become a constant on certain sections of the A-7 dual carriageway between Fuengirola and Estepona. Residents, professionals and those who regularly use this stretch of road blame this on the number of dangerous exits and calls for action have been growing in recent months.

As a result, according to the Official State Bulletin (BOE) published last Friday, the Ministry of Public Works (Fomento) has approved the creation of a project for the construction of service roads, braided lanes and a change of speed limit on the A-7, in the direction of Cadiz, between the kilometre points 184 and 188 in the area of Los Monteros de Marbella.

Bus stops to be moved

The objective of these actions, whose estimated cost amounts to 3.89 mil-



The affected stretch of the A-7 is in Los Monteros. :: JOSELE-LANZA

The budget for the improvements is expected to be in the region of 3.89 million euros

lion euros, is to increase road safety levels at the A-7 junctions in the vicinity of the Hospital Costa del Sol.

These improvements will have a direct impact on bus passengers. The two existing stops on the dual carriageway will be moved to the connecting branches and to the service road, so that the bus will not leave the stop and directly enter the dual carriageway, with the danger that this currently entails.

Real estate sales steadying off in the 'Golden Triangle' after eight-year rise - report**MÓNICA PÉREZ**

MARBELLA. Real estate sales in Marbella and its area of influence (Estepona and Benahavis - the so-called Golden Triangle), have stabilised after eight years of sustained growth, according to a report recently published on the sector.

This report, by Diana Morales Properties Knight Frank, one of the most prestigious real estate agencies in the area, predicts a moderation in the pace of sales and deceleration of prices over the coming months.

A series of factors, such as oversupply focused on the same buyer profile (aged between 35 and 44 and without a mortgage), the uncertainty generated by Brexit (sales are down to 15 per cent from 21 per cent last year) or the global economic slowdown are said to be to blame.

Two other relevant factors are also mentioned in the report. One is the "scarcity of new projects in Marbella", derived from the lack of available land, and the other is the lack of variety on offer, with luxury markets highly prioritised.

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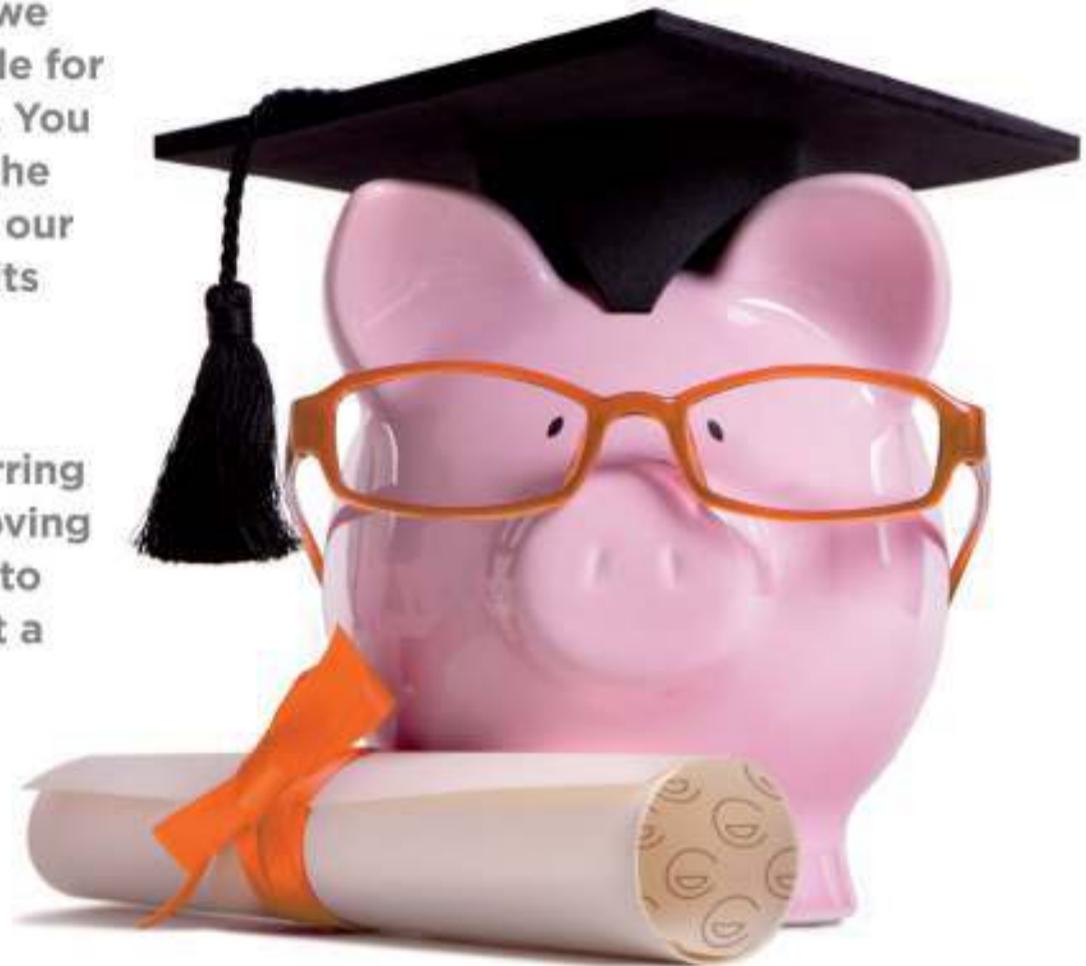
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A boost for Malaga's Roman theatre



JESÚS
HINOJOSA

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Permission has been granted for the works to be carried out, 20 years after the last major restoration took place

MALAGA. Few cities can boast of being able to show visitors a Roman theatre at the side of a construction which dates back to Moorish times, but Malaga can. This area of the city is one of the most-photographed by tourists, but it has only been on display for the past 20 years, since the information centre was created.

That was the last time there were major plans for these important remains, but now it looks as if the restoration of the Roman theatre, one of the city's principal attractions is to continue. The monument first came to light in 1951, discovered when a containing wall was being built on the site of the Casa de la Cultura (which no longer exists), beside the Alcazaba fortress.

The Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Culture, through the Historic Heritage Committee of Malaga, has now given the green light to a new project which the regional government had been planning for several years but has not yet been put into effect. It involves restoring the 'orchestra' and the front of the stage, and six years ago the cost was estimated to cost about 400,000 euros. The plans also included improving two areas of the theatre which are closest to the wooden stage, which is used for performances occasionally



The project involves restoring the semi-circular paving in front of the stage and the front of the stage itself. :: SALVADOR SALAS

throughout the year.

The 'orchestra' is the paved semi-circular area between the stands and the stage, and the plans also include repairing the 'frons pulpiti', the front part of the stage.

Pedro Rodríguez Oliva, professor of Archaeology at Malaga university, knows the Roman theatre well because he played an active part in recovering it after the Casa de la Cultura was demolished; he says the 'orchestra' has deteriorated because originally it was covered by marble which, when the theatre fell into disuse, was pulled up and used for the production of lime.

For its part, the 'frons pulpiti' has an irregular shape with different entrances and exits, and is not in a straight line. There are also the

remains of some small troughs which may originally have been fountains to decorate the front part of the stage where the theatre performances used to take place. Between the front of the stage and the 'orchestra', traces of an inscription from the time of the Flavians have been discovered.

Recuperation

"The work which has been carried out so far by the Junta at the Roman theatre has been very respectful of the monument, so I imagine that this will be too," says Rodríguez Oliva, who explains that the next stage of the restoration of the theatre should be carried out on the stands closest to the Albéniz cinema. Their appearance could be improved with the original ashlar which are still piled

The Junta also plans to carry out improvements to the Visitors' Information Centre

up in the highest part of the coliseum and could be used for the reconstruction.

In the meantime, the Provincial Heritage Committee has also given the go-ahead to a project from the regional government's Andalusian Agency for Cultural Institutions to improve the itinerary for visits to the Roman theatre. This will consist of remodelling the interior of the visitors' information centre,

and improving the outside area, where broken sections of the walkway will be replaced, the balustrades will be repaired and panels of anti-reflective laminated glass will be placed on the viewing platform (similar to those which already exist beside Calle Alcazabilla) as a safety feature to prevent pedestrians falling.

The regional government's Ministry of Culture, which is currently represented in Malaga province by Carmen Casero, has invested over four million euros on different projects at the Roman theatre. The theatre is believed to date back to the first century, during the time of Emperor Augustus, and its definitive restoration began in 1995, when the work began to demolish the Casa de la Cultura.

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SEMANA SANTA IN PICTURES



:: HUGO CORTÉS

TEARS AS WEATHER STOPS PLAY

There were tears on Wednesday and Thursday as the heavy rain meant that a number of processions were disrupted. The procession of the Fusionadas in Malaga was unable to set off, to the disappointment of many.



:: SALVADOR SALAS

THE BRIDE OF MALAGA TURNS TO GREET THE "POOR"

The elaborate throne of Rocío, the image known as "the birde of Maalaga" is turned to face the huge crowds waiting at the Tribuna de los Pobres staircase in Malaga on Tuesday, so-named as it was the traditional viewing point for those who couldn't afford the official seating.



:: JOSELE-LANZA

SANTA MARTA SEES MARBELLA

The images of Lazarus, Martha and Mary of Bethany were carried through the streets of Marbella old town by the brotherhood Tuesday.



:: SUR

THIRTY-SIX YEARS OF LA PASIÓN IN CASARABONELA

Around fifty actors and dozens of volunteers took part in the re-enactment of the Passion of Christ in Casarabonela. The three-day event, which started on Palm Sunday, has been performed every year for the past 36 years.

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:: SALVADOR SALAS

SCIENCE AND FAITH COME TOGETHER

Medical staff from the Hospital Civil in Malaga briefly joined the procession of Jesús Cautivo and the Virgen de la Trinidad on Saturday.



:: V. MELGAR

RONDA SHINES BY CANDLELIGHT

The throne for the Hermandad del Huerto in Ronda, which was not paraded last year due to rain, was lit by 66 candles on Monday evening.



:: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

EASTER COMES TO MALAGA'S DISTRICTS

The 'barrios' of Malaga city such as Dos Hermanas (a group of Nazarenos shown above), Puerto de la Torre and Churriana, all have processions over Easter.

Prisoner chosen for traditional release "grateful" for the opportunity to restart his life

José Manuel López Sánchez said that he was "very happy" about the decision to release him early from his sentence as part of the Holy Week celebrations

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MALAGA. With his face uncovered, without concealing his identity, José Manuel López Muñoz, a 41-year-old construction worker from Vélez-Málaga, appeared on Saturday at a press conference at the Malaga II penitentiary centre after learning that he would be the prisoner released on Wednesday by the Jesús El Rico brotherhood - a tradition dating back to 1759.

King Charles III gave permission for the brotherhood to release a prisoner each year after, during a plague epidemic, convicts in the city jail were refused permission to carry the Jesús El Rico image when there was a lack of healthy free men to do it. Instead they broke out, took the image of Christ through the streets on their shoulders, before breaking back into the jail after which the plague miraculously disappeared.

The prisoner chosen this time is José Manuel López. "I didn't expect this at all," he said. "I didn't know anything about this, so it has been a surprise. I am very happy and my family is also very happy," he said.

José Manuel was in prison serving a three-year sentence for a public health crime he committed while addicted to cocaine "because there was no money". Without the pardon, he would have remained in the prison in Archidona until



José Manuel López Muñoz, 41, is a labourer from Vélez-Málaga. :: SUR

José Manuel released but rain holds back procession plans

Heavy rain and further showers forecast put paid to the procession plans for a number of brotherhoods. The procession of Jesús El Rico had to be shortened considerably but the traditional release of the prisoner was carried out according to plan outside the Episcopal Palace on Wednesday.

24 January 2020.

Following his ceremonial release on Wednesday, his plans were, he said, "to look for work and get on", grabbing the opportunity to restart his life with both hands.

José Manuel also expressed his intention to become a member of the El Rico brotherhood in his hometown, Vélez-Málaga, where he will return to live with his mother. "She's old now and she shouldn't be alone," he said.

López, who is single, underwent treatment for his addictions in prison and according to director Noelia Moreno, his behaviour had been "excellent" ever since he entered prison.

José Manuel admitted that he is looking forward to "enjoying Easter and the village feria", as well as going on holiday for a weekend to the caves of Guadix (Granada) with a friend.

In the long term, however, he intends to work with his brother-in-law, who is a bricklayer, and complete his education.



:: NITO SALAS

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Iberia affiliate Air Nostrum back to normal after cancelling flights earlier this week

:: SUR

MALAGA. Some 10,000 air passengers were affected by industrial action this week at a regional airline that flies services for Iberia. Air Nostrum was forced to cancel around 100 flights on Monday and Tuesday.

The strike was timed to cause maximum disruption during Holy Week, and in time for Wednesday the airline managed to reach an

agreement with pilots' union Sepia so that the strikes were called off.

Pilots were complaining about "an increase in transfer of work to other airlines", which they say broke an agreement. Minimum services were maintained, especially to the Canaries and the Spanish North African city of Melilla.

Madrid Airport was also affected by a security guard strike this week.



Passengers affected by the action wait in Madrid this week. :: E.P.

IN BRIEF

Watchdog warns about phone fraud

MADRID

:: **SUR.** Facua-Consumidores en Acción, a consumers watchdog, has warned about a telephone fraud that can ramp up a user's phone bill if they return missed calls from numbers that begin with 225, 233, 234, 355 or 387.

These are country code prefixes from the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Albania and Bosnia and numbers are allocated to premium rate phone lines. Their owners earn money when people call them.

To avoid the fraud, website reclamador.es advises users to check the prefix on an any missed call before calling back.

Bank of Spain: Debt less but people are poorer

MADRID

:: **E. MARTÍNEZ.** Companies and families are slowly clearing post-crisis financial debt, a Banco de España report has said this week, but levels are still very high. The total debt of Spanish companies, households and charities was 133.4% of Spanish GDP in 2018. Although high, it is 5.7% lower than 2017.

Household wealth was down, however, by 2.9%, meaning families are getting poorer in real terms. The bulk of household assets are in cash and short-term deposits (41%). In second place are shares, then insurance and pension funds, followed by investment funds.

"It's the economy, stupid" was Labour's famous slogan for the 2005 UK general election. A punchy if irritating soundbite, it was designed to keep voters focused on the economic stability that the party touted as its main achievement. Labour was worried, though, that the electorate's concern was wandering: a month before the election, one of the party's senior figures told The Independent that "there are fears [within the party] that people will pocket the economic stability... and not thank us for it... They might take it for granted and be more influenced by other issues".

The leaders of Spain's major political parties will now also be calculating what role the economy will play in next Sunday's general election - the third that the country has seen in five years. Popular Party (PP) leader Pablo Casado, especially, must be conscious of the fact that his long-serving prede-

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

IT'S NOT THE ECONOMY, STUPID



cessor Mariano Rajoy relied on the PP's economic credentials to win votes, just as Tony Blair relied on Labour's in 2005. This time around though, save for topics such as unemployment and pensions, Spaniards' concerns are elsewhere.

It would, after all, be easy to take Spain's recent economic performance for granted. The country's GDP expansion is now in its sixth consecutive year and continues at a pace that consistently beats the eurozone average. For the first time in over a decade, the budget deficit has been brought within the EU target of 3%. And

unemployment is down to 14%, from a high of 26% in 2013, during the country's punishing recession.

Voter polls, though, reveal that Spaniards remain concerned about unemployment levels and about labour market reforms introduced by Rajoy, which drastically undermined workers' rights. For this reason, the five major parties contending the upcoming election have given some prominence to their proposals in this area: broadly speaking, the right (especially the PP) wants to protect employers' freedoms, while the left is in favour of greater protection and

stability for employees.

Taxes and pensions are the other economic issues that have featured in campaigning, but party leaders know that they aren't where the battle will be won or lost on 28 April. Instead, emotive topics such as Catalan independence, immigration and gender equality have dominated the major parties' campaigns over the last week. It is these issues that will carry the day next Sunday.

As it turned out, Labour needn't have worried back in 2005: the party won its third general election in a row and Blair became only the second Labour leader in history to win three majority governments (Harold Wilson being his sole predecessor; there have been no successors). None of Spain's major parties is likely to win so emphatically on 28 April, but one thing is for sure: ahead of this election, it's not the economy, stupid.



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Election campaign reaches midway point with spat over candidates' debate

Opinion poll trackers have shown little shift in voting intentions ahead of the 28 April vote

:: SUR

MADRID. Spain's general election campaign reaches the halfway point today (Friday) with just over one week to go before the vote on Sunday 28 April.

The first full week of campaigning has been marked by a dispute over the format and participants in proposed television debates but little movement in the opinion polls.

The disagreement over the television debates came from a decision by current prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, candidate for the PSOE Socialist party. There was anger from journalists at public broad-



A six-way debate was held on Tuesday but not with party leaders. :: EFE

caster RTVE when the PM rejected a four-way debate with leaders of the other main political parties in favour of a five-way debate that included political newcomers Vox on a rival TV network, privately

owned Antena 3.

Hard-right Vox are doing well in opinion polls but don't have any actual MPs yet. So their likely presence in a TV debate angered other smaller political parties with MPs.

A complaint made by Catalan separatists, ERC, to the Spanish electoral commission was upheld on Tuesday and Sánchez reluctantly agreed to the original four-way offer of RTVE next week with Partido Popular (PP), Ciudadanos (Cs) and Unidos Podemos leaders.

RTVE also held a debate on Tuesday for representatives of the six biggest parties with MPs in the last legislature, including Basque and Catalan nationalists, PNV and ERC.

