

The Goyas look set to be held on the Costa

Organisers are in talks with Malaga council over hosting the Spanish equivalent of the Oscars next year **P10-11**



Sánchez fails to get enough support from MPs to form the next government

The PSOE party, who won last April's general election, had been negotiating up to the last minute with Unidas Podemos

Pedro Sánchez won't be forming a new government for the time being following his defeat in investiture debates and votes in the Congreso on Tuesday and Thursday.

As leader of the Socialist PSOE, the biggest party after April's general election, he had been counting on the MPs of left-wing Unidas Podemos (UP) to help him over the line to a majority. However, UP

weren't happy with the seniority of positions being offered in government and failed to sign up in time.

Sánchez argued in the debate that UP couldn't be trusted run the Finance ministry: "You can't put tax collection in the hands of somebody that has never controlled a budget."

The deadline is 23 September to form a government or call another election for November. **P22-23**



MALAGA'S STAR SIGNING ARRIVES

The Costa del Sol club is set to complete an ambitious swoop for Premier League winner Shinji Okazaki **P52**

The Japan striker arrives at María Zambrano train station on Wednesday night. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Hotels on the Costa reduce prices after a disappointing July and a slow uptake on last-minute bookings **P2**

A foodie Spanish road trip and island hopping in Malta feature in this month's bumper Travel special **P30-34**

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Hotels are offering discounts again as July bookings are lower than expected

The number of last-minute bookings on the Costa has been disappointing, and hotels everywhere are vying to attract visitors from other parts of Spain

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

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MÁLAGA. In different areas and at different meetings, the managers of hotels on the Costa del Sol, whether large resorts, luxury or traditional establishments, have all agreed that the first half of July has been quieter than expected.

At the end of June the tourism industry was predicting that this summer would be better than last year and occupancy levels could even match those of 2017, but it hasn't happened. The hotels thought there would be a rush of last-minute bookings and there were some, but fewer than expected. In fact, some hotels became so nervous that they decided to make special offers, something which has not occurred in the past three years.

In general hotels don't like having to make special offers to attract business, but at least it has put an end to the price increases which had marked previous summer seasons.

The president of the Aehcos hotels association, Luis Callejón Suñé, doesn't mince his words: "the forecasts for July have disinflated. Spanish tourism is saving the situation, because visitors from other parts of Spain are compensating for the drop in those from Britain and Germany, but these clients tend to book at the last minute and that has led some hotels to resort to offers, something

they haven't done for a number of years. Not many have done that, but it is happening," he says.

Along the same lines, the president of the CEA (business confederation of Andalucía) tourism committee, Miguel Sánchez, says that "what has happened is that in general the last-minute bookings that hotels were relying on were lower than expected. In cities like Málaga it is different. We are seeing a clear gap between beach and city tourism".

As an example, he points to the fact that on the Costa del Sol, unlike recent years, the hotels have even had vacancies at weekends in July. Since 2017, demand for weekend bookings had increased so much that



Tourists and locals enjoying time on the beach this week. :: GERMÁN POZO

some hotels had begun to insist on a four-night minimum stay. However, Sánchez does point out that reservations for August, the busiest month of the year, are looking more positive.

Another factor which has affected those positive forecasts which were made at the end of June is that hotels in the Canary Islands and Balearics have embarked upon a quite aggressive campaign of offers to attract more visitors, because of competition from other destinations such as

Turkey, Greece and Egypt. These rivals are having an even greater effect on the islands than on the Costa del Sol. The bargain offers are aimed at attracting Spanish tourists, many of whom might otherwise have gone to the Málaga coast.

"All destinations in Spain are trying harder than ever before to attract Spanish tourists and that is being felt on the Costa," says Miguel Sánchez.

The 'chiringuito' beach restaurants are also noticing a difference. The president of the Costa beach busi-

nesses association, Manuel Villafaina, says there have been fewer tourists in the first half of July but he believes things will pick up and in the end the summer will be similar to last year.

On the other hand, self-catering holiday rentals are going as well as expected and should end July with a 75 per cent occupancy rate. The president of the Andalusian tourism properties association, Carlos Pérez-Lanzac, says business in this sector is developing normally, mainly because the clients tend to be families who plan their stays well in advance. "We don't have as many last-minute bookings," he says.

Another statistic which has had an impact so far this month is that the average length of stay is shorter. The sector believes tourists are opting for several short holidays a year instead of one long break, and this may also explain the increased bookings out-of-season.

In addition the high temperatures in the principal source markets of Europe have resulted in tourists from Britain and Germany, for example, deciding to holiday at home this summer instead of travelling abroad.

Destinations reporting different results

✉ SUR

MADRID. Although the figures for early summer may not have met expectations on the Costa del Sol, the tourism sector says they could be a lot worse.

The strong dependence of places like the Balearics and Canaries on international tourism

and major tour operators shows that the results this season differ according to destination, and this was reflected in the hotel industry statistics, which were presented by the Spanish confederation of hotels and tourist accommodation (Cehat) and PwT in Madrid recently.

The president of Cehat, Juan Molas, says that in Mallorca there is an estimated drop of between 10 and 15 per cent in German tourists in the areas which are normally most popular with them, while in the Canaries in March and April there were fewer German and Scandinavian tourists. He explains that the Canarian archipelago is expecting around 417,000 fewer arrivals by air than last year, and a drop in hotel prices of between 10 and 15 per cent on some islands.

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Malaga metro works can carry on despite archaeological remains

The regional ministry for Culture has said the most representative parts should be removed and stored for future display

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía's ministry for Culture, responsible for overseeing the protection of historical sites, has said that work on the new stretch of metro line in Malaga city can continue. It follows the recent significant discovery of the ruins of a twelfth century Islamic neighbourhood during construction.

Officials say in their report, eagerly awaited by conservationists and constructors for different reasons, that "the most representative remains should be protected, extracted, moved and stored".

The part of the excavated ruins to be conserved is believed to be one particularly well-preserved house found under the roundabout next to El Corte Inglés department store set in streets with wells and sewerage channels.

The Moorish district of Al-Tabanin, outside the old city walls, is thought to have been abandoned in the thirteenth or fourteen century.



The ruins have been digitally documented in 3D. :: M. FERNÁNDEZ

The building of Malaga's two metro lines has been frequently held up by the discovery of archaeological remains. The section affected this time is the missing link by the El Corte Inglés, joining the two existing lines with the new terminus station stretch on the Alameda (which itself is more advanced and nearing completion).

As the metro uses cut and cover construction techniques, rather than tunnelling, the remains not removed

will be destroyed.

It is expected that the ruins selected to be saved will be put in a museum-style display, possibly in the new Guadalmina metro station next to El Corte Inglés, and paid for by the construction company, with prior approval from the Junta.

The Junta has justified its decision to restart works by saying that the ruins have all been carefully recorded in 3D for future researchers to use.



Temperatures as high as 28 degrees were recorded. :: SUR

Government authorises funds for new air conditioning at the Museum of Malaga

:: REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. Central government has authorised emergency works on the faulty air conditioning at the Museum of Malaga, which has placed 17,500 artworks and artefacts at risk of damage.

Initial repair work began on 26 June, almost two months after concerns were raised about temperatures of up to 28 degrees in some areas of the museum. Experts say that the standard temperature to conserve works on an oil canvas is between 19 and 21 degrees.

However, now the ministry for Culture and Sport "has analysed that it is not possible to repair the thermal equipment and it should be replaced as soon as possible".

Emergency works on installing a new system, approved by the Cabinet last Friday, will have a cost of 713,900 euros, three times higher than the initial estimate of 200,000 euros.

Ministry sources, though, have stated that "this difficult situation would not have happened" if they had known of the problem sooner, speaking of the Junta de Andalucía's lack of diligence in the matter.

This complete replacement of the entire air conditioning system takes places two-and-a-half years after the opening of the museum in December 2016, following a huge renovation of the former customs building, costing 40 million euros in state investment.





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Job creation on the Costa slowed down this spring, quarterly data shows

by NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Not as many jobs were created as expected in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, in the period from April to June this year, data published on Thursday showed. The quarterly active population survey (EPA) is seen as the most reliable data on Spanish unemployment.

Despite the period traditionally being good for jobless figures, as the peak tourist season starts, the province only had 2,500 more people in work compared to the period from January to June. This compared to 37,000 in the same period last year and 27,000 in 2017. Even so, the province still has the highest amount of people in work ever, at some 650,000 people.

In terms of the unemployed data, the survey calculates that there are 135,000 people available to work but unable to find jobs in Malaga province (17.27 per cent). This represents a small drop of 1,200 people out of work from April to June.

Most growth in jobs came in the service sector, with the construction sector slowing down slightly.

New CCTV cameras to cover more of Marbella

Work is under way at a new monitoring room at the town's Local Police headquarters

by CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. The council's video surveillance system in Marbella, currently covering a few crime hot-spots only, is shortly to be extended to cover Marbella Old Town and San Pedro Alcántara.

There will be 110 new cameras in total, which will also watch over Avenida Ricardo Soriano from the

'Piruli', the Alameda and Avenida del Mar pedestrian area towards the beach, and parts of the Puerto Deportivo marina near the town centre.

This will be the second phase of the rollout. The first phase with 85 cameras is already operating and covers Puerto Banús, La Cañada shopping mall car park, Elviria shopping plaza and part of the marina.

Work is under way on a new emergency coordination and monitoring centre at the resort's Local Police headquarters that is due to open in September at a cost of 200,000 euros.



Construction work on the new monitoring centre at the police HQ. by C. M.

IN BRIEF



The caves were used by Christians. by S. T.

Historic Churriana caves get extra protection

MALAGA

by P. R. QUIRÓS. Malaga city council has agreed to give extra planning protection to historic caves in the Churriana area, near the airport, that are under threat from housing developments. The caves

in the Gamera Baja-Tosca area were used as dwellings and places of worship by Christians while much of the Iberian peninsula was under Muslim rule from the eighth century.

The town hall will give the site listed status in the PGOU master town plan after pressure from local groups. It is hoped to open an interpretation centre there.

Better road link to Ronda investigated

ARRIATE

by V. MELGAR. The regional Infrastructure minister, Manfrán Carazo, has told local people in the Ronda area that the Junta is committed to studying the possibility of a motorway from Malaga to the town, a long-standing demand. She was speaking as work on the Arriate bypass, near Ronda, was restarted after work stopped in 2010.

City mayor supports east bypass toll road report

MALAGA

by J. HINOJOSA. The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, has backed a report that sees a business case for a new eastern toll road from near Rincón de la Victoria inland to the AP-46 Pedrizas motorway. He is also opting for a motorway in a tunnel under the Sierra de Mijas from Alhaurín de la Torre to relieve the A-7 to Fuengirola.



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"The Gil phenomenon says a great deal about our fragility as a society"

Enric Bach Director of 'El Pionero'

The director of the HBO series says the story of the former mayor of Marbella provides many keys to understanding the present

■ **HÉCTOR BARBOTTA**

MARBELLA. Enric Bach is the director of 'El Pionero', the recently-released HBO series about Jesús Gil. In this interview he explains why he decided to feature the life of the former mayor of Marbella, and the unusual narrative technique he chose to use for it.

—'El Pionero' is presented as a series,

but viewers might consider it a work of journalism. How would you describe it?

—This is not like a journalistic report. This is a non-fiction narrative series, and it's probably a format we are not used to because it tells a true story but uses techniques and elements from fiction. It doesn't follow the rules for news reports because it is trying to do something different, to tell a story. It does that through the main character, Jesús Gil, who tries to give his point of view. The most complicated part of this project is that it features two main types of voice: the critical ones, like the prosecutor Carlos Castresana, but especially those of Gil's family and the

people close to him, who obviously praise the figure of their father and want to justify what he did. I believe viewers are intelligent, and when they hear something they also identify who is saying it, because what is said is just as important as the person who is saying it.

—The series has been made for an audience that can understand these nuances, then?

—The documentary requires a critical and intelligent view from the people who watch it. That is what I have tried to do, place the viewer in front of something which at times is disagreeable and will make them uncomfortable and indignant. I don't decide on what is said, I just show it so the person watching can come to their own conclusions.

—Do the voices chosen to tell the



Enric Bach, during the presentation of the series. ■ **SUR**

story portray themselves in some way, as well as the character of Gil?

—Of course, they define themselves. It would be a mistake to think that as a director I subscribe to each and every affirmation made in the series. What I do is display it so that each viewer draws their own conclusions.

I know it is uncomfortable and provocative in a way, for example having to listen to how the family justifies Jesús Gil's lack of responsibility in the San Rafael tragedy. I didn't dream up that defence, it is the way the family defends it. What I do is give the viewers the elements so they



— FOR THOSE —
CAR OWNERS



A Goya statuette is the top accolade of the Spanish film industry. ■ **A.C.**

Spain's 'Oscars' close to choosing Malaga for 2020 awards ceremony

The organisers of the prestigious Goyas have been on the Costa del Sol studying the Martín Carpena basketball arena and a decision is expected on Monday, 29 July

■ **FRANCISCO GRIÑAN / NEIL HESKETH**

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol looks close to being chosen to host next January's Goya awards. On Monday, representatives from the prestigious Spanish film academy (Academia de las Artes y las Ciencias Cinematográficas de España) visited Malaga's Martín Carpena basketball arena (the copper-domed building on the outskirts of the city) to assess it as likely venue.

The Goya awards are similar to the Oscars in the US or the UK's Baftas and promote Spanish cin-

ema. The event attracts large television audiences in Spanish-speaking countries. Normally the gala is held in Madrid, but recently efforts have been made to organise it outside the capital. Last year it was held in Seville.

Last week the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, met with Goya representatives in Madrid and explained that he hoped an agreement could be signed imminently. The city will have to find around 1.5 million euros towards the estimated two-million cost. "We're going in the right direction," said the mayor, "but we aren't counting the deal as done yet."

Malaga's candidacy is the only one outside the award's normal base in Madrid for 2020. Organisers need a venue with a 3,000 seating capacity. Working with the mayor are the Junta regional government and the Diputación provincial authority, and Unicaja Banco has expressed an interest in supporting with spon-

sorship. Other cities have backed out or have said they will bid in 2021.

The final decision should be taken in a board meeting at the film academy on Monday, 29 July. Key to making the decision will be the views of show producer Emiliano Otegui, himself a three-time winner of a Goya, and head of sponsorship and awards, Ana Nuñez. Both were in Malaga this week.

The ceremony would provide a boost both to the image of the city and local hotel suppliers, especially at a quieter time of year on the Costa. Next year's Goyas will move from February to January as the Oscars have been brought forward to early February in Hollywood.

Initially it looked like Palma de Mallorca would be the favoured candidate, but the cost of flights for all the participants made it less attractive. Bilbao and Zaragoza also suggested that they might be interested in hosting the ceremony but never

can draw their own conclusions not only about the tragedy but also how the relatives see that tragedy. In a way, that's what makes this project unusual, because we are not used to facing up in such a stark and direct way to the portrayal of a person as amoral and complex as Jesús Gil.

-Does the series includes all the voices that need to be there?

-No, of course not. They're not all there, partly by my choice and partly because I haven't been able to access them. I wanted to use just a few voices to tell the story, because in this format, as it is about characters, the more people there are the more complicated the story becomes. You have to understand that the series is designed for an international audience and many people who could have appeared in it are unknown abroad and by people under the age of 30. What I have done is simplify the story in favour of the narrative and that is why many names aren't there. There are others, like Pedro Román and Julián Muñoz, who aren't there because I wasn't able to gain access to them.

-Why was there a need for a documentary about Gil in 2019?

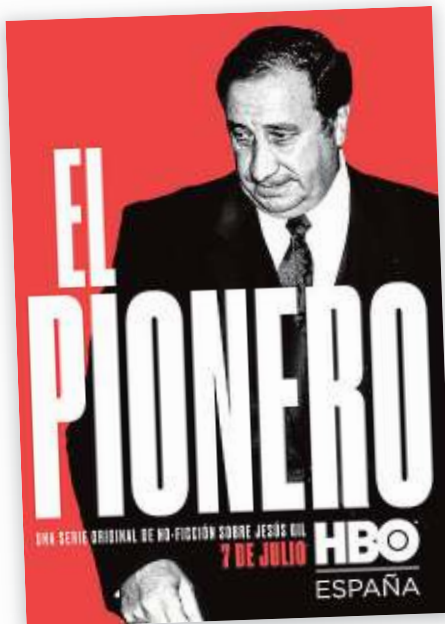
-When we started to think about this project four years ago, I could see there was a populist emergency in

Spain and many other places in Europe. In Spain there was nobody who could be compared with Jesús Gil, a businessman who made the leap into politics, but in some places in Europe there had been people who had financial power and then came into political power by challenging the establishment. Then, two years after we began to develop this project, Donald Trump arrived. What I wanted to reflect with this series is that a story from the past, such as that of Jesús Gil, can give us many keys to understanding the present. Principally on the subject of populism, but also corruption. In the past ten years in Spain we have learned a lot about this, but we still need to understand how a situation like that happens.

-Had people already forgotten what Gil was like?

-The image which had remained about Jesús Gil was a caricature. It was Jesús Gil in the jacuzzi saying stupid things, although people don't remember the awful things he said, and punching the manager of the Compostela football team. And Marbella, Julián Muñoz, the Malaya case... everyone knew he was enveloped in cor-

ruption and ignoring the law, but in some way the image that people have been left with is a caricature. There was a much deeper story behind it and it was interesting to tell it with a contemporary view, as way to understanding the present.



▲ Publicity poster for the series, showing Jesús Gil. :: SUR

-People always associate Gil with Marbella and with football, but the series reminds us that the rest of Spain laughed at him.

-Yes, and that says a lot about our fragility as a society. Why do we admire, sympathise with and vote for someone when we know they ignore the laws? Why don't we have critical mechanisms or reflection which stops us experiencing this fascination? This was happening on two levels. He was a person with such a large audience, was given so much airtime on the major TV channels and influential media coverage that in some way he seduced and scared people at the same time. Many people don't care what may lie behind someone like that, and that says a lot about us as a society. I'm not saying they're the majority, because many people did fight it or look into it, but others looked the other way or just laughed. I have tried to show part of that, and in some way make the viewer experience those doubts.

-People also forget there was complicity about Gil in the fields of politics, the judiciary and the media, and the series

reminds us of that as well.

-I probably haven't shown the whole range of support Jesús Gil had, including in the judicial system. You also have to ask yourself why the Junta de Andalucía left it so long before doing anything about his illegal town planning. You also have to think about other things, like the official pardon granted to Jesús Gil in 1994. And the media support didn't come free. Gil's financial links with certain media chiefs are not shown in the documentary, but journalists have pointed them out many times.

-Are you satisfied with the result of your work?

-I'm never satisfied with what I do. I think I have fulfilled my aim, but I always think I could have done better with a bit more time. You have to remember that this is not trying to be the definitive work on the life of Gil or to tell everything. It would need 20 or 30 more chapters for that.

-Are you comfortable with the way the series has been promoted?

-It is HBO's first original production in Spain so there was a major marketing campaign. It wasn't totally in line with the documentary and may have affected people's view of it, but they need to see the whole series and form their own opinion.

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The team from the Spanish film academy outside the possible venue in Malaga on Monday. :: GERMÁN POZO

formalised their offers. Valencia was also interested but eventually delayed its candidacy to 2021, the centenary of the birth of Valencian filmmaker, Luis García Berlanga.

Malaga is therefore the only remaining candidacy outside Madrid, helped by good connections with the AVE train. The only alternative now

to Malaga for organisers is to hold the event in Madrid nearer its base, where costs are less.

On Tuesday, after the reconnaissance visit, the mayor added that "the academy wants the Goyas to be in Malaga".

The first Goyas were awarded in 1987. The name for the awards

comes from the famous Spanish painter of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Francisco de Goya, because of the sequential characteristic of his painting akin to filmmaking. In addition the name has just two syllables, easy to remember like the Oscars or the French César award.



File photo of the opening of the event in a previous year. :: SUR

Local residents to vote on date of Mijas Pueblo feria

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. There will be a special council session in Mijas town hall starting at 7pm on Monday, 29 July, to decide on the dates for this year's feria in Mijas Pueblo. The meeting is open to the public and attendees will be encouraged to take part in a debate on whether to hold the annual event in the iconic white-walled village on ei-

ther 5 to 9 or 7 to 11 September this year.

Faced with different points of view, the council has decided to take the decision to local residents. At the end of the debate, those in attendance in the council chamber, in Mijas Pueblo, will be allowed to vote. "This is an example of resident participation," said a spokesperson.

Council using perfume in the streets to make them smell nicer this summer

Estepona has been giving details of the extra rubbish and cleaning measures as volume of waste soars 60 per cent

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. If you've detected a pleasant tang in the air while walking in Estepona recently, it isn't just because of the many flowers in the town known as the Garden of the Costa del Sol.

The council has taken to mixing

citrus and fruit fragrances into the water used to give the streets their regular summer washdown and to create an extra "sensory experience" for locals and visitors.

The added fragrances have a serious purpose too. The town hall says the resort comes under increased pressure at this time of year with an increase of 60 per cent in rubbish and that it needs to try different solutions to keep the streets smelling fresh. It has also highlighted the extra rubbish collection and street cleaning teams at work over the summer to cope with the surge.



:: JOSELE

WHALE WINDS UP IN PUERTO BANÚS

An eight-metre long whale weighing 7,000 kilos was found three miles off the coast of Marbella last Friday, after a sighting by Salvamento Marítimo. The animal was moved to La Bajadilla port, where various tests were carried out to determine its cause of death and its physical characteristics, before later being collected for incineration.

Marbella updates its civil emergency and protection plan for the first time since 2007

:: ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MARBELLA. The emergency response and civil protection plan for the Marbella municipal area has been updated to bring it in line with new legislation and thinking.

The first plan of this type was approved by the council in 1995 but it hasn't been properly updated since 2007.

The plan will now include an inventory of the equipment and assets available to the emergency services; individual protection plans for particularly important or valuable buildings; new regulations on pollution of the shoreline; and guidelines on the search and rescue of missing persons.

