

Andalucía Costa del Golf



Woods rises from the ashes

The former world number one wins in Augusta after more than a decade of personal scandals and injuries **[P4]**



LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR

La Reserva de Sotogrande is aiming high

Legend Annika Sorenstam is host of the first edition of this tournament **[P7]**



LPGA TOUR

Muñoz shines again, claiming fifth top-10

The Malaga golfer finished eighth in San Francisco and climbs back up the rankings **[P2]**

Tourist destination: Cordoba

This Andalusian province celebrates spring with plenty on offer for golfers and numerous attractions for tourists **[P6]**

Muñoz making steady progress

The Marbella golfer secured her fifth top-10 finish of the year and continues her rise up the rankings

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. Azahara Muñoz's great run of form continues. The San Pedro golfer was in with a chance of victory on the last day of the Mediheal Championship held at Lake Merced in San Francisco earlier this month, but it ultimately came down to a memorable three-way tiebreaker between Sei Young Kim, Bronte Law and Jeong Eun Lee. Eventually it was the former who came out on top to claim the prize money.

This outcome was far from disappointing for Muñoz, however, who added yet another top-10 finish to her record, extending her fine run on the LPGA Tour. She handed a card of 70 strokes on the final day and finished four under

par to ensure eighth position.

She was able to recover from the bad moments (two double bogeys) she had on the penultimate and the final days, demonstrating once again her champion resolve. She remains among the eight best golfers this year and continues to climb in the world rankings.

Less memorable in San Francisco was the performance of compatriot Carlota Ciganda, who finished in 40th place with a final round of 73. Despite this disappointing performance, the golfer from Navarre also remains among the top ten on the LPGA Tour in 2019.

Tenth anniversary

This year Muñoz celebrates her tenth anniversary as a player on the American tour and she wants to celebrate. In San Francisco she sealed her fifth top-10 finish of the year and in just five months she has already won nearly 400,000 dollars in prize money.

She came close to winning the Kia Classic, where she finished second and she came third in the HSBC World Championship, sixth in the Australian Open and fifth in the Handa Vic Open. Her good start to the year has pushed her back into the top 30 in the world rankings, where she has become among the top fifteen players.

Muñoz alternates between the American and European tours and five titles under her belt, among them the Sybase Match Championship, one of the most important



Azahara Muñoz pictured during this season. :: SUR

tournaments in the world, with nearly 400,000 dollars in prize money.

The Marbella native lived on both sides of the 'pond' during her

first years as a professional before permanently settling in Florida where she lives with Tim Vickers, whom she married in 2015. Muñoz is a player forged in the United

States, where universities offer many more facilities for elite athletes than in Europe.

It has been ten years and now the sky's the limit.

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AGENDA 2019

11 May

Aloha

Torneo Benéfico Concordia
Open tournament

8 June

Aloha

Torneo Benéfico Niños Mariposa
Open tournament

17 June

Lauro

Interautonómico Absoluto
Femenino 2019
Open tournament

24 June

Antequera Golf

Campeonato de Europa
Universitario 2019

Open tournament

13 July

Aloha

Torneo Benéfico Horizonte
Open tournament

20 July

Aloha

Torneo infantil
Open tournament

3 August

Aloha

Valle del Golf Aloha - Brisas
Open tournament

10 August

Aloha

Memorial Ibarrondo

Open tournament

13 August

Aloha

Torneo Junior
Open tournament

17 August

Aloha

Torneo padre e hijos
Open tournament

22 August

Bil Bil Golf

Campeonato de España Sub 16 y
Benjamín de Pitch & Putt 2019
Open tournament

29 August

Lauro

Campeonato de España
Interclubes Infantil 2019
Open tournament

28 September

Torrequebrada golf

Campeonato de España Dobles
Senior Femenino 2019
Open tournament

5 October

Aloha

Trofeo Benéfico ASPANDEM
Open tournament

5 October

Aloha

'Pitch and Putt' Nacional
Open tournament

The Costa del Golf Tour returns

Players can now sign up for the tour, organised by SUR, which will get under way in June and take in some of the region's most impressive courses

■ ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

MÁLAGA. The Costa del Golf Tour, considered one of the main amateur tournaments in Andalucía, is just around the corner. Golfers of all levels are invited to participate in the tour, this year with four legs, organised by SUR and its specialist publication Costa del Golf, which kicks off on 15 June.