Opinion poll trackers have shown little movement on last week's indications that the PSOE is heading to be the biggest party, with the possibility of forming a majority with Unidos Podemos on the left or centre-right Cs.

The three parties right of centre, PP, Cs and Vox, may not have enough to form a majority in any coalition or voting pact.

Ambassador issues soothing message to Brits in Spain amid continued Brexit uncertainty

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, wrote an open letter to Britons living in Spain this week to reassure those worried after a further delay to Brexit and to explain what the flexible extension date really means.

Last week, Britain was granted an extension period by Brussels to 31 October to give extra time for Westminster to agree on what type of EU exit the UK wants. However, if a deal is reached sooner, Britain could leave before.

In his message, Manley said, "I understand all of this is unsettling and frustrating for many of you."

"During this extension period, the UK remains a full member of the EU and consequently your existing rights will not change. So, for example, your rights to healthcare, residency and travel in the EU, remain exactly as they are today. During this extension period, as we prepare to leave[...]it remains really important to ensure you are correctly registered."

Manley was referring to the need to have a green card (or A4 paper) verifying residency. He added that the embassy was working with the Spanish authorities so that more appointments at National Police stations and immigration offices were made available to get them. These offices have been overwhelmed by last-minute requests.

The ambassador added, "Meanwhile, the Spanish government has advised that, if you can't get an appointment now, you should make sure that you've got proof that you were living here before we leave the EU, whether that be a 'padrón' certificate or utility bills."

He said that if a deal were reached with the EU, Britons would have until 31 December 2020 to register, if they had not done so already. If there is a no-deal, hard Brexit, the Spanish government has said Britons will have a 21-month grace period from the exit date to register.

Jihadi arrested over plans to blow himself up during Seville's Holy Week processions

:: MELCHOR SÁIZ-PARDO

MADRID. Anti-terror officers are convinced that they have avoided a massacre during Seville's famous Semana Santa processions this Easter.

Police said on Wednesday that Moroccan police, in conjunction with

Spanish forces, arrested a 23-year-old from Morocco several days ago who is a student at Seville university. They say his plan was to blow himself up in a suicide attack this week and that he had made a quick trip home to say goodbye to his fam-



Police in Seville last week. :: EFE

ily in the Moroccan capital, Rabat.

According to sources, Zouhair El Bouhdidi, who had been living in Seville since 2016, was very advanced in his plans to carry out the attack. El Bouhdidi has sworn allegiance to ISIS but, according to police, it isn't known if he had had direct contact with the group. On Wednesday his residence in Seville was being searched and he is said to have confessed his plan.

Security has been tightened at Holy Week processions across Spain in recent years after the rise in Islamist suicide terrorism.



Simon Manley. :: SUR

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IN BRIEF

Gib's elderly receive early Easter gift**GIBRALTAR**

∴ **A. B.** Gibraltar's elderly and vulnerable have received an early Easter gift thanks to the Laguna Youth Club. Volunteers at the club have spent weeks collecting and distributing hampers to residents around the Rock. This is the seventh year the Laguna Youth Club has helped in the Care in the Community Easter Hamper Pro-

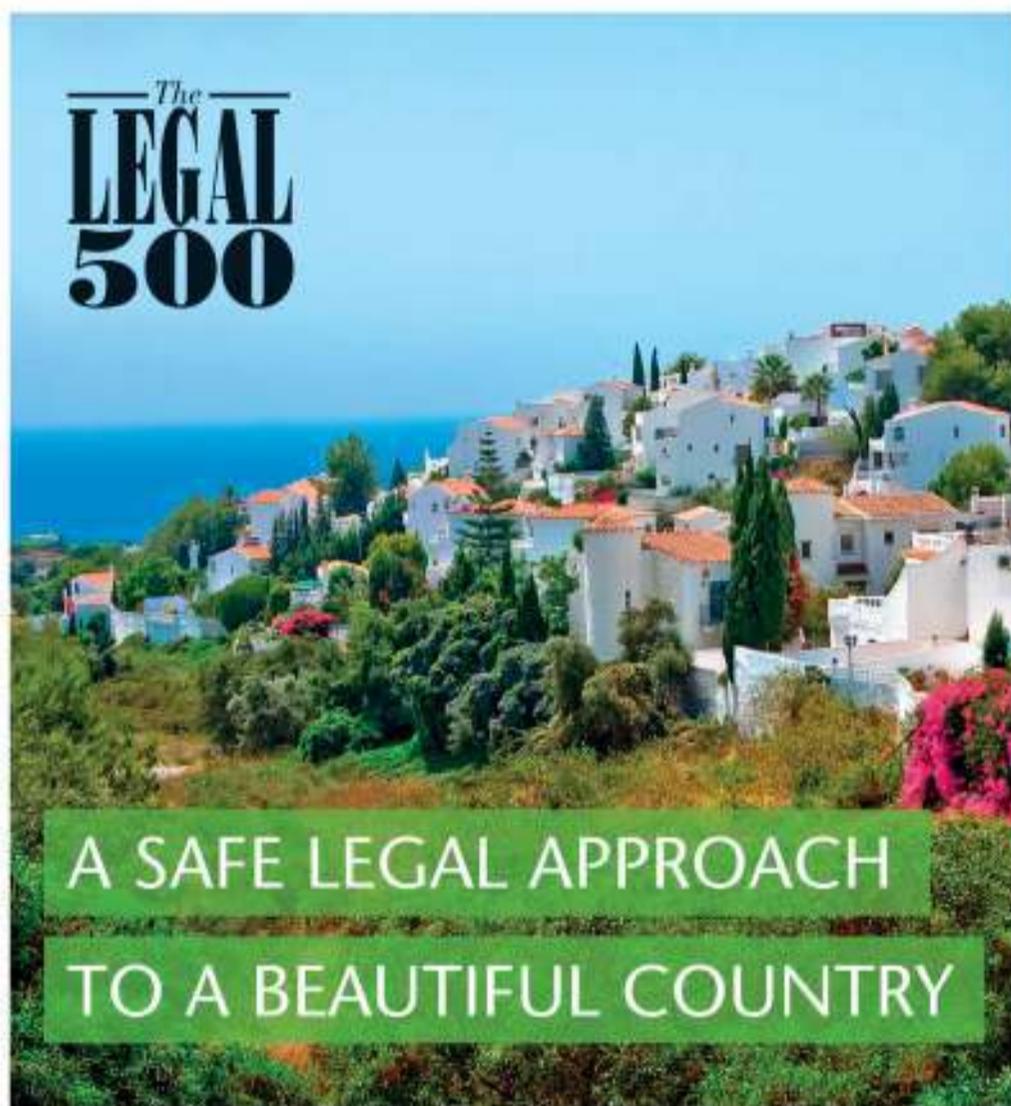
ject. As in previous years, the project was organised by young people from the Gibraltar Youth Service and supported by the Care Agency, the Department of Education and the Royal Gibraltar Police. A spokesman for the hamper project said: "The organisers would like to thank the young people and families from Notre Dame and St Anne's schools for their generous contributions towards the hamper, and the Philadelphia Church who supported the initiative throughout the year providing kind donations."



Volunteers at the Laguna Youth Club with the hampers. ∴ SUR

Solar power to increase on the Rock**GIBRALTAR**

∴ **A. B.** Gibraltar is set to go greener after it was agreed to use more solar panels on government buildings. Solar panels are set to be placed on the Cruise Liner Terminal, the University of Gibraltar, Ocean Views and Hillside, Grand Casemates Block and Mount Alvernia. It's hoped the move will see approximately 10 per cent of the Rock's energy needs provided by solar power in the future.



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Take That and Tom Walker to perform at Gibraltar Calling

The annual music festival is set to be the biggest ever staged in Gibraltar according to organisers

∴ ASH BOLTON

GIBRALTAR. Legendary British boy band Take That are set to perform at this year's Gibraltar Calling Music festival. The band will be joined by fellow Brit Tom Walker who rose to fame with the song Leave a Light On.

This year the event will be held at the Europa Point Leisure Complex – a new state of the art stadium on the southern tip of the Rock – on 7 and 8 September.

Gibraltar's chief minister Fabian Picardo, said: "Last night in Sheffield a band started to rehearse to come to Gibraltar on Sunday 8 September. That band is well known and one that I think will excite a lot of people in Gibraltar. Take That will be here in Gibraltar on Sunday 8 September."

A government spokesman added that this year's event will be the "biggest music festival ever staged in Gibraltar" and will sell out in advance.

Two-day early bird tickets are priced at £89 and one-day general admission early tickets are £75 pounds per day. Gates will open each day at 4pm.

Early bird tickets went on sale online on Monday from www.gibraltarcalling.com



Gary Barlow, Howard Donald and Mark Owen. ∴ EFE / FELIPE TRUEBA

Cityscapes by Beatrice Garcia make brief appearance at GEMA**∴ SUR**

GIBRALTAR. Gibraltar's GEMA Gallery is to host a pop-up exhibition of the latest work from local artist Beatrice Garcia in a two-day exhibition later this month.

Beatrice's latest work comprises 15 images exploring depth and perspective in different cityscapes around Gibraltar, as inspired by a concept seen on Bob Ross' 80s TV Show.

These works form part of her decay series exploring the marriage between old military structures and the more modern structures around

Gibraltar.

The brevity of the exhibition is an expression of the transitory and fast moving world in which we live.

This is one of a series of small exhibitions organised by Gibraltar Cultural Services on behalf of the Ministry of Culture.

The programme aims to provide new opportunities for artists while raising their profile and that of the gallery.

The exhibition will be open to the public on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 April.



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

Joining the padrón is not the same as being resident in Spain, says expert

Tax practitioner at Garrigues law firm, Pedro Fernández, talked to a group of foreign residents last week in Marbella

By R. HAYNES

MARBELLA. According to Marbella town hall there are more than 250,000 people living in the town, but only 145,000 are registered on the padrón, the municipal population census.

There are a number of reasons why residents fail to join the register. Some might simply not know about it, others just might never have got round to it while others might feel that it affects their tax situation in Spain.

At a talk in Marbella's congress centre on Thursday last week, tax practitioner from Garrigues law firm, Pedro Fernández, cleared up a few doubts on the difference between joining the padrón and being officially resident in Spain.

Spanish nationals and foreigners are encouraged to join their local padrón, although the advantages are not always imminent for the resident, he pointed out. However behind the scenes each new name on the register raises a figure sent to Ma-



Pedro Fernández. :: J-L

drid which the central government uses to allocate funds to the local council.

Back home, however, the town halls offer a series of incentives to encourage residents to join the register. "These include public services, such as buses at a cheaper rate, or tax breaks on local taxes, such as the IBI," explained Fernández.

The padrón certificate is also vital for a resident to be allocated a doctor and children a school.

The expert stressed that anyone whose main or "habitual" residence (living here more than half the year or having your centre of economic

activity in this country) is in Spain, is also required to register as being resident, as well as on the padrón.

"This is the main concern," said Fernández. "If I'm registered with the town hall am I admitting that this is my residence and I'm a taxpayer in Spain?"

Fernández explained. "Under the Spanish tax law there is no provision that automatically links registration with the town hall with the obligation to pay taxes as a resident - there is no direct link."

It would make sense, he said, for someone who stays regularly at his or her home in Marbella, but also spends just as much time in London and commutes between the two, to register on the padrón, because that person benefits from the services provided by the town hall.

In October last year Marbella council began its campaign to find the missing 100,000 residents who ought to be on the padrón. The multilingual campaign informs people about what exactly extra names on the register can provide, for example more police officers and cleaning services.

More information about the Marbella padrón:
extranjeros@marbella.es



The festival featured music from around the world. :: SUR

Torremolinos celebrates 25th multicultural festival

By T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Representatives of 17 countries participated in the annual Foreign Residents' Day Festival in Torremolinos last weekend.

The two-day multicultural festival, which was celebrating its 25th anniversary, promoted the

cultural and gastronomic traditions of the different nationalities that live in the town.

The festival began with a colourful parade of the participating countries, followed by a programme of live performances of world music, including flamenco, jazz and ranchera.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What happened to daylight saving?

I am a visitor to Spain and maybe not as informed as the local expat community but I had faith in the free newspaper that I pick up at the supermarket - SUR in English. On the bottom of the page of the March 29th issue was a bulletin in a red square that said "DON'T FORGET. Clocks go forward one hour this Sunday at 2am".

All the family duly changed all timepieces, watches, clocks, computers and mobile phones and moved the time forward one hour and now past eleven days

we have been missing the bus and missing our appointments because we just realised we are probably the only people in Spain who made the adjustment to Daylight Saving time.

At first I thought it was an April Fools Day joke by SUR in English so I checked the internet and found other references to changing the clocks on 31 March. What happened? Did everyone else decide not to bother?

GARY HACKING
BY EMAIL

Ángel Hernández

Regarding last week's article, 'Madrid arrest reopens euthanasia debate' (page 36): What a truly loving and difficult thing to do. Love really is the greatest thing! Everyone should have the right to die their way; we wouldn't let an animal suffer so heartfelt wishes and condolences to Ángel.

MRS G. HAYES
BY EMAIL

To park or not to park?

On Friday of last week a friend from England parked with other cars near the entrance to a residential home in Torre del Mar. Parking is difficult there and cars park with nearside wheels

on the pavement, so she did likewise. The reason for her visit to Spain was to celebrate the 92nd birthday of her mother. Having 'collected' her mother, within a very short time she returned to find a parking ticket on the car showing a fine of €200. No other car had a ticket. Would this be solely because it was a hire car? If so, is this the norm? Can anyone explain why a hire car would be selected from a row of private cars? How can it be justified? As my friend was returning to England the following day, she had to leave her mother with friends and, at that time in the pouring rain, hurry to pay the fine. In the bank they deducted 100 euros for early payment.

P. HOSEY
BY EMAIL

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Sorry affairs of state

PETER EDGERTON
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According to family legend, there was a great great - in fact clearly not so great great - uncle of ours who got up to all kinds of dodgy deeds in his time, normally involving stowing himself away on ships and travelling the world to spread his infamy and Lord knows what else.

I won't put you off your cornflakes with any of the gruesome tales I was told but I can assure you he doesn't sound like the kind of bloke you'd want to share a pint and a packet of pork scratchings with. Anyway, I thought I might trace the descendants of all of the people he wronged and apologise.

Only kidding, it's never crossed my mind.

Mexico's recent request for an apology from Spain for the brutal conduct of the 'conquistadores' five hundred years ago, has reopened the hackneyed debate

over how far any generation can be held responsible for the deeds of their ancestors. You might say sorry to someone if your brother or husband behaved in an appalling manner, I suppose, but, even then, it would very much depend on the circumstances.

As far as I recall there's a somewhat ambiguous quotation in the bible about the sins of the father but if your dad were to indulge in a drunken rampage one Friday and biff a few locals on the nose just for the fun of it, you'd no doubt look a bit sheepish for a few weeks and probably apologise to the biffees on behalf of the biffer. However, if it were your great great granddad one hundred and fifty years ago, you surely wouldn't dream of saying sorry to the great great grandchildren of those involved.

Anyway, as you might expect, Spain has declined the request

from Mexico for an apology in no uncertain terms; we can safely say it's not a great moment in the history of diplomacy for the two countries.

All of this is, of course, indicative of the current overwhelming and widespread trend to encourage and foster a sense of victimhood within ourselves. Everyone is a victim of something if they look hard enough but mostly it's a very good idea precisely not to look too hard.

There are billions of people currently on the planet struggling daily in the face of unspeakable adversity. These poor souls really are victims and world leaders might be better employed expending their energy on prevailing outrages rather than ones pertaining to seven or eight generations removed.

The problem is, that's a much more difficult task.

IDÍGORAS



SUR English

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Religion and politics are issues that we're told never to bring up in certain company. This week, however both topics, that create such strong emotions they can lead to blood and tears at a family reunion, have come together and been impossible to ignore.

The first week of the general election campaign - and Holy Week.

The Catholic Church, and therefore religion in general, in many people's eyes, is linked to the political right. Right wing parties fight for conservative values, disapprove of abortion and favour religious education controlled by the church. The left, on the other hand, disapproves of religious studies teachers being employed by the Diocese and questions the amount of money the State

pays the Church every year. And that's without mentioning the Civil War and the Franco regime, when the church was the dictator's ever-present ally.

So when the election date was announced, first there were complaints that you could not campaign during Holy Week, and then politicians be-

gan to find ways of bringing the coincidence round to their advantage.

Newcomer far-right party Vox has claimed not only the Spanish flag as its own but also the military (several retired generals and the like are standing as candidates) and especially the Spanish Legion.

One song that is bellowed out at

the party's rallies is the Legion's anthem El Novio de la Muerte, which also happens to be one of the highlights of Malaga's Semana Santa, enjoyed by people of all political colours, shapes and sizes.

On Maundy Thursday the Legionnaires disembark in the port in the morning to carry one of the carved images of Christ ready for the procession later that day. And during the procession the uniformed and armed soldiers march, singing their "boyfriend of death" song at full voice.

It's one of the most-loved parts of the week, even though the sudden military appearance among all the pointed hoods seem a little incongruous at first.

This year Vox's national leader, Santiago Abascal, announced that he would be coming to Malaga to wit-

ness the Maundy Thursday procession. So did the PP's Pablo Casado. It didn't happen though.

The elder of the Mena brotherhood was forced to public ask all the political leaders to make no appearance at the procession.

Holy Week in Andalucía shows that the strong spiritual emotions experienced during the processions cross all boundaries of politics.