The plan comes into force where the scale of the emergency is small enough for it to be covered by the town council's own resources, such as the Local Police, municipal fire service or town hall engineers. These could include fires, high winds, flooding or serious accidents.

If the emergency is larger, province- and region-wide plans swing into action, said the council.



Workers washing down the streets in Estepona old town. :: C. MÁRQUEZ

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Men selling goods on a Marbella beach. :: JOSELE

Police crackdown on illegal street vending sees confiscations almost double

Marbella's campaign to stop street hawking started earlier this year, before the start of the high season

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. Police in Marbella are reporting a significant increase in items confiscated from illegal vendors compared to this time last year.

2019 figures have soared to 8,155 to date, with 7,004 articles seized after they were abandoned when their owners were taken by surprise, and a further 1,051 following arrests. These statistics overshadow those of 2018, when the number of items seized reached only 10,777 in the entire 12-month period.

The head of Local Police, Javier Martín, points towards the increased attention given to this illegal activity and this year's early launch of Marbella's preventative campaign as reasons for the rise.

The campaign, which aims to deter illegal street vendors, this year was well under way before the start of the high season. The councillor responsible for Security, José Eduardo Díaz, says that Mar-

bella is "pioneering and exemplary" in its approach towards the fight against this illegal activity. "Although the crime has not been eradicated entirely, it has been noticeably reduced," Díaz says.

Martín warns, however, that illegal vendors have "wisened up" to the police force's new approach and are changing their habits as a result.

Police officers also have to contend with possibly dangerous situations, but Martín says that nothing serious has happened since a police officer was assaulted a couple of years ago. He puts this lull down to the skill of the force.

Statistics show that the majority of vendors arrested are of African origin, yet arrests have also been made of Central Europeans and South Americans.

Police procedure upon arrest of a vendor depends upon whether the individual's situation in Spain is legal. If legal, the vendor's merchandise is confiscated and proceedings begin for breaking the law.

If the individual has entered Spain illegally, proceedings begin for their deportation from the country. All products confiscated are destroyed in the Casares waste treatment plant.

Maravilla hotel opens this January following 15-million-euro investment

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. Estepona old town's latest hotel is due to open in January or February 2020, following a 15-million-euro construction project. As Spain's first hotel with an on-site beer brewery, the four-star, 49-room boutique destination is expected to be one of the most original on the Costa del Sol.

German owner Richard Eller has chosen to add some touches from his homeland, as he plans to produce five German beers in the artisan brewery. Initial annual production is expected to be 300,000 litres, and artisan courses will be offered via an agreement with the



Hotel exterior. :: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

Doemens Academy for brewing.

The Hotel Maravilla's interior will also feature some of the best-preserved tannery remains in the country, dating back to the end of the 12th century.

Eller claims the hotel's location is unbeatable. Its close proximity to both the town and the beach will offer plenty of choice, he explained.

HERE AND THERE

Contract granted for beach erosion study

MARBELLA

:: **N. CASTRO.** The regional Ministry for Ecological Transition has authorised Betancourt Ingenieros S.L.P. to start planning solutions to end the erosion of Marbella's beaches.

The company has been granted 42,428 euros and a deadline of eight months to carry out its investigative work on the coastline from La Venus to Punta del Ancón.

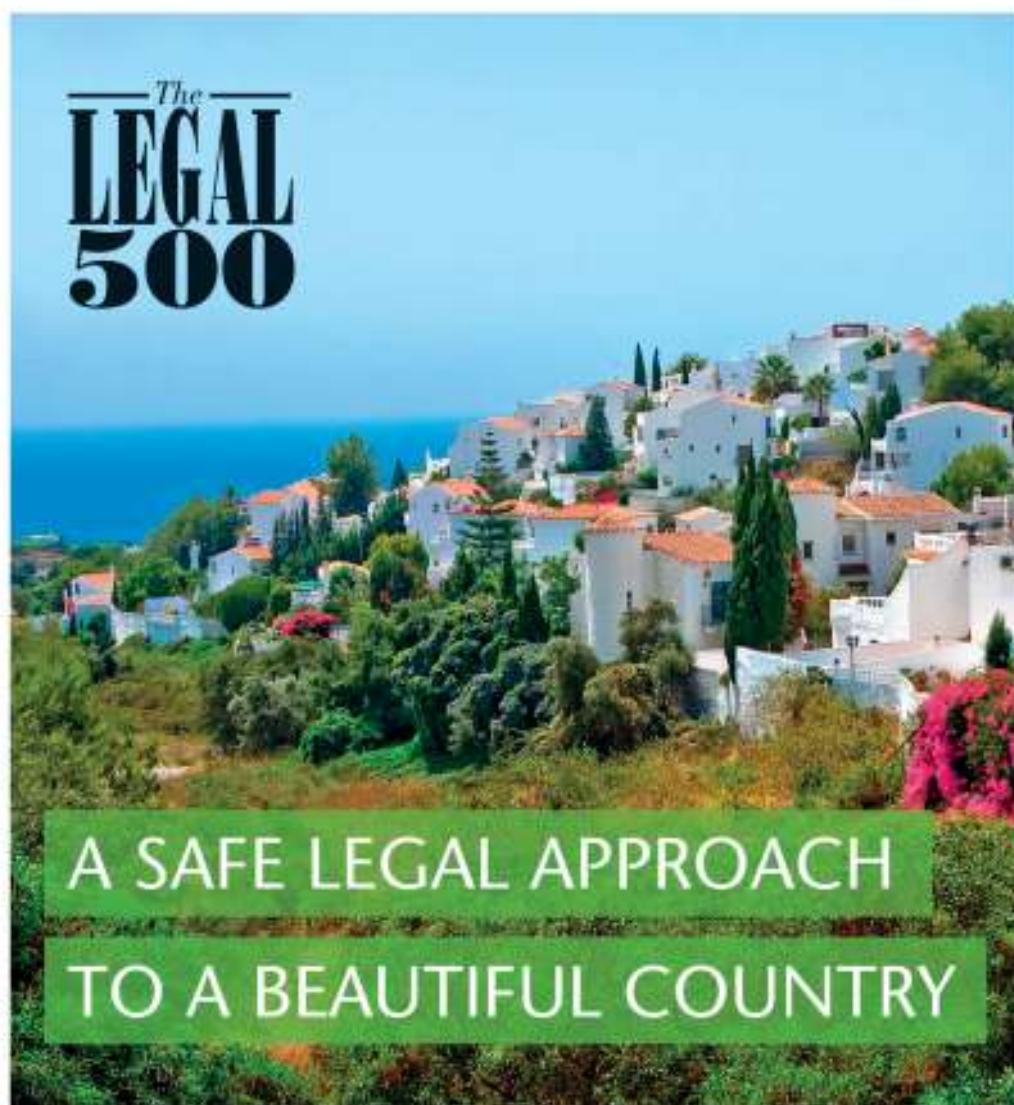
Beach bars provide clean-up incentive

ESTEPONA

:: **C. MÁRQUEZ.** The town council and local beach bars in Estepona have launched a clean-up campaign, with the slogan 'Las orillas sin colillas' (seashores without cigarette butts).

Beachgoers are encouraged to clear the shoreline of cigarettes, with the incentive of a free beer or refreshment for every full glass of butts collected.

The initiative will run until 15 August.



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Parents of daughter with leukemia turn to social media for help

Five-year-old Ruth has been left severely brain damaged after an E. coli infection led to septic shock while in hospital

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

COLMENAR. The parents of a five-year-old girl who has been left severely brain damaged after contracting E. coli at the Materno hospital in Malaga have turned to social media to ask for financial help towards her treatment.

Ruth, who lives in Colmenar in the Axarquía with her parents Gloria Luque, 34 and Pascual Rando, 37, and her four siblings, was diagnosed with leukemia in June 2017. She picked up an E. coli infection while in the hospital which led to septic shock.

Ruth was put into a medically induced coma for one month but



Pascual Rando and Gloria Luque with their five children. :: E. C.

“by some miracle,” according to her mother, came out of it when Gloria was expecting her youngest child, Isaac, now one.

Ruth was taken out of intensive care and moved to a ward to start

her treatment for the leukemia, which included chemotherapy.

However, the complications resulting from the E. coli infection have left Ruth severely disabled and needing daily care, including physio-

therapy and speech therapy, which her parents are unable to afford.

They have already had to adapt their apartment to be able to care for Ruth as well as have a ramp built so that they can get her up to their first-floor home as the building doesn't have a lift.

Pascual and Gloria explain that Ruth is entitled to two free sessions of physiotherapy and speech therapy, but that their daughter “needs a lot more,” for which the family need to find the money to pay for the sessions.

“Ruth needs daily massages for muscle pain, she is learning to eat and talk again and who knows, it's our dream for her to walk again,” explains Gloria.

Rando works for Benalmádena town hall as a cleaner and Luque has to stay at home to look after Ruth, along with her four siblings who are between the ages of one and eight.

Last year Colmenar town hall raised 7,000 euros to buy a car for the family, and friends and family have also been helping out with the costs. Now Luque and Rando are hoping to raise 20,000 euros to go towards Ruth's treatment via Go FundMe: ‘Todos Con Ruth’.

IN BRIEF

Algarrobo launches dog mess campaign

ALGARROBO

:: J. R. Algarrobo town hall has sent letters to 500 dog owners along with dispensers containing bags for faeces and bottles which should be filled with vinegar and water to be used when their dogs urinate in public spaces. The letters remind owners of a 300-euro fine for not cleaning up after their dogs or keeping them on a lead.

Low noise fireworks for Algarrobo feria

ALGARROBO

:: E. C. Algarrobo town hall has announced that it will be using low-noise fireworks during its annual fair, which starts on 1 August. It aims to be more pet and young-child friendly. There will also be quiet times at the fun fair: Thursday 1 August from 10pm to 12am and Friday 2 and Saturday 3 from 9.30 to 10pm.



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Vélez-Málaga CAC partners with Tokyo gallery for pop art exhibition

:: E. C

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez-Málaga's contemporary art centre, CAC, is showing an exhibition of late 20th and early 21st century pop art by artists from the UK, USA, Japan, Germany and Spain. The exhibition, Make Something Different, is being held in collaboration with Tokyo's Nanzuka Gallery and will run until 6 October. It features 60 pieces by 25 artists including comic, animation, music, underground, advertising, skate culture and artificial intelligence (AI). One of the most iconic installations is the Japanese artist Haroshi's Astro Boy, and other artists include Kaws, Eric Parker, Oliver Payne, Keuchi and Yamaguchi. The CAC is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am until 2pm and Sundays from 5 to 8pm. Entrance is free.

Public prosecutor requests 18 months in jail for “offensive” Julen tweets

A court in Madrid has said that Camilo de Ory's tweets during Julen Rosselló's rescue operation were “humiliating”

:: EUROPA PRESS

MADRID. A public prosecutor in Madrid has requested that a 49-year-old man, who posted a series of “offensive” and “humiliating” tweets during the operation to rescue Julen Roselló from the bore hole in Totalán in January, be given an 18-month prison sentence for a crime against moral integrity.

Camilo de Ory, 49, originally from Segovia, posted the tweets over a number of days as the country followed the agonising rescue operation, which ended when the two-year-old's body was found.

De Ory's tweets, which were



Flashback to the rescue, and Camilo de Ory (inset). :: SUR

posted in Spanish, and included comments such as, “If Julen ate in Burger King, this wouldn't have happened,” were “clearly derogatory towards the dramatic situation the child and his parents were experiencing” and “aimed to ridi-

cule” the rescue, according to the prosecutor.

The prosecutor's recommendation also includes an 18-month ban on de Ory accessing social networks. A date for the trial has not been announced yet.

Dog beach given 'Q for Quality' award

TORRE DEL MAR

:: E. C. Torre del Mar's dog beach, which is situated to the west of the town, near the mouth of the Río Vélez, has been the first of its kind in Andalucía to be awarded Spain's 'Q for Quality' tourism award, which is given by the Institución para Calidad Turística. The beach was opened in August 2016 and measures 4,000 square metres.

Longer hours for Nerja waste-recycling centre

NERJA

:: E. C. The opening hours of Nerja's Punto Limpio (recycling centre) have been extended to 7am until 9pm, Monday to Friday and 7am until 1pm on Saturdays. The site, which is located in the Castillo Alto industrial estate, can accept electrical appliances, building waste, furniture, wood, fluorescent lights, mattresses, glass, plastics, paper and cardboard.

An environmental business model

An estate agent on the Costa del Sol aims to be as sustainable as possible by 2024

EARTH MATTERS

by JENNIE RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. Swedish estate agent franchise, Fastighetsbyrå, which has seven offices along the Costa del Sol, is running a project with a view to being the first environmentally friendly property company in Spain. While Lise Lotte Hallman, franchisee at the Torre del Mar branch and one of the key members of staff behind the project, admits that it's "impossible to be completely carbon-neutral," the company has set itself the target of becoming as carbon-neutral as possible by 2024.

The Spain-based team met in Alicante in May, where representatives from all 25 offices agreed to the plan. Lise explains that the idea came in part from a customer survey which asked how important sustainability policies were to their clients, in which 67 per cent replied that they "expected" a professional company to include sustainability as part of their business model.

CEO of Fastighetsbyrå Overseas, Daniel Nilsson, says that all members of staff are really engaging with the project at all levels, and are keen to make it work. "For us as a company to be more sustainable, and not just



Lise Lotte Hallman. :: SUR

do 'corporate greenwashing,' it is crucial to involve all members of staff at all levels, and also at an early stage. We have to 'live' this new sustainable agenda to really make a change, otherwise it will end up being just another top-down management initiative ignored by the people in the company."

A big driver for Lise, 54, is her background as an environmental scientist. Before moving to Spain six years



Daniel Nilsson. :: SUR

ago, she spent seven years studying Environmental Science at university in her native Sweden, and went on to lecture on the subject. She also worked for many years in the field, in Sweden, New Zealand and Tanzania, where she supervised different sustainability projects.

Lise explains that she has a "life-long concern about the environment," which she says really started when she was about 15. She was brought

up to be aware of the importance of sustainability and points out that many key events relating to environmental issues have happened in Sweden, including the first major conference on the environment in Stockholm in 1972 and far earlier, the Swedish scientist, Svante Arrhenius, was the first person to use basic principles of physical chemistry to calculate estimates of the extent to which increases in carbon dioxide increase the Earth's surface temperature in the late 19th Century. This discovery led American scientist, David Keeling to demonstrate that human-caused carbon dioxide emissions are large enough to cause global warming in the 1960s.

When Lise moved to Spain and started working at the estate agents, she says that she wanted to apply her knowledge to the company to ensure that it became as sustainable as possible. She explains that the changes that the company are making can be "simple things" like switching off lights, to ensuring that appliances such as air conditioning units and refrigerators have the highest energy efficiency rating (A+++ as well as filtering tap water instead of using plastic bottles. Lise wants the company's offices to be fitted with sustainable

materials and reduce the amount of plastic. They already have a footnote at the end of emails sent to customers to ask them not to print something unless it is really necessary and have stopped providing prospective buyers with printed information about houses and instead email everything they need. She says that she has managed to show colleagues that by being environmentally friendly, the company can save money too, "switching lights off is really simple and the electricity bill is obviously lower," she says as an example.

Lise points out that many of their clients travel to Spain by plane to view and buy houses and therefore the company has a compensation policy, whereby they offset all journeys made by customers via their social responsibility programmes, which include supporting charities like the UNESCO funded SOS Children's Villages International organisation and other initiatives. Locally, Lise is keen to get the company involved in events such as beach clean ups.

While Lise admits that the company does not go as far as to only sell sustainable houses, they do make sure that as part of the information pack each new homeowner receives, there is information about how and where to recycle and where to buy sustainable items for houses, as well as giving information about using alternative energy. The company is looking at brokering arrangements with sustainable energy companies based in Spain to encourage their buyers to use sustainable energy where possible.



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Drama at hotels' pools as two young children are saved from drowning

A five-year-old girl in Estepona and a two-year-old in Torremolinos needed emergency help

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. Quick thinking staff in one instance and knowledge of CPR in another were key to saving the lives of two small girls last week. Both had slipped into pools in different hotel establishments along the Costa del Sol.

The first and more dramatic of the incidents took place in the Pierre & Vacances complex, east of Estepona. A five-year-old French girl fell into the water without her parents realising and she was discovered unconscious by a swimmer moments later.

As the complex descended into chaos, 57-year-old Miguel Ángel Gil and another holidaymaker began to perform CPR while an ambulance was called. After several minutes of compressions, the girl vomited up the swallowed water and regained consciousness, before being



The pool at the Pierre & Vacances complex in Estepona. :: SUR

taken to hospital to recover over several days. Gil is now calling for first aid courses to be made obligatory for staff in public places and school pupils.

In Torremolinos, panic also ensued at the Amaragua Hotel in the La Carihuella area after a two-year-old Spanish toddler slipped into the pool while her parents were talk-

ing. Despite the water being crowded with swimmers, the eagle-eyed lifeguard spotted the girl struggling and immediately rescued her, forcing out all the water she had swallowed. The child was taken to Hospital Materno Infantil de Málaga where medics confirmed that no lasting damage had been done.

Man arrested over alleged rape of British tourist in Marbella apartment

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. A British man has been arrested on suspicion of raping a 19-year-old British woman during her holiday in Marbella.

Reports of the crime were made by the woman herself, who appeared at Hospital Costa del Sol, claiming that she had been the victim of sexual assault.

The alleged attack occurred during a night out drinking, when the woman, accompanied by her female friend, went out into town, having consumed a large quantity

of alcohol.

It was in the streets of Marbella that the two women met a group of young British men, who later invited the pair to continue their party at an apartment belonging to one man from the group.

It was there that one of the men allegedly took advantage of the 19-year-old's inebriated state, following her into the bathroom and closing the door behind him.

The young woman recalls being raped by the British man, who, according to the 19-year-old's accusations, continued despite her ask-

ing him to stop. She claims that her drunken state was what inhibited her from screaming for help. The woman was later able to escape from the apartment.

Following the report made at Marbella's hospital, Local Police were immediately informed, and officers from the Family and Women department have since taken on the investigation.

Tracking down the accused proved a challenging task for police, due to the victim's limited ability to provide a detailed description of her attacker. Nevertheless, a young man with matching characteristics was eventually spotted and the arrest was made. The Briton has since been released on bail while the investigation is under way.

112 REPORTS

Girl, 15, freed from forced prostitution

MALAGA

112 SUR. A 15-year-old Nigerian has been rescued from involuntary prostitution by Malaga police. Her young appearance and behaviour on the streets of the Guadalhorce district were what caught police attention, triggering what was to become a National Police operation.

The girl's rescue revealed the horror of sexual exploitation scheme, operating in the Malaga province and organised by a gang of Nigerian citizens. All 11 members of the gang have since been arrested.

Six women, including the 15-year-old girl, have been freed from sexual exploitation and forced prostitution. Each woman had been fed the false promise of a better quality of life in Europe, yet, upon arrival in Spain, had been subjected to



Cash from prostitution. :: SUR

cruel control by gang members and had been obligated to take part in prostitution. All money was stored in bank accounts opened using false identity documents.

The arrested gang members now face charges of trafficking, forcing prostitution, and falsifying documents.

Six months in prison for attacking a nurse

MARBELLA

112 C. M. Last Friday saw a man receive a six-month prison sentence for a 2016 attack against a nurse at Hospital Costa del Sol, and a further three-month sentence for the injuries caused.

The culprit is also expected to pay compensation to the victim. The sentence will be suspended if the man pays a total of 4,000 euros.

The incident occurred in 2016, when the culprit carried out an unprovoked attack against an A&E nurse while he was a hospital patient, causing injuries to the nurse's neck and arm. Medical assistance was required.

Sources say that this is not an isolated incident; aggressive behaviour from patients is common at the Hospital Costa del Sol, with 41 cases reported last year, and those occurring in the A&E department accounting for 63.41 per cent of incidents.

Human skeletons found in La Cala de Mijas ditch

MALAGA

112 J.C. / A.F. The skeletal remains of what appear to be a man and woman were discovered by a foreign resident in a ditch along the Entreríos road last week. The bones were transferred to the forensic laboratory in Malaga, where a police and scientific investigation is now under way. Initial tests indicate that the remains are over 20 years old.

Attempted robbery in Puerto Banús jeweller's

MARBELLA

112 C.M. The quick reactions of a vigilant shop assistant stopped a coordinated group of criminals, attempting to rob a Marbella jeweller's, in its tracks. A Colombian man and two women, aged 27, 37 and 48, were arrested when their plan to distract the employee and steal jewels worth millions failed. Police are searching for a fourth person.

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Co-working, a workplace philosophy taking off in Marbella

The large volume of foreign business has led the creation of these types of centres in Marbella, of which there are now more than ten

✎ **ANDREA JIMÉNEZ**

MARBELLA. Productivity, visibility and commercial relationships with businesses of all types. These are the main advantages that 'co-

working' can offer, the work model becoming popular all over the world, including in Marbella.

More than a space, it is a philosophy: co-working goes further than the concept of shared offices, it looks for synergy between the professionals that work in them. "These spaces are the future," says founder of Esperanza 11, a co-working space in San Pedro which opened in 2013. Andalucía Lab opened the same year, offering training services and consultancy in a digital en-

vironment. "Professionals have all of the resources that we have available at their disposal, such as meeting and seminar rooms," the company explained.

The main goal of co-working is to create a unique space which boasts all the same facilities as a regular office - and more. Fast internet connection, printers, water, coffee, air conditioning or heating are some of the services usually offered in these types of spaces. "The resources that we offer are equal to those in any office, but with very competitive prices, which makes it a good option when people are looking for a place to work," they say at Esperanza 11.

"There are clients from all over the world, it is a very multicultural and international town," say representatives of Our Space which has locations in both Marbella and Dubai. This has been the main reason for success of co-working in Marbella: the huge amount of foreign businesses looking for this type of space in the city.

The spaces, of which there are now more than ten in Marbella, see professionals off all kinds walk-through their doors: architects, social workers, graphic designers and entrepreneurs, among others.