The first leg of this tour, which will take in some of the best courses in the country, will take place on 15 June at Los Arqueros Golf. As with every stage on the tour, it will be played under the individual stableford rules, where each hole is scored in relation to the par (one point for a bogey, two for par, three for a birdie and four for an eagle).

Surrounded by steep mountains and only 10 minutes from Marbella, the impeccable fairways of Los Arqueros Golf & Country Club are embedded in a spectacular mountainous landscape where players enjoy exceptional views over the Mediterranean.

The second round will take place at El Paraíso Golf on 30 June. Designed in 1973 by Gary Player, together with Kirby, the course at El Paraíso is located in the municipality of Estepona and is characterised by the diversity of plants and trees and its proximity to stunningly beautiful lakes.

The third will be on 6 July at Alcaidesa Golf, which is located in a unique environment, surrounded by the exquisite golf courses of Soto-

grande and Valderrama, and close to San Roque, La Línea and Gibraltar.

The final day will be held at Cabopino Golf on 21 July. Cabopino Golf is located at the easternmost end of Marbella opposite the Cabopino marina. It has a 5,170-metre par-71 course (18 holes) designed by the architect Juan Ligués Creus and, like Los Arqueros, offers spectacular sea views.

The grand finale

On 27 July, the grand finale will be held at Guadalmina. For its part, Guadalmina has two courses, one north and one south, and also boasts unbeatable views, as well as being one of the most well-kept courses on the Costa del Sol.