Malaga's candidate for MP for Unidos Podemos, the left and far left coalition, told the press this week of his love for Semana Santa and how he used to be one of the bearers of the Christ figure of the Rescate brotherhood. The young Malaga Communist certainly will have rubbed shoulders, literally, with people from all ends of the political spectrum.

Holy politics

RACHEL HAYNES

A night of passionate Gypsy devotion

The Gypsy community of Utrera celebrate the procession of El Cristo de los Gitanos on Good Friday

TONY
BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

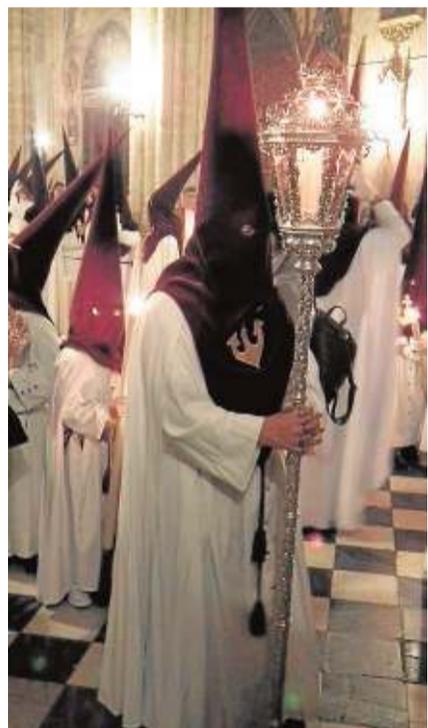
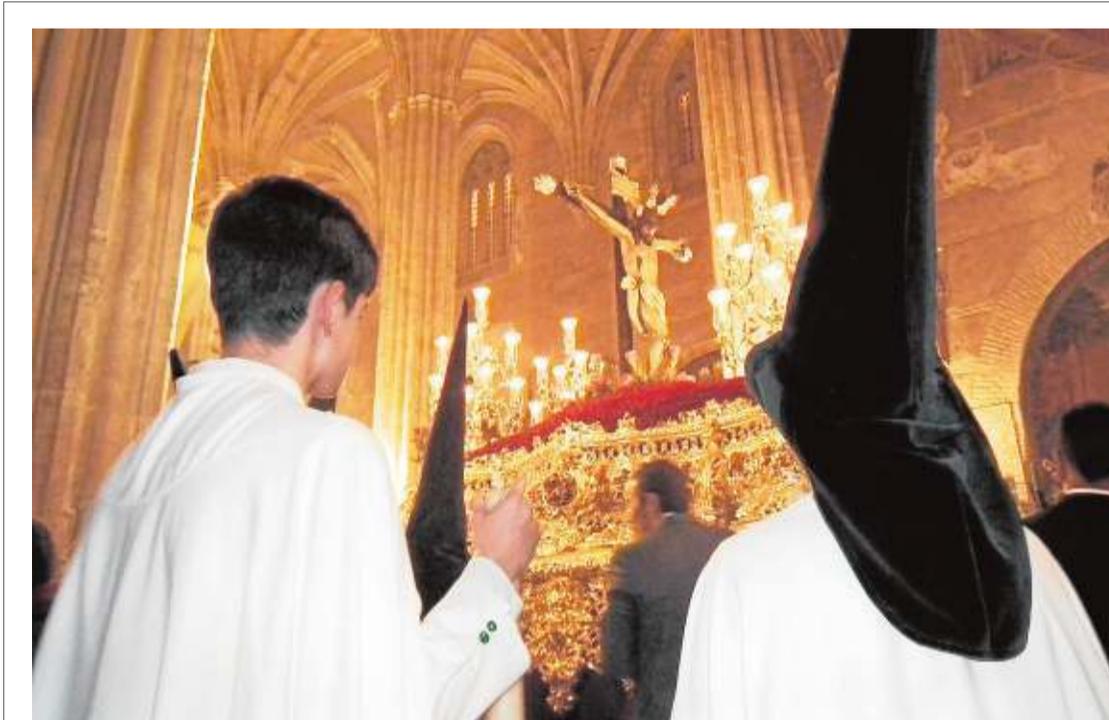


Members of the town's illustrious flamenco community sing to the images as they are carried through the darkened streets

UTRERA. Semana Santa has engulfed most Spanish cities and towns during the last few days, especially in Andalucía, where scenes of the Passion have been paraded through the streets morning, noon and night. I have witnessed numerous spectacular Easter processions in Seville and Malaga over the years, but I find the intimate events held in the small towns more enjoyable, especially in Utrera, a town that has become my second home.

Utrera is 30 kilometres southeast of Seville and is primarily celebrated for being one of the main cradles of flamenco due to the large population of Gypsies that settled there in 1600. The most inspiring, and certainly the most attended, procession in this town takes place in the early hours of Good Friday, when the procession of El Cristo de los Gitanos, the town's most admired image of the crucified Christ, embarks on a five-hour journey accompanied by the local Gypsy community. I have attended this event on several occasions, although the most memorable was when I was invited by the Hermandad de los Gitanos de Utrera to attend the proceedings that take place in the church prior to the procession.

The huge doors of the Iglesia de Santiago El Mayor, a colossal, fifteenth century gothic church that is the headquarters of the town's Gypsy brotherhood, remain closed prior to the procession and access is restricted to members of the brotherhood and those participating in the procession - known affectionately as 'the night of the Gypsies'.



▲◀ **In pictures.** Top, El Cristo de los Gitanos prepares to leave the Santiago El Mayor church. Above, the costaleros shuffle the huge float into position before embarking on their five-hour journey. Left, nazarenos wait for the heavy doors of the church to be opened. :: TONY BRYANT

I arrived at the church around 11.30pm and was greeted by various members of the brotherhood, who led me to view the beautifully carved images of the Virgen de la Esperanza and El Cristo de los Gitanos.

One would have been forgiven for overlooking the fact that this is a consecrated place of worship, because the ambience inside the church was elevating. The scenes were reminiscent of a scriptural

film-set because of the diversity of the differing vestments. Boys dressed in lace and gold-trimmed velvet gowns stood around the church in groups, their decorative silver candleholders held high above

their heads. More than 200 nazarenos wearing black pointed hoods and white robes waited patiently in the aisles, their ornate silver casks filling the church with musky incense. Around 50 costaleros (as they are called in Seville, as opposed to Hombres de Trono in Malaga) helped each other secure the corsets that are worn in order to give support when they are carrying the colossal weight of the float, while the sound of brass could be heard over the hum, as eager musicians tuned their instruments.

However, silence fell on the church as the president of the brotherhood made a brief speech, before the heavy doors were swung open and the images were moved into position. Thousands of spectators cheered as the image of Christ was maneuvered through the gothic portal and down the steep steps, while others openly wept, kissing their rosaries and muttering prayers. This was followed by the Virgen, whose appearance sent the crowd into a frenzy and elevated the ambience to fever pitch.

Ardent devotion

One of the fascinating aspects of this exciting cavalcade is the ardent devotion the gypsies hold for the images: members of the town's flamenco community (most of whom are members of the celebrated Pinini clan) dance and sing continuously to the images as they are carried through the darkened streets.

One could have heard a pin drop during the singing of the saeta, while the bulerías were performed to cries of encouragement and rhythmic hand-clapping.

I walked behind the image of Christ and I became engulfed in the entire affair, because I witnessed a side of Semana Santa that few outsiders have the opportunity to enjoy. The emotion generated will depend on factors that most foreigners fail to perceive entirely, although one could not fail to be overwhelmed by the exuberance of the proceedings.

The procession finished at 5.30am, but in true Gypsy style, the party had only just begun.

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Ukulele Club Marbella hits the right note

New members are welcome to join a fast growing group of fans during their weekly practice sessions

by **ASH BOLTON**

MARBELLA. A new ukulele club is growing fast in Marbella thanks to a plucky Irish musician.

Colm Fitzpatrick started teaching the ukulele to a couple of friends last June shortly after moving to Spain from Cork. But word quickly spread about the club and dozens of people are learning how to play the small guitar-like instrument.

Now the group are planning on putting on their first performance at the Don Carlos Hotel in Marbella in June.

Colm, 32, who is originally from Cork, Ireland, and has lived in San Pedro since January 2017, told SUR in English that he started the club almost by accident.

He explained: "One day one of my students said why don't we do the lessons at the beach? So that's really when the ukulele club started. Bit by bit it's just grown and grown and now I'm teaching close to 50 students a week.

"It's been really fun and I get to meet all sorts of people."

Colm, who is a multi-award-winning musician, bought his first ukulele when he was 23 after spending years playing the guitar.



Ukulele club members meet on the beach in San Pedro every Sunday afternoon. Right Colm Fitzpatrick. **by SUR / A. B.**

He said: "It's less intimidating than learning a guitar and the more I play the more I come to appreciate it as a genuine instrument. It's knocked down a lot of walls for people who said they would never be able to play an instrument."

Colm moved to the Costa del Sol after meeting Carolina, his Spanish wife, in Cork.

Back then he had been teaching

songwriting and the guitar to teenagers in weekly workshops.

He said: "At the end of the year they would perform their songs at a festival. I loved it and then my own original music was also going quite well. I had just got on to national radio and I had launched my first EP (extended player). People I didn't know



were starting to come to my concerts and regularly. So I thought if I'm leaving this behind I can't go back to it, so I better make sure this works out here."

The Ukulele Club Marbella meets every Sunday next to L'Unique at the beach in San Pedro Alcántara at 1pm.

More information : Look for Ukelele Club Marbella on Facebook.

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GARDENING

The sausage vine

A tropical, twining vine with clusters of scented, white and purple flowers, Holboellia is a vigorous climber

Holboellia is a member of the Lardizabalaceae family which only contains seven genera; a more familiar member is Akebia, commonly called the chocolate vine.

The genus has 20 species; all are native to southeast Asia and most are perennial, evergreen (a few are deciduous) vines or lianas.

Being tropical, Holboellia, also known as the sausage vine, is not completely frost hardy although if the frost is not too severe there is a chance that it will recover in the spring. However, it is probably best to provide some protection in winter in colder, inland parts of southern

Spain. It will also need rich, well-drained soil and a sheltered spot as it can suffer in strong winds. The soil should never be allowed to dry out as the sausage vine is not drought resistant and, as it grows in the wild into the understorey of trees, dappled shade is preferable to full sun, at least during the hottest part of the day.

The foliage grows densely; there will be no bare stems at the base once Holboellia gets going and it is a vigorous plant, ideal for covering any unsightly feature in the garden.

Of the 20 species, the most commonly grown are probably H. brachyandra, which has the largest flowers, H. coriacea and H. angustifolia which have purple male flowers and greenish-white female flowers, and H. latifolia which is said to be the most sweetly scented of the four.

The flowers of H. brachyandra are about 2.5 cm long and white with a purplish tint. Both male and female flowers are on the same plant and after flowering, large sausage-like purple fruits, 6-8cm long, appear. These fruits are edible and can be eaten raw although they are said to taste insipid and will contain a lot of seeds.

The seeds can be sown as soon as the fruit is ripe although they can take eight weeks to germinate. Alternatively, Holboellia can be propagated from semi-hardwood cuttings or layering.

Holboellia will benefit from a liquid feed in the spring, just as the flowers start to open. The genus is named after Fred Louis Holboell, superintendent of Copenhagen Botanical Gardens.



Holboellia angustifolia and a close up (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

READER'S PHOTO



A BLOOMING MARVEL

Reader Raymond Warr sent in this photo of a Cala lily and says, "I have had this lily for a number of years and had four or five flowers on it each year but since I put a fence around it to stop leaf damage from the wind we have had around 25 flowers for the last two years!"

GARDENING IN APRIL

A way to be remembered

It is fascinating to think that many thousands of plants are named after men who journeyed to distant shores (often risking their lives) to find new, beautiful plants in the wild and bring them home to brighten our gardens. Other plants are named in honour of people who quietly studied, in a greenhouse, garden or laboratory, the behaviour and structures of plants, sometimes creating larger, brighter, more floriferous or

more strongly-scented strains. The practise of commemorating individuals in names of plants was first started by Hippocrates and Theophrastus in the fourth and fifth centuries BC and has continued ever since. In 2007 a new species of giant pitcher plant (Nepenthes attenboroughii) was discovered in the Philippines and named after the broadcaster and natural historian, David Attenborough.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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



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Vanian Valley penthouse...: AEDAS

Vanian, the new residential area in Estepona developed by AEDAS Homes

ESTEPONA

AEDAS Homes, a benchmark developer in the Spanish residential market, has launched a pioneer development in an area of the town of Estepona which looks set to become its own urban hub, due not only to the number of properties that are to be built there, but also to all the extra services planned.

The site has extra services that allow us to say that Vanian will be the new urban hub in Estepona. The town hall is already taking bids from firms wanting to build and run an international trilingual school on municipal land set aside in the area by the local authority. Meanwhile the Russian Initiative Foundation, based in Marbella, is completing the construction of what will be the first Russian Orthodox church in Andalucía. These are just some of the amenities the area will have.

The area, currently known as SUP-C13, but which will end up being called VANIAN due to the importance of this project, covers more than 575,000 square metres where AEDAS Homes plans to build some 650 properties over the next few years. There is also land designated for educational or so-



Vanian Gardens terrace...: AEDAS

ciocultural use nearby, covering more than 49,000 square metres; as well as 8,000 square metres of land for commercial use; 18,000 square metres for hotel use; and another 172,000 square metres reserved for other uses.

The coastal parks cover more than 87,000 square metres and the area set aside for general sports and tourism use amounts to 85,000 square metres.

There are also plans to create a footpath that will allow residents of Vanian to take a pleasant walk to the beach, passing underneath the motorway.

Vanian Gardens is the first

There are plans to build a footpath that will allow Vanian residents to take a pleasant stroll to the beach

project that these developers have set in motion. This first part will have 4 phases of properties, of which two are already under construction. The total

complex will have 297 homes. According to the firm's project manager on the Costa del Sol who is at the helm of Vanian Gardens, Álvaro Marcos, AEDAS Homes has paid special attention, not only to creating a complex with the maximum quality and comfort for the buyer, but also to develop an entire sector with the necessary services and facilities to turn the property into a real home.

The next project to be marketed is Vanian Valley. Ignacio Cañedo-Argüelles, head of this development, highlights the quality of the project that will be an enclosed private complex with great security for its residents and with all the necessary services to convert Vanian into the ideal place to live. All access will be controlled via vehicle plate recognition and there will be closed circuit security cameras with 24-hour monitoring.

Vanian Gardens is a project designed by the prestigious architect studio González & Jacobson, and offers harmonious, contemporary properties, with lots of light. At Vanian Gardens the open spaces are fused with the natural surroundings, with exquisite quality and finishes: all a great sight to behold.

Among the facilities at Vanian

Gardens are four outdoor pool areas, with adults' and children's pools, spa, gym, communal gardens, communal car park, sports facilities, fitness room, cinema, sauna, social club, private garage, general room and store-rooms, among many others.

Vanian Valley is the new and exclusive residential complex made up of 53 townhouses with 3 or 4 bedrooms, large terraces and private gardens, always searching for the best orientation and sea views.

The development will have large communal gardens, open-air swimming pools, children's pool, spa and gym so you can get maximum enjoyment out of your property.



CONTACT:

AEDAS Home

Vanian sales office: Avenida Parque Selwo, 29680. Estepona
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VANIAN

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SOCIETY SCENE

Beetle drive sets new Guinness World Record

The Rotary Club Marbella-Guadalmina have received the news that the Beetle Drive in October has officially been recognised as a new world record

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

Rotary Club Marbella-Guadalmina Making history

Back in October, the Marbella congress centre was filled with 312 people, of mixed nationality, playing Beetle. The game, which involves rolling dice and drawing body parts to create a whole beetle, had an existing Guinness record of 252 players playing at the same time.

The response to the challenge exceeded all expectations and a total of 9,500 euros were raised on the day. The majority of this, 6,000 euros, went to the Rotary Club Marbella-Guadalmina's chosen charity, the AFA Alzheimer's Association. The remainder was shared out between other local NGOs.

The Guinness World Record offi-

cial recognition of the event was sent to the Rotary Club 'beetlers' last week and two of the group, Pamela Lake and Campbell Ferguson, were delighted to pose with Marbella mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, holding the certificate.

La Cala Mijas Lions Club

Last Chance gets more chances

Margaret Bobowicz, president of La Cala Mijas Lions Club, recently presented a cheque on behalf of the club to Jacqui Ross of the Last Chance animal rescue charity. The cheque for 1,200 euros will go towards paying off the outstanding vets' bills and help Jacqui and a group of volunteers to rescue abandoned animals. The animals are fostered or put into kennels until a suitable home can be found either in Spain or elsewhere in Europe.

What are you up to?

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

Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es



Two of the Beetle team, Pamela Lake and Campbell Ferguson, with Ángeles Muñoz, mayor of Marbella. :: SUR



La Cala de Mijas Lions members and Last Chance supporters at the presentation. :: SUR

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Manuel Alcántara, poet and columnist, dies aged 91

“Assiduous columnist and stubborn poet’s apprentice” is how poet, journalist and SUR columnist, Manuel Alcántara, defined himself on one occasion during an interview. And in recent years, with the passage of time as an inseparable companion, he almost always brought up his age in some way.

“I don’t aspire to live a whole year, just to be alive the next day,” he said shortly after a ‘funny turn’ had taken him away from his column on the back page of SUR for a few days.

Manuel Alcántara, who wrote nearly 30,000 articles for the press in his lifetime, died at his home in Rincón de la Victoria on Wednesday morning after a short illness.