The co-working space Andalucía Lab opened in 2013. ✎ **SUR**

The government wins its battle with Deliveroo over social security contributions

✎ **LUCÍA PALACIOS**

MADRID. The government has won a case against Deliveroo, the bicycle food-delivery company. The Social Security department objected to all the riders at the company working as self-employed when, it claimed, they were carrying out work exclusively for that company.

The Social Security argued that Deliveroo was avoiding an obligation to pay company social security contributions by not taking on the riders as its own employees.



A Deliveroo rider at work. ✎ **E. GAILLARD / REUTERS**

This case is considered important because of its scale. Government investigators analysed the contractual status of 532 riders who were giving their services in Madrid between October 2015 and June 2017 and

they asked for 1.2 million euros in unpaid contributions from the firm.

The judge said that the riders were obliged to follow Deliveroo procedures and therefore couldn't be considered self-employed.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jb@ehh.gi

PROTECTING WEALTH WHILE LOOKING AFTER HEALTH



In July and August many traders and money managers will swap the stress of the office and staring into a Bloomberg terminal for relaxing on a beach staring across a glittering azul blue sea. Today's stock market is a 'frenetic' trading machine lubricated and fuelled by a 24-hour entertainment cycle masquerading as news. Most will close their positions to go on holiday, carrying the ice box instead of risk in the market.

Money managers are paid to produce what the industry calls 'Alpha', a measure of the return that they can generate on a given amount of capital over and above 'Beta', a measure of return achieved by the market. In essence they are paid to 'beat the market' - to 'beat the market is to win'. The question facing many investors is how to win? On their own or with professional advice? Data shows that the majority of professional active investment fund managers will lose to the market by on average the amount of the fees and costs. So it is not a question of if you will fail to achieve the market rate of return by yourself or the manager you hire, but when?

But what is winning all about for you, your family or institution? This has everything to do with you not the market. What is your financial position? How much capital can you allocate to invest? How much interest do you have in the markets? How knowledgeable are you? Do you become fearful when prices go up and down sometimes violently? Are you interested in a steady stream of income or a rate of re-

turn over the long term?

The most important decision you make as an investor is about time preference. For how long can you reasonably tie up your capital? The longer the time preference over which the capital may be invested, the greater the potential for growth and reward. What Albert Einstein referred to as the miracle of compounding - the steady compounding over time of growth from earnings and dividend income provided by businesses, and a steady stream of interest payments from bonds.

Rather than fail, most of us will 'win' and succeed well above the average active manager if we 'index'. Match what the market is doing and then stay the course. It is a discipline which has now been developed well enough for us to be able to buy very low cost index funds. Provided that we stick with the plain vanilla broad-based, deeply liquid, very low-cost index funds with small tracking error, in a sensible diversified strategy, we will achieve a better investment outcome than we would otherwise have received. Allowing us to focus on what really matters in our lives and relax.

The author is an investment counsellor and member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners. The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.

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Ancient ceramic items found in frontier tunnel excavation works

The items found are believed to date from different periods and experts believe some may come from wrecked ships

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Excavation works for the frontier tunnel under the airport have revealed ancient remains including items which are thought to have come from wrecked ships. The remains were found six metres down, in the sand.

All excavation works of this type in Gibraltar are monitored by archaeologists, and on this occasion they are particularly excited by the find.

There are nearly 200 fragments of Roman ceramics of varying sizes, thought to be from different periods and origins. These include pieces of Terra sigillata Africana (a type of high quality reddish ceramic which was very common in Roman times) along with remains of amphorae from the Late Period (3rd to 5th centuries AD), possibly from the region of Lusitania (the Roman province that covered what is now Portugal and the province of Extremadura).



Historians and archaeologists are excited by this latest find. :: SUR

Some of the fragments of amphorae can be placed between the 1st century BC. and the 1st century AD. These are common in the south of the Iberian Peninsula, and in the area of the Strait of Gibraltar they were usually used to transport products derived from the salting of fish, including the garum sauce, which was highly valued in Roman kitchens.

The fragments of Terra sigillata Africana ceramics seem to be from a later period – possibly between the 4th and 5th centuries AD – and

as is common in this type of ceramics, they contain embossed or patterned decorations.

A human skull was also found, which a very preliminary analysis suggests may have belonged to a middle-aged man.

Heritage Minister Dr John Cortes says these latest finds reflect Gibraltar's diverse history. "One day you are looking at WWII structures, the next, artefacts dating to the Great Siege and the following day to Roman times," he explains.

IN BRIEF



The magazine presentation at John Mackintosh Hall. :: SUR

New historical memory magazine launched

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. Thursday 18 July saw the presentation in La Línea and Gibraltar of a new magazine 'Cuatro Esquinas', published by the Forum for Historical Memory in the Campo de Gibraltar in col-

laboration with the Gibraltar government. The colour magazine, which is quarterly, is in Spanish and English. "Gibraltar and the Campo area share a historical memory that can inspire both peoples to build a future in common," said Andrés Rebolledo, the president of the forum, about the Civil War and the repression under Franco.

Video of border closure exhibition launched

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. Those who missed the exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the border closure can now see it on a video produced by the Gibraltar National Archive. The film can be found on the Archive website www.nationalarchives.gi, together with the video 'Frontier - Gibraltarians on frontier closure and the closed frontier years'.

Lord Patten to deliver Governor's Lecture

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. It has been announced that Lord Patten, who is a former Governor of Hong Kong and European Commissioner for External Relations among other posts, will deliver the Governor's Lecture at the Gibraltar International Literary Festival which takes place from 14 to 17 November.

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Citizens' groups in Spain react to Boris Johnson's appointment as UK prime minister

:: JENNIE RHODES

MÁLAGA. Citizens' groups representing Britons in Spain have reacted to the appointment of Boris Johnson as the UK's new prime minister. Johnson gave his first speech outside 10 Downing Street on Wednesday afternoon, during which he promised that the UK would come out of the EU on 31 October, "no ifs, no buts," and that he would get "a better deal".

Anne Hernandez, president of Brexipats in Spain, said, "If he maintains the 31 October deadline with his 'do or die' statement resulting in a no-deal Brexit it will be the worst possible outcome for us. It is time those who support a no deal understand how it will put many of our lives in jeopardy."

Sue Wilson, Chair of Bremain in Spain, reacted to the news, saying, "Johnson's Brexit is a fantasy, and a Brexiter prime minister surrounded by a Brexiter cabinet does not change the parliamentary arithmetic. As he was largely responsible for getting the country in this mess in the first place, he now must claim ownership."



Johnson at 10 Downing St. :: EP



A serious Sánchez next to Carmen Calvo at Thursday's session. :: EP



Pablo Iglesias addresses MPs in the first round debate on Tuesday. :: EP

Sánchez fails to win MPs' support

The PSOE Socialist party leader was unable to do a 'partnership' deal with Unidas Podemos in time for him to be appointed as next prime minister

:: SUR

MADRID. Spain's MPs will go into their summer breaks without having chosen a new prime minister. Pedro Sánchez, PSOE Socialist party leader, didn't secure enough votes in two rounds of voting this week in the Madrid Congreso after failing to gain the support of left-wing Unidas Podemos (UP) for his candidacy.

Sánchez will now try to keep negotiating with parties ahead of a 23 September constitutional deadline

for any other attempted investiture. But on Thursday lunchtime, after the second stage of the two-vote process, the position of the PSOE, who won most seats but not a majority in April's general election, and UP seemed further apart than ever.

UP had asked for direct ministerial control of social and employment policy, as well as tax, in a form of coalition, however, despite an apparent thawing in relations last weekend, the UP proposal was roundly rejected

by the PSOE in the end.

The investiture debate began on Monday and a first vote of MPs took place on Tuesday lunchtime. Sánchez needed an absolute majority of MPs to be declared next PM. However he secured only 124, his own MPs plus one other, which was short of the 176 needed.

Following parliamentary procedure, Congreso was summoned 48 hours later on Thursday, when all the PSOE needed was more 'yes' votes

IN BRIEF

High-flying guests at ambassador's farewell

MADRID

Showing UK influence in Spain, among the guests at the farewell drinks for ambassador, Simon Manley, earlier this month, were; IAG (BA and Iberia owner) president, Malaga-educated Antonio Vázquez; Asís Martín, head of Europa Press; and Carolina España, Malaga MP.



Asís Martín (l), Manley (c), España (2nd r) and IAG's Vázquez. :: F.L.

EU takes Spain to court over poor air quality

MADRID

Showing UK influence in Spain, among the guests at the farewell drinks for ambassador, Simon Manley, earlier this month, were; IAG (BA and Iberia owner) president, Malaga-educated Antonio Vázquez; Asís Martín, head of Europa Press; and Carolina España, Malaga MP.

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than 'no' votes.

As expected, the PSOE didn't triumph here either, gaining 124 yes votes again. If there is still no break through by 23 September, parliament will be dissolved and a fresh general election could be held as early as 10 November.

Explaining why the PSOE had not reached a deal with UP, acting deputy prime minister and chief negotiator for the PSOE, Carmen Calvo, said, "UP has tried all along to negotiate from a position that doesn't match the votes it got and its representation versus ours."

UP offer still open

Calvo said that UP leader Pablo Iglesias had rejected the PSOE offer of certain roles but instead "they have literally asked us for the government. What would be left for the PSOE to take forward its electoral programme?" she added, referring to UP's request to have the ministries controlling tax and spending plans. She added that even with UP, the right numbers for investiture aren't guaranteed, depending as well on the goodwill of the PNV Basque nationalist party and the ERC left-wing Catalan republican party. She also questioned UP's commitment to a united Spanish state rather than appeasement for separatists.

In the debating chamber on Thursday, UP leader Pablo Iglesias reassured the PSOE, saying that he was looking for "responsibility for areas, not seats at the table"

FIRST VOTE RESULT

► Absolute majority required.

In Tuesday's first vote by MPs in Congreso, Pedro Sánchez failed to win the 176 votes needed in the 350-seat chamber.

► **Votes in favour.** 124 (the PSOE's own MPs plus one Cantabrian regionalist).

► **Votes against.** 170 'no' votes from PP, Ciudadanos, Vox, ERC, Junts per Catalunya, Navarra Suma and Coalición Canaria.

► **Abstentions.** 52: Unidas Podemos, PNV, Compromís and Bildu.

SECOND VOTE RESULT

► **Simple majority required.** In Thursday's second vote, according to the constitution, it was enough to get more 'yes' votes than 'no' votes.

► **Votes in favour.** 124. No change on the first round.

► **Votes against.** 155.

► **Abstentions.** 67. ERC changed its 'no' votes to abstentions.

and that his offer to be a "preferred partner" of the PSOE was still open, provided that the UP was treated with "respect".

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

DEAL WITH IT



We now know that Pablo Iglesias' Unidas Podemos (UP) didn't support Pedro Sánchez's Socialists (the PSOE) in Thursday's second investiture vote. The two party leaders have been trying to form a coalition government ever since April 29th's inconclusive general election, but on Wednesday evening, sources close to the PSOE revealed that the negotiations had failed. Sánchez maintains that Iglesias is too far to the left of the Socialists when it comes to economics, although it's debatable whether the difference here is as significant as he makes out. The failure of their negotiations also proves that neither politician has realised the importance of compromise in Spain's fractured political landscape.

Throughout his talks with Sánchez, Iglesias has been pushing for cabinet positions for UP

members as well as control of the ministry for Work. But the PSOE leader said this week that handing crucial economic departments to his potential partner would risk alienating businesses. The Socialists are hardly "Party Number One" in this respect, though: shortly after winning April's election, Sánchez announced his intention to raise billions more per year in revenues, partly by increasing corporation tax. Podemos and the PSOE differ only in degree when it comes to how to deal with companies, which in principle should make it easier, not harder, for the two parties to form a coalition.

Not that such a partnership would go down well in Spain's business world, accustomed as it is to years of corporate-friendly conservative rule. Indeed, it's mainly to reverse Mariano Rajoy's labour market reforms - which favoured employers over

employees - that Iglesias wants to control the ministry of Labour. Instead, in the latest deal presented by Sánchez, the UP was offered a deputy prime ministerial role and control of the departments of Housing and Social Economy, Health and Social Affairs and Consumer Affairs and Equality - ministries that the PSOE leader clearly isn't too concerned about.

There's also a more fundamental reason that Sánchez is unwilling to go halves with Podemos when it comes to running the country. After winning the last election, the Socialist leader promised businesses that he wouldn't allow Iglesias to destabilise the Spanish economy, just as he promised his supporters that he'd keep the right out of national office. But if he wants to govern, he can't do both. With time running out, Sánchez should look to Albert Rivera's centrist Ciudadanos - the only other party with which the Socialists would possess a parliamentary majority - to form a government. The PSOE leader is understandably concerned that such a coalition would be defined by compromise, as all coalitions are - but if he wants a second term as prime minister, he'll have to deal with imperfection. In modern Spanish politics, there's simply no other way to govern.

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THIS WEEK IN PICTURES



STING TAKES TO THE STARLITE STAGE FOR THE SECOND TIME

British singer Sting took to the stage at Starlite on Tuesday night to perform some of his most famous hits, such as Roxanne and Every Little Thing She Does is Magic, to a crowd of excited fans, exclaiming in Spanish he was "very happy to be here for the second time".

JOSELE



ANTONIO J. GUERRERO

CLASSIC CARS COME TOGETHER IN ANTEQUERA

More than 50 vintage cars and their owners met in Antequera last Saturday for the town's first ever Classic Vehicles of Antequera Meeting.



JOSELE

SUPERTRAMP DOES STARLITE

Former Supertramp frontman Roger Hodgson hit the stage at Starlite last Saturday, starting his set with a performance of Take the Long Way Home First.



HUGO CORTÉS

QUEEN TRIBUTE IN NERJA CAVES


Queen tribute God Save the Queen dazzled in the Nerja Caves last Friday, with front man Pablo Padin belting out the band's iconic hits. Fans were left somewhat disappointed, however, when the tribute act took to the stage 40 minutes late.



SALVADOR SALAS

GAMERS GATHER FOR GAMEPOLIS

Gamepolis hosted more than 60,000 video game enthusiasts last weekend, with fans dressing as their favourite characters, competing in games and attending talks.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Have-a-go-hero

We cannot believe that it has taken over 4 years to administer justice in this case ('Prosecution agrees that man who killed a mugger should be spared jail', page 15, SUR in English July 19th to 25th).

Borja should be awarded a medal for bravery due to his public-spirited action in assisting a woman who was being attacked by a robber (she could have been killed).

Common sense dictates that the robber died accidentally in the resultant struggle and if any compensation is to be paid it should go to Borja and not the robber's family.

BRIAN JOHNSTON
TORREQUEBRADA

Public transport

I have to agree with Peter Edgerton (SUR in English, July 19th to 25th) that the public transport here is (some might say surprisingly) quite good.

I've never known the Cerdanías airport train to run late, the buses here in Malaga come regularly and are fully air conditioned and there are taxis to be hailed everywhere.

It's just a shame that the transport between major cities here in the south is so bad - not to mention expensive!

JEREMY CLARK

MALAGA

Balconying

Re: 'Girlfriend of British man who died in Magaluf balcony fall

speaks out', page 20, SUR in English July 19th to 25th, perhaps if most of these tourists didn't spend most of their holidays drinking (starting at the airports and on the flights) and annoying other tourists and people that have to deal with them, like police and hospital staff, I might be able to feel sympathy for them.

A lot of them don't bother to take out travel insurance and expect other people to help with the repatriation of them, via social media.

SUSAN CORTES
BY EMAIL

Climate deniers

It never ceases to surprise me seeing the numbers of people, when faced by news about the changes to our climate (which your paper has been covering for a couple of weeks now) still doubt the science and just blindly refuse to acknowledge any need for change.

Let's just pretend for one moment that the science is wrong and that it's all a hoax... Is it such a bad idea to reduce pollution in our air and in our seas?

Or is that too much effort?

It only takes small changes from each of us (reducing meat consumption even if it's just a little bit, taking bags with us when we go to the shops, trying to buy local products etc.)

Sadly the response from most people is: "What does it matter to me? I won't be around when it happens." Wake up - it's already happening.

MILES MARTIN
BY EMAIL

Bemusement arcade

PETER EDGERTON

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One of the most hilarious facets of professional football is when a substitution is about to be made and the manager/trainer stands next to the player about to come on, leans right into him and gesticulates wildly and incomprehensibly while shouting a load of gobble-dyook in the poor bloke's ear. The funny bit is the look of utter bemusement on substitute's face as he clearly fails to understand any of the instructions on offer.

That self same expression of bewilderment is the one I'm sure I must wear when witnessing some of the antics people get up to down at The Shakespeare. Just last night at the quiz we had a team, only half of whom ordered a drink. I explained politely that it's free to play but each person must have something because the game takes three hours to prepare and, well, you know, it's a business and all

that. The two people in question trudged reluctantly to the bar to order and came back with a packet of crisps each. No, really. On one of the hottest nights of the year, two young men were actually willing and able to sit for an hour and a half without drinking anything at all and munching on some Pringles. They didn't win the quiz - or any prizes for joie de vivre, for that matter.

My favourite did-that-really-just-happen? moment was the memorable occasion when a short little chap asked me to turn the music down a bit so his wife could breast feed their baby. Unable to discern how those two things could possibly be remotely connected, I simply thought 'Blimey, poor child', and turned the volume up a tad. They didn't even notice.

Running that remarkable incident a close second was the young lad who strolled into the bar recently looking around inquisitively

for a minute or so, before approaching me directly.

'Toilet?'

'If you mean, 'Excuse me, please, where's the toilet?', it's through that door. Are you a customer?'

'No, I'm eating on the terrace of the restaurant opposite.'

'Well, you should probably use their bathroom then.'

'Yours is nearer.'

'Get out before I offer you a swirlie in our 'nearer' toilet.'

Ok, I didn't really say that last bit but certainly gave the cheeky tyke short shrift.

We should keep a record of all this, I suppose since some of it really is first class comedy.

Cheers remains one of the funniest TV series ever screened and I'd always imagined it to have been penned by a crack team of scriptwriters. Knowing what I know now, it was probably just some bloke who once owned a bar and kept a diary.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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With the anniversary celebrations of the first Moon landing, it's the right time to look back at just how far we've come in half a century.

This is a useful exercise as so much has happened since 1969 that it's easy to reduce the Moon landing metaphor to just a few small steps for mankind. Besides, you'd probably agree with me that, these days, there's a big element of rose-tinted nostalgia around those pictures of families huddled around their black and white TV sets to witness, with the help of the commentator, the achievement of Collins, Armstrong and Aldrin. Perhaps because, here in Spain, we were where we were in 1969, apart from seeming like science fiction in a coun-

Looking up to the Moon

ANTONIO ORTÍN

try that still believed in the supernatural power of holy water from a baptismal font, it made us see beyond the grey mirror that our grandparents and parents were forced to look at themselves in.

That broadcast was, in reality, a window on the World, a place where

sometimes impossible dreams came true and humans had a future beyond the murkiness that the sanctimonious had woven into our collective imagination of post civil war and daily mass.

The regime was at that time blighted by corruption, with Falang-

ist and technocrats fighting it out within Franco's government, dissent that the dictator put down without explanation, as was his way of removing adversaries and critics.

And so, against that background, Spaniards gathered around a small screen to watch a flight into space that, in effect, transported our hopes to those scientific and technological advances that we all enjoy today. In a nutshell, towards a better world.

But we've also left something behind on that journey. Today television is hardly a guiding light. On the contrary, it's become a showplace for trashy people, where the most watched personalities, not having much clue, sometimes coming straight out of jail, compete to show off their total illiteracy. Add to this

that group of social influencers, where between YouTubers, footballers who dribble away from the taxman, tweeters who only resort to insults and talking heads paid to say what they say, and what we have is public debate built around hate.

On top of this politicians don't for one minute come close to those from the era of the transition to democracy, those who steered the country to a common destiny, away from the terrible echoes of the Spanish Civil War. These days the politicians flit between ministries aiming to retire with as little effort as possible.

Yes, 50 years later, we are better off, of course we are. But in some things we're still looking up at the Moon. Let's see if things improve after the summer holidays.

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IN THE FRAME

Following in the family's footsteps

Caroline Krabbe has lived in the Axarquía ever since her parents decided to move to Spain from Denmark in 1981 when she was just 10 years old. Caroline was educated at the local schools in Frigiliana and recalls that the teachers "didn't really know what to do with the foreign kids", adding "we didn't speak the language". Caroline and her sister, Luise Haugen, were among only a handful of non-Spanish children attending the village's school in the 1980s.

Caroline, 47, comes from a family of artists. Her father, Arne Haugen Sørensen, is a painter while her mother, Dorte Steenbuch Krabbe, is a ceramist and also runs the family's Krabbe Gallery in Frigilina. Her uncle, Jørgen Haugen Sørensen, is also an artist.

Her parents made the move "because of the light here in the south of Spain," Caroline explains. The gallery, which opened in 2004, exhibits temporary exhibitions by other artists, but the main focus is on Arne's work.

Both she and her sister have followed in their parents' footsteps. Caroline uses felt-tip pens to create the most fascinating and detailed pictures of "anything" that comes into her head, from what she hears on the news - "I listen to the radio a lot while I'm working," she says - to images of life in the Axarquía.

The pictures look as if they are collages of small drawings, but she explains that it's one piece of paper, on which she starts at the bottom and works up.

She also paints, as does Luise, who has since returned to Denmark. Caroline explains that she is self-taught and she is currently studying History of Art at the University of Malaga.

The artist is now married to an Argentinean, Guillermo, with whom she has two grown up children. Her daughter is a photographer and lives locally, while her son is following in the footsteps

Local artist, Caroline Krabbe, is originally from Denmark but has lived in the Axarquía with her family for 37 years. She is curating an exhibition of Danish artists at the Museo de Nerja over the summer

JENNIE RHODES



Caroline Krabbe. :: AMANDA ARANCIBIA HAUGEN SØRENSEN

of his father and is studying to be a dentist.

Multilingual

Unsurprisingly, Caroline is fluent in Spanish and also speaks excellent English. She says that she hasn't forgotten Danish either as the family uses their native lan-

guage when speaking to each other. "I have always kept reading books in Danish to maintain my native language," she adds. While Caroline, unlike her sister, decided to stay in Spain, she makes regular trips back to Denmark and has many friends and contacts, especially with other artists, in her

native country.