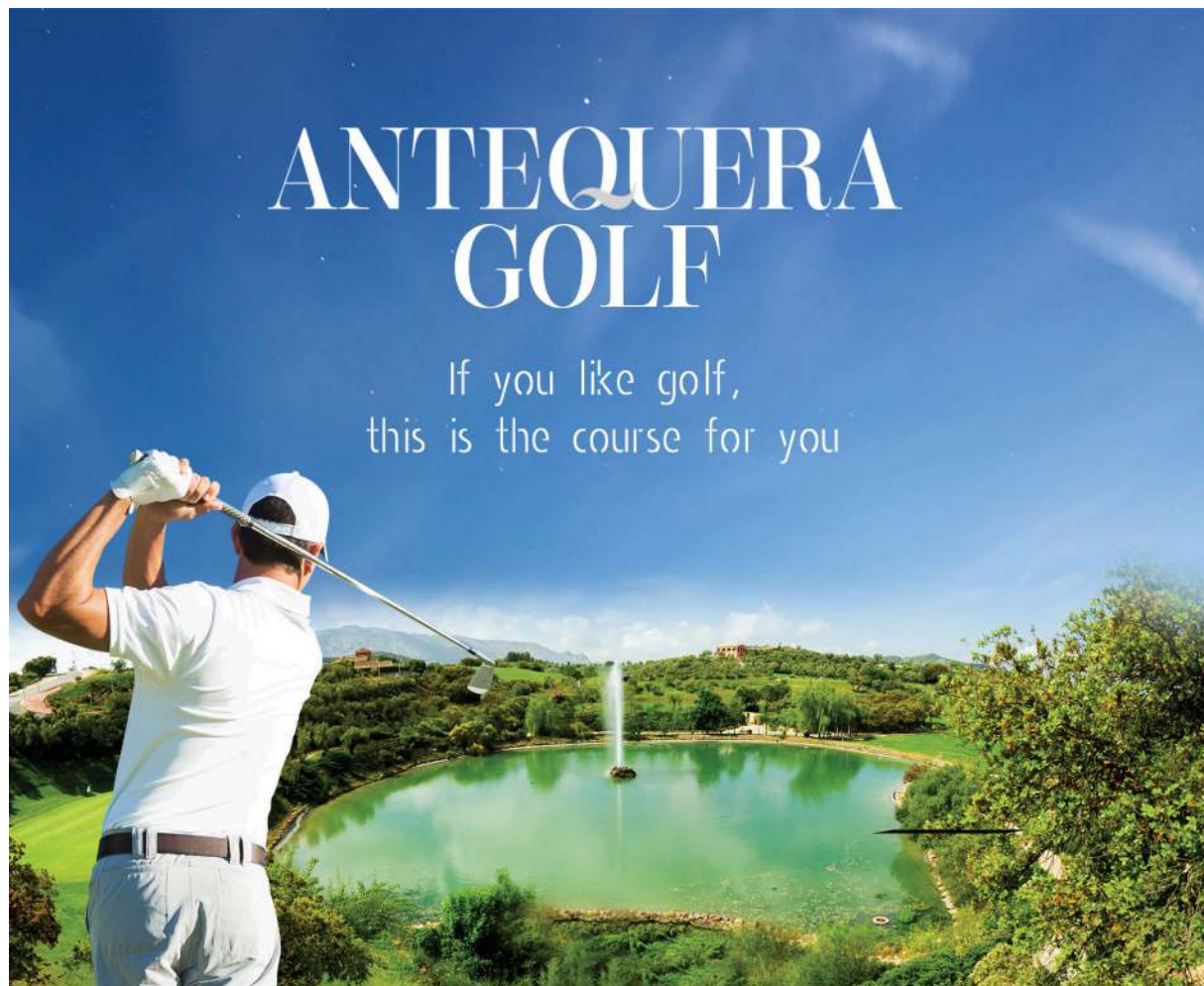


This is the biggest amateur tour in Andalucía. ■ SUR

Access to the final depends on the results of the first four days of competition, though players can also register for one, two or three legs and still be in with a chance for qualifying for the final.

Registration for the tour is now open. Oferplan (<https://oferplan.di->

[ariosur.es/](https://oferplan.di-ariosur.es/)) has launched an offer to participate in the competition (green fee and 'buggy included) for just 179 euros. Registration for one of the three tournaments costs 120 euros individually, though through Oferplan, you can get a discount (65 euros each).



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Woods strikes back at Augusta and wins his first major in 11 years

The former world number one has overcome more than a decade of injuries and personal scandals to take his 15th major title

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

He did it again. When it seemed impossible, when everybody thought he was finished after a difficult decade marked by injuries and personal scandals, Tiger Woods conquered the Augusta Masters, his first major win in 11 years, to revive his legend and expand it to 15 'majors'.

Tiger started the final day two behind Italian player Francesco Molinari but, showing the same determination he had displayed from the start, the Californian found no rival and took the lead with three holes to go. Spanish player Jon Rahm finished in the Top Ten and Rafael Cabrera-Bello made a dignified exit at 36th.

The excitement around Tiger Woods has been increasing from the moment he returned to golf at the end of 2017, finally without pain, after previous injuries and multiple operations on his back. Before that, he had touched rock bottom and was arrested in May when driving under the effects of different medications. However, he put that ordeal behind when he walked onto the Albany Golf Course and began to feel part of golf again. His talent surfaced almost by



Woods is helped into the legendary Green by the 2018 winner, Patrick Reed. :: SUR

itself and in 2018 he joined the battle for tournaments, including the majors, where he had options in the British and the PGA Championship. Free of pain and with his eye on victory, Woods revived his legend in Augusta. "I'll get up at 3.45am and I'll be ready," he said after the Saturday, hours before winning.

The bad weather forecast brought

the start of the decisive day forward, and it was played in groups of three. Tiger went into battle with Tony Finau and a Molinari who had already clipped the American's wings in The Open. The Italian, who was hugely popular last year, made a double bogey at the 12th and 15th holes. The stream at the 12th, Rae's Creek, which has dashed so many hopes of green

jackets, also upset Brooks Koep and Ian Poulter. As they had all week, the big names brought glamour and excitement to the tournament. Dustin Johnson, Jason Day, Rickie Fowler and Webb Simpson were putting pressure on, as was Rahm. The Spaniard played his best round with 64 strokes, for a total of 10 below and joint ninth place, witness to the return of a Ti-

AUGUSTA CLASSIFICATION

1. Tiger Woods	-13
2. Dustin Johnson	-12
2. Xander Schauffele	-12
2. Brooks Koepka	-12
5. Jason Day	-11

WORLD CLASSIFICATION

1. Dustin Johnson	
2. Justin Rose	
3. Brooks Koepka	
4. Rory McIlroy	
5. Justin Thomas	

ger who revved up in the second nine to confidently reach the 18th.