Born in Malaga on 10 January 1928, Alcántara moved to Madrid where he started to study Law but soon dropped out finding the bohemian worlds of poetry and journalism more interesting.

Due to his love of boxing, he spent several years covering the sport for newspapers including Marca, travelling the world and getting to know figures such as Cassius Clay.

His last column appeared on the back page of SUR and the other papers in the Vocento group around Spain just a few months ago.

One of his last public appear-



Manuel Alcántara. :: SUR

ances was at the republication of his book of poems, ‘Este Verano en Málaga’ (This Summer in Malaga) in which he writes a few words that sound almost as a farewell, “I leave without any resentment or desire to rectify anything. It’s not that I’m delighted to have known myself, but I’m delighted to have known all of you.”

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REF. L. U. Z.

I have been officially working in Spain for the last ten years, but next year I will be 67 years old and I would like to retire. Is it true that I will not be entitled to receive the retirement pension, even if I have been working for all these years in Spain?

Yes, it is. It may seem unfair, but you will not receive the re-

tirement pension in Spain. Law establishes a minimum and necessary period in order to be eligible for receiving the retirement pension, and in your case, you have not completed it. Therefore, even if you applied for that kind of pension, it would be rejected. Nevertheless, if you have worked before in any other country of the European Union, it would be advisable to check your specific case, in order to see if by applying the EU law there exists the possibility of adding that time that you have been working abroad, and this way, be eligible to receive that pension.

REF. A. O. N.

Due to my age I no longer have the strength and the ability necessary to be able to carry out all the housework by myself, so I have hired a cleaner to help me, who comes once a week to make a thorough cleaning. I think

that in Spain, cleaners have a special situation, but no one has been able to explain if I need to register this woman with Social Security, or as she is considered self-employed, there is no need. I don’t want any problems and would like to make sure that she is working legally. What should I do? From the moment that a person starts working as a cleaner or domestic servant, she must have a contract and the employer must take charge of registering her and paying the appropriate social security contribution. The amount will depend on the number of hours that she works. In other words, the less she works, the lower the contributions will be. Nevertheless, if she is working for less than sixty hours a month, which seems to be the case, you can arrange with her that she takes care of registering with Social Security and paying the appropriate contribution.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

19 APRIL 1970

The most successful artist in Latin American history is born

Luis Miguel has toured extensively across the globe and sold over a 100 million records

Today, 19 April, is the 49th birthday of Luis Miguel, a Puerto Rico-born Mexican artist who not only successfully made the difficult transition from child prodigy to adult star, but went on to become the most successful Latin American artist in history, selling over 100 million records.

His career started, at the age of 11, in Mexico in 1982 when he released his first album, 'Un Sol', which won him his first gold disc.

However, it was in 1985 at the age of 14 when international eyes were turned and Luis Miguel became

the youngest male artist to receive a Grammy Award for his duet Me Gustas Tal Como Eres with Scottish singer Sheena Easton.

The following year, however, his relationship with his father and manager (who was a former singer himself in his native Cadiz) soured and shortly after signing

with Warner Records, Luis Miguel started to work with Juan Carlos Calderón.

His subsequent album, Soy Como Quiero Ser, sold well over 2.5 million records and featured songs such Cuando Calienta El Sol, Ahora Te Puedes Marchar and Yo Que No Vivo Sin Ti- his



Luis Miguel at the Malaga bullring in 1998. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

most recognisable hits to date. This album, as well as his decision to cut his signature long hair, sealed his transition from child star to adult showman.

By the early nineties, Luis Miguel's international superstardom was secured. Riding the wave of the so-called 'Latin Explosion', he brought traditional Latin American genres, such as boleros, tangos, jazz, big band and mariachi to wider audiences in his inimitable high-energy style.

Unlike his contemporaries, however, he continued to sing only in Spanish. This, though, didn't stop him from becoming the first Latin artist to have been awarded two Platinum certified Spanish-language albums in the United States with

Romance and Segundo Romance - the latter earning him 35 platinum records throughout Central and South America.

'El Sol de México', as he became known, has toured the globe extensively and his various sell-out appearances on the Costa del Sol - including at the Malaga bullring in 1998, the Marbella stadium in 1999 and at the Starlite Festival in 2018 - are still fondly remembered.

In total, his live performances have earned him some \$278.5 million since 1990, according to data collated by Boxscore. In the Luis Miguel Tour alone, which started in 2010, he visited 22 countries in North America, South America and Europe, where he performed a total of 223 shows in

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Cantante	Singer
Concierto	Concert
En directo	Live
Escenario	Stage
Gira	Tour
Álbum	Album
Disco	Record
Maestría escénica	Showmanship
Aforo	Full venue
Estadio	Stadium
Entrada	Ticket
Agotado	Sold out
Género	Genre
Bailar	To dance
Cantar	To sing
Letra	Lyrics
Ritmo	Rhythm

three years, making it the longest and highest-grossing tour ever made by a Latin artist.

His showmanship on stage, as well as his personal life, have made Luis Miguel popular for nearly his entire career. His relationship with his parents, as well as with numerous women, including Mariah Carey (to whom he was married between 1998 and 2001), Sofia Vergara and Salma Hayek, have always been under close scrutiny in the media. In fact, his story has created such intrigue that just last year, a Netflix series (called 'Luis Miguel, la serie') telling his life story was released to critical acclaim in Spain.



Fans wait to see their idol in Marbella in 1999. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



From 26 to 28 April the Fair of the Prawn, the Chirla and the Boquerón takes place. :: SUR



The festival attracts big crowds. :: SUR

Punta Umbria Seafood Fair

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Punta Umbria

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Walks around the town: 3 hours.



After Holy Week, which ends this Sunday, one of the most important gastronomic festivals of recent years is celebrated in the Huelva town of Punta Umbria.

The variety and quality of the seafood found in the markets here is celebrated in the annual edition of the Feria Nacional de la Gamba Chirla y el Boquerón (The National Festival of the Prawn, the Clam and the

Anchovy) which is held between 26 and 28 April.

The festival marks the celebration of the independence of the town as a municipality, which took place on April 26, 1994.

With this historic moment as an excuse, delicious products from the Atlantic ocean can be enjoyed throughout the last weekend of the month.

Thousands of visitors and residents are expected

to gather in the main square on 26 April to sample the seafood from the Punta Umbria fish market.

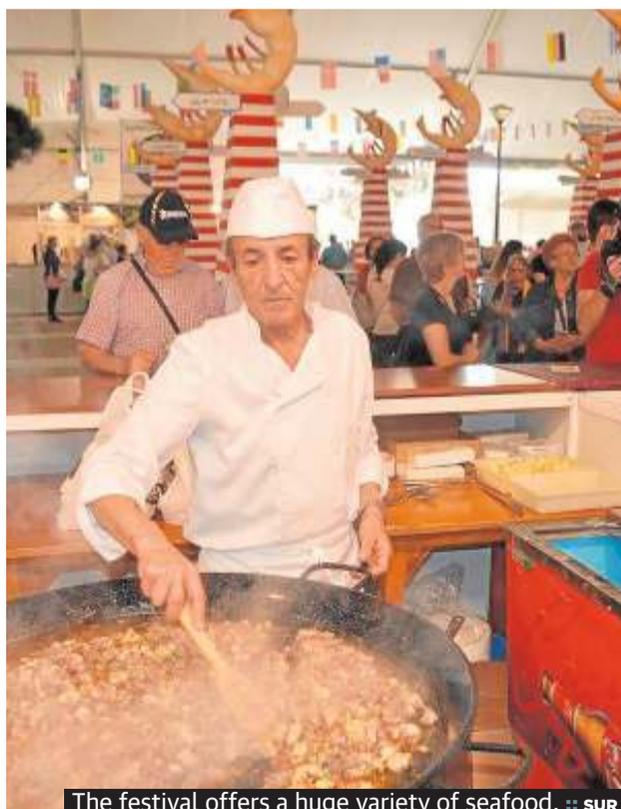
In addition to the typical seafood dishes, homemade traditional dishes such as 'habas enzapatás' (broad beans with mint) are also served.

Besides the white prawns of Huelva, baby clams, anchovies, cuttlefish, crab legs, prawns and octopus can all be purchased at a reasonable price throughout the weekend.

Other traditional products of the province, such as local cheeses, Iberian ham and Condado or Huelva wines will also be available to buy.

Spring is the ideal season to enjoy the many attractions of this town in Huelva. Before the high season when the beaches and streets are filled with tourists, visitors who come in the springtime can enjoy a certain sense of calm.

Between the Paseo de la Ría and Calle Ancha, is an interesting assortment of gastronomic experiences to keep you busy; even if you want to avoid the hustle and bustle of the summer days and the Feria de Gamba. Fritters, fresh seafood of all kinds and, of course cuttlefish, prepared in many different ways, are some of the specialities that can be found here.



The festival offers a huge variety of seafood. :: SUR

BASIC GUIDE

What to see in Punta Umbria:

Calle Ancha. This street is one of the main arteries of the town, with many shops and restaurants.

Calle Ancha, s/n. 21100 Punta Umbria.

Bar Los Caracoles. An emblematic restaurant where you can try local specialities at a reasonable price.

Calle Ancha, 51, 21100 Punta Umbria.

Paseo de la Ría. A calm coastal walk where you can watch the fishing boats of Punta Umbria.

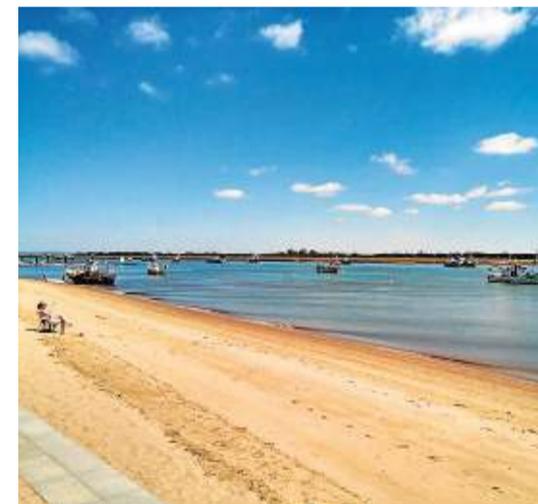
Paseo de la Ría, s/n. 21100 Punta Umbria.

Torre Umbria. A small watchtower to keep the Berber pirates from attacking the Spanish coast.

Calle Lepanto, s/n. 21100 Punta Umbria.

Casa de los ingleses. A building inspired by British style in Punta Umbria at the end of the XIX century.

Av. Ciudad de Huelva, 11, 21100 Punta Umbria.



HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Tips, tricks and the latest trends in renovation and interior design

GIVE YOUR KITCHEN AND BATHROOM A FACELIFT



In any renovation, these rooms require the most attention but the final transformation of the space can give an entire building

Adapting to the needs of a modern family, updating spaces, or modernising dated rooms are some of the most common reasons people decide to renovate their homes. Not only can renovating add monetary value to a building, it also makes a home more comfortable and personal to the people who live in it.

As pointed out in the 'Report on the Reforms and Repairs in Spain 2018' prepared by Habitissimo, 70 per cent of those carrying out renovations had just bought a house and wanted to customise it, 24 per cent needed to adapt it to suit a new family situation, and five per cent wanted to renovate to increase their house's value.

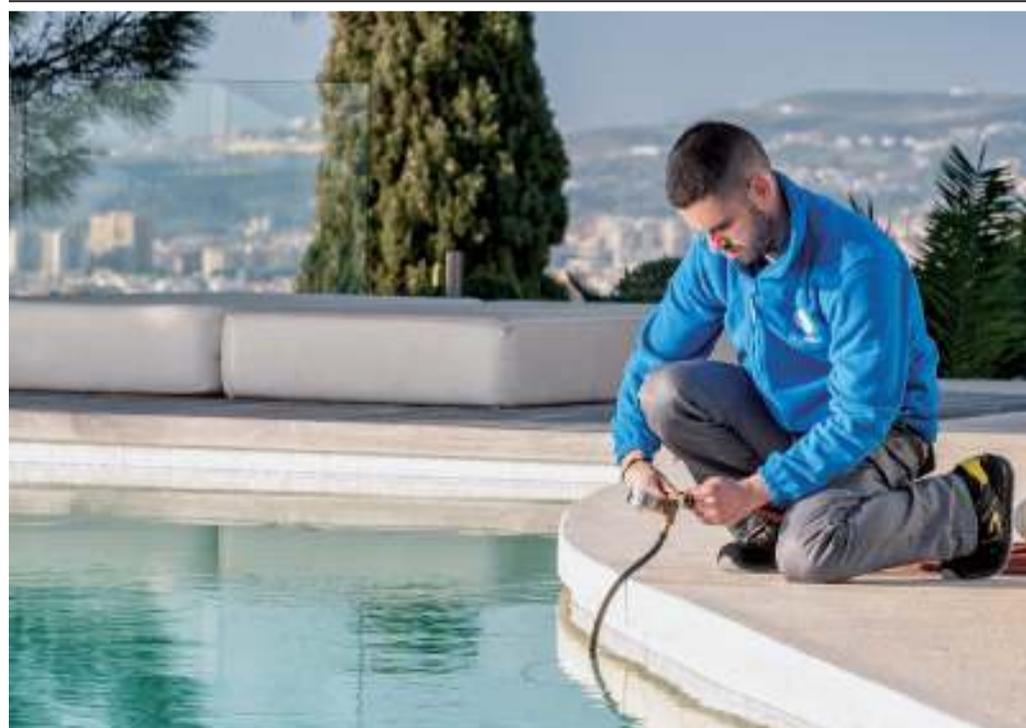
According to data released by Habitissimo, more than 497,604 requests were registered to carry out some remodelling or repairs. These figures not only demonstrates the upturn in the economy, but also an increased awareness of what is necessary in the house of a modern family, for them to live comfortably.

Kitchens and bathrooms, high priorities

The bathroom and the kitchen are the most commonly renovated rooms in the house. There tends to be more wear and tear in these two rooms as they are used so often and can be humid, from showers or cooking.

According to experts, the best thing to do when thinking about a renovation is to adapt the space to your lifestyle and situation.

It is also important to keep spaces clean and open, and to enhance the natural light in a room as this affects the 



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> mood in a positive way. When choosing furniture and decor, it is best to invest some money in higher quality products, as these last longer and tend to be timeless. Remember that renovating your home won't take place often, so investing money in it now will mean you can enjoy it for years to come.

Any decorator or interior designer would tell you that the beauty is in the details, and they will turn a house into a home.

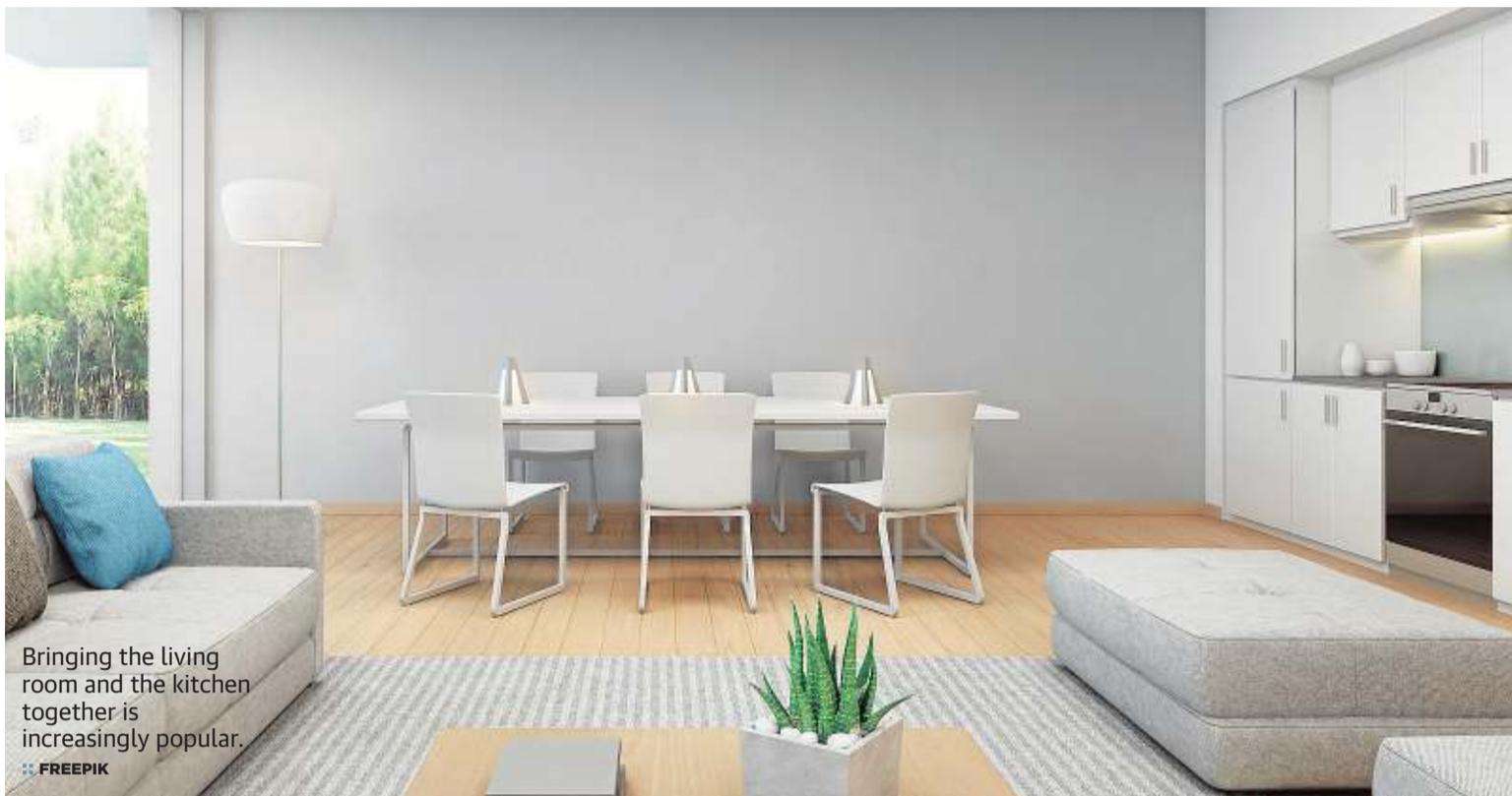
Bright and open kitchens

The challenge when renovating a kitchen is to combine aesthetics with functionality.