In fact Caroline belongs to an art group in Denmark called VISUEL, which is currently exhibiting at the Museo de Nerja. Caroline explains that the group has been together for three years and there are 10 members, all of whom are Danish.

Caroline travels to Denmark twice

"I have always read books in Danish so I can maintain my native language"

a year specifically to meet up with her fellow members. This year they have decided to come to her. "We always look for interesting places to exhibit and we are happy to wait until a good place comes up," Caroline explains. One of the first exhibitions the group held was in the Galeria Krabbe in 2016.

The latest exhibition opened on Thursday 18 July and will be on until 25 August. The title of the exhibition is 'Underground' as it's in the basement of the museum, which in turn is linked to the Nerja Caves. "Each of the artists was asked to produce three interrelating pieces with the theme, 'underground'," explains Caroline.

Some came up with work related to underground spaces such as caves, the sea or underground chapels, like at the Real Alcázar in Seville or the Basilica Cistern in Istanbul. Others have gone for their own interpretations of underground movements, including a representation of the Russian feminist punk rock group, Pussy Riot, next to an image of the country's president Vladimir Putin.

Caroline explains that seven of the 11 participating artists are travelling to the area for the exhibition and during preparations when I caught up with her she admitted that many were "feeling the heat of Nerja in July!"

Caroline has also exhibited in Denmark, Germany, Los Angeles, Brazil and London and says that she is "delighted" to be curating the exhibition in the place she considers her home.

Further information :
www.carolinekrabbe.com
Museo de Nerja, Plaza de España, 10am - 7pm every day

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

26 JULY 1875

The birth of celebrated poet Antonio Machado

Machado came into contact with numerous contemporary literary figures in Paris, including Oscar Wilde and Rubén Dario

Antonio Machado Ruiz was a Spanish poet and one of the leading figures of the literary movement known as the Generation of '98. Son of the celebrated Spanish folklorist Demófilo, Machado was born in Seville on 26 July 1875, one year after his brother Manuel - also a poet and prominent member of the Generation of '98.

Machado, described as someone who 'spoke in verse and lived in poetry', was born in the Palacio de las Dueñas, the former residence of the Duchess of Alba, and his works include several references to the years he spent at the luxurious abode as a child. In the gardens of this 15th-century Renaissance palace is a plaque next to a lemon tree that commemorates El Limonero, one of Machado's most famous works.

His family moved to Madrid in 1883 where he enrolled in the In-

stitución Libre de Enseñanza and it was here that Machado discovered his passion for literature. After completing his Bachelor's degree in Madrid, Machado and his brother headed to Paris, where they were employed as translators for a French magazine.

Machado's decision to dedicate himself to poetry came during his time in France. In Paris, he came into contact with numerous renowned poets and contemporary literary figures, like Oscar Wilde and Nicaraguan poet Rubén Dario.

Machado had his first works published in the literary journal *Electra* in 1901, and his first book of poetry (*Soledades*) followed two years later.

In 1907, Machado accepted the position of Professor of French at a school in Soria (Castilla y León) and it was here that he met Leonor Izquierdo, whom he married in 1909. The couple set up home in



An early 20th-century portrait of Antonio Machado Ruiz. :: SUR

Paris, where Machado studied Philosophy, but Leonor was diagnosed with advanced tuberculosis and so the couple returned to Soria, where she died in 1912.

Machado was devastated and left Soria and went to live in Baeza, where he wrote a collection of poetry that focused on the death of his wife. These were published in

1916 in a re-edition of *Campos de Castilla*, a book of poetry that was first published a few weeks after she had died.

Machado worked at the Instituto de Segovia between 1919 and 1931 in order to be nearer to his brother Manuel, who was living in Madrid. The brothers worked together on several plays that were to receive

great acclaim from audiences in the capital.

The outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in July 1936 was to separate the Machado brothers forever. Manuel remained in the Nationalist zone, but Antonio left Madrid with his elderly mother and went to Barcelona, but as the Nationalist troops advanced on the last Republican strongholds, they crossed the border into Collioure.

Machado died in Collioure on 22 February 1939: his mother died three days later.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Poesía	Poetry
Poeta	Poet
Verso	Verse
Generación	Generation
Palabras	Words
Folklorista	Folklorist
Literario	Literary
Instituto	Institute
Dedicar	Dedicate
Filosofía	Philosophy
Publicar	Publish
Dramaturgo	Playwright
Soledad	Solitude
Estudiar	Study
Enseñanza	Teaching
Revista	Magazine
Traductor	Translator



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ANDREW FORBES

✉ Twitter: @andrewaforbes

Seville's northern ring road is one of the few displeasures of driving in Andalucía. The seemingly unending forest of ugly roadside billboards, towering over shabby industrial units are an eyesore. And the traffic is intense.

Yet soon enough I passed beyond the heavy haulage lorries and city traffic and joined the relatively peaceful Autovía Ruta de la Plata. With the cruise control set, and my Spotify playlist on, I felt like the road trip had finally begun.

This is one of my favourite motorway trips, following more or less the Roman road - the Silver Route - that originally ran the near 1,000 kilometres from the port of Gijón in Asturias and the mines of northern Spain, down through Extremadura and Castilla y León, to Andalucía's capital, and onwards to the Mediterranean.

Devouring Spain

Going north from Seville, the route takes travellers through Extremadura on a relaxing drive through oak-forested countryside and rolling pastures and onto some of Spain's most remarkable historical cities.

Exploring just a part of this ancient trading route makes for a fascinating and rewarding break in Spain, combining history, spectacular natural scenery, culture, and the opportunity to indulge in superb food and wine.

The options here for curating your personalised road trip are compelling and numerous. Once past Zafra, it's not long before one reaches Mérida, the capital of Extremadura. This UNESCO city is quite extraordinary, full of World Heritage, like the Ancient Roman Theatre, the Temple of Diana and The Acueducto de los Milagros.

Gastronomic Cáceres

This time my first stop is to be

Cáceres - one of Spain's most remarkable medieval cities.

It's not close to an international airport (Madrid is three hours away by car) so this city still feels part of the 'hidden Spain' - authentic, and captivating.

In 2016 it was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in recognition of its preserved medieval architecture. So, for the modern-day visitor to the old town quarter, this means a fairytale-like experience, strolling within an ancient walled city of spires, towers, churches and historic palaces evocative of the golden era of Cáceres. The draw these days, though, is not just the history: it's the food too.

In 2015 Cáceres was recognised as Gastronomic Capital of Spain. Locals suggest it is home to 'origi-

nal' fusion cuisine. Regional recipes are built on a rich cultural legacy left over centuries by the Romans, Arabs and Jews.

The city lies within a region of Spain renowned for unique produce including artisan cheeses, local red wines, organic olive oil, forest honey, high-quality cured ham, peppers and, of course, one of Spain's favourite spices, pimentón.

The city's main plaza is the place for an early evening stroll, discovering tapas bars where local ingredients are brought to the table in tasty country-style dishes. Try the 'caldereta extremeña', made with local lamb (or goat) with plenty of 'pimentón de la Vera'. The regional paprika also defines the local sausage too, called 'patatera' which is a little like chorizo.

Taking Cáceres cuisine to a whole different level is Restaurante Atrio. Two-star Michelin chef Toño Pérez has created gastronomic menus that alone are worth the five-hour drive from Malaga.

The ceviche, served in a bowl of passion fruit-infused ice is a delight on a warm summer's evening while the scarlet-coloured carabinero cardinal prawn, paired with pork might sound a surprising combination but one that's superb.

Dishes are paired with wines from José Polo's wine cellar; a subterranean treasure trove of national and international vintages.

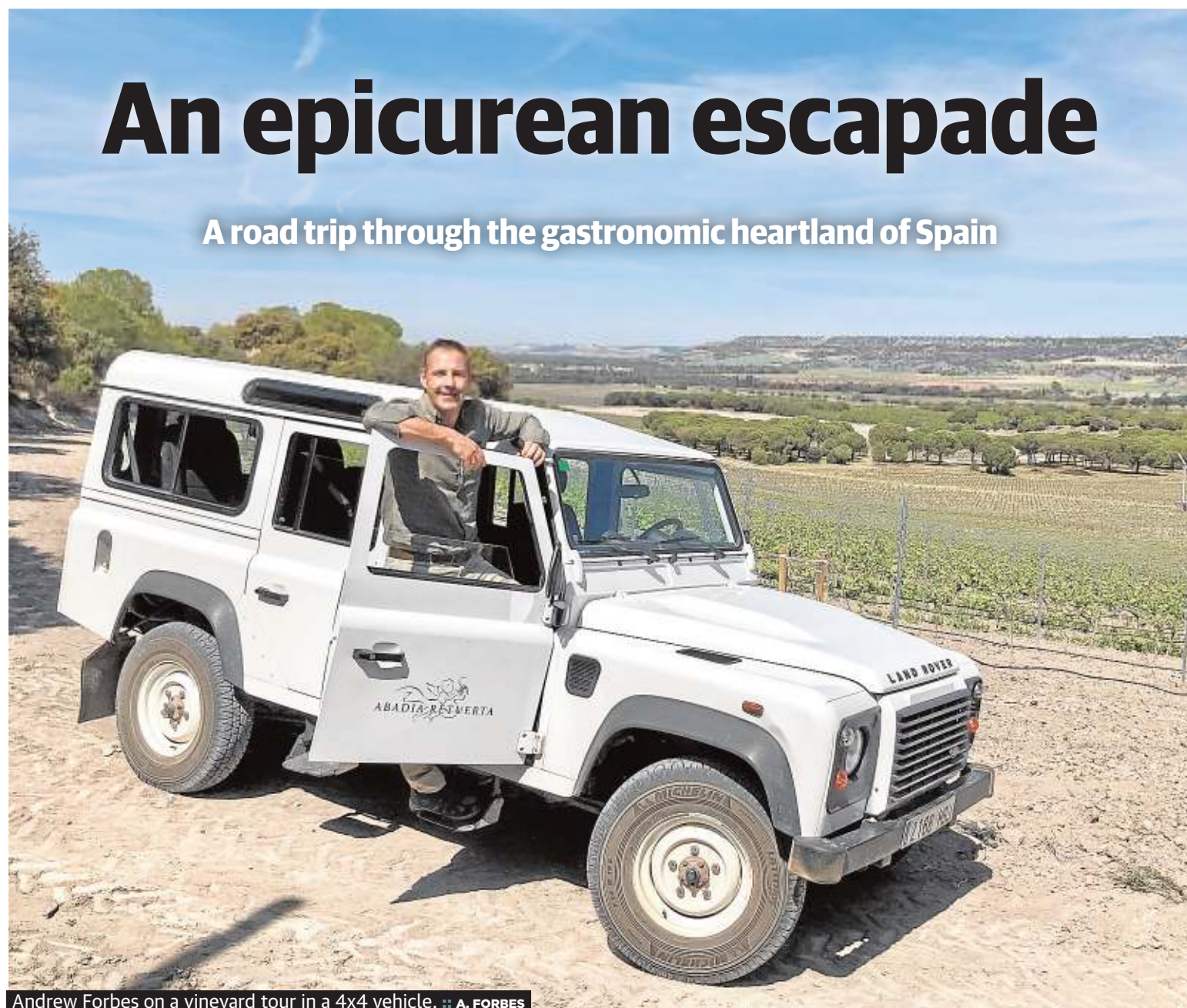
A culinary sanctuary

Continuing north, into the region of Castilla y León is to discover more of Spain's living history.

There's the opportunity to visit cities like Segovia, evocative of the country's rich heritage of castles and kingdoms.

My next stop was Abadía Retuerta, close to the elegant and sophisticated regional capital of Valladolid - a gateway to Spain's winelands on the banks of the River Duero. This region, recognised for its creative chefs, award-winning winemakers and enchanting historic towns, is certainly worthy of the attention of the gourmet traveller.

Abadía Retuerta is a food and wine resort that likes to keep things local when it comes to the gastronomy. The menu in the abbey's Michelin-star Refectorio restaurant is most certainly more sophisticated than that offered to the monks who also dined here



Andrew Forbes on a vineyard tour in a 4x4 vehicle. :: A. FORBES

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There are 12 remaining windmills in Consuegra, all named after Don Quixote characters

Cordoba is Spain's only city with four UNESCO World Heritage protections

centuries before. But produce is still very much Castilian; foods like handmade cheeses, foraged mushrooms from the pine forests, chicory from the kitchen garden and game including partridge, venison and wild boar.

A morning spent exploring the estate's vineyards of Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot and Petit Verdot is rewarded with an 'aperitivo campero'. Taking refuge from the heat of the sun, in the shade of an ancient oak, one comes across a picnic table set with cheese, cured meats, rustic bread and, of course, a chilled bottle of Abadía Retuerta award-winning wine. A magical experience - one of those times when simple food tastes extraordinary.

The greatest luxury can often be simplicity. Visit a local village or hamlet and you'll find ventas serving tasty specialities like white



Abadía Retuerta LeDomaine. :: SUR

asparagus and milk-fed lamb called 'cordero lechal'. The meat is prepared on vine wood skewers (called 'sarmiento', which are taken from wine estates like Abadía Retuerta) and cooked on a wood-burning grill. It's a dish not to be missed.

Tilting at windmills

Returning home to the south you can always take the Autovía Ruta de la Plata again. But in the spirit of road trip discovery, I took the Autovía de los Viñedos, through Castilla-La Mancha, and some of

the biggest wine growing areas in Europe, onto to the emblematic windmills at Consuegra.

Arriving at the Cerro Calderico ridge, above the town of Consuegra (in Toledo province) you can see probably the most famous of the La Mancha mills.

In total there are 12 remaining, each named after a character from Cervantes' novel The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha.



Chef Juan Antonio Pérez.
:: CARLES ALLENDE

From the ridge you have a 360-degree view over the Manchego plains, where the exceptional 'Azafrañes Manchegos' is grown and harvested - said to be the best saffron in the world.

Cordoba

It's then a four-hour drive back Malaga but a small detour to Cordoba makes for a monumental last stop on this road trip of UNESCO cities and memorable food and wine.

After all, Cordoba is Spain's only city with four UNESCO World Heritage protections. These are the Mosque-Cathedral, the historical old town, the Fiesta de los Patios and, most recently, the Medina Azahara.

Cordoba's food scene still holds a few surprises; some of which are the wines from Montilla and Moriles. These Denomination of Origin vineyards are fragmented among numerous small producers of little-known sherries. Cordoba is one of the few cities where you can find them in bars. Try a delicate 'fino' or a fragrant 'amontillado' (said to be named after Montilla). You'll find 'palo cortado' and 'oloroso' wines too. Few are distributed nationally or exported so take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy them in Cordoba.

It's a fine way to toast the end of a delicious road trip, shaped by a love of Spain, her food and of course her wine.



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THE INSIDER GUIDE

Wine road trip



Hotel Atrio.

■ ANDREW FORBES

**Cáceres
STAY:****Hotel NH Collection Cáceres
Palacio de Oquendo**

This modern hotel retains features of the 16th-century Palacio de Oquendo, including the original façade, historic internal patio courtyard and vaulted ceilings, complemented with simple, understated contemporary interior design. There are 86 rooms, several with views over the charming Plaza San Juan. There's also a gym, as well as meeting rooms for business travellers. The La Cava del Emperador bar is the place to try local Extremadura wines.

NH-Collection.com**Hotel Atrio**

Michelin-star chef Juan Antonio (Toño) Pérez and wine connoisseur José Polo have created this extraordinary food and wine hotel found in the very centre of old town. Behind its traditional façade the hotel surprises with avant-garde architecture (by Emilio Tuñón Álvarez and Luis Moreno Mansilla). It is built around a central 'atrio' courtyard which is dramatically framed



A Spanish road trip.

by white geometric arches that play beautifully with the sunshine. This is where the private guest rooms meet the elegant public spaces including the sun and pool terraces, the secluded courtyard and the stylish dining room. The chic guest rooms continue the minimalist aesthetic – white walls, designer furniture and a piece or two of original art.

RestauranteAtrio.com**EAT:****Restaurante Tapería Yuste**

This cosy tapas restaurant has tables inside under the traditional vaulted ceilings and also out on the terrace, overlooking the plaza and San Juan church.

Share dishes of local lamb and also 'jamón ibérico de bellota', the traditional acorn-fed ham from the oak 'dehesa' estates of Extremadura. Try too the artisan cheeses including the 'Torta Extremeña', a hearty sheep's milk cheese that is unique to the area with Denominación de Origen protection.

NH-Collection.com**Restaurante Atrio**

Awarded two Michelin stars, this restaurant has become a legendary destination for gourmet travellers.

The tasting menus have an undeniable contemporary feel yet focus on traditional Iberian and Extremeño ingredients.

The wine list is a heavy hardback book, featuring highlights from the 40,000 bottles from 22 countries of José Polo's award-winning wine collection. Before dinner, guests are invited to a private tour of this architect-designed cellar.

RestauranteAtrio.com**Valladolid
STAY:****Abadía Retuerta LeDomaine**

Abadía Retuerta is a magnificent wine estate with five-star accommodation, luxe spa, and Michelin star dining. Sheltered in a small valley edged with pine and oak woodlands, this epicurean resort includes the award-winning boutique winery, Abadía Retuerta, makers of 'Selección Especial', a wine which reflects the essence of the vineyards, made with 75% Tempranillo, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot.

The adjacent 900-year-old medieval abbey is now the 30-room boutique spa hotel LeDomaine, offering food and wine guest experiences including 4x4 tours of the vineyards and wine tastings in the impressive winery. There's also signature fusion wine oeno-

therapy spa treatments at the resort's Santuario Spa, where 'Spa Sommeliers' recommend appropriate treatments.

Abadia-Retuerta.com/Hoteles/**EAT:****Refectorio**

This is the Michelin-star restaurant of LeDomaine. A 17th-century frieze of the Last Supper is a reminder of when this was the simple dining space for the monks. Now it is a modern-day temple to fine dining by executive chef Marc Segarra Sauné who has achieved a Michelin star. Expect original dishes using local ingredients, paired with wines from the Abadía Retuerta cellar. Try the local white asparagus served with croutons, coffee butter and wild mushrooms, paired with the estate's fresh and delicate Blanco de Guarda Sauvignon Blanc.

Vinoteca

This relaxed, yet elegant restaurant is above the Abadía Retuerta wine cellar. Spanish menu of lo-



NH Cáceres.



Abadía Retuerta.

cal and regional recipes, tapas and small plates with international influences too.

**Abadia-Retuerta.com/
Restaurantes/****Cordoba
STAY:****Hotel NH Collection Amistad
Córdoba**

Hotel NH Collection Amistad Córdoba is in the historic centre, close to the ancient city walls, and the remarkable Mosque-Cathedral. Luckily, there's also an underground carpark, so it's a good stop for a road trip.

There are two outdoor pools – one for kids, the other for adults. There's a gym too. Guest rooms keep to the simple, modern style typical of NH Collection.

The property retains the historic courtyards of the original 18th-century palaces that make up the modern hotel.

NH-Collection.com**EAT:****Restaurant Noor**

Chef Paco Morales has captured the flavours and aromas of Córdoba's Al-Andalus past in his Michelin-star restaurant. Though a 15-minute taxi ride from the centre, it's well worth a visit for a unique interpretation of ancient recipes. Re-opens in September.

NoorRestaurant.es**Jugo Vinos Vivos**

For an evening aperitif, try this independent wine store offering a collection of natural wines, which you can enjoy with small tapas. Re-opens in September.

**Search Quiero Jugo Vino on
Facebook**

NH Collection Amistad Córdoba.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Naturally-sourced fun

This coastal city may look very ordinary, but every July something very extraordinary happens here. A very messy festival has just taken place, allowing visitors to combine endless enjoyment with an excellent skin treatment. Of all the festivals in this country, this one attracts the largest number of international visitors who flock to this city to experience the benefits of its natural minerals, Germanium and Bentonite, while having a blast at the multitude of organised activities. The festival began in 1998 and was established because of the

city's need to promote its local mineral-based cosmetic products, which supposedly "improve skin vitality and elasticity and support a young, fresh-looking complexion", according to organisers.



The 10-day event takes place on and around the area's white sand beach and mud flats, occurring over 'joongbok', supposedly the country's hottest day of the year. If you know where this is, you could win a prize. Please send the name of this city and that of the 10-day festival to english@diariosur.es. Only entries with your full name, address and telephone number will be considered. Last month's photo showed the city of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia where the Naadam festival took place this month. The infamous warrior emperor we asked you for was, of course, Genghis Khan. Congratulations to Malcolm Arthur in Mijas who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

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Mesmerising Malta

Ash Bolton spends four days exploring ancient temples, quaint cities and breathtaking landscapes around the colourful Maltese islands



Arriving in Gozo, the second largest island of the Maltese archipelago, by boat. :: SUR

Flying into Malta from Malaga early on a Friday morning, I wasn't quite sure what to expect from this former British colony.

After checking into a hotel in Valletta and having a wander around, my first impressions were that the islands are steeped in history.

Valletta is officially Europe's smallest capital, but despite its small size, it punches above its weight in the tourism department. Built in the 16th century, it was the first planned city in Europe, and is peppered with picture postcard streets filled with 320 monuments of interest.

Among this treasure trove you'll find St John's Co-Cathedral, arguably one of the most beautifully decorated churches in Europe. Other notable buildings include one of the oldest working theatres in Europe, the Manoel Theatre, built by the Knights of St John.

I was most impressed by the Upper and Lower Barrakka Gardens though. Built in 1661, they host a collection of impressive statues and exotic plants, while offering stunning views of the Grand Harbour.

While meandering through the capital I stopped in Caffè Cordina, a popular haunt for locals and tourists alike. And if looking for a place to dine, I'd certainly return to Noni restaurant, a cosy little eatery that serves traditional Maltese food and wine.

I also inadvertently stumbled upon "The Pub" one evening, which turned out to be the infamous watering hole where the actor Oliver Reed died in 1999, following a heavy drinking session during the making of the film *Gladiator*.