The Californian made another bogey at the fifth hole, but after eight holes he was already just one away from Molinari. The birdies at the 13th, 15th and 16th put Tiger ahead and he unflinchingly approached the final stretch to his 15th Jacket 13 below and with an option of two putts at the 18th. One stroke away were Johnson, Xander Schauffele and Koepka.

Tiger is now catching up with Nicklaus, who has won six Masters and, above all, 18 majors. Right now, Woods' performance is a reminder of the glorious times, winning as José María Olazabal did 20 years ago when he believed that pain would beat him, in a match where nobody dared to predict a winner. "I don't know what I did, except I screamed, this means everything to me. Last year I was lucky just to be able to play," he said, before donning the green jacket.

Spain puts up a good fight

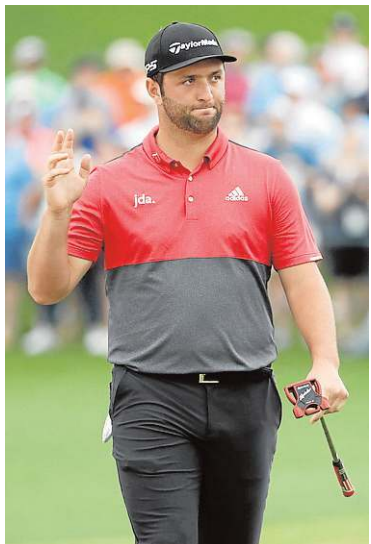
Rahm finished in the top ten at Augusta, while Cabrera-Bello was among the top 40 and García failed to make the cut

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. Once again he was the highest-classified Spanish player in a major tournament, and it is almost becoming a habit. Jon Rahm ended in the Top Ten of the classification at the Augusta Masters for the second time in three appearances, after ending fourth last year. The player from the Basque Country, who is still only 23, started seven strokes behind Molinari, the provisional leader on the final day, but he was able to generate possibilities of victory, albeit remote

ones, in the battle with the best, a race which was finally won by Tiger Woods. Rahm ended the last day with a round of 68 strokes which could have been less if he had achieved the hole in one that he looked likely to do at the 16th.

"Few people could do a round like that, but I had no options. I was well behind at the start, although still closer than I expected. It's a bitter-sweet feeling, because I had to really fight during the tournament and things didn't go too well between the



Rahm ended ninth and was the best Spanish player again. :: SUR

SPANISH POSITIONS

11. Jon Rahm	
29. Sergio García	
31. Rafa Cabrera-Bello	
65. Jorge Campillo	
77. Adrián Otaegui	
128. Adrián Arnaus	

tee and the green," said Rahm, who his colleagues have nicknamed Rahmbo and who ended in the Top Ten for the seventh time this season.

Rafa Cabrera Bello also had a good final round, with 68 strokes to end at -2 and in 36th place. He and Rahm were the only two Spanish players competing at Augusta, because Sergio García, the winner in 2017, didn't make the cut for his sixth consecutive major tournament. Nor did Chema Olazabal, who won in 1994 and 1999, and is still competing de-

spite being practically retired.

Talking to the press, Rahm admitted that he really wanted to do well in the majors and it had been one of his obsessions since turning professional. "When you start a season, the majors are always on your mind. They are what define a player's career. We have Rickie Fowler as an example; he has been part of the world elite for many years and has won five or six times on the PGA Tour. Then there is Brooks Koepka, who has also been professional for years, including playing in Europe, but of his five or six triumphs, three have been in Grand Slams and that's why he is a much more valued player than Fowler. Like in tennis, major tournaments affect your career".

Rahm wasn't surprised by Woods' win. "I have said for some time that he has wanted to win since he came back, it was just a question of how physically well he felt this week. I played two rounds with him, and also in the Ryder, and he is incredible. He is the best irons player I have ever known, and he was on good form".



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Spring in Andalucía means the famous May festivals in Cordoba

Golfers who come to play their favourite sport can also enjoy some traditional celebrations and see the sights in this World Heritage city

**ALEJANDRO
DÍAZ**

The month of May could almost be given another name in Andalucía: that of Cordoba, a province which also boasts golfing attractions for those visitors who are interested in a part of the market which is once again on the rise in this region.

For example, it is the home of the Club de Campo y Deportivo de Cordoba, a sports and social club which began in the early 1970s thanks to the creativity and tenacity of a group of local golf enthusiasts who decided to focus their efforts on promoting their favourite sport.