In order to do this, it is necessary to adapt the furniture to the environment, without losing sight of the practicality of it. It should also be arranged to make the most of the space. Obviously, the plumbing, electricity, floors and walls of the room must be taken into account too.

One of the most popular current trends is to join the kitchen to the living room. This creates a multi-functional space, where everything is visually and physically connected. This design also increases the feeling of space and light in two of the most vital rooms in the house.

At Molina Caballero, a Malaga-based company specialising in tiles, kitchens and bathrooms, they say that large ceramic tiles, neutral in tone and colour, are the best to optimise the feeling of space and



Bringing the living room and the kitchen together is increasingly popular.

FREEPIK

light. Whether geometric, floral or classic in design, keeping the colours neutral will enhance light. However, tiles can be custom made to suit your personal preferences, mixing styles, to obtain a unique result for each client. This allows you to play with colour in your spaces, to see what works best.

Molina Caballero has a service that allows customers to talk through their ideas with professionals before going ahead with

their renovations.

Another trend that has taken over is the use of gold on handles and taps, which ends the dull steel grey that is normally found in the kitchen and bathroom.

In addition to this, now more than ever, people are much more interested in their ecological footprint. Plants, vines and even small indoor gardens have become very popular, as they also give the room a sense of calm and connection

with nature. Being energy efficient is also a must in this day and age. It not only saves you money on bills, but also contributes to the sustainability of the planet.

Comfortable and practical bathrooms

The bathroom is the other room in the house that is most commonly renovated. In general, people tend to swap out old bathtubs for showers, saving space and mod-

ernising the room. However, they then add in another, freestanding, modern bath, for moments of relaxation.

The keys to success when designing a bathroom are cleanliness and small details. Therefore, with regards to your bathroom it is not the size of the room that you have to work with, but rather what you do with the perhaps limited space you are given.

Another fundamental when de-

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One of the most popular current trends is to join the kitchen to the living room, creating a multifunctional space, where everything is visually connected

The keys to success in designing a bathroom are cleanliness and small details

Cement tiles can also serve as decoration in a room. :: MOLINA CABALLERO

signing your dream bathroom is the furniture. As pointed out by Proinco, the Malaga-based distributor of construction materials and plumbing, it is important to think carefully when choosing a bathroom cabinet. Remember that the main uses of the cabinet are for storage and functionality, while also saving space and looking stylish. "Bear in mind that the bathroom is in daily use by everyone who lives in the house. You also need to think about the amount of space you have to dedicate to a cabinet," they say at the company.

Again, neutral tones finished in timeless materials such as marble or wood give a bathroom a polished and fresh look. Adding small details to furniture and fittings add a personal touch.

Another fantastic addition to any bathroom is underfloor heating. It is a practical, functional and economical alternative to a normal heater, and makes the room a lot more comfortable and homely.

For small spaces and where it is not possible to install underfloor heating due to water or gas supplies, Proinco has alternatives. The

Magnum electric floor heating is an economic option for these kinds of spaces.

Overall, whether talking about kitchens or bathrooms, it is important that there is a flow through the spaces and rooms in a house. The bathrooms and kitchen should have certain similarities that link them together, while each space also has different touches.

The mixture of textures, styles and materials of the furniture alongside the personalised decor, are the aspects that make a house unique to you.



Neutral colours make a space look lighter. :: MOLINA CABALLERO

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Using glass partitions, choosing customised furniture that fits the space and paying close attention to lighting are some of the keys to maximising the space available to you. :: FREEPIK



TIPS AND TRICKS TO SAVE SPACE

Lighting can make all the difference when making a room appear more spacious, but furniture and flooring are also key

They say a small space is a matter of perspective. This is not entirely true, but there are ways to design a room so that they at least look bigger, and are used in the most efficient ways.

One of the main ways to make a room more airy and spacious is undoubtedly the lighting. The ideal is to use as much natural light as possi-

ble as it is not only more aesthetic and economic, but also has more health benefits for the people who live there.

When using natural light there are a greater amplitude of tonalities of light to play with. In addition, with the light changing throughout the day and year, it generates dynamism and regulates the body, adapting it to the day and night and the seasons.

To maximise light, of course you can expand the windows that the room has. There are other options though, such as a skylight window in ceilings that let in a huge amount more of natural light. They require little effort to install and make the most of the space in rooms with low ceilings.

Another option to achieve more light in your house is to use glass partitions. These can be installed in the wall, as well in doors and corridor areas. By eliminating the solid barrier of the wall, natural light is distributed around the entire space, including previously dark corners. This gives the whole room a much wider look.

These glass partitions can also be mobile, ideal for spaces in need of a revamp, without taking up lots of space.

Another way you can make the most of limited space is to integrate rooms together. For example, the kitchen can be incorporated into the sitting room. If there are rooms that connect to a terrace, having windows that open fully allow the space to flow and appear bigger than reality.

When it is not possible to expand

outdoor areas, mirrors are your greatest ally. They move and distribute light throughout the spaces, while also adding to the design and practicality of the room.

Likewise, using the same flooring throughout the house enhances the feeling of unity and spaciousness.

Optimise the space

To make a room look larger it is important to take advantage of every centimetre. Custom furniture is a good option. Furniture made specifically for your space integrates naturally into the room and can offer as much storage as you need without overcrowding it.

It is also effective in some rooms to take advantage of the height of the ceilings, installing high shelves and cupboards.

Furniture also needs to adapt to the needs of family life. It therefore needs to be functional, but stylish. There are many interesting solutions through which to take advantage of different spaces. One of them is bunk beds. This type of bed allows you to take advantage of the height of a

room. There are many options beyond the conventional bunk bed, with structures that have room underneath to work or play.

Similarly, it is very practical to use the corridors to install cabinets. This can increase the storage capacity of the house without crowding rooms.

As an alternative to bunk beds, folding beds are the perfect way to take advantage of every inch, in a comfortable, practical and discreet way. When they are not being used as a bed they can fold away and leave the room with more space.

Regarding colours, the best thing to do is to opt for neutral tones that provide clarity and spaciousness. Dark colours are not only depressing, but also make the room appear smaller. Sand, beige and grey tones are the best at improving the visual aesthetics of a room, providing a warm and comfortable feeling. To provide a cheerful and distinctive stamp, use colour details in textiles or art work.

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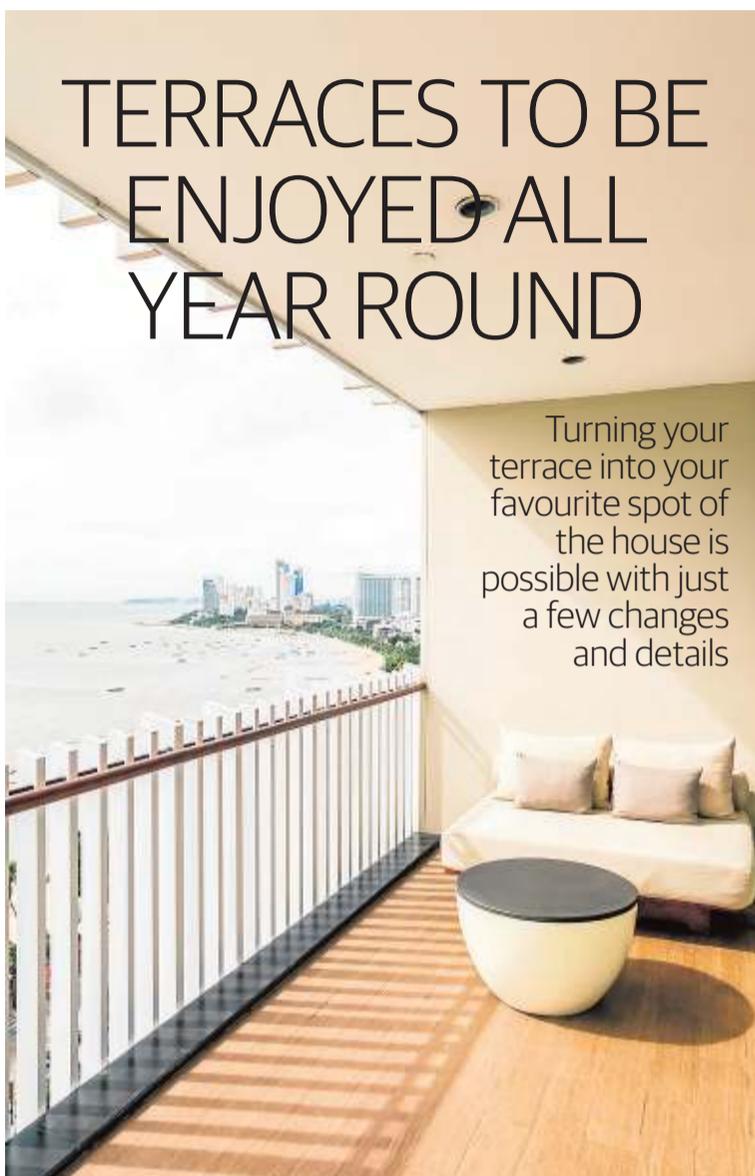
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TERRACES TO BE ENJOYED ALL YEAR ROUND

Turning your terrace into your favourite spot of the house is possible with just a few changes and details

Regardless of size, you can make a terrace into a nice space. :: FREEPIK

In built-up holiday resorts and cities, it's true to say that those who have a terrace, have a treasure at their disposal.

These outdoor areas, including patios, roof terraces or similar spaces, offer endless possibilities to enjoy and share with friends and family at any time of year. But in order for these places to be truly comfortable, they must be properly fitted out and nicely decorated.

Nowadays there are many options available. Once again, one of the keys to these spaces is light, especially during the winter months when it gets darker earlier. Installing adequate lighting will help to create a more pleasant, warm and welcoming ambience.

In addition, installing a heater is a good idea but in the case of fireplaces and wood stoves, it is important to consult the 'comunidad de vecinos' to know if they're allowed.

Another element that brings warmth and comfort to terraces are materials such as natural fibres and untreated wood. This can come in the form of furniture or be used on the walls and floors.

With respect to fibres, natural materials such as rattan, sisal, jute or wicker have become popular both indoors and outdoors thanks to their versatility and the warmth they give to spaces.

These materials can be found in



textiles such as carpets and cushions; in decorative elements such as baskets, lamps or magazine racks, and, of course, in furniture. One of the main advantages is that, as it is a type of hollow fibre, it makes it very light and fresh. They are also resistant and sustainable.

Other features growing in popularity are pergolas. These wooden frames not only provide shade, they also insulate against extreme temperatures and allow terraces to be used for a good part of the year.

In terms of design, combining furniture and accessories in organic and relaxed shapes with pastel tones is a guarantee of success if you want to achieve a relaxing environment. You can also add block or more vivid colour notes that will give a decorative contrast point.

Green spaces

On terraces, as well as on patios or rooftops, you should have plants as

they help create an atmosphere and promote well-being all year round.

The most important thing is to choose plants that adapt to the climatic conditions of the space.

For the more delicate plants you can get small greenhouses or terrariums, protecting them from the cold and rain, or you can move them to the most sheltered corners of the terrace.

If it is a small terrace, a good solution is to take advantage of the corners using hanging plants to give the impression that it is bigger.

Another practical and sustainable option is to install your own urban garden. These small plots allow for the cultivation of aromatic herbs and vegetables on your own terrace.

This is a simple way of growing vegetables in very small spaces - a trend that not only allows us to enjoy our own organic products, but also decorate spaces in a fun and innovative way.



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EXHIBITIONS

Yusto Giner

Marbella. Until 30 April. *Galería Yusto Giner, C/Madera.*
An exhibition entitled Hotel Ostende by Ángel Mateo Charris and Gonzalo Sicre.



Mar Garrido, Malaga

Emilia Rebollo

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

We Are Here

Malaga. Until 27 April. *Sala de Exposiciones, Sociedad Económica Amigos del País.*

Young artists Rebeca Huerta, Silvia Lermo, Darko, María Dávila, Paloma de la Cruz, Javier Artero, María Vera, Julio Anaya, Hadaly Vilasclaras, Eugenio Rivas, Marc Montijano and Alejandro Castillo,

will be exhibiting their works.

Mar Garrido

Malaga. Until 26 May. *Salas Mingo-rance, Archivo Municipal.*
A selection of photographs and videos created by the Madrid born artist Mar Garrido will be on display.

Miguel Molet

Malaga. Until 28 April. *Alfajar gallery, C/Císter, 1.*
Anatomis de la forma is the name of this exhibition by artist Miguel Molet. The inauguration is tonight (15 March) at 8.30pm.

Cristóbal Toral

Antequera. Until 26 April. *Museo de la Ciudad de Antequera.*
Internationally famous, local artist Cristóbal Toral returns to his roots with an exhibition of over fifty large format works. The display comprises of 500 suitcases and holdalls among other pieces of his work.

Julio López Hernández

Vélez-Málaga. Until 26 April. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Francisco Hernández.*
'Forma Materia y Aire' is the name of the exhibition which consists of 43 pieces by the late artist (29 sculptures and 14 sketches).

Naked Art

Torre del Mar. Until 21 April. *Nuestra Sra. del Carmen, the old sugar cane factory.*
An exhibition by a collection of artists.

Cómpeta's artistic Easter

JENNIE RHODES

CÓMPETA. The eleventh Cóm-peta Art Walk will take place on Saturday 20, Sunday 21, Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 April.

This year 38 international artists, representing nine different nationalities, will be showing their work at various venues around the village.

Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in workshops to improve their own artistic skills. This year there is a raku firing, paper making, printmaking workshops and a German artist will demonstrate how to make clay portraits. Workshops should be booked in advance via the Art Walk website (see below).

This year there are a number of new activities, including a meditation ceremony on Sunday morning and storytelling on Sunday afternoon. Four students from the Arnhem Theatre School in the Netherlands will 'move' around the streets of Cóm-peta, "submerging the village in creative vibes," explains organiser, Lieuwke Loth.

There will also be live music



Carolyn Aigner's stone art features in the event. :: SUR

from musicians who live in the area, but are originally from Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland and the UK, as well as Spain. The music includes Aire Flamenco; Flor-de-lis with flamenco and Italian songs; Los Alquimistas jazz and blues music; Maika Lavera and the Grajos with soul/rock and blues; Duo Masque who play interna-

tional music and Espabelgajazz who play mainstream jazz and bossanova, including some Latin. The local musicians have also joined forces to form Nomades Ecléticos who play all genres, from jazz to blues.

For more information, visit www.artcompeta.com or the event's Facebook (artcompeta) or Instagram (artwalkcompeta) pages.

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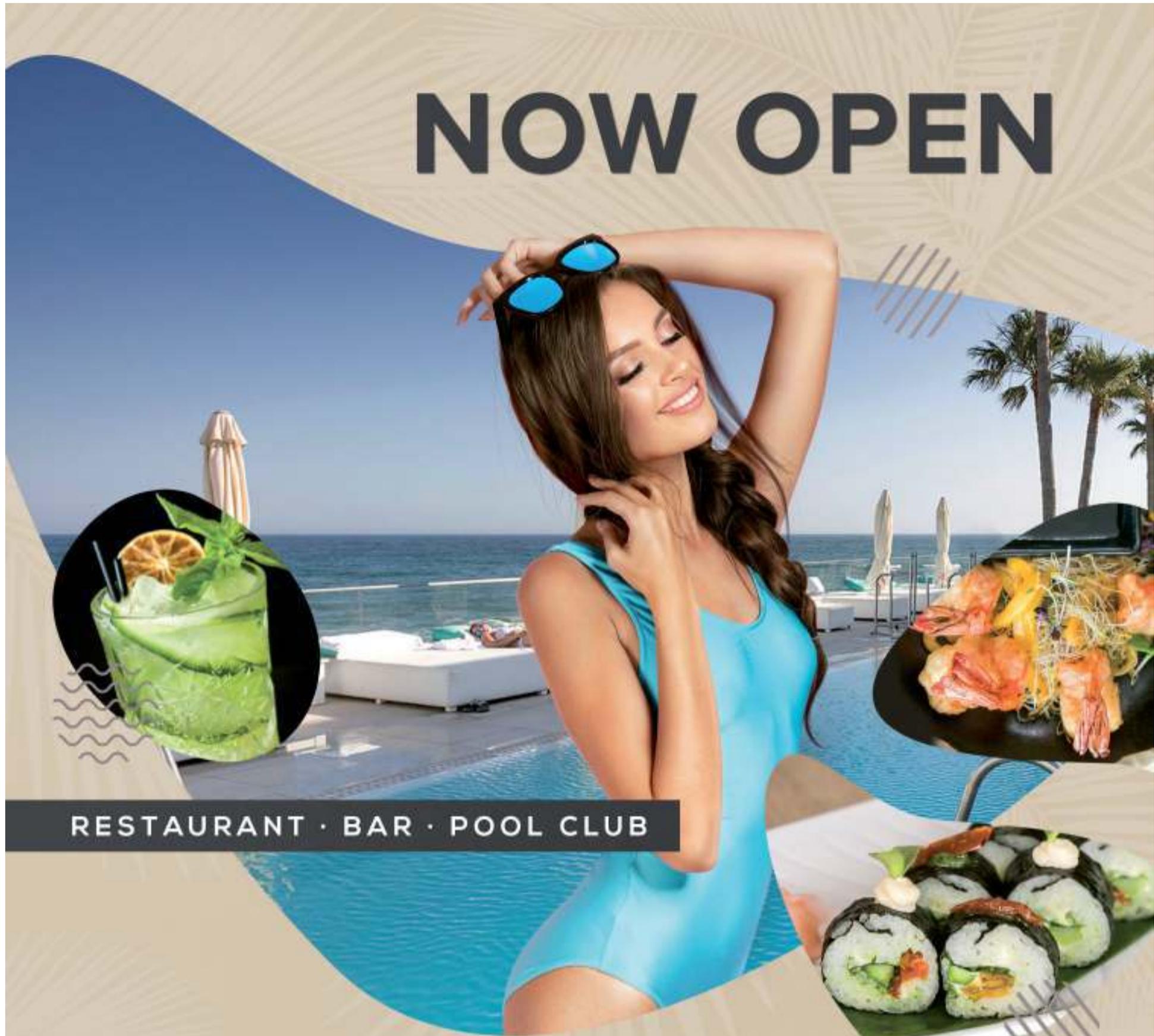
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CHARITY

RBL St George's Day

Nerja. 20 April, from 3pm. The Chapel Bar, C/Jaén.