Film fans may be interested to know that over 200 movies have been shot here in the last 80 years. These include *The Da Vinci Code*,

ASH BOLTON

✉ ashbolton@hotmail.com



World War Z, *Assassin's Creed*, the *Count of Monte Cristo* and the series *Game of Thrones*.

I also found quite a few nods to the island's British heritage, such as the red phone boxes and post boxes and traffic driving on the left-hand-side of the road.

The Brits reading this might find it interesting that there is a villa in Valletta that is the only place outside the UK that Queen Elizabeth II has ever called home. She lived

there from 1949 to 1951 in the early years of her marriage to Prince Philip, who was stationed in Malta as a naval officer.

Gozo

One morning I took a ferry to the island of Gozo, the second largest island of the Maltese archipelago, which is sometimes referred to as the island where time stood still.

A great spot to take a photo is the Mixta Cave, which overlooks the breathtaking Ramla Bay.

By far my favourite stop though was a tour of the Inland Sea. For just four euros you can travel through a narrow, dark cave by boat, before emerging into the daylight in the Mediterranean Sea.

I also enjoyed a visit to the Citadel, an ancient fortified city at the

centre of Gozo, which boasts impressive *Game of Thrones*-style fortifications.

Inside this walled city, there is a quirky restaurant called Ta' Rikardu, where the owner serves his own cheese and wine from his farm. I ordered a lamb cooked in Rikardu's wine with potatoes, which was so good I could have eaten it twice.

On the way back to Malta, I caught a smaller boat for around 10 euros, which detoured to the infamous Blue Lagoon, just off the tiny island of Comino.

One of the biggest attractions on the Maltese islands, it is a giant natural swimming pool, boasting shallow turquoise water that is hard to resist dipping into. Get there early though, as when I arrived at 4pm it was heaving with people.

Now I'm not sure if you're a temple fan, but there is an abundance of megalithic temples in Malta, including the oldest freestanding structures on the planet. I somehow managed to visit three: the Ggantija Temples, the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. Some of these temples are older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids, to put it into perspective. But if you've only got time for one, I'd opt for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.

Located in Paola underneath a modern street, this enormous underground pre-historical burial site was discovered by accident in 1902 and is more than 5,000 years old.

Mdina

Mdina was Malta's first capital and also a colony of Rome. It's medieval and baroque architecture, fortified walls and strategic location on high grounds make it one of the most enchanting places on the island.

It is also known as the Silent City, as only around 297 people live within the walls. In addition, businesses have strict noise restrictions and vehicles are also strictly limited.

The Second World War

A little known fact about Malta is that it was the most bombed country in the world during the Second World War.

A church where you can see this first hand is the Mosta Dome, where on 9 April 1942, a German bomb pierced the dome, ricocheted and fell to the floor without going off - while 250 locals stood open-mouthed watching.

Hailed as a miracle, the bomb is still on display inside the church. While outside, you can explore a free underground air raid shelter.

In truth, four days is not enough time to explore all that Malta has to offer, but there is something for everyone here that will make it a memorable holiday.

DIRECTORY

► **Hotel.** I spent three nights in The Coleridge Hotel. A boutique townhouse hotel in the heart of the capital, dating back to the early 1600s. My room featured gorgeous antique furniture, a separate lounge and ensuite bathroom, as well as a private balcony overlooking the street below.

89-92 Old Bakery Street, Valletta.
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contactus@thecoleridgehotel.com

► **Flights.** I flew to Malta from Malaga with Air Malta, which runs several flights a week from as little as 29 euros one way. Business Class is also an option. For more information visit www.airmalta.com.



The Lower Barrakka Gardens in Valletta. :: SUR

DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

The elegant sword lily

Nodding star-shaped flowers on elegant stems that will brighten the garden from mid-summer until the autumn

Gladiolus callianthus murielae, synonym *Acidanthera* or *Gladiolus murielae*, is a stunning member of the iris family (Iridaceae). It is a sun-loving native of East Africa and is ideal for planting in borders and containers.

Common names include sword lily, peacock orchid and Abyssinian gladiolus. It grows from a small

corm, similar in appearance to mont-bretia corms, with a fibrous outer coat. The leaves are similar to gladiolus, long and tapering,

hence the common name sword lily. The synonym *Acidanthera* comes from the Greek 'akis' meaning 'sharp point'.

Each stem will bear multiple (8 to 12) fragrant, white, star-shaped blooms, each about 5cm across and with dark purple blotches on the throat. The flowers are long lasting and when cut and brought indoors their beautiful scent will fill a room.

Although the sword lily is not entirely frost hardy and will need to be lifted and stored during the winter in colder parts of the province, it will withstand high temperatures, full sun and some drought. It needs a free-draining soil and protection from strong winds which may flatten the 80cm tall flowering stems, and of course, regular watering through the hottest months will encourage more flowers. Sword lilies are always late to come up in the spring and patience is needed before the first green leaves appear. Once growth has started, a regular feed with a liquid fertiliser will help promote lots of flowers.

The corms should be planted in groups in spring, around 10-16cm deep depending on the size of the corm. After two to three years the clump may become congested and flowering reduced, in which case it is best to lift and divide in the late autumn when the plant is dormant. This is also an opportunity to remove any tiny corms that have formed. These can be potted up (around 12 to a 30cm pot) and brought on to provide new plants. After flowering they do sometimes produce seed but it may take several years for the corms to mature enough to flower.



Gladiolus callianthus and, inset, a close-up. :: FLCKR

READERS' PHOTOS



:: MARIA HILLEN

A POTTED STRAWBERRY

Reader Maria Hillen has sent in this photo of a strawberry plant growing out of an attractive terracotta strawberry pot on her patio.

A 'SPLIT SECOND DOUBLE'

Ipomoea 'Split Second Double' is a bit different than the traditional Morning Glory and has these fantastic, frilly flowers. The specimen in the photo was grown from seed by SUR reader Rosalind Caplan who says, "I've trained it up the wisteria, it's such a pretty flower and hopefully will seed itself."



:: ROSALIND CAPLAN

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 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English))

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Shining a light on young unsung heroes

Under the banner of The Young Heroes' Award, the project will focus on children that do selfless acts

The public will be asked to nominate children up to the age of 14 that work as a force for good in their local community

BY TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. A new initiative has been launched on the Costa del Sol to find young unsung heroes that have committed acts of incredible courage, or who have performed charitable acts in order to help others. Under the banner of The Young Heroes' Award, the public will be asked to nominate children up to the age of 14 that have improved the lives of people around them by working as a force for good in their local community.

The new enterprise is based on the Pride of Britain Awards, a campaign that rewards individuals for battling against the odds to help others, or those who put themselves at risk to assist other people.

The Young Heroes' Award was the idea of Pauline Hulme, musical director of the local amateur theatre group A Touch of Class. The former professional dancer and choreographer from Liverpool came to live on the coast in 2012 and has since worked tire-



Pauline Hulme, the brains behind The Young Heroes' Award. :: SUR

lessly to raise money for local charities and organisations. She had become concerned about the amount of bad publicity the younger generation were receiving and so she decided to try to prove that "not all youngsters are inconsiderate".

"I had seen so many bad things

The project is aimed at unsung heroes that never receive recognition for their selfless acts

about youngsters on the news and in the press, but I thought that there are a lot of good ones out there and I wanted to shine a light on them. The idea came about after I had been watching the Pride of Britain Awards, and I thought if they can do it in Britain we could do it here as well," Pauline told to SUR in English.

In order to get the project off the ground, Pauline approached Father Nigel Stimpson from St Andrew's Chaplaincy in Fuengirola and Father Juan of the San Miguel Church in Calahonda; both have promised their support. She also intends to secure the help of La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, an association that has been supportive of previous charitable projects in which Pauline has been involved. She is also appealing for the support of, and donations from, other local organisations, as well as the help of the public in choosing suitable candidates for consideration.

The project will be limited to a maximum of 25 nominees and people can suggest children of any nationality. There will be a prize for one foreign and one Spanish 'unsung hero', although Pauline hopes to be able to offer a small gift for all children that are nominated. She is currently looking for a star celebrity guest to present the awards at a special gala that will be held in the San Miguel Church in Calahonda on Saturday 19 October. The winners, who will be "celebrities for a day", will receive a commemorative trophy, a monetary prize and a selection of cinema tickets and passes to local attraction parks.

"I hope this is successful because it's something that is very close to my heart and I want it to become an annual event. There must be many young children who do wonderful things that never get recognised, so it will be nice to give recognition to those who genuinely deserve it. If children do a completely selfless act for somebody else, it needs to be highlighted," Pauline said.

Nominations for the Young Heroes' Award can be made on young-heroesofcalahonda@gmail.com

For more information, call Pauline on 633405884

SOCIETY SCENE

La Cala Lions donate 3,035 euros to local development centre

MIJAS

Before their summer break, the Lions Club La Cala de Mijas visited the Encina Laura centre in Alhaurín de la Torre. The aim of the Encina Laura centre is to help the social integration of adults with intellectual disabilities and to assist in their personal development.

The Lions have been supporting Encina Laura for over 12 years and currently one of the Lions club members, Julie Barry, has been teaching them tap dancing.

At the end of the visit, which included a tap dancing performance by the students, the Lions presented a cheque for 3,035 euros to the president of the association. The money will help towards ballet classes and to purchase computer equipment.



Cheque presentation. :: SUR

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REF. E. P. O.

Last month I was with my family spending two weeks' holiday in a three-star hotel in Fuengirola. The hotel was fine, the facilities were adequate and in good condition, and the location was excellent, as it was quite close to the beach. However the rooms did not have WiFi and there was only

internet connection in the common areas of the hotel. We have two teenage children who spend the day connected to their social networks, and in the hotel there was only a WiFi connection in the lobby. At the hotel we were told that they were not obliged to provide this service in the rooms. Is that true? If we had known, we might have opted for another hotel.

Each autonomous community establishes its own regulations regarding the services that hotels are obliged to offer their guests and although there are usually more or less general rules for everyone, it is true that there are differences depending on the autonomous community in which you are. In the case of Andalucía, offering WiFi service in rooms is only mandatory in hotels of four stars or more, so the hotel employee was right when he told you that they were not obliged to offer this service.

REF. Q. C. A.

I was shopping in a supermarket and I slipped up on some grapes on the floor. I felt no pain at the time but after a couple of hours my wrist swelled so I went to the hospital. I have filed a complaint with the supermarket, but they refuse to compensate me because they say that I could have dropped the grapes myself and therefore they have no responsibility. Is that so? Absolutely not. The Civil Code establishes that the one who, by action or omission, causes damage to another, by fault or negligence, is obliged to repair the damage caused. In this case, the supermarket did not act with due diligence, taking care not to cause accidents by placing obstacles or by not maintaining its facilities in good condition. Therefore, with the injury report, it would be possible to demand payment of compensation.

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EXHIBITIONS

Rooted in Gibraltar

Gibraltar. From 30 July. John Mackintosh Hall.

Tamara Shaw opens her exhibition in Gibraltar. The abstract realism exhibition features large canvas pieces, oil paintings and collage rope works, with sailing as the underlying theme.

Victorian Spain

Ronda. Until 31 August. El Museo Unicaja Joaquín Peinado.

'A vision of Victorian Spain' is the theme for this exhibition which consists of around 75 works by 20 British artists (including John Philip, Edwin Long, John Bagnold Burgess, John Haynes Williams, Robert Kemm and Edwin Roberts) who painted romantic landscapes of Spain in Victorian times.

Granada Mi Aire

Estepona. Until 31 August. Patio Top Garden Furniture, Carretera A7 163- Urb El Pirata.

Andalusian landscapes focusing on light and power.

El Pinto de los Toros

Estepona. Until 15 August. Casa de Las Tejerinas.

Exhibition of the work of Italian painter Roberto Montanari. His work is characterised by Spanish landscapes, and more specifically Andalusia, with a great passion for bulls.

Francisco Benzal

Estepona. Until 29 August. Casa de



Luis Seoane, Marbella



Montanari, Estepona.

Las Tejerinas. Tues-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 10am-2pm, 3pm-7.30pm. Free entry.

An exhibition of Estepona-born Francisco Benzal's artwork. 20 works of art will be featured.

L-Atitude

Marbella. El Soto de Marbella Restaurant/Clubhouse and Palm Beach, Ban Thai Marbella, C/Gregorio Marañón.

A diverse art showcase put together by 'Uncooked Culture', a global artists' community with over 100 artists residing in 15 different countries. The exhibition also brings together local artists on the Costa del Sol. Some of the artists are self-taught, others trained artists in the mainstream contemporary art sphere. Curated by Thai-British artist-founder of 'Uncooked Culture' - Chutima Kerdpitak (Nok).

Museo Ralli

Marbella. Until 22 May, 2021. Urbanisation Coral beach, N340, km176. Free entry.

The current exhibition consists of a selection of works by Argentinian artist Luis Seoane.

Antoni Tàpies

Mijas. Until 29 July. Casa Museo de Mijas.

An exhibition of Antoni Tàpies' graphic artwork. It features 25 original pieces, with the exhibition displayed thematically.

Happy Artists

La Cala de Mijas. Until end of July. BocArte Restaurant, C/Cómpeta. Jane Gomis and Astrid Frida Zehetner from the Happy Artists group are exhibiting a collection of paintings.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Lunar Landings

Mijas Pueblo. Until 30 September. Mijas tourist office.

An exhibition to commemorate the landing on the moon in 1969.

Ernst Kraft

Malaga. Botanical gardens 'La Concepción'.

A sculpture 'The Tree of Life' by Ernst Kraft will be on permanent display in the gardens on the lawns next to the pond. The minimalist structure of iron rods is five metres tall and is based on the pre-pharaonic pictogram representing the union of heaven and the underworld.



Picasso museum, Malaga.

The Russian museum

Malaga. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

The annual exhibition is entitled 'Santas, reinas y obreras. La imagen de la mujer en el arte ruso' and the temporary exhibitions 'Modernas y decisivas. Artistas rusas entre tradición y vanguardia' which takes a look at the rapid modernisation of Russian society at the beginning of the 20th century and its consequences in society. There is also the 'Colección Krystyna Gmurzynska'. 'La Mirada Lateral' by Emmanuel Lafonte on the staircase to the exhibition rooms will be on display until February 2020.

Photo exhibition

Malaga. Until 8 September. Museo Ruso Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

'Intrinsic Journey' is a photographic exhibition by Dmitry Lookianov.

The Russian museum

Malaga. Until 8 September. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

'Colección Gmurzynska' is a collection of the work of Polish-born artist Antonina Gmurzynska who showed a profound interest in Russian art of the early 20th century.

Revello de Toro

Malaga. C/Afligidos, 5.

A dozen pencil drawings by Félix Revello de Toro will be on display in a seasonal exhibition in the museum.

Centre Pompidou

Malaga. Permanent Exhibition.

'Utopías Modernas' is an exhibition reflecting the historical events that have defined our time and fed the imagination of modern and contemporary artists.

Fundación Unicaja

Malaga. Until 29 August. Sociedad Económica

Amigos del País.

The exhibition is called 'Tesoros Ocultos. Una muestra de la colección de Francisco Martín Sáenz e Hijos' and is a collection of 28 distinct pieces by artists such as Denis Belgrano and Enrique Simonet, among others.

Bruce Nauman

Malaga. Until 1 September. Museo Picasso Málaga.

Rooms, Bodies, Words is the title of the exhibition of around 100 works by contemporary artist and sculptor Bruce Nauman

Centre Pompidou

Malaga. Until 15 September.

¡Con Ojo! is an interactive installation for children.

Les Chant des Morts

Malaga. Until 13 October. Casa Natal de Picasso.

The exhibition consists of works

created by Picasso to illustrate Le Chant des Morts by Pierre Reverdy.

Max Ernst Historia Natural

Malaga. Until 13 October. Carmen Thyssen Museum. Free with ticket to visit the museum.

An exhibition of 34 works by surrealist painter Max Ernst.



Bruce Nauman, MPM

Carmen Thyssen Museum

Malaga. Until 8 September.

'Perversidad. Mujeres fatales en el arte moderno' features women artists who invaded spaces that were previously out of bounds to them or restricted.

Henry Moore

Malaga. Until 28 September. Museo Jorge Rando.

'Stonehenge' is the title of a series of 15 engravings that make up this exhibition by the famous artist and sculptor Henry Moore between 1971 and 1973.

Anima Roos

Malaga. Until 28 July. Alfajar, C/Cister.

Congolese artist (Zaire 1956) Anima Roos trained at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, Belgium and attended Masterclasses with David Leach. www.alfajar.es

Banksy The Art of Protest

Malaga. Until 15 September. La Térmica.

The exhibition is La Térmica's most ambitious to date and includes iconic series such as the portrait of Kate Moss in the style of Warhol's Marilyn, The Bulldog and serigraph of the series Girl with Balloon.

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EXHIBITIONS

Lego exhibition

Malaga. Until 22 September. Muelle Uno, Malaga Port. The biggest exhibition of Lego models in Europe, including an 11-metre-long replica of the Titanic, characters from Lord Of The Rings, the Statue of Liberty, Sydney Opera House etc.



Lego Models, Malaga

Museo de Nerja

Nerja. Until 25 August. Plaza de España. Artistic group Visuel brings together 10 of their contemporary artists for their exhibition 'Underground', where all of the artists work in Triptych format.

Galería Luz de la Vida

Cómpeta. Until 30 August. The exhibition includes art works by Leanda Jaine, Sandra Costello, Nanon Morsink, Lieuwke Loth and Bo Arenander. www.galerialuzde-lavida.com

Mi Tierra

La Herradura. Until 30 September, 9am-3pm. Mercado Municipal. An exhibition of around 50 photographs taken by five photographers from the Almuñécar Foto Club.

Ceramic - 1719

Rincón de la Victoria. Until 2 August. La Sala Mare Nostrum de La Cala del Moral. A ceramic exhibition, with work by Escuela de Arte San Telmo students.

CHARITY

Horizonte Marbella market

Marbella. 4 August, 6 October, 1 December from 10am. Parque de la Alameda. Clothing, toys and electronics, home decor, jewellery and books etc. New and second-hand. Funds go towards helping improve the lives of vulnerable people whether suffering from emotional problems or with substance addiction.

Animals In Distress auctions

Alhaurín el Grande. 13 September, 11 October viewing from 6pm. Peña Asfahal. 15 per cent commission from each sale goes to AID. Sellers need to advise AID (Joe: 626942427) at least 3-4 weeks before the auction and bring the items for logging in between 5 and 6pm. www.animals-in-distress.eu/

MUSIC & DANCE

European Medical Students concert for Cudeca

Malaga. 26 July, 7pm. ETS Ingeniera de Telecomunicación, Bulevar Louis Pasteur. A concert by the European Medical Students Orchestra and Choir in aid of Cudeca Cancer Hospice. Tickets: www.ticketea.es

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free. 26 July. Daphne and Nicky. Vocals and guitar jazz and bossa nova. 2 August. Dana and Gianni. International songs, jazz fusion and blues. 9 August. Iris Nieto. Oboe and acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop music. 30 August Rosa Ruiz & Foky.

Live opera at the English Cemetery

Malaga. Cementario Inglés, Av de Pries. 15€. 20 July, 8.30pm. A live adaptation of Mozart's opera Don Giovanni. 26 July, 8.30pm. A live adaptation of Mozart's opera Don Giovanni.



Evaristo Guerra, Rincón de la Victoria.

Evaristo Guerra's 'colours with soul'

EUGENIO CABEZAS

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.

The Vélez-Málaga artist Evaristo Guerra is displaying around thirty of his recent works in the Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana in Rincón de Victoria.

It is twenty years since his last exhibition here in 1999. He has dedicated the exhibition to his great friend, the SUR poet

and writer, Manuel Alcántara who passed away last April.

The subject of the oils, drawings, prints and serigraphs are the countryside of his 'beloved' Axarquía in which the colour and natural landscapes are represented in the artists inimitable style.

The exhibition is open until 30 August.

Tickets: www.cementerioingles-malaga.escenaonline.es

Bollywood Pool Party

Mijas. 27 July, 3-8pm. Max Beach. Live entertainment with Saeed on the sitar and violinist La Maya accompanied by Indian dancers.

The Ocean Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci, C/Pacífico, 11pm, entry free. 27 July. Chema and Dani Harp. Guitar and harmonica. Blues, rock and roll, American folk music. e Festival celebrates 28 years this year with performances from 'Guadalupe Platas' on the 1

August and 'Los Planetas' on 2 August.

Musical Marbella

Marbella. From 27 July until end of August. La Cañada shopping centre. From 25€. Gastronomy, a market, various activities and a series of concerts which starts with Ozuna tomorrow, 27 July. Tickets www.ciclomusical-lc.com

Escollera Fest

Estepona. Until 27 July. Playa de La Escollera. 'Maldito Blues' Dennis Mansfeld (26 July) and the XIX Noche Reg-

gae, 'Tribute to Bob Marley' with Leroy Onestone, Wise House Crew and Mlakayou (27 July).

Los Álamos Beach Festival

Estepona. 31 July until 4 August. Parque Ferial y Deportivo. Over 50 international musicians will be taking part in this annual urban and electronic music festival including Oliver Heldens, Sunney James & Ryan Marciano, Karol G. Fangoria, Juanito Makandé and more.

Tribute Concerts

San Roque. Admiral Casino. Doors open 9pm. 3 August. Rod Stewart and Queen-tributes. 17 August. Madonna, Kylie Minogue and Robbie Williams tributes.

Jazz Concerts

Vélez-Málaga. Until 31 July, 8.30pm. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. 31 July. Pedro Cortijosa (saxophonist and flautist).

Louie Louie Bar

Estepona. Av. Luis Braille, The marina. 26 July, 11.30pm. Ramen. 5€. 31 July, 11.30pm. Forró Mior and Jabu. 10€ in advance, 13€ on door.

Starlite Festival

Marbella. Until 24 August. Cantera Nagüeles. 27 July. Rafael presents his new album RESinphónico. 28 July. Ben Harper accompanied by the Innocent Criminals. 29 July. Taburete pop music. 30 July. Melendi. Rumba pop. 31 July/19 August. Pablo López. 1 August. Don Omar, king of Reggaeton. 2 August. Bertin Osbourne (ranchera) and Pitingo (flamenco) double bill. 3 August. Luis Fonsi. Latin rhythms. 5 August. James Rhodes and Katie Melua double bill.

