

Dermatologists warn of the need to apply sunscreen to prevent burning, even when wearing a face mask **P34**



Juan Carlos I moves abroad as heat is turned up over scandal

The current King's father, who abdicated in 2014, has said he doesn't want his private affairs to distract from his son's reign

In an exchange of letters published by the Spanish Royal Family this week, emeritus King Juan Carlos told his son, Felipe VI, that he was leaving Spain to live abroad. He didn't want "repercussions from certain past events" in his private life to distract from his son's role as Head of State, he said.

Juan Carlos leaving the country was one of the options being weighed up by King Felipe and the

government as a way of dealing with the ongoing investigation into the former Head of State's allegedly illicit business affairs.

The 82-year-old, who ruled Spain for 39 years, gave his consent to the proposal some days ago, although he has not agreed to give up his royal title. His destination has not been confirmed, but his lawyer has said he is at the disposal of the Public Prosecutor. **P16**



Juan Carlos de Borbón, in a photo taken in 2018. EFE

Localised Covid-19 outbreaks rise on the western Costa del Sol as spotlight continues to fall on clubs **P6**

**Benalmádena's iconic
theme park, Tivoli
World, goes into
administration **P6****

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On the trail of serious offenders: a day on the road with the unmarked traffic police

The majority of fines - around 20 a day - are for talking on or handling a mobile phone while driving, which incurs a penalty of 200 euros and a loss of three points

JUAN CANO

MALAGA. It's a large van, a seven-seater. If you see it on the road, nothing about it would make you think that it is an unmarked vehicle belonging to the central government's Traffic Department (DGT). Well, maybe the registration plate, if you have sharp eyes, and the presence of two Guardia Civil officers - with sharper eyes than yours - in the front, although by the time you spot them you will already have overtaken it.

"My colleagues in Seprona [the Guardia Civil's nature protection unit] used to call me 'the lynx'," jokes José Miguel. There's a reason for that. Neither he nor his colleague Antonio miss a thing that goes on around them as they drive along the highways of Malaga province. Their mission is to detect serious traffic offences. SUR went with them for a day on patrol.

The unmarked van, one of the 15 that the DGT has been using for this purpose since early last month, is in Malaga temporarily. The officers from the Guardia Civil's Traffic section are issuing around 20 fines a day on average.

"We don't carry a speed camera so we can't measure how fast people are going. We focus on the most serious offences committed by drivers," says Antonio. The most common offence of all is using a mobile phone while driving.

From the van, the officers have a perfect view. It is 8.30am on a Wednesday morning and as a small Renault Twingo passes us



Antonio checks a driver's documentation while his colleague directs traffic. FRANCIS SILVA



Officer José Miguel, at the wheel of the van. F. SILVA



Explaining to a driver what he has done wrong. F. S.

on the Malaga bypass, Antonio can clearly see that the driver is talking on his phone. He tells José Miguel, who switches on the blue lights which are not normally noticeable on the van. This alerts the driver of the Renault, and the officers look for a safe place to pull him over: the Pedregalejo exit. Their colleagues on motorbikes, who are there to escort and support them, also stop to direct the traffic.

The young driver tries to deny it. "My mobile is in my bag," he says, and politely but very nervously tries to explain that he wasn't using it and offers to show them the list of phone calls made

and received. "We can't get involved in that because, for a start, he might have been using a different mobile which he has hidden. I stopped him because I clearly saw him talking on a phone. We only issue fines if we are absolutely sure what we saw," José Miguel explains. He gives the driver some hand sanitiser after returning his driving licence to him. "We always do that. It's for their safety, and also for mine," he says.

"And how much is this fine going to be?" asks the driver, visibly angry.

Using a mobile phone while driving is considered a serious

The van, one of the 15 the DGT has been using since early July, is in Malaga province temporarily

offence and it incurs a fine of 200 euros (with a 50 per cent discount if paid within 20 days) and the loss of three points on the driving licence. Despite this, and the number of vehicles and devices with 'hands free', more people than you might imagine

still do it.

The van resumes its journey, and the officers intercept the driver of a brand new Maserati with a screen and satnav at the entrance to the Carlos Haya tunnel. He is steering with one hand and holding a phone to his ear with the other. He doesn't deny it. "I'm doing a long trip and it was a call from my work. The mobile didn't connect to the hands-free so I answered it," he says in explanation.

"I once caught an elderly woman holding a tablet to her ear while she was driving. She said she didn't have a phone so she had to use the tablet," says José Miguel.

"There are people who write WhatsApp messages or post on social media while they're driving. They don't seem to understand the danger," says Antonio.