There will be a tombola stall, burger eating competition, tug of war tournament, raffle and much more. Proceeds to the Royal British Legion Nerja Poppy Appeal.

ARCH Spring Festival

Coín. 20 April, Hacienda Moreno. To celebrate its tenth birthday, the Andalusian Rescue Centre for

Horses and Donkeys is holding a Spring Festival on Easter Saturday. There will be a fun dog show, live music, many stalls, and an Easter Egg Hunt. For more information and directions see www.horserescuespain.org, Facebook Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or ring 699808910.

Easter Sunday Lunch

Mijas. 21 April, 1.30pm. Hotel Tamisa Golf. 25€.

Welcome cocktail followed by a two-course lunch and a glass of wine. Entertainment provided by

The jazz eras revisited with ragtime, swing and big band

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. International Jazz Day (30 April), is an event organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation which highlights jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.

Torremolinos will celebrate the event with a family show called 'A Journey into Jazz', which will focus on the roots of the music that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans in the late 19th century.

More than 50 musicians and dancers, a gospel choir and a symphony orchestra will participate in the event which will be held in the Príncipe de Asturias auditorium in Torremolinos on Saturday 27 April, 12pm. The show will be a musical journey through the different eras of jazz and will include ragtime, swing, big-band, traditional jazz, bebop and jazz-rock fusion.

The concert, organised by Kolp Group and Jammin' Live



Musicians from the CAMM will perform at the jazz event. :: SUR.

Music Events with the collaboration of Torremolinos town hall, will be directed by José María Puyana, professor of the Centre for Art and Modern Music (CAMM).

The show will feature a narrator who will explain the different formations of the genre with the interaction of the symphony orchestra, choir and music students from the CAMM.

The event is designed to demonstrate how jazz is used to in-

spire leadership and innovation.

Each style and era of jazz adopted new techniques and feature a variety of instruments, including stringed, brass, woodwind and percussion. A collection of instruments will be at the disposal of the audience before and after the concert.

Tickets cost five euros and are available from www.internationaljazzdaytorremolinos.com, or at the door on the day.



MOVIE LISTING
From Thursday 18th
to Thursday 25th April

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTTLED SPANISH

	AVENGERS: ENDGAME Director Joe & Anthony Russo - Starring Robert Downey Jr. - ACTION - 181 min. Pre-release April 25 Thursday 25: 19:00, 20:00, 21:00	
	MIA AND THE WHITE LION Director Gilles De Maistre - Starring Melanie Laurent - ADVENTURES - 98 min. From Thursday 18 to Saturday 20: 20:30 Sunday 21: 12:00, 20:30 From Monday 22 to Wednesday 24: 20:30	
	THE AFTERMATH Director James Kent - Starring Keira Knightley - DRAMA - 108 min. From Thursday 18 to Wednesday 24: 22:15	
	SHAZAM! Director David F. Sandberg - Starring Zachary Levi - ACTION - 132 min. From Thursday 18 to Saturday 20: 20:10 From Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24: 20:00, 22:15 Thursday 25: 20:00	

	THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA Director Michael Chaves Starring Linda Cardellini, Raymond Cruz, Patricia Velasquez HORROR - 93 min. Ignoring the eerie warning of a troubled mother suspected of child endangerment, a social worker and her own small kids are soon drawn into a frightening supernatural realm. From Thursday 18 to Saturday 20: 16:30, 18:30, 22:45 Sunday 21: 16:30, 18:30, 22:30 From Monday 22 to Wednesday 24: 18:30, 22:30 Thursday 25: 17:40, 22:30	
	KALANK Director Abhishek Varman - Starring Varun Dhawan - DRAMA - 166 min. From Thursday 18 to Saturday 20: 22:30 Sunday 21: 12:00	
	AFTER Director Jenny Gage - Starring Hero Fiennes Tiffin - DRAMA - 108 min. From Thursday 18 to Saturday 20: 18:00, 20:15, 22:45 From Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24: 18:00, 20:15, 22:30 Thursday 25: 18:00	
	DUMBO Director Tim Burton - Starring Colin Farrell - FANTASY - 111 min. From Thursday 18 to Saturday 20: 16:00, 18:15 Sunday 21: 12:00, 16:00, 18:15 From Monday 22 to Wednesday 24: 18:15	
	WONDER PARK Director Dylan Brown - Voices Sofia Mali - ANIMATION - 85 min. From Thursday 18 to Saturday 20: 16:15 Sunday 21: 12:00, 16:15	

DJ Lee Jay, CC9 band and John O'Brian. 5€ from each ticket goes to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. reservas@hotelamiasgolf.com 952 585 988

Easter Monday Buffet and Quiz for La Cala de Mijas Lions Mijas.

21 April, 2pm. The Ole restaurant Los Claveles. 20€. A hot and cold buffet to celebrate St George's Day with quiz. Tickets from Lions charity shop and from Ole restaurant.

Indie Rock concert for Alzheimers charity

Estepona. 26 April, 8pm. Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. 5€. The Clem Fandangos (Sami James, Bryan Wells, Jofre Lomez Prego and KIm de Ram) play music influenced by funk, folk, hip hop, heavy rock, punk and reggae. Award winning singer, songwriter and accomplished classical guitarist, Colm Fitzpatrick will also be performing.



Fiestas de San Gabriel, El Borge

AID charity auctions

Coín. 26 April, 22 June, 28 June, 26 July, from 7pm. Vivero Hoyo, Camino de Coín, opposite Venta La Morena. A monthly auction for the Animals in Distress charity. Call Joe: 626942427 or go to: www.animals-in-distress.eu

MUSIC & DANCE

Louie Louie Live

Estepona. Louie Louie Bar. 10€ 19 April, midnight. Schizophrenic Spacers and Full Colour Panda. www.entradium.com/events/los-brazos-louie-louie-rock-estepona

Mediterranean Chamber Orchestra

Almuñécar. 21 April, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. The Orquesta de Cámara Mediterránea will be performing pieces by composers Handel and Vivaldi.

Youth Orchestra

La Cala de Mijas. 26 April, 8pm. Salon de Actos. The Joven Orquesta Promúsica de Málaga will be playing theme tunes from famous movies such as Star Wars, The Force Awakens; Willy Wonka And The Chocolate Factory; High School Musical and James Bond, among others.

Música Con Encanto

Marbella. 27 April, 8pm. Buchinger Wilhelmi Clinic. 25€ Aleksandr Kliuchko, award-winning pianist, will be playing pieces by Beethoven, Liszt and Mussorgsky. Info:

www.musicaconencanto.org
Tickets: 689 000 944

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Brea, C/Ramón Franquelo. 8.30pm. 19 April, 1pm. Bastián Soto and Elena Molina (dance) with Mamen Ruiz (vocals), Fran Moya (guitar). For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email: info@flamenka.com

Al Compás de Carrete

Malaga. 19 April, 10pm. Escuela David Martín, C/ Obsidiana 9, local 5 (Avda Ortega y Gasset), Barriada Santa Cristina. Mamen Ruiz (vocals), Luis 'el Salao' (guitar), Luisa Chicano and Carrete de Málaga (dance). Reservations: 618 556 088 - 687 607 526

EVENTS

Botanical gardens open

Alpujarra. Every Friday, 10am - 6pm. Jardín de la Alpujarra, Cta Atalbeitar, Pórtugos. Stroll around the gardens which are stocked with a wide range of plants and admire the view. Refreshments are available. Donations towards the upkeep are much appreciated. Call: 646430656 www.jardinalpujarra.com

ACE Grand Easter Party

Estepona. 21 April, 1.30pm. 69 C/San Roque. 5€ members, 6€ guests. The American Club Estepona is holding a Grand Easter Party with an Easter bonnet competition, decorated egg competition, egg and spoon race with prizes. There will also be a buffet, live entertainment and dancing.

Thespa

Los Boliches. 24 April, 7.30pm. Masonic Hall, Edf Bougainvillea. Members 16€, guest 18€. The first one-act play will be 'Luck be a Lady' by Michael Park. This will be followed by dinner. The second play will be 'Grannies' by Jean McConnell. Reservations (by 21 April): thespabooking@gmail.com or call: 652726624

The Last Nomads

Estepona. 25 April, 6.30pm. Casa de las Tejerinas. The Cultural Association El Berenjenal is holding a lecture on the last nomadic tribes of the Sahara. Directed by Nano Zúmel, the talk will include photographs



Open gardens, Alpujarra

and a small exhibition of objects. Refreshments available. Facebook: El Berejenal A.C

FESTIVALS

Fiestas de San Gabriel

El Borge. 21 April. The fiesta to honour the patron saint of the village always falls during Easter and San Gabriel is taken around the village in a procession with the Virgen del Rosario.

O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com
Red Joan: 16.30, 20.35, 22.25.
Green Book: 16.30.
The Kindergarten Teacher: 20.35

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Aftermath: 16.00 (Mon-Thurs).
Dumbo: 12.20 (every day); 16.40 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Shazam!: 18.35, 21.15.
Dumbo: 12.05, 16.00.
The Aftermath: 0.00.
Asbury Park: Riot Redemption
Rock&Roll: 21.00 (Thurs)

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Avengers End Game : 19.00, 20.00, 21.00 (Thurs).
Dumbo: 12.00 (Sun); 16.00 (Fri-Sun); 18.15 (every day).
Wonder Park: 12.00 (Sun); 16.15 every day).
Aftermath: 22.15 (every day).
Mia And The White Lion: 12.00 (Sun); 20.30 (every day).
Shazam: 20.00 (Sun-Thurs); 21.10 (Thurs-Sat); 22.15 (Sun-Wed).
After: 18.00 (every day); 20.15 (Fri- Wed); 22.30 (Sun-Wed); 22.45 (Fri-Sat).
La Llorona: 16.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.40 (Thurs); 18.30 (every day); 22.30 (Sun-Thurs); 22.45 (Fri, Sat).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
La Llorona UHD: 21.50 (Tues).
La Llorona: 16.50 (Fri-Wed); 20.50 (Tues).
Boy Erased: 17.40 (Tues)
Red Joan: 16.20 (every day); 20.30 (Tues).
Captain Marvel: 20.00 (Tues).
Shazam!: 13.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 19.00 (Tues).
After: 12.05 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 19.35 (Tues).
Mia And The White Lion: 20.45 (Tues).
Dumbo: 12.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun);

20.20 (Mon, Tues, Wed).
Aftermath: 16.55 (Sun, Mon, Tues).
Wonder Park: 20.25 (Tues).
Us: 21.25 (Tues).
The Avengers: End Game: 19.30, 20.30 (Thurs).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria.

Calle Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Shazam!: 22.20 (Tues).
After: 22.00 (Tues).
Dumbo: 20.20 (Tues).
Wonder Park: 19.45 (Tues).
Mule: 21.40 (Tues).

Us: 21.50 (Tues).
The Avengers: End Game: 21.30 (Thurs).
La Llorona: 22.15 (Tues)
Mia And The White Lion: 17.20 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia.

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922
The Life Of Brian: 20.00 (Tues).
After: 20.30 (Tues).
Red Joan: 20.15 (Tues).
La Llorona: 21.45 (Tues).
The Avengers: End Game: 21.30 (Thurs).
Mia And The White Lion: 20.25 (Tues).



The fair will focus on tropical plants, cacti and bonsai trees. :: T. B.

Horticultural fair comes to La Paloma park

T. BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. The Rare Plant Fair will be held in La Paloma Park in Benalmádena from Friday (today) until Sunday 21 April. More than 40 local and national horticultural specialists will participate in the

event, which will focus on tropical and subtropical plants, cacti and bonsai trees. There will also be stands offering bulbs, seeds and fertilisers, as well as information and tips concerning the cultivation and care of exotic plants.

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At no previous time in history did we concern ourselves so much about the source of our food. We, of course, are totally justified in doing so; according to the European Union, foodstuffs most often reproduced are honey, wine, fish, meat and dairy products. This does not exempt other items, and a separate mention identifies olive oil as being one of the most difficult products to trace along the route from farm to consumer.

In Andalucía, for example, it is quite normal to buy 'homemade' olive oil from a small local farmer, not for reasons of price (it can be more expensive than the best supermarket labels) but for purity

ANDREW J. LINN

FOLLOW THAT OIL



and organic qualities. However, many people ask how the producer can be sure the oil is made from the olives he cultivated. You never get

a straight answer although a friendly insider will admit that normal practice is to just leave their sacks of olives with the press operator and hope he is honest enough to keep each grower's oil separate from that of others. Fine chance.

Although it is the Italians who make the most noise about 'fake' olive oil, many believe them to be the least blameless. The country is, surprisingly, the world's biggest exporter of olive oil and at the same time the biggest importer (yes, really!), and since the last harvest was 50% below normal, thanks to climate change apparently, the reliable producers such as Bellucci, have decided to trust no-one. They are adopting the blockchain

method to ensure the traceability of every bottle of olive oil that leaves their plant. This technique, as anyone who knows something about Bitcoin may realise, enables a digital double-entry public ledger to be kept in which each party records every transaction independently. Any break in the chain, or even a hiccup, invariably signifies that the product has in some way been tampered with.

The retail giant Walmart and the Chinese Alibaba both use it to keep track of all their merchandise. The cherry on the Bellucci cake is that every bottle will have a tamper-proof capsule which will transmit information about the location and time of opening.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Burro Loco 2017

This red from Cigales, the classic rosado zone next to Ribera del Duero, is organic, cheap and not bad at all. Made from the Tempranillo grape, the wine is young, lightly matured, and with quite a profound taste. Its rosado brother also sells well, around six euros.



Malaga, the UK's supplier of coriander and parsley

The Costa Tropical, and in particular the Axarquía, is reserving more and more land to grow aromatic herbs for the UK market

:: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MALAGA. Nearly all the aromatic herbs grown in the fields of Malaga province are destined for Britain. This is certainly the case for coriander and parsley, the flat leaf as much as the curly type.

The Grupo La Palma company is the biggest producer in the prov-

ince, exporting around 1,000 tonnes of herbs a year from the Axarquía region. It has been in operation for 30 years and also produces ornamental plants as well as herbs such as parsley, coriander and mint.

The driving forces behind the company are Juan Ferrer, one of the founders of SAT (the Sociedad Agraria de Transformación Tropics), today the biggest national producer of avocados and mangos, and Briton Peter Langdale.

Around 70 hectares are dedicated to growing aromatic herbs, 60 percent producing coriander, 35 percent parsley and the remainder other herbs. Of this total, 99.9 percent is for export, with Britain being the biggest market.

The campaign for growing herbs covers the period from October until the end of June. According to Langdale, the main requirement of British clients is for coriander and parsley all year round, "We can produce the herbs for nine months of the year without fail. We stagger the schedule of the crops so that we keep a constant production.

We also experiment with different varieties so that we can keep producing them from October to June," he explained.

All the herbs grown for La Palma are grown outside and under strict



Grupo La Palma employs over a hundred people. :: A. PELÁEZ

quality controls. Staggering the production is not easy although curly and flat leaf parsley can be cut more than once which means it doesn't have to be resown after each harvest. Some plants will survive all year however coriander needs to be reseeded after every harvest.

"We also have to consider climatic conditions; curly leaf parsley won't stand too much heat,"

he added. The length of time it takes each plant to develop is also taken into account; to speed things up, fleece covers are used which can reduce the length of time before harvest from 120 days to 70 or 80 days.

Langdale stresses that producing herbs is very specialised, "We work the same way a tailor does, everything is made to measure to meet the demands of our clients."

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Fast families

There are advantages to having babies close together, but there are also risks. Experts advise waiting 18 months between a birth and another pregnancy

INÉS GALLASTEGUI

Irene Montero announced in mid-March that she and Pablo Iglesias, her life partner and colleague at the helm of the Podemos political party, were going to be parents again. This time she didn't say when, but bearing in mind that last time they announced that she was expecting twins when she was 13 weeks pregnant, and they already know this new baby is a girl, it is likely that she has been pregnant since December, barely five months after the twins were born. That has raised a few eyebrows. Is it too soon?