Benaha Blues

Benahavís. 27 July. Parque Torre Leoneras. Free.

www.laresidenciatarifa.com

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ECO FRIENDLY

A festival of blues and soul with the Vanesa Harbeck band, Manuela and Groove Machine.

Cologne Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra

Sotogrande. 28 July, 9pm. *Espacio Cultural Osvaldo Lobalzo.* The orchestra will play pieces by Telemann, Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi and Paganini. Tickets from the centre or: reservas@musicaconencanto.org or call: 689000944. www.musicaconencanto.org



West Side Story, Malaga

Rob Sas

Estepona. 27 July, 11.45pm. *Louie Louie, Estepona Port.* The Rob Sas band performs classic rock songs from a wealth of artists such as Free, Whitesnake, Deep Purple, Jimi Hendrix, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and many more. www.therobsasband.com

Jazz Mondays

Torre del Mar. *Paseo Marítimo.* 10pm. 29 July. The Blue Stompers Jump Review.

Jazz Wednesdays

Vélez-Málaga. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.* 8.30pm. 31 July. Pedro Cortejosa Trío.

Cueva de Nerja Festival

Nerja. *Until 3 August. Nerja Cave Gardens.* 26 July. Rocío Molina. 27 July. Concerto Malaga. 1 August. Forever King of Pop. 2 August. Cepeda. 3 August. Carlos Riviera. In the Caves.

West Side Story

Malaga. *Until 4 August, 8.30pm. Teatro Cervantes.* The classic Broadway production of West Side Story in Spanish. www.westsidestory.es Tickets www.unientradas.es

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. *Castillo de Gibralfaro.* 31 July, 10pm. The orchestra will play Mendelssohn's Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage and Dvorak's Symphony n° 9 in E minor. Conductor: Arturo Bosovich. Tickets: www.mientrada.net 31 July, 10pm. The orchestra will play pieces by Dvorak and Mendelssohn conducted by Arturo Diez Bosovich

A chance to listen to jazz under the stars in Nerja

JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. The fifth year of the music festival Nerja Ciudad Abierta, Music In Other Spaces, which is now known as '3 En El Paraíso,' will be taking place on 2 and 14 August and 4 September at the Hotel Paraíso del Mar on Calle Prolongación Hernando de Carabeo 22.

The festival, which is being organised by Ventana Abierta, is a good opportunity to discover one of Nerja's hidden spaces while listening to music outdoors.

On 2 August the Miguel Rodríguez Trio and Enrique Oliver will be performing, followed by The Félix Rossy Quintet on 14 August and the Eva Jiménez Quartet on 4 September.

Singer and pianist Eva Jiménez completed her musical training at the University of Arts in Philadelphia before performing across Europe. She will be joined by Louis Rene Portellano on the piano, Adrián Jiménez on the drums and Markus Schneider, who has lived in Malaga since 2004, on the double bass. The Félix



The Félix Rossy Quintet will perform on 14 August. :: TICKETEA

lix Rossy Quintet is headed by Barcelona-born Rossy on the trumpet.

Miguel Rodríguez was born in Madrid but went to the Netherlands to complete his studies. He has been described as "an extraordinary pianist," and is joined by Javier Calle on the double bass and Miguel Benito on drums.

Each concert will start at 10pm at the Hotel Paraíso del Mar.

Tickets cost 15 euros and can be purchased in advance from Calle Dr Ferrán 1 (Edificio Vélez-Málaga, Nerja), by phone (690 073 871), by email (ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com) or online (www.ventana-abierta.es).



MOVIE LISTING

From Friday 26th of July to Thursday 1st of August



From Friday 26th to Wednesday 31st: 15:45, 18:05, 22:45
Thursday 1st: 15:30, 22:45



From Friday 26th to Tuesday 30th: 15:30, 17:50
Wednesday 31st: 17:50, 22:45
Thursday 1st: 20:10



From Friday 26th to Tuesday 30th: 20:30, 22:45
Wednesday 31st and Thursday 1st: 20:30

Programming and schedules subject to last minute changes due to unforeseen causes

Julio Iglesias s/n, Marbella, Port Banus - 951 19 66 66



Thursday 1st: 15:30, 17:45, 20:15, 22:30



From Friday 26th to Wednesday 31st: 15:45, 18:10, 20:30, 22:45
Thursday 1st: 15:30, 18:15



From Friday 26th to Tuesday 30th: 22:45



From Friday 26th to Wednesday 31st: 15:45



From Friday 26th to Wednesday 31st: 18:05



From Friday 26th to Wednesday 31st: 15:45, 18:15

ORIGINAL VERSION
SUBTITLED SPANISH

MUSIC & DANCE

The Castillo de Gibralfaro recitals

Malaga. Castillo de Gibralfaro. 10pm. Tickets www.mientrada.net

26 July. Roko and the Insostenible Big Band 'American Latin Rhythms' with a tribute to Xavier Cugat.

27 July. 'Cantadme Galanica' songs of the Sephardic jews.

Festival Terral

Malaga. 7 August, 8.30pm. Teatro Cervantes.

The skilled Yamato drummers from Japan will be performing.

The Jacksons

Marbella. 8 August, midnight.

Club de Tenis Puente Romano. Jermaine, Tito, Jackie and Marion Jackson will be performing all their classic hits from the 60s on the fiftieth anniversary of The Jackson Five. Tickets from 60€: www.wegow.com

Jennifer López

Fuengirola. 8 August, 10pm. Marenostrum, Castillo Solhail.

The queen of Latin pop and urban music Jennifer López will be performing at the Marenostrum festival held at Castillo Solhail in Fuengirola. Tickets are on sale now from www.masterentradas.com and www.marenostrumfuengirola.com



Jennifer Lopez, Fuengirola.

Tony Hadley

Marbella. 19 August, 8pm. Club de Tenis Puente Romano.

Tony Hadley will be in concert with his new group performing hits from the height of Spandau Ballet's fame when he was the lead singer.

A rising star of classical and Spanish guitar

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The Casa de las Navajas will present a night of classical and Spanish guitar music today, Friday 26 July.

The concert will be performed by guitarist and composer Pablo Alcázar, a young musician from Nerja who has received much acclaim both in Spain and in the UK.

The concert will promote the award-winning musician's latest release, *Mediterraneo*, a work that the composer claims focuses on "the things that leave a mark on one's life".

Born into a family with a long musical tradition, Alcázar began his musical studies at the age of eight when he enrolled in the Escuela Municipal de Nerja, continuing his musical education at conservatories in Torre del Mar and Granada. He now composes modern music for the classical guitar and his repertoire ranges from classical and romantic to flamenco.

Organised by Torremolinos town hall, the show will start at 9.30pm and will include



Pablo Alcázar in concert. :: SUR

classics of the Spanish guitar, as well as a series of six themed pieces from his new album.

Entrance is free, although early arrival is advised as the venue has limited seating.

Tickets from 45€: www.wegow.com

Gibraltar Calling

Gibraltar. 7 September.

Enrique Iglesias will be headlining the programme of concerts planned for the Gibraltar Calling Festival. Tickets and information: www.gibraltarcalling.com.

FLAMENCO**Terral Samaruco Flamenco**

Malaga. 9.30pm

26 July. Bailen-Miraflores. Bulevar José Iturbi.

27 July. Puerto de La Torre. Parque Virgen de las Cañas.

Sombras

Estepona 10 August, 10.15pm.

Plaza de Toros. Flamenco performance by Sara Barras.

Flamenco al Compás

Mijas. 31 July, 9pm. Paseo del Compás. Free.

Universidad Popular de Mijas dance group.

Acompasao

Vélez-Málaga. 2, 9, 16 August, 10.30pm. Cerro de San Cristóbal. Rubem Dantas and his trio will be performing 2 August. La Negra and El Panky on 9 August and La Tremendita on 16 August. Free.

La Caña Flamenca

Costa Tropical. 27 July. Motril. Tomatito and José Mercé.

9 August. Parque El Majuelo, Almuñécar. Curro Albaicín.

10 August. Parque El Majuelo, Almuñécar. El Farruquito.

FESTIVALS**Fiesta de Santiago Apóstol**

Moclinejo. 26-28 July. El Valdés.

Festival in honour of Santiago Apóstol and Nuestra Señora de Lourdes. Live music, sardines, water shute, flamenco and firework display (midnight of 28th).

EVENTS**Coastal swim**

Torremolinos. 27 July, 10am.

A 7km swim from Playa La Carihuella to Playa de los Álamos, Malaga. The annual event is organised by the town hall and the firestation and around 250 swimmers are expected to take part.



Yamato drummers, Malaga

Wonder Gay Festival

Torremolinos. Until 28 July.

The gay-themed festival takes place in various venues including the Hotel Ritual today Friday where they are holding a pool party from 1pm until 7pm. On Saturday 27 July there is a Beach party at the Eden beach Bar from 1pm until 7pm and the Matrix Party at the Palladium night club 1am-7am.

Festival Arte Sano

Marbella. 27, 28 July. Playa La Salida, San Pedro de Alcántara.

A festival with stalls selling alternative medicines and natural therapies, healthy food and hand made crafts. A full programme of activities and workshops for both

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adults and children can be found at:
www.festivalartesano.com.

Jamaican Independence Day
Ahaurín El Grande. 3 August, from 8pm. Restaurant Los Arcos. Hosted by Malaga Soul n Reggae Revival there will be DJs playing old and new Jamaican reggae and food provided again this year by Mama's Spicy Jerk.

International Craft Fair
Puerto Banús. Until 31 August. Crafts and art etc from all over the world at this international fair.

Beach Wear Fashion Show



Trip to Gibraltar, Lux Mundi.

Marbella. 9 August, 12am-6pm. Nao Pool Club. An exhibition, shopping stands and fashion show of luxury designer beach wear (starting at 4pm) will be held at the Nao Pool Club.

Theatrical tours of the English Cemetery
Malaga. 9 August, 10-11pm. *Cementario Inglés, Av. de Pries, 1.* 10€. Actors will play the part of some of the most famous inhabitants of the cemetery including Robert Boyd.

Trip to Cáceres, Trujillo, Mérida and Guadalupe
Fuengirola. 14-17 October. Various departure points. 319 / 394€ Booking before 20 July. Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org/

Trip to Baeza, Úbeda and Cazorla
Fuengirola/Torre del Mar. 21-24 October. Various departure points. 309 / 339€ Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org/ or Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel: 952543334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Mijas welcomes the return of the Celtic Night festival

by T. BRYANT

MIJAS. The municipal auditorium in Mijas Pueblo will host the Celtic Night festival on Saturday 3 August. The event, which is organised by Big M Promotions and Mijas town hall, will return after a 12-year absence and will present live music and entertainment, along with a themed market and typical Celtic food and drink.

The term Celtic generally refers to the languages and respective traditions of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Galicia, Asturias and Brittany, and this festival will highlight the cultural and gastronomic customs of this widely diverse culture.

The festival will focus on modern and traditional Celtic music, with pipe and drum bands like The Surpipes Band and the Brisas de Asturias, along with local groups like The Stolen Gnomes and Dex's



Dex's Celtic Connections will perform at the festival in Mijas. by SUR

Celtic Connections, who will play covers of Scottish bands like The Proclaimers, Deacon Blue, Nazareth and The Sensational Alex Harvey Band.

The children from Banana Studios will start proceedings with traditional Welsh, Scottish and Irish song and dance, followed by a River Dance

show performed by the Celtic Dancers.

The event, which is free, will begin at 6pm with the Celtic market held in the upper square. The live music will begin in the auditorium at 9pm and continue until the early hours.

For more information, see www.costadeldisco.com

Trip to Gibraltar
Torre del Mar. 19 September, 17 October. Various departure points. 13€.

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

Trip to Almuñécar
Torre del Mar. 15 August. Various departure points. 13€ or 12€ with Friends of Lux Mundi card. Coach trip to see the procession of the Virgen de la Antigua followed by a firework display. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz
C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902

36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com
Genesis: 18.10.

Cinesur El Ingenio
Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
The Lion King: 12.25, 15.45, 16.40, 18.05, 19.10, 21.40
Toy Story 4: 18.10, 20.20
Spider Man, Far From Home: 18.40, 21.20
Midsommar: 19.10, 22.10

Cinesur Miramar
Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
The Lion King: 12.15, 16.15, 18.45, 21.15, 23.45
Yesterday: 12.10, 16.20.
Toy Story 4: 15.55 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
Spider Man Far From Home: 12.15, 15.50, 18.35, 21.20, 0.05.

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

Cold Pursuit: 15.45, 18.05, (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed), 15.30 (Thurs), 22.45 (every day).
Midsommar: 15.30, 17.50 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues), 17.50, 22.45 (Wed), 20.10 (Thurs).
The Lion King: 15.45, 18.10, 20.30, 22.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed), 15.30, 18.15 (Thurs).
Spider Man Far From Home: 15.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed).



The Jacksons, Marbella

Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw: 15.30, 17.45, 20.15, 22.30 (Thurs).
Annabelle: Comes Home: 22.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues).
Yesterday: 18.05 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed).
Toy Story 4: 15.45, 18.15 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor
Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Cold Pursuit: 15.50 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed), 20.40 (Tues).
Aladdin: 16.05 (Tues).
The Lion King: 12.15 (Sat, Sun), 20.00 (Tues), 16.45, 19.15, 21.45 (every day).
Booksmart: 13.20 (Sat, Sun), 20.20 (Tues).
Spider Man Far From Home: 21.05 (Tues).
Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw: 16.30, 19.15, 21.55 (Thurs).
Annabelle: Comes Home: 22.15 (Tues).
Yesterday: 18.45 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria. Calle Arroyo Totalán Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es
The Lion King: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.30 (Tues).
Toy Story 4: 16.30 (Tues).
Spider Man, Far From Home: 17.15 (Tues).
Midsommar: 18.50 (Tues).
Yesterday: 19.00 (Tues).
Cold Pursuit: 19.15 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es
The Lion King: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.30 (Tues).
Yesterday: 12.20 (Sat); 19.35 (Tues).
Toy Story 4: 17.55 (Tues).
Midsommar: 19.05 (Tues).
Cold Pursuit: 20.15 (Tues).

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There are few topics that set social media alight more than those involving cruelty to animals.

It is pointless arguing about what is acceptable and what is unacceptable on the Web, but if you are pictured mistreating a grasshopper, the heavens may fall on you.

Pigs are regular targets, and when a kind Dutch lady saved a pig from a slaughterhouse and took it home, it lived as a pet for two years. Moving to new accommodation there was no room for piggy, so the only option was to give it to a friend who seemed to like it.

To safeguard piggy's future the owner and owner-to-be

ANDREW J. LINN

PIGGY TALES



signed an agreement in which piggy was guaranteed a dignified death that would not involve slaughterhouses.

But necessity overrode legal niceties, and within days of sign-

ing, the new owner had transformed piggy into an impressive pile of meat and patés. A judge ruled there was clear evidence of breach of contract and fined the culprit 500 euros.

Pigs seldom come out well if the choice is keeping them or eating them, and human greed usually overcomes animal welfare considerations.

When firemen from Pewsey (Wiltshire, UK) fire station put out a farm fire and saved two sows and 18 piglets, everyone was happy – temporarily.

Six months after the incident the farmer arrived at the fire station weighed down with bags of sausages.

No problem there, since, as

they say, every pig has its day, but when the appreciative firemen posted pictures of the ensuing barbecue on social media, the twitter storm caused them to remove all the evidence.

But there is humanity in unexpected quarters. Gerard Zwensloo, a Dutch butcher, never kills pigs without taking them for a last walk on the beach, although he warns against the cardinal sin of becoming too attached to them.

"If I give them a name I am lost" he says. Proof of this statement can be seen by visitors to his shop, where a pardoned victim in the making has the run of the place. His name is Willy and his appetite is famous.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Capuchina Vieja Petit Verdot

This is unquestionably one of the best wines produced in Malaga province, in a winery near Antequera where the owner is the winemaker. The bodega is in an old monastery, hence the name. Only 10,000 litres of red wine are produced annually, and this superb red, aged for 12 months in oak, is well worth the 13 euros.



From simple fruit salad to tutti frutti

Fruit salad may now seem like a basic dessert but it hides an illustrious past

ANNA VEGA PÉREZ DE ARLUCEA

MALAGA. The official change of name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is very recent (February 2019) and is nothing more than the latest twist in a long and confusing history of the word Macedonia or Macedonian. Over centuries it has evolved to mean 'coming from a historical region in the north of Greece'. It is also the name of a certain type of parsley (*Athamanta macedonica*), mixed chopped vegetables (usually in a jar or frozen) and a humble fruit salad, so well known and so common that it is has been consigned to the bottom line on the menu of the day.

It is true that there is no mystery in the way that fruit salad is made, but its origins have intimate and even aristocratic roots. In 18th century France the concept of 'macédoine' arose to refer to a mixture of different things or to the assembly of different pieces within the same work. There were literary, musical and culinary Macedonias, all named in honour of the plurality of ethnicities, religions and cultures that housed the Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great, which in 323 BC stretched from Pella (Macedonia) to Punjab (India). Gastronomic Macedonia originally referred to a combination of dif-



Still life Fruit with Champagne by Severin Roesen. :: SUR

ferent vegetables cut into cubes and sautéed in butter, described for the first time in the book 'Le Cuisinier Gascon', a recipe book published in 1740 by the aristocrat and amateur chef Luis Augusto de Borbón, prince of Dombes.

This mixture of boiled or fried vegetables, very popular as a garnish in the French cuisine of the nineteenth century, would gradually change into various fruit sal-

ads, magnificent compositions with cream, ice cream, alcohol or set in whimsical moulds with gelatine. María Mestayer Jacquet, alias the Marquesa de Parabere, in her 'History of Gastronomy' (1943), credited the invention of this dessert to François-Xavier Tortoni, an Italian ice-cream maker who made the Café Tortoni in Paris famous between 1804 and 1818. Different fruit salads (with citrus, plums,

winter fruits etc...) also appear in the first book by the 'Queen of Cooks' Marie-Antoine Carême: 'Le Pâtissier Royal Parisien' in 1815.

Whoever the creator was, these exquisite fruit salads became a staple of nineteenth-century cuisine and somewhat deconstructed or simplified, they continued throughout the following century. Emilia Pardo Bazán wrote in July 1910 that when the heat increases,

vegetarian food triumphs because "you look for freshness and light, as if instinct guides you to what reminds you most of the countryside and the greenery of meadows and trees". She believed that Spain was the country that best knew how to adapt cuisine to the temperature, and that is why in Spain in the summer gazpachos, salads and fruit reign. Or as she called them, 'tutti frutti'...

She mentions not one but two recipes of her own: pitted cherries; diced pears; grapes; banana slices; apricot pieces; pomegranate seeds; strawberries... any juicy fruit and in whatever quantities you like or need. Weigh the fruit and add half its weight in sugar. Put everything together in a salad bowl and leave it in the fridge for twenty-four hours.

"A lot of people do it differently, but I maintain that my recipe is the best. To add water to the juice is to silver gold. If you want to sublimate 'tutti frutti', the only thing you can add to it is a whole bottle of Champagne and a glass of good, aged cognac. And if you want to complicate it, season it with yellow Chartreuse or French anisette. If you have to stretch it, add soda water" states Pardo.

She also added a recipe she called 'Hesperides salad', a fruit salad with an exotic air based on sliced orange, sugar, pomegranate, banana and pineapple slices, "the juice from the pineapple, a good glass of rum, a sprinkling of cinnamon and then left to sit for eight or ten hours. With the garnet red of the pomegranate and the gold of the orange slices it resembles the colours of the Spanish flag".



DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Santa María Polo Club during the summer. :: SUR

QUICK GUIDE



Marina. Considered one of most luxurious tourist spots in Europe.

Sotogrande beach. Located next to the exclusive resort of the same name, characterised by its various aquatic activities.



Guadiaro estuary. Wetland located next to Sotogrande, which is protected as a natural park.

Almenara Golf. Course surrounded by pine trees and corn oaks.

Much more than sport

More than 65 artistic, cultural, gastronomic and musical activities await visitors at the White Summer festival this year, which will take place alongside the International Polo Tournament in Sotogrande

JAVIER ALMELLONES

SOTOGRADE

How to get there

About 1 hour 20 minutes from Malaga, via the A-7 (40 minutes from Marbella).



Live music acts and gastronomy are two of the new summer attractions in Sotogrande. This prestigious resort at the western end of the Costa del Sol, just inside in Cadiz province, is adding to its already glamorous reputation with what could become one of most important summer events in the country.

The new event, taking place by the famous polo fields of Santa María Polo Club, is known as White Summer Sotogrande. Including around 65 artistic, cultural, musical and culinary activities, it will coincide with the 48th International Polo Tournament.

From this weekend until 31 August, all of these activities have been programmed, in-

cluding musical performances from renowned artists such as Rosario Flores, Viva Suecia, Sofia Ellar or La Casa Azul, which will take place between 5 and 17 August.

Along with these groups and artists, other acts include Evil Rosebud, Renny Jackson, Cristina Len or Canela N'Drama, who will perform acoustic concerts during the last days of July and into August in the Santa Maria Polo Club.

The days and evenings in Sotogrande will also be brightened up with various shows when visitors can see circus, theatrical and comedy performances, among others.

White Summer Sotogrande will also have important culinary offerings, as over the next few weeks there will be more

than twenty foodtrucks, restaurants and concept bars that will have both national and international options. This entertainment, cultural and culinary extravaganza, which is the main addition to this year's International Polo Tournament, is a concept brought from the White Summer festival that has seen seven successful seasons on Catalonia's Costa Brava.

In addition to all this fun, do not forget that the polo event is already an excellent sporting attraction in its own right to enjoy the summer in Sotogrande, an area known not only for polo playing, but also golf and sailing. These can be practised around the estuary of the river Guadiaro next to the exclusive and luxurious homes,

restaurants and shops.