The club covers an area of 70 hectares, including pine and oak woods, and its main attraction is a magnificent 18 hole, par 72 golf course which is visually enhanced by its flora and fauna.

As well as the golf course, the Club offers a social club, restaurant and equipment hire, as well as swimming pools and tennis and padel courts.

However, if the province of Cordoba is famous for anything in particular during May, it has to be its festivals, all of which are different, and they make this 'city of the three cultures' a popular destination for a short break. As we will see later, its golf facilities are also a major attraction for lovers of this sport.

Until 19 May, different parts of the city are taking part in the floral patio competition, especially houses in the Alcázar Viejo (or San Basilio) area. Parts of La Axerquia district, such as the streets of San Agustín, San Pedro, Santa Marina and San Lorenzo, are also lined with houses which have become authentic examples of Cordoban life and tradition.

Visitors to Cordoba in May can discover the magic of visiting the decorated patios and also enjoy the unbeatable facilities of the Club de Campo y Deportivo de Cordoba, which is set amid beautiful countryside in the Sierra Morena.

The patios have a similar structure but every one is slightly different because it is decorated to the residents' individual taste. Broadly speaking, they can be divided into two types: patios whose architecture is old, and more modern versions.

In the busiest areas, especially San Basilio - which is the Alcázar Viejo



The city's patios are filled with flowers in the weeks before the late May fair. :: SUR

Until 19 May Cordoba's famous patio festival is taking place in different parts of the city

district - local associations are allowed to set up bars in the streets and play music. The Friends of the Patios association is working on restoring old houses which have fallen into disrepair, and once their patios are looking good again, they are also opened to the public during the Festival.

The Patios of Córdoba were classified as Intangible Cultural Heritage by Unesco in 2012 and they showcase the Cordoban way of life: houses with a patio filled with plants, wrought-iron grilles over the windows and colourful pots of flowers on balconies. Those taking part open their patios free of charge during certain hours of the day while the Festival is taking place, and these can normally be visited until 10pm.

There is always a party going on in the San Basilio district, beside the Caballerizas Reales, where the local residents association sets up a bar next to the Belén tower, making their own contribution to the atmosphere by playing music and selling drinks. Numerous performances and parallel activities also take place in the city during the two weeks of the festival.

As if all this festivity were not enough, the Cordoba Fair will also be taking place soon. It is held in hon-



The Pozoblanco golf course. :: SUR



May is the most popular month for tourism in Cordoba. :: SUR

our of Nuestra Señora de la Salud, the patron saint of the city. At the end of May, the fairground is filled with people, some on horseback, many women wearing the traditional long frilly dresses, and there is a lively atmosphere in the bars which line the fairground and are open to everybody, residents and visitors alike.

That is the place to be if you want sevillana dancing, dry sherry, tapas, Cordoban hats and 'mantillas' to rival any other city in Andalucía at fair time. The programme also includes several bullfights, with some of the most famous bullfighters of the moment.

However, the key to Cordoba's success as a tourist destination lies in its historical and cultural heritage. This is a city with many important buildings and monuments, which was designated a World Heritage Site in 1994. Here, art and history are to be found around every corner.

Cordoba is most famous for its Mosque, a unique building that shows the splendour of the Caliphate, but we shouldn't forget the cathedral, the Alcázar de los Reyes Católicos, the Roman bridge and Albolafia, the Calahorra tower, the Jewish district, the patios, the Plaza del Potro and many other delightful places of interest which make this, without a doubt, one of Spain's loveliest cities.

More golf

The province of Cordoba offers several opportunities to play golf, and one of them is the Pozoblanco Golf Club. Federated in 1982, it is very attractive with native vegetation, mainly oak trees. The round is enjoyable and easy to do on foot, because most of the nine holes are flat, so players can have a fun day without getting too tired.

This is a golf course with tremendous potential. It has improved a great deal in recent years and is set amid one of the biggest grasslands in Spain, which contributes to ensuring that the local gastronomy is based on the finest products.

There are more than enough reasons, therefore, to spend a few days in Cordoba. Golf tourists will find it a unique Andalusian destination in May, a city which brings together the best of the region throughout the whole month. There is also an excellent range of accommodation, much of it in the historic city centre. And to make a break absolutely perfect, there is the Cordoban gastronomy: Montilla-Moriles wines, salmorejo, Serrano ham and a seemingly endless range of local dishes to delight the palate. Visitors can enjoy everything from the most traditional cuisine to avant-garde and fusion.