Apart from the fact that bringing up three babies at a time can be very hard from a purely logistical point of view, numerous pieces of scientific research have concluded that two pregnancies close together carry risks for the mother and the baby: there is ten times more chance of a miscarriage and four times more of a premature birth, but the mother is also more at risk of suffering from anaemia, gestational diabetes, high blood pressure or placenta previa and the baby could weigh less at birth, be at risk of sudden death and autism, among other problems.

After reviewing the scientific studies, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends



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➤ waiting at least two years, but no more than five, between one birth and the start of another pregnancy.

“People used to say that with every child the mother loses a tooth. In a modern society, women should have time to recover from the strain of a pregnancy and birth,” explained Txanton Martínez-Astorquiza, president of the Spanish Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (SEGO). “You need to be prudent, but also flexible. If a 40-year-old woman has had a brilliant birth, we’re not going to tell her she has to wait for two years,” he said, referring to the rapid loss of fertility that occurs from the age of 35 onwards.

José Luis Gallo, the head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Virgen de las Nieves hospital in Granada, agrees. He said that if a woman is healthy, eats well and attends all her prenatal check-ups, a one-year gap before trying for another baby - in other words 21 months between one birth and another - is enough.

However, the specialists are quite rigid about the need to avoid a pregnancy before 18 months have passed if the previous birth was by caesarian section, which in Spain is the case with one in every four births.

RECOMMENDED GAP BETWEEN BABIES

Risks due to age

The World Health Organisation (WHO) advises waiting two years between a birth and the start of another pregnancy, and six months after a miscarriage. A study of over 148,000 women in Canada between 2004 and 2014 showed that women over 35 have double the risk of death or serious complications than an

18-year-old if they become pregnant again within six months, while between the ages of 20 and 34 the incidence of problems with the foetus increases by 50 per cent. The possibilities of premature birth increased in all age groups. Different pieces of research have shown that leaving a gap of more than five years between pregnancies also has negative effects, possibly related to the mother’s age.

As the foetus develops, the uterus increases in size from eight or nine centimetres to 25 to 30, and if the incision has not healed well there is the risk that it will break. The consequences could be disastrous - the death of the foetus and loss of the uterus - and on occasions women are advised to bring the birth forward with a scheduled caesarean, said Dr Gallo.

The good news is that most families plan a reasonable gap between babies, although some trust in nature and believe that if the woman becomes pregnant it is because her body is ready to handle it. That isn’t always the case.

After the birth, the drop in hormone levels from the pregnancy means that, if the woman is not breastfeeding, she is fertile again in three or four weeks. In those who do breastfeed, the absence of periods means it can take much

longer - up to a year - but there are exceptions.

“In theory, women don’t ovulate if their babies are less than six months old, don’t have other foods and the feeds are no more than six hours apart, but it isn’t 100 per cent guaranteed,” said Jade Magdaleno, author of the blog Mi Mastrona Online.

The problem, according to this specialist, who is in charge of the post-graduate programmes for midwives at the Foundation for the Development of Nursing, is that ovulation occurs before menstruation, so some women who have sexual relations without protection become pregnant before they have their first period after giving birth. That can be not only a surprise, but frightening, too.

On one hand, the woman’s body has not had enough time to recover from the challenge of growing a new

More cases of autism

Some researchers say a gap which is too short (less than two years) or too long (more than five years) between a birth and the following pregnancy more than doubles the risk of the second child suffering a disorder on the autistic spectrum. “The mechanism which explains this association is unknown”, admit the authors of a study of 45,000 children in California.

6

months is how long a woman may be infertile after giving birth if she breastfeeds regularly and the baby has no other type of food. The introduction of fruit and/or cereals in the baby’s diet before six months can lead to menstruation, so breastfeeding is not a guaranteed method of contraception.

A woman’s body needs time to recover from the strain of carrying a new being for nine months

being for nine months, giving birth to it and feeding it. There may be a lack of calcium, which is important for the formation of the foetus’ bones; of folic acid, which prevents anomalies such as anencephaly, spina bifida and hair lip; iodine, which protects from some types of mental disabilities, and iron, which is needed to nourish the new being.

Jade Magdaleno said that, although in this country it is not common for there to be less than six months between pregnancies, those which do occur normally are alarm-

ing for the women in question. If they have not started menstruating again and they do not have morning sickness, three or four months can go by before they realise they could be pregnant. That means that they receive the vitamin and mineral supplements and have the test for Down Syndrome, which is normally done around the 12th week, later than normal.

Pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding can not only exhaust the reserve of micronutrients but also put a strain on the muscular-skeletal system, which needs time to recover suffer, says Txanton Martínez-Astorquiza, the head of Gynaecology at the Cruces hospital in Vizcaya. For example, the distention of the

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pelvic floor can cause future urinary incontinence and prolapse of the internal organs.

Pregnancies close together also

increase the risk that the abdominal rectus muscle, which separates leaving a gap between the right and left sides in a high percentage of

pregnant

women, does not have time to return to normal, especially when carrying twins or very large foetuses. Although most women recover from the famous 'diastasis recti' within six months in some cases it persists and causes digestive problems, hernias and back pains which may require surgery, says surgeon Javier Calleja, of the San Francisco de Asís hospital in Madrid.

Three children in two years

However, reproducing as fast as nature permits also has positive aspects. Carmen, who is 40, has three beautiful children - a girl and two boys - who were born between January 2010 and November 2012. She doesn't regret it at all.

"I have always loved babies. I'm an infant teacher and I wanted to have a house full of children; as I hoped to have at least three, I wanted them to be close together," she says. "I went ahead because I had very good pregnancies and births. Once you have decided to have a family, it is best to have a few years with the nappies, bibs and baby food, and get it over with quickly. People used to tell me I was mad, with one in a pushchair, one in a sling and another on the way, but I remember

those years as being hard work but much easier than now," she says.

She is still recovering from an operation for diastasis recti and umbilical hernia which three pregnancies in quick succession left her as a souvenir and which physiotherapy and hypropressive abdominal exercises couldn't correct, but she doesn't regret her decision.

"Because they are so close in age they like the same things and play the same games," says Carmen. Now that the children are between six and nine years old, she appreciates the advantages.

From choosing extra-curricular activities to planning family holidays, everything is easier: "They have the same experiences and share everything, even their friends. They are each other's friends, too. It's really lovely," she says.

RESEARCH

Parental attention helps children's intelligence

A researcher at Notre Dame university in Indiana, USA, has analysed the results of maths and reading tests of 5,000 children aged between five and seven, and discovered that those who had younger siblings later obtained the best results. Kasy Buckles' hypothesis is that, when a new baby appears on the scene too early, the parents focus their attention on the new arrival and give less time to the older child. For example, they might read fewer stories and are more likely to sit them in front of the TV.



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The inauguration ceremony. :: JOSELE-LANZA

HC hospital invests 9.2 million euros in cutting-edge technology to fight cancer

The private hospital in Marbella that specialises in oncology treatments has increased another 1,400 metres to create new units

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. The HC Marbella hospital has added 1,400 square metres to the main building for new care units. The hospital, which specialises in oncology treatments, inaugurated the 9.2 million euro expansion on Wednesday, 10 April.

Among the new services with which the health centre's portfolio has been expanded are diagnostic imaging units, endovascular cardio and assisted reproduction and gynaecology, according to HC in a press release.

The new diagnostic imaging unit, which covers an area of 700 square metres, will now have PET (positron emission tomography), for which HC was a pioneer in the province. It will also have next-generation magnetic resonance, mammary tomosynthesis devices, CT scanners, ultrasounds and an advanced conventional radiology room.

Another investment made by the hospital is the purchase of a 3D mammography machine, which according to the HC hospital has great advantages for patients as it takes hundreds of images, and not just four, as is typical of a conventional mammography. With this technique, it is believed that 43 per cent more cases of invasive breast cancer will be detected.

With the installation of this new machinery, HC Marbella is now the private health centre with most advanced technology in Andalucía.

The heads of HC Marbella have since announced their intention to continue with this expansion process, offering cutting-edge cancer treatments, such as immunotherapy, which they have been using for years.

With this they can continue with their innovative studies into the genetic profile of tumours using special techniques, such as liquid biopsies, and with collaboration from international laboratories. This will allow "each patient's treatments to be personalised to them" according to the press release.

More staff

To cope with this expansion, the hospital has increased its workforce by 15 people, including radiology technicians, nurses, auxiliary staff and project coordinators bringing the total to 160 workers including personnel and exterior medical specialists.

The hospital has also expanded its services in the cardiovascular and fertility units with more rooms for cardiac intervention procedures and a new operating theatre for the fertility unit.

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Muñiz, in his final game in the Malaga dugout, reacts as his side falls behind. :: NITO SALAS

LA LIGA 123

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

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1. Osasuna	67	34	20	7	7	48	32
★	2. Albacete	61	34	16	13	5	44	26
■	3. Granada	61	34	17	10	7	40	22
■	4. Cádiz	56	34	15	11	8	47	29
■	5. Mallorca	55	34	15	10	9	45	32
■	6. MALAGA	55	34	15	10	9	34	26
	7. Deportivo	54	34	13	15	6	42	27
	8. Sporting	52	34	14	10	10	37	29
	9. Oviedo	52	34	14	10	10	37	35
	10. Almería	49	34	12	13	9	38	29
	11. Alcorcón	47	34	13	8	13	33	32
	12. Elche	46	34	11	13	10	36	37
	13. Las Palmas	43	34	9	16	9	36	38
	14. Tenerife	40	34	8	16	10	33	39
	15. R. Majadahonda	40	34	11	7	16	36	46
	16. Numancia	40	34	9	13	12	38	44
	17. Zaragoza	38	34	9	11	14	37	44
	18. Lugo	37	34	8	13	13	35	42
▼	19. Extremadura	36	34	9	9	16	37	43
▼	20. Gimnàstic	27	34	7	6	21	20	51
▼	21. Córdoba	26	34	5	11	18	38	64
▼	22. Reus	0	34	5	6	23	16	40

Home loss to relegation battlers spells the end for Muñiz

Defeat to Extremadura was the final straw as the home fans started calling for the coach's head before full time

MALAGA. Nine months and fourteen days after being sworn in as the guardian of the new era for Malaga, a 1-2 home reversal against relegation-threatened Extremadura on Saturday night spelled the end for Juan Ramón Muñiz in the hotseat. After defeat in Granada left the

DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

Blue and Whites out of the running for automatic promotion last week, Malaga, depleted by suspensions in key areas, needed to get three points on the board against Extremadura to avoid slipping out of the play-off places altogether.

However, lacking the leadership of Federico Ricca and Alfred N'Diaye, Malaga struggled to get a foothold against the side occupying the final relegation spot.

The midfield pairing of Erik Morán

and Mehdi Lacen, who hadn't featured since mid-January, were well off the boil and allowed the underdog visitors to control the midfield.

Despite threatening Casto's goal with a header from Adrián and a whipped corner from Álex Mula which almost flew all the way in, it was the visitors who took the lead just after the half-hour mark. Álex Díez's chipped freekick was stood up perfectly for Lolo to nod past Munir who found himself tempted by the cross but ended up trapped in no-man's land.

Manuel's team then almost doubled their lead when Alfredo Ortuño swivelled on the edge of the box but lashed his shot just wide of the far post with the keeper stranded.

As had become a trademark during the Muñiz era, a half-time switch

in an attempt to inject new life into the side was made as Jack Harper came on up top in place of Morán.

Adrián, who had come closest to scoring for Malaga in the first half then dropped into a deeper role but this gave greater freedom to Mula who stung the palms of Casto with a piledriver from fully 30 yards.

The equaliser didn't take long to arrive and the substitution paid almost immediate dividends when Harper flicked Cifu's cross back across goal for Gustavo Blanco Leschuk to head in the leveller.

But far from setting Extremadura back, the equaliser spurred them on and Giovanni Zarfino almost profited from Munir's fumble on his own header, but Cifu mopped up before visitors' captain could tap home the rebound.

Just as the tension around La Rosaleda reached peak levels, disaster struck. It was yet another Álex Díez freekick that did the trick; this time Blanco Leschuk's poor headed clearance landed perfectly for defender José Antonio Pardo to volley into the bottom corner before Munir could even react.

With just 15 minutes left to go, this proved to be the turning point. What had until this moment been quiet mutterings against the coach, then turned into chants of "Muñiz ¡vete ya!" (Muñiz out now!) reverberating around the stadium.

A freekick from substitute Renato Santos which nestled into the side netting and a first-time strike from 20 yards from Luis Hernández which whizzed past the post were the closest Malaga came to an equaliser.

With club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani in the stands, it quickly became clear that the coach's future was hanging in the balance.

In what turned out to be his final press conference, Muñiz remained resolute in defeat: "I trust in the squad and we will fight until the end," he said.

That end came sooner than he expected, however.

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Víctor Sánchez named new Malaga coach

The new coach's first task is to raise morale ahead of the decisive final run-in

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MÁLAGA. The turnover was quick. Within 24 hours of the announcement of Juan Ramón Muñoz's dismissal, former Deportivo, Olympiacos and Real Betis coach Víctor Sánchez arrived in Malaga on Monday morning to be confirmed as Malaga CF's new head coach.

Following Saturday's 1-2 home defeat against relegation-threatened Extremadura, club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani took the decision on Sunday to relieve Muñoz of his duties with immediate effect.

Muñoz, who only rejoined the club for a third spell in the summer, started the campaign well but a run of just four wins in the last 14 games has seen the side go from favourites for automatic promotion to being at risk of missing out on the playoffs altogether.

With fans eventually turning on Muñoz during Saturday's game with chants of "Muñoz ¡vete ya!" the decision was taken to make the change with seven league games remaining



Víctor Sánchez leads his first training session as coach. :: GERMÁN POZO

and the side falling to sixth place.

Sánchez, 43, rose through the ranks at Real Madrid as a youngster before making his name on the right-hand side of midfield in Galicia for Deportivo La Coruña.

After spells as an assistant at Getafe, Sevilla and Olympiacos (all

under former Malaga coach Michel), Sánchez was appointed head coach at Dépor for the 2015/16 season during which he saved them from relegation.

He then returned to Olympiacos for a brief spell before taking over at Real Betis for the remainder of

the 2016/17 campaign.

Sánchez led his first team training session on Monday afternoon and was officially presented on Tuesday morning.

He said: "We need a radical change in mentality; it seems that the players are happy with what they're doing. [...] We'll work on everything, especially psychologically, to improve everything which influences performance levels."

Sánchez's first task will be to raise morale ahead of the decisive final run-in, starting with the trip to take on Alcorcón tonight, Friday: "We have the potential in the squad to win the remaining seven games and that is what we're here to do."

Alcorcón, who picked up their first win in seven games against Real Zaragoza on Sunday, are languishing in mid-table but their home form has been largely good, winning nine of their 17 games so far this season.

Sánchez will be boosted by the return from suspension of both Federico Ricca and Alfred N'Diaye.



Sánchez, right, at his presentation. :: NITO SALAS




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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

 Commentator, Sky Sports
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Messi the Magnificent

The Argentinian's display against Manchester United on Tuesday showed that no entrance fee is too high to witness his majesty

He could well have ended Phil Jones' top-level career, Fred was frazzled, and David de Gea looked like the kid forced to go in goal because he is lanky. Manchester United were the latest victims of the greatest footballer who has ever walked this planet.

It makes a mockery of the English fans who complained about the prices to see the match at the Camp Nou. Any game starring Lionel Messi should have a premium payment.

What would you pay to see Pelé in his prime, George Best at his

most dazzling or the Johan Cruyff ballet?

It also makes a mockery of the pretentious fools who voted the Argentinian as the fifth best player in the world at the Ballon d'Or awards of 2018.

Messi's actions speak louder than any words we can find to describe his unique natural talent; numbers illustrate his achievements better than language.

This season alone, he's scored 46 goals in 44 games and assisted in 17 others for Barcelona. His career total is now 597 goals in 679 club matches. There never has and never will be anything like him.

Ronaldo is up there. He's possibly the best scorer of goals and he's carrying Juventus like he used to carry Real Madrid, but Messi is something else.

Bear in mind that when he started he was the supporting act to Ronaldinho. He's the only player to take top-billing from Zlatan Ibra-

himović; Samuel Eto'o wisely vacated the stage when Messi fully flourished.

I'd argue that now, at the age of 31, he is peaking. We thought it couldn't get better than the 'MSN' era: Messi, Suárez, Neymar could be the greatest front three ever.

Now Messi is doing it without the distraction to defenders from Neymar and Luis Suárez is a little less mobile than he used to be.

Don't be like the United fans; pay what you need to pay to see him while you can. What you will discover is that the ball boys often have a more impressive heat map than Messi for the first ten minutes. He patrols the park, assessing the opposition, mind clicking like a safe cracker and then it's dynamite. He left Old Trafford with a bloodied nose. Manchester United departed Messi's manor mortally wounded.

The English joke is that he couldn't do it on a cold Tuesday



Lionel Messi bagged a brace on Tuesday night. :: EP

night in Stoke. He's never faced Stoke City as they're not a top English club... To get an audience with Messi you have to be in the Champions League. Against the English elite he's scored 24 goals in 32 games.

Next up Liverpool and Virgil van

Dijk, arguably the best defender in the world right now. If the big Dutchman stops Messi scoring, the argument is over.

Whatever they charge, the ticket is golden. Nobody will argue about the price of the ticket if they are fortunate to get one.