The International Polo Tournament, which has become one of the most important events for this sport, takes place every year in this enclave of the Campo de Gibraltar with almost 100,000 spectators.

Every summer, more than one hundred games of polo are played bringing together an average of 25 to 30 teams, a thousand horses and more than one hundred players, who are some of the best in the world.

In addition to this unique event, in Sotogrande and its municipality, San Roque, you can find other very interesting summer attractions.

As well as its golf courses, polo and marina, other points of interest await, such as the estuary of Guadiaro and the lagoon of Torreguadiaro, where you can see a variety of bird species. You can also tour the Finca La Alcaidesa, publicly owned and next to Sotogrande, where ecotourism activities await.

Not far from here you can walk through Pinar del Rey, a large forest that started out in the early 19th century when trees were planted to manufacture boats.



One of the operations to put the phonatory prosthesis in place at the Costa del Sol hospital. :: SUR

The Costa del Sol hospital can now implant prostheses to replace vocal chords

It is the second hospital in the province to use this technique, which enables cancer patients whose larynx has been removed to speak again

:: **ANDREA JIMÉNEZ**

MARBELLA. Patients whose larynx is removed will now be able to speak perfectly normally again, thanks to a new phonatory prosthesis. The Costa del Sol hospital has begun to perform these operations, and is only the second hospital in Malaga province to use the technique.

These operations are being carried out by the Marbella hospital's department, on patients whose larynx has been removed due to cancer. This type of surgery enables them to recover their voice.

The phonatory prosthesis is an instrument which is put in place during the operation to remove the larynx or immediately afterwards,

through a simple procedure. The result is a voice with a great ability to communicate, "quite similar to the natural tone, with no metallic effect, and it eliminates the social stigma which is suffered by many of the patients who have had this surgery," say sources at the hospital.

This new device, which is smaller and easy to manage, replaces the vocal chords and "it means the patients can lead a completely normal life, because the device enables them to speak," they say.

Although it is easy to use, this prosthesis requires discipline from the patients, with careful daily hygiene care as well as monitoring by the hospital. After a period of six to 12 months, depending on its condition, the device needs to be replaced but this does not involve surgery as it can be done easily as an out-patient.

So far, three patients have been fitted with a phonatory prosthesis at the Costa del Sol hospital, and they are attending sessions to learn how to use it and begin to speak. They are

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also taught how to look after the device.

Specialist training

Juan Miguel Palomeque, Emilia López and Francisco Muñoz, doctors at the Cervical Pathology and Oncology unit at the Costa del Sol, are applying this technique after receiving training from specialist Óscar Cazorla at the Virgen de la Victoria hospital in Malaga, which is a benchmark in Andalucía for this type of technique. Dr Cazorla has collaborated with these first operations and trained the team from the Costa del Sol hospital.

"When you operate on patients with cancer, there is a professional satisfaction in freeing them from their tumour but, as the months and years pass, you see how much their lives have become restricted. They have lost the ability to talk on

The operation has been performed on three patients at the Costa del Sol hospital, who are now being monitored

the phone, go out and hold a conversation with friends, or speak to people in their jobs... you have the feeling that you haven't completely finished your work," says Emilia López, one of the doctors in Marbella.

Motivation

The inclusion of this new technique was partly motivated by this doctor, who says she discovered how effective it was during a talk. "I went on

a course about this type of prosthesis and saw one of our patients, who had undergone surgery 32 years earlier, giving a talk on how he had completely recovered his life since they gave him the phonatory prosthesis. I realised that we need to provide all the resources possible so that our patients can recover their lives after surgery. It's exciting to see how, after several years, they can start to speak again just a week after being given the prosthesis," she says.

For his part, Dr Palomeque says that the oncology and cervical pathology unit at the hospital has worked hard on incorporating this technique "to give the patients the ability to communicate again and improve the quality of life in cases where they are not able to develop a correct esophageal or erigmophonic voice, or they want a more fluid and better quality voice," he explains.

Estepona town hall creates 'cardio-safe' zone in the historic centre with 17 new defibrillators

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. Estepona town hall has put out to tender a contract for 17 automated external defibrillators (DEAs) to be located in the El Carmen, La Lobilla, Santo Tomás de Aquino, Cancelada and San Fernando sports centres, the athletics stadium, the Fernando Muñoz Pérez stadium, the Padre Manuel cultural centre, the Puertosol building and the departments of Bienestar Social y Consumo. Two will also be given to the Civil Protection unit

and four to the Local Police.

The contract will run for two years at an estimated cost of over 56,000 euros and will include the maintenance of the apparatus as well as the spread of basic information on their use and reanimation techniques.

At the moment, there are 16 DEAs placed around the town, one of which was recently donated by a mother who lost her son as the result of a heart attack at the skate park. The town hall has not yet stated whether the 17 new DEAs will be in addition to or will replace the existing machines.

Meanwhile, the department for health of the Junta de Andalucía has declared the historic centre of Estepona as 'Zona Cardioasegurada' as it can now offer rapid and effective attention to anyone having a heart attack.

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"The health service in Malaga has always been badly treated"

Norberto González de Vega Cardiac surgeon

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"For many years I have been have been actively and passively arguing for a new hospital to be built on land by the Civil hospital and connected to the Materno Infantil"

MALAGA. At the age of 33 he developed a technique to operate on cardiac patients which is now used all round the world and bears his name. He is very pleased to have discovered this technique, because it helps so many people. Now aged 82, Norberto González de Vega no

longer performs surgery but he continues to study and keep up to date because, as he says, doctors who love their profession never stop being concerned about other people. For 25 years he was the head of the cardiovascular surgery department at the Carlos Haya hospital, as it was called then. A non-conformist with an enquiring mind, who does not hesitate to criticise those in power, Dr González de Vega says in this interview that "the public health service in Malaga has always been badly treated: under Franco, the UCD, PSOE and PP". This cardiac surgeon, who was born in Granada and trained as a doctor in Madrid, describes Malaga as "a marvellous place, many people are jealous of it".

-Why did you decide to give up surgery?

-One night four years ago, I went home after operating on a Swedish patient at the Clínica Santa Elena and realised that 50 years had passed

since I operated on my first patient, and I thought that would be a good time to stop. It was a hard decision to make. Now, though, there are days when I say I have three operations going on: one in London, one in Malaga and a third in Madrid. These are patients to whom I have recommended a particular surgeon.

-How long is it since you left the health service as the head of cardiovascular surgery at the Carlos Haya hospital, as it was called them?

-I didn't retire, they retired me. I was 66 then and I'm 82 now, so it was 16 years ago.

-As you are such an active person, I imagine you keep up to date with medical matters, don't you?

-I dedicate my time firstly to my grandchildren, taking them to school at 8am, then I read and keep up to date not only with cardiac surgery but medicine in general. At the moment I am excited about three things in particular, they are all very

Norberto González de Vega worked as a health service cardiac surgeon for 50 years.

✉ SHEILA RAMÍREZ




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new in medicine.

–Which three things are they?

–The first is microbiota (intestinal flora) and its importance in cardiovascular, digestive and mental illnesses and obesity, and faecal transplant, which is the solution for some patients. The second is the way we can improve how we care for patients who have had a heart attack, and the third is phage therapy, which seems to be the only way to beat illnesses which occur because of germs which are resistant to antibiotics. I am very interested in these three things. When a doctor who has enjoyed medicine has to retire or decides to retire, he or she continues

“A doctor who has enjoyed medicine continues to study in order to help others”

“The decentralisation of health care is one of the worst things they have ever done”

“A hospital isn’t just a building. The soul of a hospital can’t be created overnight”

to study in order to help others.

–What do you think about the health service in Malaga?

–In my view, Malaga has always been badly treated in terms of health, ever since we have had the use of reason. It has been completely neglected, while the city has grown exponentially. It was the same under Franco, the UCD, PSOE and PP; the situation has not changed. When I came to Malaga in 1980, there were only the Carlos Haya and Civil hospitals, because the Clínico had been built but there wasn’t enough money to get it up and running. When I had been in Malaga for a year they inaugurated the Materno, which is the best hospital we have architecturally.

–How do you feel about the way the Junta de Andalucía has treated Malaga?

–In terms of health, the regional government has always behaved very badly towards Malaga. That isn’t a matter of political parties.

–And what do you think of the decision to build a hospital in the car park at the Civil?

–Well, that’s a good idea. It’s something I have been defending, actively and passively, for many years. What they have to do is make a building which has room for growth, to cover future demand. I have dreamed about this new hospital so many times, connected to the Materno Infantil and the Civil hospital. I have always thought the Civil is a building which deserves to be treated as well as they have treated the old Tabacalera building. The Civil

hospital is wonderful, but they just patched it up when things went wrong. I hope this new hospital project will finally go ahead. I have been saying this for 40 years. It has to be done now, once and for all.

–So you are in agreement with the Junta’s plans for this project?

–Yes, I am. I made a nuisance of myself everywhere, saying a new hospital had to be built there. Malaga needs this hospital. I hated the idea of the macrohospital, though. I want people to understand that a hospital isn’t just a building. It is an organisation which needs trained staff,

a hierarchy, tradition and good management. The soul of a hospital can’t be created overnight.

–You knew the old Carlos Haya hospital well. What do you think of it now?

–It became obsolete a long time ago. I’ll give you an example. When I came to Malaga they assigned me two operating theatres which were 15 years old. Forty years later, they are still using them.

–What do you think the health service has to do to meet the needs of the public?

–I believe there is a need for



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> more GPs. In Spain, 80 per cent of medical care is specialist and hospital-based and 20 per cent is from health centres. It should be the other way round. If health centres are well equipped, people will go less to the Emergency Department. And if people don't use the Emergency services so much, fewer will have to be admitted to hospital. However, it seems there is a reluctance to make that move. **–So the work of GPs is key to the health system working well.**

–Listen to what I'm about to tell you. I have enjoyed being a surgeon more than anyone else in the world, but if I were born again I would probably become a GP, because I realise how important they are, and so are health centre nurses. Why should a patient have to spend a week in hospital? They need a wound treated and to be given medication, that's all. The patient can walk through the hospital corridors. If a nurse could go to their home to change their dressing every day, they wouldn't have to spend so much time in hospital.

–Going back to the health service in Malaga being neglected for so long, since the time of Franco, what is the reason for that?

–I believe there are two reasons. Although I wasn't born here I feel more 'malagueño' than anyone and I think it is such a wonderful place that other people are jealous and resent it. That's an irrational feeling that I can't demonstrate. What is demonstrable, though, is that Malaga has grown thanks to tourism and there

QUOTES

Reasons for neglect

"I believe Malaga is so wonderful that other people feel jealous of it and resent it"

Infrastructure

"We have a big airport, the AVE and good roads, but they forgot about the hospitals"

Health care

"There is good medicine in the health service and the private sector, and there is bad medicine in both too"

De Vega tricuspid annuloplasty

"What gives me the greatest satisfaction is having developed a technique which is used worldwide"

have been major improvements in air connections and rail travel. The roads have also been substantially improved. These changes have all been planned and have taken place, but they forgot about the hospitals. If a foreigner arrives at Malaga airport, or the AVE railway station now and is suddenly taken ill and loses consciousness, they are taken to Emergencies at the Carlos Haya and

when they wake up they must think they have been transported to a hospital in India from 100 years ago.

–Why has that happened?

–All I can say is that they have forgotten that health is the most important thing in the world. Like the saying goes, it's even more important than money and love.

–What is your opinion about the way hospitals function?

–Look, a hospital, which is where I have always worked, is very complicated to run. At the top of a hospital there needs to be someone highly trained in two fields. They need to know about finance and about medicine. They also need a very competent team around them. If that isn't the case, the hospital can't function. In the 25 years I spent at the Carlos Haya, there were 21 managers. The only attribute they shared for the job was that they were part of the governing party. That can't be allowed to happen. I'll give you another example. I once went on a Mediterranean cruise with my family, and there were 3,000 passengers on that ship. Everything was really well organised, which I admired, and I mentioned it to one of the staff. He said "this works because only one person is in charge here: the captain, who delegates to people he trusts".

–But a hospital isn't a ship.

–No, obviously not, and although it sounds strange, if there isn't a chain of command with moral authority, things fall apart. In hospitals, many of the heads of department are temporary and are chosen by the man-

ager, and if they are not the best then the people under them don't respect them.

–You have also worked in the private health sector. Do the same mistakes occur there?

–There are mistakes in the private health sector as well, it isn't a panacea. In my opinion, we shouldn't divide health into public and private. We should talk about good and bad health care. There is good care in the public and private systems, and also bad care. I was head of department for 25 years and I worked in the public health service for 50 years, but I pay over 300 euros a month for health cover from Sanitas. In Malaga, private health care has grown tremendously and it is full of managers who used to work in the public sector. It's what is known as revolving doors. I don't like that.

–Did you feel coerced or under pressure while you were the head of cardiac surgery?

–Well, you're asking me that but you already know the answer. When I came to Malaga I wasn't the candidate they had wanted for the post. For a couple of years I was fine because I was employed by Madrid, but when the system changed I felt I wasn't just a candidate they hadn't chosen, I was definitely unwanted. Everything was a continual battle.

–Do you think decentralising health care is a positive or negative thing?

–The decentralisation of health care is one of the worst things they have ever done. There should be a national health service. The National Trans-

plant Organisation (ONT) and the Paraplegics Hospital of Toledo, which are nationally run, work very well. That is the health model they need to follow.

–A technique in cardiac surgery has been named after you. That must be satisfying from a professional point of view, I imagine?

–It gives me the greatest satisfaction. A surgeon can operate on thousands of patients during their life, but if you are lucky enough to develop a technique which is used all over the world (De Vega tricuspid annuloplasty), you realise you have contributed to the wellbeing of sick people everywhere.

–And when did you discover this technique?

–When I was 33, in Madrid at the Jiménez Díaz Foundation. Because I was so young, people thought it must have been my father who discovered it, not me. I published the work and called it 'Selective annuloplasty, regulable and permanent'. It was the cardiac surgeons who started calling it De Vega tricuspid annuloplasty in their reports.

–Is it still being used today?

–Oh yes, very much so. The last time I was in Beijing, in a hospital where they do 16,000 extracorporeal operations a year, they were using my technique 40 times a day. What gives me the most satisfaction is that something that occurred to me, which I began to test on a pig heart in my kitchen at home, assisted by my sister-in-law who was a nurse, is still used to operate on patients today.



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Shinji Okazaki, Malaga's star signing this summer

ANTONIO GÓNGORA



Twitter: @GongoraSUR

The Japanese forward, who won the Premier League with Leicester, arrived in the city on Wednesday night

MALAGA. Forward Shinji Okazaki arrived in the city's María Zambrano train station on Wednesday night ahead of completing his free transfer move to Malaga.

Crowds greeted the Japan international, most recently linked to Leicester City with whom he won the English Premier League in 2015-16.

Okazaki had his medical on Thursday and at the time of going to print was awaiting clearance to be able to join Víctor Sánchez and his squad who are currently training at La Quinta near Marbella.

Okazaki, 33, is expected to be the star signing of the summer given his profile and that of the club who will once more be in the second division.



Caminero greets Okazaki on his arrival at María Zambrano station on Wednesday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Though he lost his place in the Leicester team in the last two seasons, Okazaki comes with the personal backing of sporting director Jose Luis Caminero who values his work ethic and his flexibility in attacking areas.

The Japanese forward first arrived in Europe to play for Stuttgart in the German Bundesliga, before joining another German team, Mainz 05. He then joined Leicester in 2015. Okazaki has represented his country on 119 occasions.

Upon his arrival in the city, Okazaki expressed his satisfaction at joining the Blue and Whites: "I always wanted to play in Spain. It doesn't matter to me that it's in Segunda; I'm really happy to be here."

Okazaki's arrival sees an end to

the paralysis around the club with preseason training well under way and no new arrivals through the door.

As SUR in English reported last week, a deal for Stoichkov had been agreed. However, after waiting for a week for club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani to sign off on the deal, the forward signed for Alcorcón instead.

The same problem also threatened to derail the Okazaki deal but that seems, for the time being at least, to have got over the line.

Rosales joins Leganés

And just as one comes in, another has gone out the door. Right-back Roberto Rosales has brought an end to his five-year association with the club, joining La Liga side Leganés for around one million euros.

Meanwhile, winger Jony has been training with Italian side Lazio but that move is yet to be signed off. The departure of Javi Ontiveros to Villarreal, likewise, is still pending the approval of Al-Thani.

But despite this perceived inaction, coach Víctor Sánchez said in a press conference on Monday that he was "confident" that the squad would be in place in time for the start of the season. "I am in constant dialogue with Al-Thani who tells us that we will have a competitive team."

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Femenino to report back for preseason training next Wednesday

:: MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Two and a half weeks later than the men's team but with a whole month until the start of the new season, Malaga's women's team will return for preseason training next week.

The new squad, led by José Herrera in Segunda División Pro, will report back for medical examinations on Wednesday at the installations at La Rosaleda stadium. By Thursday, the players will be back in contact with the ball.

As has been the case in previous



Six players who have committed to the new project. :: MALAGACF.COM

years, Malaga Femenino, now that they are back in the second tier, have doubts once more over where they can call home. They are in direct competition with the men's reserve side, Atlético Malagueño, and the two teams will alternate between the

Malaga Football Federation grounds and the fields at El Viso during pre-season.

Once the season starts, Femenino are expected to retain the Federation as their 'home' ground but this could still change.

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The new Malaga home kit goes on sale

== PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. The new Malaga home kit for next season has been released and went on sale both online and at the club's official outlets on Thursday.

The players themselves will wear the kit for the first time today, Friday, during the club's first pre-season friendly against Algeciras at the Estadio Nuevo Mirador (kick off 8.30pm).

Compared with last season's shirt, there are two principal differences:

the sleeves are now white, not blue, and the back of the shirt, where the number is, is now blue. The shorts and socks remain blue.

What's more, on the front, there is now a patch which shows the coordinates and an image of La Rosaleda stadium.

The Nike logo and club badge feature on the front as usual, alongside the logo of the main sponsor, Tesesa. BeSoccer occupies the sponsorship spot on the sleeve, while Benahavis remains on the rear.

THE NEW 2019-20 MALAGA HOME SHIRT



Sleeves

They return to the colour white after a couple of seasons.

Neck

It remains a v-neck but it's a bit rounder than before. On the back is the club crest.

Patch

The coordinates and an image of La Rosaleda stadium appear.

Back

The space on the back for the shirt number has a blue background, not white.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



For all the tees in China

The stakes are getting higher in the game of poker between Real Madrid, Gareth Bale and Zinedine Zidane



Zidane and Bale haven't had the best relationship. == REUTERS

The public game of poker between Real Madrid, Gareth Bale and Zinedine Zidane is now getting to the point where the stakes are higher than ever. The club wants to cash in on the Welshman, the manager wants to speculate the money, but the player doesn't want to budge.

This isn't an accurate account of what has happened in the Spanish capital this week but I'm pretty sure it isn't far off the true events.

The manager and president sit across an enormous desk in the high-rise office of Florentino Pérez. "Mr President," Zidane clears his throat. "You promised that if I returned to the club you would allow me to sign my own players. I would like to bring in the World Cup winner Paul Pogba. He's..."

The president interrupts his flow. "You have 42 players on the training pitch Zizou. You need to balance the books. Move that Welshman on and you have your money."

Two hours later Zidane beckons Gareth Bale into his coaching den. He is required to beckon as Bale speaks no Spanish and Zidane's English is limited.

Zidane types into Google translate and hands the phone to the man who single-handedly won the Champions League for him.

A bemused Bale reads the text and types back: "You want me to buy some Chinos." The furious former World Player of the Year grabs the office globe which he was using to track the club's complicated world tour and sticks a pin into China. The globe bursts but Bale needs no translation.

Later that afternoon the stressed star sits down for a cup of tea with his new wife. "Yakida." This quashes the myth that he isn't bi-lingual. "Emma my love, I know we were going to discuss the wedding album, but we need to speak about my job. They want me to transfer to China."

Once he's picked up the broken Welsh pottery he's told that: "The Beckhams moved to LA, Milan and then Paris. All countries where they spoke English!" He was ordered to "... sort it for himself."

Bale takes the initiative, scours the internet and furtively dials a telephone number. "Hello, this is Gareth Bale, do

you speak English?"

"Hello Mr Bale. Yes sir, here at the club we speak many languages with those who honour us by playing here."

A beaming Bale responds "Brilliant. I hear Shanqin is the best club in the whole of China. I'd like to come and play soon."

"Mr Bale we'd be delighted to have you treading our lush turf," responds the proud manager of the club that is regarded as the best in China.

"Tidy!" says Bale. "Just one more thing, what's the nearest professional football club to Shanqin Bay Golf Club?"

The new Mrs Bale overhears the conversations and screams. "We're not going to Beijing for all of the tees in China."

Thirteen hundred miles away Paul Pogba unpacks his one hundred pairs of Adidas trainers and slopes off to the Carrington training ground through the Manchester rain.

The story continues.

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From champion of the world to designer

Global BMX star Rubén Alcántara has his own business, Soul Parks, which has built BMX and skate parks throughout Spain and is now going global

JUAN CALDERÓN



✉ Twitter: @jcv249

MALAGA. If you ran into him on the street, you probably wouldn't recognise him. It may, however, attract people's attention if an adult man were to ride by on a bicycle like a teenager... Behind this alternative figure hides a BMX world champion and one of the most influential people in the industry.

Ruben Alcántara was born in Malaga 44 years ago. He was ahead of his time, as he is now. It didn't take him long to emigrate to the United States, the birthplace of BMX, to rub shoulders with the best in the world until he became number one. Now, after a long history of competitions and promotion, Alcántara has decided to turn Malaga into the new international

benchmark for his sport. The first step was the design of the skate and BMX installation that bears his name in the Parque del Norte. The perfect curves, inclinations and endless lines have attracted thousands of fans from all over the world to the city, in addition to the most outstanding international competitions.