It can truly be said that Cordoba is the ideal destination for all visitors who love Andalucía.

La Reserva de Sotogrande aims high

Golfing legend Annika Sorenstam is the ambassador for the first edition of this Ladies European Tour tournament



The tournament is being screened on Movistar Golf, Teledeporte and Andalucía TV. :: SUR

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. More than 120 players, 27 countries and five continents. That may be a rapid summary, but it does give a certain perspective on the diversity of those taking part in the La Reserva de Sotogrande Invitational.

This tournament on the Ladies European Tour, being held at the course designed by Cabell B. Robinson, began on Thursday and runs until Sunday, 19 May. The tournament could have notable repercussions on the road towards the Solheim Cup.

Catriona Matthew, who will be captaining the European team in this biennial competition which takes place at Gleneagles in September, will be trying to boost her

own record in Sotogrande and closely follow the evolution of the Ladies European Tour at the same time. However, there are other contenders at La Reserva too, and top level ones at that.

Annika Sorenstam, who has won ten 'majors' and is a member of the golfing Hall of Fame, is the ambassador of this first edition of the tournament. Unanimously considered one of the best female golfers of all time with 72 international wins and topping the list of historical earnings on the LPGA Tour (more than 22 million dollars), the 48-year-old from Sweden has also represented Europe nine times at the Solheim Cup, eight as a player

(accumulating 24 points) and once as captain, in 2017.

As ambassador of the tournament, Sorenstam will be giving a clinic for young golfers and is also taking part in the 'pro-am'.

One of the players from the Annika Foundation, which offers opportunities to female golfers at youth, university and professional level, has also been invited to play in the tournament.

Among the golfers who are hop-

ing to walk away with the trophy are Marianne Skarpnord, Anne Van Dam and Meghan MacLaren, winners on the Ladies European Tour this year and also well placed in the classification.

Catherine Hedwall is also one to watch; she has six titles behind her and was the first winner in the history of the Solheim Cup capable of winning five matches in the same edition.

Beth Allen is also interesting to

follow, with three titles on the Ladies European Tour and the Order of Merit in 2016, and so is young Kan-yalak Preedasuttijit from Thailand, winner of the Ladies European Thailand Championship a few months ago, and Welsh players Becky Morgan and Becky Brewerton.

Spanish players Nuria Iturrios, Luna Sobrón, Silvia Bañón, Noemí Jiménez, Carmen Alonso and María Parra are also taking part in the tournament.

UMA's golfers shine at national university championships

Esperanza Serrano and Víctor Pastor came out on top in Alicante where they took on more than a 100 other students

COSTA DEL GOLF

Golf proved to be a lucky omen for the University of Malaga (UMA) as Esperanza Serrano and Víctor Pastor came out on top in a field of more than 100 students from 38 universities during the Spanish University Championships which ran from 2 March until 15 May.

The pair were proclaimed champions at the end of the third day of the championship, held at El Plantío golf club in Alicante.

During the three days, the 73 male and 30 female athletes also competed in handicap, scratch and team modalities. Marta Ayala Orellana, from the University of Seville,



The University of Malaga has a strong golf team. :: SUR

headed the 'handicap' classification in the female category and Javier Calvo Sanz, from the Rey Juan Carlos University, the male category. With regards to the 'scratch' modality, the winners were also, in both categories, Serrano and Pastor.

For the first time in the history of the Spanish University Championships, a single autonomous community played host. The seven universities in the Valencian Community organised the 25 championships in which more than 4,200 athletes from 75 universities from all over Spain participated in the disciplines of chess, athletics, cross-country, climbing, fencing, golf, judo, karate, swimming, orienteering, padel, taekwondo, tennis, table tennis, archery, triathlon, sailing, beach volleyball, football, indoor football, basketball, handball and volleyball.

Alba Pérez and Ana Varo, also from UMA, came third in the padel tournament, attended by more than 180 participants - the biggest to date.

The University of Malaga was also the winner of the 3x3 basketball, winning every match to secure qualification for the European University Championships that will be held in Porto between 31 July and 3 August.

However, it was in golf where UMA, increasingly competitive on a national level, shone most brightly.

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