IN BRIEF

Femenino blown away by rampant Barcelona

BARCELONA

:: **OPTA.** True to the form book, Malaga Femenino received a battering at the hands of Barcelona on their visit to Catalonia on Saturday afternoon.

Barça, second and still in the hunt for the league title, laboured to a 1-0 half-time lead, but goals from Putellas, Duggan, Torrejón, Andressa and Alves in the second half left bottom side Malaga licking their wounds by full time.

Up next for Malaga is a home clash against fellow strugglers Sporting de Huelva.



María Ruiz takes on Hamraoui. :: OPTA

Malagueño drop points and remain deep in relegation trouble

SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA (CADIZ)

:: **OPTA.** Time is quickly running out for Malaga's reserve side, Atlético Malagueño, who passed up yet another chance to close the gap to safety after surrendering the lead on their trip to Sanluqueño on Saturday.

Juan Cruz gave the visitors the lead in the 13th minute when he tapped home the rebound off keeper Javi Jiménez.

However, their joy was shortlived. Just four minutes later, Álex Cruz pounced on a lucky break from the corner to stab home the equaliser.

The point keeps Malagueño off the foot of the table but Manolo Sanlúcar's side remain 12 points from safety with just five games (and 15 points) left to play for.



:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA PUT ON A SHOW AT HOME

The fans inside the Estadio Antonio Lorenzo had as much fun as the Marbella players on the pitch on Saturday as the home side extended their unbeaten run with a 2-0 win over Linense. Goals in each half from Juanma and Cruz helped David Cubillo's side to equal the club record of 14 games unbeaten.



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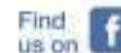
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THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
As you are a social person you have many friends. Hold on though, are most of them acquaintances? Pick through and decide who could be a little closer to you if you got to know them better.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
If you don't mind a bit of noise and chaos then this week will see you in your element. Fun comes from all directions, just sit back and enjoy.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
There is the desire to build on relationships. Someone who you have not seen for some time is on your mind. Do you know where to find them?

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
You may now consider that you were a little hasty to judge in the past. Well, no point in going over it. Keep the past where it belongs.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Going down memory lane is great fun. However, don't fall into any emotional traps. Be sure to let it be known how busy you are until you know what you want to do.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Sometimes the things that we most regret later in life are those things that we did not do rather than those that we did. It is not a time to rush in or out.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Think how you would feel if someone simply disappeared from your life. If you want to keep them near, then let them know. Now, about that nest building. Can you, should you, resist?

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Usually preferring to do things with others this week could see you being a bit of a loner. This could even be from choice so that you are able to get more done. No need to feel guilty..

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Those who have a good family are blessed. Those who have not, however, can seek to make their own. You have a big heart and much to give. That will be apparent to someone special this week.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Friendships this week flourish under a lighter atmosphere. Put behind you any niggles when guests appear. Keep smiling, your mood will lift.

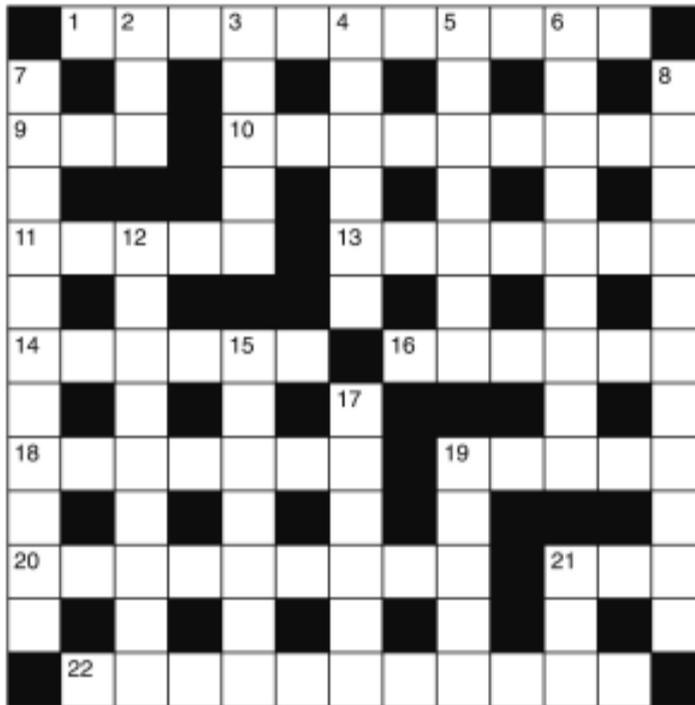
Sagittarius
Look upon this time as one of making very personal decisions. Small things make up big smiles. A much younger member of the family makes perfect sense of something that you thought of as complicated.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
What have you done to deserve all of this confusion? You have allowed your mind and imagination to run free. It is rather like being a child again. Don't ask your conscience. Ask your soul.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11353



Across

- 1 What is left (11)
- 9 The lid to the piano? (3)
- 10 They're a blend of the main races (9)
- 11 An important occasion for an Eastern airway (5)
- 13 Proverbially it's not an indication of gold (7)
- 14 Attempt to get round tea-blending agreement (6)
- 16 Excuse for upsetting a senora? (6)
- 18 Dresses at first then grows weary (7)
- 19 Either way it's a mode of address (5)
- 20 Trying time for a beginner (9)
- 21 Sounds like a night school teacher (3)
- 22 Doggedness is derived from its presence (11)

Down

- 2 A good tip for one who needs a rest (3)
- 3 Insist on having things just right (5)
- 4 Time when all assets were frozen (3,3)
- 5 A transgression in the East that's silly (7)
- 6 Sid cheats perhaps and is punished (9)
- 7 Standard features of many thoroughfares (11)
- 8 Scientists rent rooms as required (11)
- 12 Those chosen rode with the conductor (9)
- 15 Jack Brown's popular in Scotland (7)
- 17 Sees the key goes to the agents (6)
- 19 Different names for a minister's house (5)
- 21 So unhealthy sounding (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

	5			4				
		8	1		3			6
3	6		9	5	4			
7	2	3			9	8		
4	3	9						
				8	2	6		
		1	5	3	8			
5		4		7				2
	7							

THE WORDPUZZLER

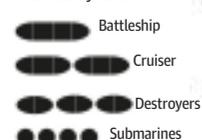
R	E	S	T	S	E	M	U	W	E
E	N	C	A	L	M	A	G	I	C
F	I	E	L	A	G	R	R	D	E
L	P	X	A	B	O	K	I	O	R
Y	S	P	R	E	Y	E	N	W	O
E	L	A	B	A	L	T	C	L	B
A	I	L	U	R	I	C	H	S	O
R	O	I	R	S	S	H	O	A	X
I	N	S	E	A	L	O	L	L	Y
D	E	B	R	A	S	H	E	E	P

Can you identify the words that may follow 'black' from the clues listed below?

- 1. Suffer
- 2. Crate
- 3. Sorcery
- 4. Gap
- 5. Body of water
- 6. Organ
- 7. Bereaved woman
- 8. Farm animal
- 9. Selling-place
- 10. Flying insect

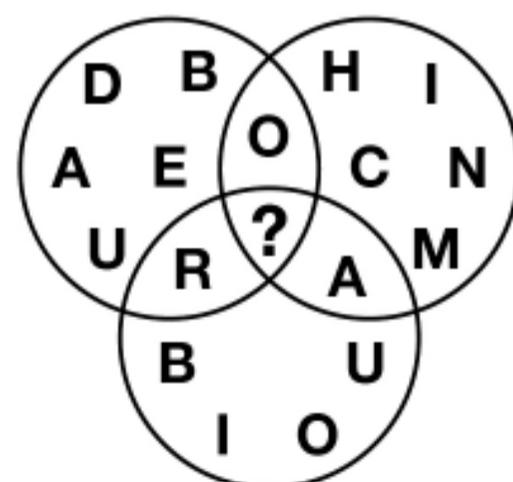
BATTLESHIPS

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.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A											2
B		●									3
C						●					1
D											2
E									●		3
F											1
G											1
H				●			■		■		4
I											2
J	●										1
	4	1	3	2	0	4	1	1	3	1	

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?

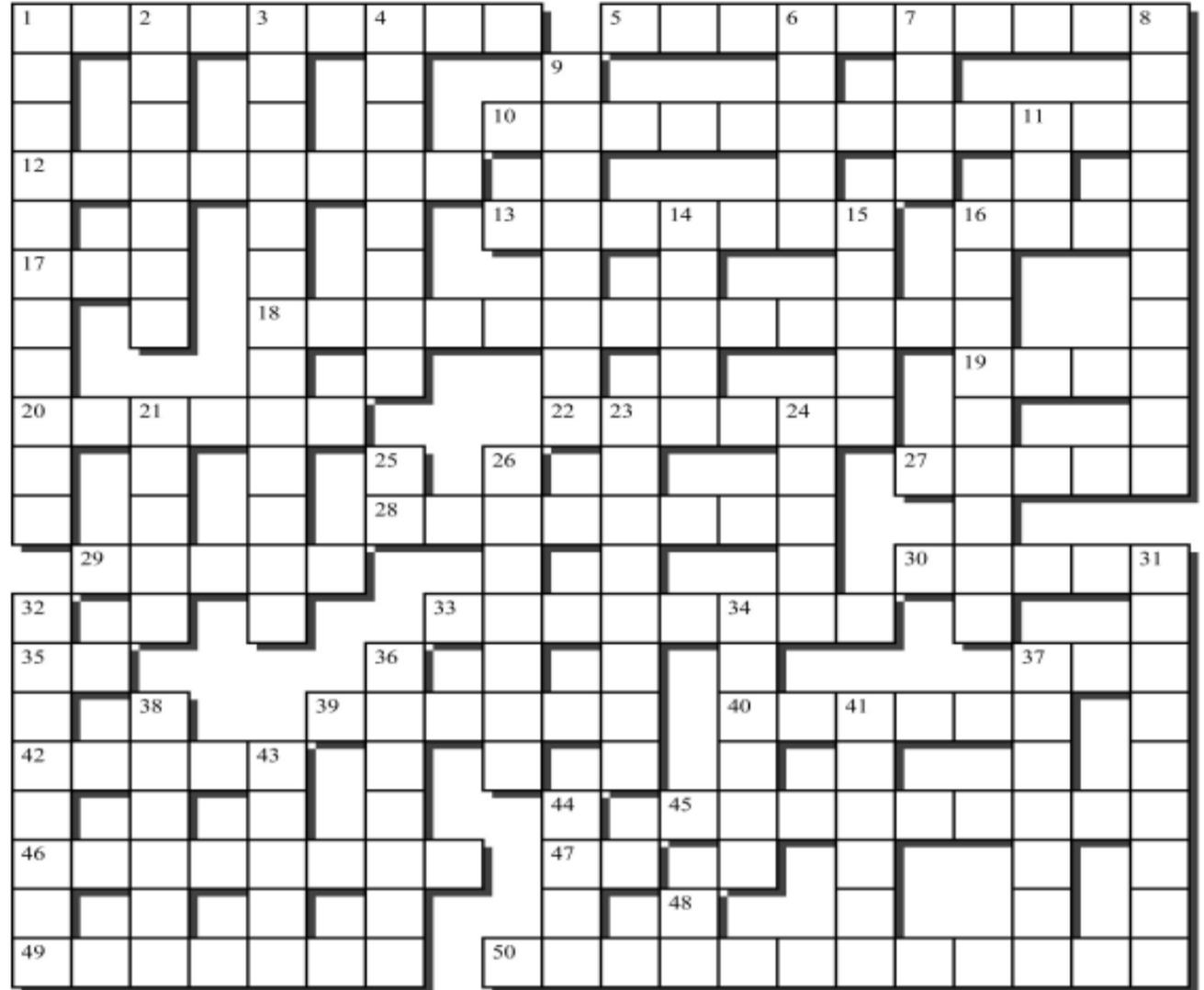
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Murder (9)
- 5) Hopes (10)
- 10) Conclusive (pl) (12)
- 12) Notebooks (8)
- 13) To adapt (7)
- 16) She knows (4)
- 17) To be (3)
- 18) Compensation (13)
- 19) Everything (4)
- 20) Girlfriends (8)
- 22) Risk (6)
- 27) January (5)
- 28) Aggressive (f) (8)
- 29) Mistake (5)
- 30) Half (5)
- 33) To retort (8)
- 35) I heard (2)
- 37) Two (3)
- 39) Jury (6)
- 40) He reopens (6)
- 42) Rheumatism (5)
- 45) Abduction (9)
- 46) To shelve (8)
- 47) Her (2)
- 49) Lawyer (7)
- 50) Disappearance (12)

Down

- 1) Teenager (11)
- 2) He manufactures (7)
- 3) Inquiry (13)
- 4) Behind schedule (8)
- 6) He educates (5)
- 7) Yesterday (4)
- 8) Suspect (10)
- 9) To convict (8)
- 11) Aunt (3)
- 14) Puzzle (5)
- 15) Noise (5)
- 16) Sentence (9)
- 21) It vibrates (5)
- 23) Insults (8)
- 24) Fat (5)
- 25) It gives (2)
- 26) Evidence (7)
- 31) They devastate (9)
- 32) Alibi (8)
- 34) Prison (6)
- 36) Court (7)
- 37) I destroyed (7)
- 38) Trial (6)
- 41) To accuse (6)
- 43) Friend (f) (5)
- 44) East (4)
- 48) The (f) (2)

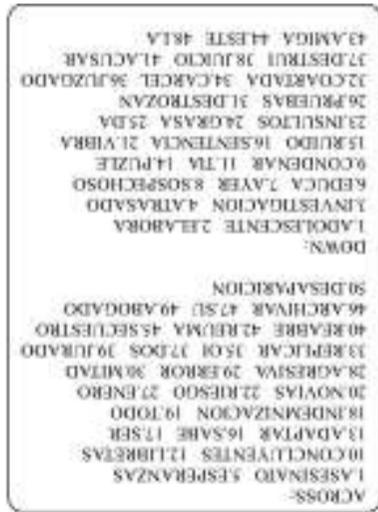


ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Frank Lloyd Wright was an American architect, interior designer and writer. He believed in designing structures that were in harmony with humanity and its environment, a philosophy he called organic architecture.
Answer: 1973
Of interest: The Sydney Opera House was formally opened on 20 October 1973 by HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Danish architect Jørn Utzon's genius was overshadowed by circumstances during construction, with cost and scheduling overruns as well as his ultimate resignation.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Inheritance; 9 Top; 10 Americans; 11 Event; 13 Gitter; 14 Treaty; 16 Reason; 18 Attire; 19 Madam; 20 Probation; 21 Sir; 22 Persistence; Down: 2 Nap; 3 Exact; 4 Ice age; 5 Ashine; 6 Chastised; 7 Streetamps; 8 Astronomers; 12 Electrode; 15 Tartans; 17 Espies; 19 Mause; 21 Sic.

Wordpuzzler solution



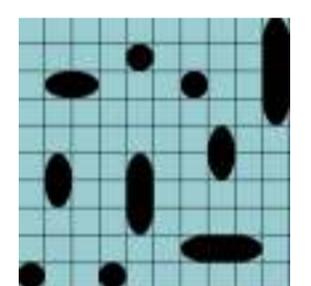
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is X.
Bordeaux, ChamoniX, Roubaix, all places in France.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Last week:
Periana

The roundabout on the Calle Torre del Mar represents a Verdial olive tree, the symbol of Periana village.



MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Star Flyer	19/04	-	-	07.00	20.00
Club Med 2	19/04	Cadiz	Marbella	08.00	23.59
Costa Pacifica	20/04	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	13.00
MSC Orchestra	20/04	Tenerife	Barcelona	10.00	22.00
Mein Schiff 1	21/04	Cadiz	Valencia	08.00	18.00
The World	22-23/04	Barcelona	Cadiz	14.00	16.00
Ocean Adventurer	24/04	Motril	Cadiz	06.00	19.00
Veendam	25/04	Ponta Delgada	Cartagena	07.00	17.00
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The many faces of Marbella

Jesús Chacón has created a vision of the town through photos of its inhabitants



entitled 'Miradas de una Ciudad', is being exhibited in the Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo until 8 June.

The exhibition consists of 73 portraits of different people from the town. It combines personalities such as designer David Delfín, chef Dani García and actor Pepón Nieto, together with residents who take an active role in the cultural and sporting life of Marbella.

"I wanted to emphasise the importance of the world of culture and sports in Marbella. When I was a teenager, culture was a lot more visible than it is now, especially for the younger generation. That is why I hope that by putting a face to what is happening here, people, especially young people, will be motivated to take part," Chacón explained.

The spirit of openness
 "Many people from many places live in Marbella and I wanted to

The exhibition in the Museo del Grabado, 'Miradas de una Ciudad', consists of around a hundred pictures

MALAGA. He first picked up a camera when he was sixteen and has not been without one since. Despite this, Jesús Chacón never planned on becoming a photographer.

His love of taking portraits culminated in a seven-year project recording the cultural and sporting faces of his town of birth, Marbella; the resulting collection of photos,



Artist Jesús Chacón at the exhibition of his photographs in Marbella. :: SUR

pay tribute to that spirit of openness. With this in mind, I have chosen people from various walks of life, related to culture or sports, with the aim of illustrating each of their professions," he added.

Each photo often took hours to

produce, he explained. "The sessions were very intimate, over two hours long in some cases, beginning with a chat during which I'd take a photo and then continue talking.

"The conversations were very

personal, very deep, and for that reason the photos not only record the moment physically but also intimately."

The truth of this statement is obvious in the eyes of each and every portrait.

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