During his life as a professional, he didn't just ride in idyllic installations all over the world, he was also interested in their construction and design. He made notes, took measurements and collected data until, with the help of architect Aitor Veguillas, he founded the company Soul Parks, which years later has become a successful reality. They have designed and built parks all over Spain, especially in Malaga, and are about to embark on a major project in Tel Aviv, Israel. "When I tried a ramp and it went well, I always asked how it had been built. After seeing how good the skatepark in Malaga looked, my partner and I



Rubén Alcántara poses with one of his latest projects, the new park in Vélez-Málaga. :: SUR

were clear that we could go down that road. Some councils of small towns contacted us because the fans themselves had told them that we were the right ones to do a similar installation in their area. It's been a relatively short time, but we're doing very well. In addition to the concrete 'bowls', we also included the dirt parks, which are cheaper and have a lot of pull with bikers," he explains.

Soul Parks has already designed nine skate parks and BMX parks in Spain, as well as the one on the way in Israel. Alcántara and Veguillas' company is in charge of design, but also advises on the drafting of the projects, monitors the work and manages the budget. The company does not build the concrete installations, but does build those that are made of earth, popularly known as 'campillos'.

What is striking is that the parks are well connected to their users. Before undertaking each project, they hold meetings with the fans in the area to take their preferences into account and listen to proposals. "We like to talk to the locals, with the people who are going to use them. We guide them because there are many park styles and they understand that changes can be made. By keeping them up to date with the process, everything is more positive," he explains. Zaragoza, Bilbao, Vigo, San Pedro de Alcántara, Pizarra, Vélez-Málaga and Malaga already have facilities designed by Soul Parks, a relatively cheap and very functional type of project for fans of all ages.

"We are turning Malaga into the new Mecca for this sport. In reality it already is with the bowl that I designed in Parque del Norte. There are fans from all over the world who come here for tourism and biking. Not only is this park already a great selling-point, but there are also others spread throughout the province which allow visitors to fully make the most of their trip. Professionals and brands come to Malaga to record because they know that here they will get excellent material," says Rubén Alcántara, who has disassociated himself from the park that bears his name. Although he delivered it



Bird's-eye view in San Pedro. :: SUR



One of Alcántara's BMX designs in Santander. :: SUR

through his company, in addition to getting Malaga to host the World Cup twice, that is now over. "We had an agreement that the council would continue as a 'sponsor', but then they told me that it couldn't continue. I don't think they appreciated what I did for them. I also think that they didn't care much either that I disassociated myself. It's been a disappointment," he says.

Olympic games

Although he no longer competes, Alcántara maintains a tight international agenda. The World Cup will no longer stop in the city, but Alcántara remains a judge and advisor. He has just arrived from Germany, where he travelled from

Australia, then travelled to Mexico and later to the United States, where the final of the tournament is held. As if that was not enough, the International Cycling Union has recruited him as an advisor for the BMX events he organises, since this modality will be an Olympic sport in the Tokyo Games.

"The UCI has a parallel World Cup whose points help towards qualification for the Games. I'm a judge, but I'm an advisor in the competition system. Being a freestyle sport it is complex to score. BMX has been at the Olympics in the 'race' category, but not the freestyle, which will now be in the Games. I hope to be in Tokyo, it would be another dream".

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Golfers had their last chance to qualify. :: JOSELE

Countdown begins to the Costa del Golf Tour grand final

The conditions were perfect at Cabopino for the final chance to qualify for the amateur tour's showpiece event

:: ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

MÁLAGA. Excitement is brewing for the Costa del Golf Tour grand final. The competition, organised by SUR and its leading publication Costa del Golf, will culminate next weekend at Guadalmina golf club, following the fourth round of qualification last Sunday at Cabopino.

Cabopino golf course owes its name to the wide-canopy conifers that line its fairways and these, alongside the excellent conditions, meant that the around 100 competitors particularly enjoyed what was the last day of the competition before the grand final.

Sunday's round saw Antonio Jesús Alcaide Campos, Gabriel Isaías Fraile Gamboa, Ignacio Zurita Gadea, Pelayo Pérez Crespo, Pedro Ortiz Tome and Francisco Muñoz Montes play their way into the final in the first category. Francisco Borja Gutiérrez Sedeño, Per Arne Anderssen, Fernando Garnica Gómez, Ángel Fernández Molina, Federico Villanueva Jover and José Bernal de la Rosa qualified in the second category. On the women's side, the standard of play by Danielle Franchino Giraudet, Patricia V. Thiele Rico, Mercedes Sánchez Rovira and Monserrat San Francisco Quintana guaranteed their progress to compete for the top honours in what is

'Amigos de SUR' list opens for grand final

Despite qualification rounds being over, those who wish to participate in the grand final can still do so. A special category called 'Amigos del SUR' (Friends of SUR) has been created for the showpiece event at Guadalmina golf club on 27 July. All interested can register via Oferplan.

The golf complex consists of a north and south course. The south course, remodelled in 2002, boasts a total of 45 holes. It was inaugurated in 1959, making it the second oldest on the Costa del Sol. Wide fairways snake between trees. The north course is considered less challenging, despite having more trees, water obstacles and a more uneven surface.

fast becoming Andalucía's top amateur tournament.

Awards presentation

The intense day of golf on Sunday was followed by an awards ceremony. Cabopino manager, Eliat Pérez, and SUR's commercial director, Jorge Artero, whose responsibility it was to announce winners, were both present. Costa del Golf Tour collaborator, Grupo Da Bruno, organised a traditional feast in the Da Bruno Cabopino restaurant, where attendees could sample true Mediterranean gastronomy.

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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
A change of attitude is easy when someone else shares it. Working with others to a common goal is where your satisfaction lies.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
This is, and has been, a very emotional time for most signs. Jumping ahead when it comes to a chance to shine is just what you need.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Keep a positive attitude and plans can be seen through smoothly this week. Don't expect to be satisfied though. There are still things that you want to put in place.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Listen carefully to those around you as there is something you need to know. A task you are given may seem a bit cheeky. Someone in authority waits to see your reaction.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Taking a more relaxed attitude brings the result you need. Indeed, pushing someone to act could see them run in the opposite direction!



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
There is no point in trying to keep everyone else happy if you only make yourself discontented. This is a time for honesty and openness even if it makes you feel uncomfortable.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Combine your charisma and charm with a slightly pushy attitude to get what you want. Someone who at first appears stubborn can be won round.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
When the New Moon shines on your finances, be ready to act. What starts off as a tentative offer could snowball and be just what you want! Confidence is up and down at this unusual time.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
This should be a light-hearted week. Banish negative thoughts and get out and have some fun! A loved one is urging a trip or social call.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Cash should not be a problem, which leaves you the freedom to plan ahead. Being single-minded and with your thoughts on the task ahead is essential. Loved ones want your attention.



Sagittarius
November 223rd - December 21st
A bumpy start to the week should not put you off. An optimistic attitude shows that you have confidence. Don't rule out romance but wait until your thoughts are in order.

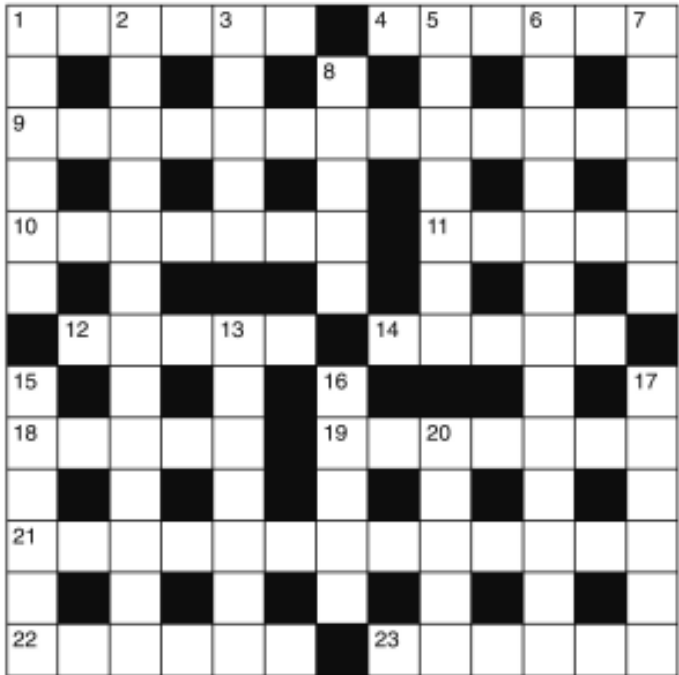


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
A visit to an unusual place really stimulates your mind and creative talents. Summer fancies turn the way of romance but work could get in the way if you have not been organised.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11368



Across

- 1 Sets I'd stop (6)
- 4 Forces to produce wall painting (6)
- 9 Fair action that shows area? (6,7)
- 10 Where the lecture takes place? (7)
- 11 A sample of meat as tender as can be (5)
- 12 Messenger gets nothing in jealousy (5)
- 14 Decorate some bad ornaments (5)
- 18 Condensed statement about victuals? (5)
- 19 By accident fifty are in part of the church (7)
- 21 Chief cad in a somersault (4,4,5)
- 22 Seated in a calm way (6)
- 23 Not accustomed to mint (6)

Down

- 1 Sadism always is partly depressing (6)
- 2 Finding what directors think helps the voice to be heard (8,5)
- 3 One doesn't have to wait to do it at court (5)
- 5 Responded to stimulus again dramatically, it would seem (7)
- 6 Game to suppress fraudulent activities (6,7)
- 7 Complied and looked after the old boy (6)
- 8 A spinster becomes improper (5)
- 13 Unfold one up to change (4,3)
- 15 Engraves part of secret chest (6)
- 16 It may need a driver to get it home (5)
- 17 Forfeited between 100 and 500? Shut up! (6)
- 20 Grey like a chicken (5)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

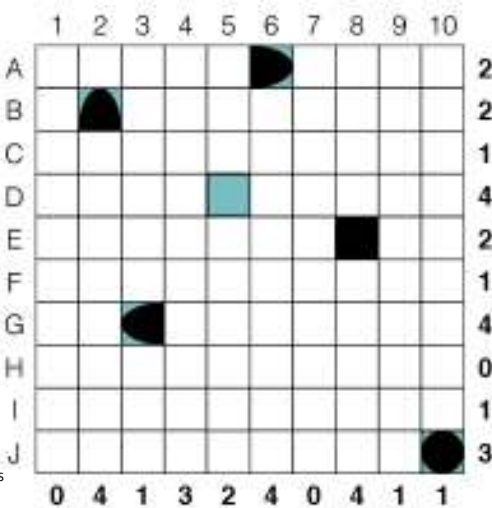
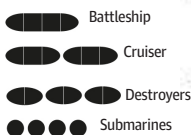


Can you identify the rivers from the anagrams listed below?

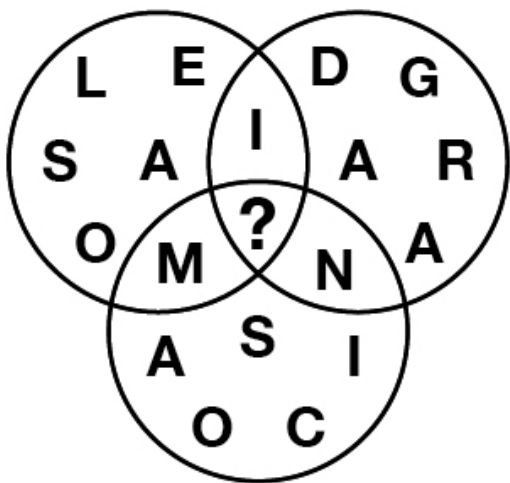
- 1. Heron
- 2. Trud
- 3. Rode
- 4. Insee
- 5. Nova
- 6. Hurr
- 7. Sundl
- 8. Beel
- 9. Enty
- 10. Neil

BATTLESHIPS

Instructions Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



CIRCLEGRAM



Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- 1) Personality (12)

6) Trend (9)

9) Literary (9)

10) Commitment (10)

13) Face (4)

15) Tolerance (10)

16) Romantic (9)

18) I'll go (3)

19) Magazine (7)

20) Odd (5)

21) South (3)

22) Dream (5)

24) It was (3)

29) Present (8)

31) Understanding (13)

32) Exile (6)

34) Is (sbjv) (3)

36) I rescue (7)

39) Faith (2)

40) Wisdom (9)

42) Path (6)

43) Flood (5)

44) Verse (5)

45) Odes (4)

46) You (2)

47) Pseudonym (9)

48) They discovered (12)
- Down

1) Words (8)

2) Challenge (4)

3) Daring (8)

4) Harmless (6)

5) Love (4)

6) Throne (5)

7) To give (3)

8) Lawyer (7)

11) Poetry (6)

12) You sent (8)

14) Teaching (9)

15) Earthquake (9)

17) Carpets (8)

18) Printer's (8)

23) He breaks (5)

25) Tight (8)

26) Of (2)

27) Generation (10)

28) Metaphors (9)

30) Solitude (7)

33) Oppressor (7)

35) The (2)

36) Rhyme (4)

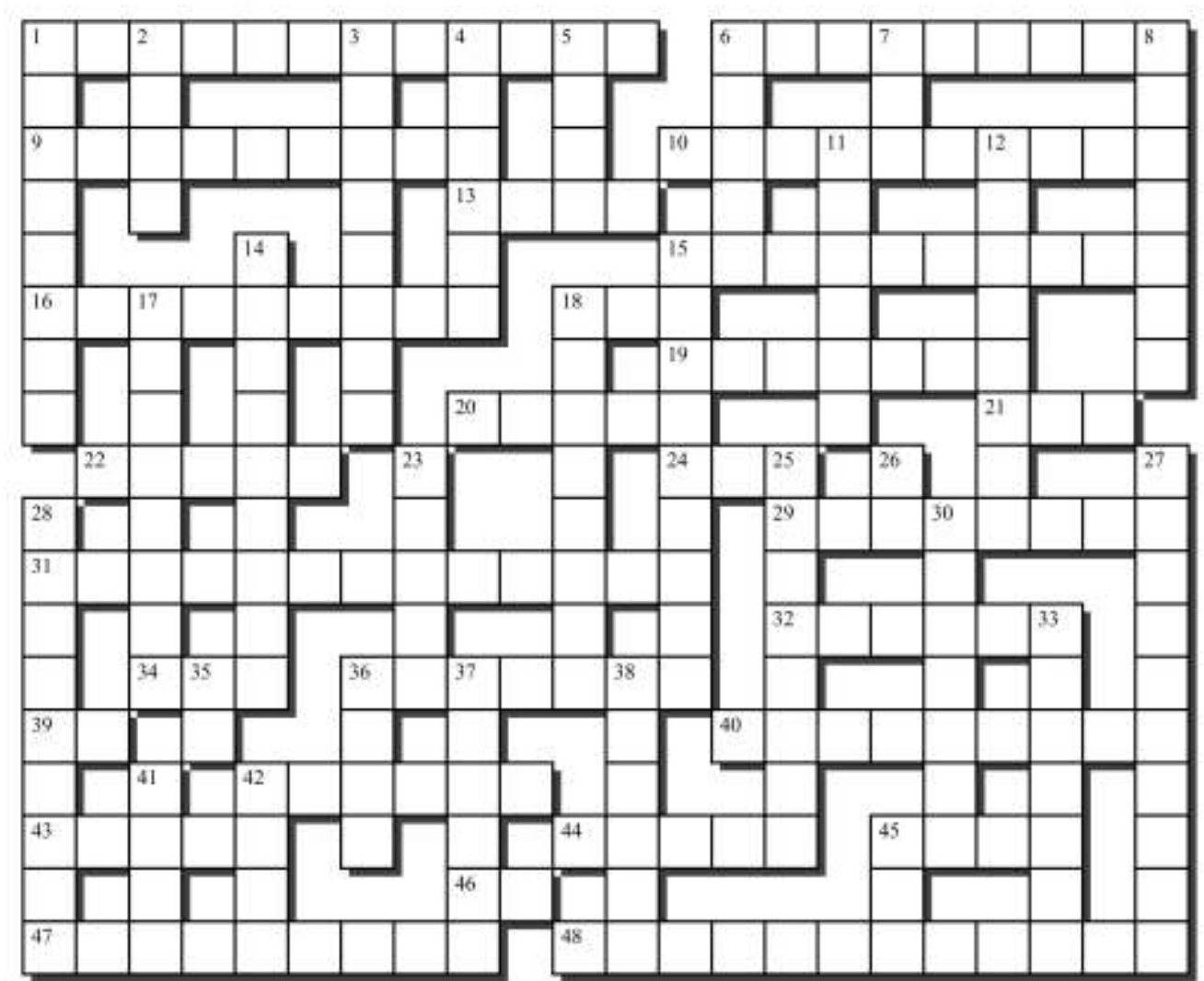
37) Sonnet (6)

38) Puppet (6)

41) Taboo (4)

42) Expensive (4)

45) To hear (3)



Down Clues

ANSWERS

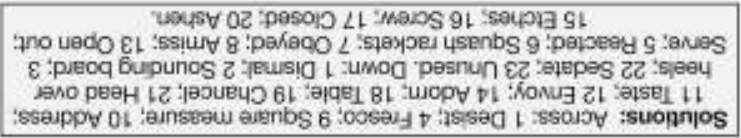
Quiz answers

My Favourite Year and Venus.
The Ruling Class, The Stuntman,
Lion in Winter, Goodbye, Mr Chips,
Lawrence Of Arabia, Becket, The
for an Oscar for his roles in
Irish descent. He was nominated
was a British stage and film actor of
Of interest: Peter Seamus O'Toole
Answer: Peter O'Toole
a human.
capable of delivering a fatal bite to
cobras. All species in the genus are
venomous elapid snakes known as
Of interest: Naja is a genus of
Answer: Cobra.

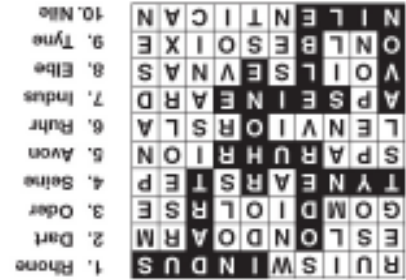
Language Crossword



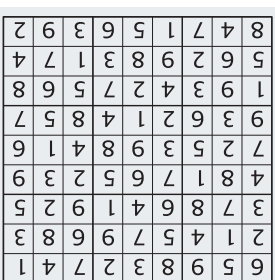
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



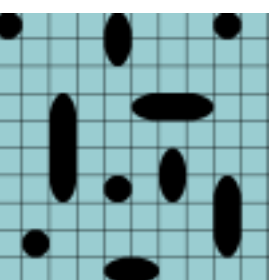
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the
question mark is C.
Camisole, Cardigan,
Moccasin, all items of
clothing.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A spikey monument

Last week:
La Cala de Mijas

This is the La Noria roundabout on the
Avda Mare Nostrum in La Cala adjacent
to the Pueblo La Noria 'urbanisation'.



MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)					
Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Aidastella	27/07	Palma	Cadiz	08.00	18.00
Explorer of Seas	30/07	Valencia	Cadiz	13.00	20.00
Seabourn Encore	31/07	-	Cartagena	07.00	17.00
Sapphire Princess	01/08	Cadiz	-	08.00	18.00
Harmony V	03-04/08	Marbella	Marbella	06.00	23.59
Europa 2	04/08	Valencia	Cadiz	08.00	19.00





Drummer boy's exam performance rocks

Sergio 'Drummer', from Marbella, becomes the youngest pupil to pass the highest grade in drums

The ten-year-old achieved the highest grade awarded by Trinity College, scoring 87 per cent

■ **ANDREA JIMÉNEZ**

MARBELLA. When he received the news that he had achieved the highest professional drumming grade, Sergio 'Drummer' Rodríguez was playing in a beach bar with his friends. "It didn't sink in at the time, but later I realised what I'd achieved and I went crazy!" the 10-year-old from Marbella explains to SUR. Sergio has become the youngest musician to achieve the highest possible drumming grade awarded in music by the prestigious London-based Trinity College, scoring an impressive 87 per cent.

Sergio wowed the examiners with three pieces and an improvisation: Jimi Hendrix's Fire, Biffy Clyro's That Golden Rule and the iconic Spirit of The Radio from legendary progressive rock band Rush and incredible drummer Neil Peart. "I was a little nervous, but they told me that I had done very well," Sergio says.

Sergio's recognition as a professional drummer is the fruit of a huge combined effort. "We placed great emphasis on the Trinity exam in every lesson," says Sergio, pupil at the Rock Factory music school in San Pedro.

There, Sergio has three hours of lessons a week with drum teacher Teo González. "We are extremely proud of him. We have watched him



Sergio Rodríguez, at the music school. ■ **A. PAZ**

grow," beams González, remembering how it all started. "I saw his potential in the group sessions, and so asked to take him for an individual 30-minute lesson. This has increased to three hours a week this year."

Sergio's Rock Factory journey began just over three years ago, but his passion for drumming goes back

a long way. "I started to play with drumsticks when I was three and after trying different instruments with my dad, I chose the drums because it was what I was best at."

As well as weekly lessons, Sergio practises the drums at home every day. "I've a mini studio at my grandparents' house, and I film vid-

eos for my YouTube channel there," he explains.

Now that he has achieved the highest possible drumming grade, Sergio is eager for new challenges, such as jazz. "The world of jazz is difficult, but he hopes to have reached a professional level within two years and to develop his musical tastes," says

Habacuc Rodríguez, the young drummer's father.

Sergio wants to become the world's best drummer. "I want to be like Eric Moore or better," says the 10-year-old, who seems to transform as soon as he steps on stage. "I want to fill stadiums with my band."

The band

Sergio belongs to a children's band, Devils in the Sky, made up of the young drummer and five girls, all pupils at Rock Factory. "They all passed their Trinity exams with flying colours," explains Rafa Rodríguez, head of the school and manager of the band.

It was Rodríguez who brought the children together to create the band, which has already made a name for itself outside of Andalucía. "A few weeks ago, we performed in Lleida, and it was very exciting," says the teacher, who claims that the children's band is "setting a standard in Spain, since the members have passed all of their music exams".

The band practises together every Saturday morning at the school, rehearsing for their concerts of which they have performed almost 50. "They are super young children singing and playing instruments at an incredible level. We love this element of surprise we have when we perform at a new venue," says Reyes.

After recording a single in the Abbey Road studios, the band is now writing songs to bring out in its first album next year.



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