Make-up

During this campaign with the van in Malaga - the vehicles are used in different provinces of Andalucía at different times - the Guardia Civil officers have seen women putting their make-up on while driving down the motorway and even a girl who let go of the steering wheel altogether so she could roll a cigarette. "Those are exceptional cases, though," they say.

The risks the officers talk about are documented and the DGT is well aware of them. A four-second distraction, which is the time it takes to light a cigarette or look at a WhatsApp message, when driving at 100 kilometres an hour, means not looking at the road over a distance of about 113 metres. The danger of having an accident increases considerably.

The use of these vans is another way of reducing the accident rate. According to the DGT's statistics for 2019, driver distraction is the cause of at least one out of every four accidents, and the main cause of that distraction is a mobile phone.

"Using a phone at the wheel makes you four times more likely to have an accident and the risk is equal to that of drink-driving," say DGT sources.

The ESRA Project (a European survey about attitudes towards safety of road users, carried out in 2015) shows that those who

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were interviewed were aware that using a mobile phone has a negative effect on driving and increases the risk of having an accident.

However, even though the perception of risk is high, 38 per cent of drivers admit that they speak on or handle their phone while they are driving, and 27 per cent say they write and send messages. The DGT, which backs the data of the ESRA project, says the percentages are "particularly high" in drivers under the age of 34.

As our van is driving along in the right-hand lane, it is overtaken by an Audi. The 'lynx' immediately spots that the driver, a middle-aged man, is wearing an earpiece in his right ear. "Let's try and overtake him, and see if he has one in the other ear as well, and if he does we'll stop him," he says.

Earphones

Antonio, who is driving now, accelerates as we ask what the rules are about wearing earpieces or headphones.

"Using one isn't a punishable offence, there is jurisprudence in that respect, because it is supposed that you will be able to hear with the other ear if, for example, someone sounds their horn. However, if you have both ears covered then you can't know what is going on around you," he says. And indeed, this driver was wearing them

MOST COMMON OFFENCES

Distractions

Mobile phone: Talking on the phone, handling it or using the navigator incurs a 200 euro fine (100 if you admit the offence and pay within 20 days of being notified) and the loss of three points from your licence.

Earpieces and earphones: If you use two at the same time (one on its own isn't a punishable offence) the fine is also 200 euros and three points.

Driving with one arm out of the window: 80 euros, no loss of points.

Inappropriate activities: eating, shaving or putting make-up on while driving incurs a fine of 200 euros and the loss of two points from your licence.

Effects on driving

Talking on the phone: People can't maintain a constant speed, don't leave enough distance between themselves and the vehicle in front and reaction time is considerably slower.

Danger: Studies say using a mobile is as dangerous as drink-driving.

Eating or lighting a cigarette: If it takes four seconds, travelling at 100 kilometres an hour, the driver will cover 113 metres without looking at the road.

in both ears.

"If your car has hands-free, why didn't you use that?" the officers ask him.

"Well, yes it does. But I left home with the earpieces in and it didn't occur to me to take them off," he answers, head lowered, realising his error.

A grey Megane is driving along the MA-21. The driver is steering with his right hand. The window is down and his left arm is dangling outside. "Let's see if this is just for a moment or that's how he drives [normally]," says Antonio.

Many aren't aware that this is an offence nowadays, but it is. It incurs a fine of 80 euros (40 if paid promptly), but no loss of points.

In fact this particular driver does drive like that, or at least he did on this day. He even changed lanes, indicating first but steering with one hand and leaving the other arm hanging out of the window. "I was thinking about things, worrying about a family problem," he said, apologetically.

"People don't realise how dangerous this is. First, because they need both hands to drive, and second because people have lost an arm by driving like this," says Antonio.

And he isn't exaggerating. The last accident of this type occurred about a month ago on a road in the Guadalhorce area, when a driver lost an arm after his vehicle was hit by a lorry.

Andalucía gets tough with Covid-19 fines

The regional government has decreed penalties of up to 600,000 euros for not following social-distancing rules

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. Fines for breaking Covid-19 social-distancing rules in Andalucía could be as high as 600,000 euros, the regional government announced this week in a new crackdown.

The more people affected by the offence, the bigger the fine. Penalty charges will start from 100 euros for not having a mask or not wearing it properly, rising to harsh measures for very serious offences, as well as temporarily shutting down premises or banning activity for up to five years where 100 or more people are put at risk.

Smaller offences, involving fewer people, will generally have fines from 100 to 3,000 euros, and there is a medium band from 3,001 to 60,000 euros.

Elías Bendodo, Junta spokes-



People in masks in Seville. EP

person, said, "It's people's health and lives at stake, and also jobs, the employment outlook for thousands of people." The police and security services have been asked to cooperate in enforcement.

Not following a self-isolation order when you have been infected is classified as a serious (mid-level) offence, while not isolating if you have been in contact with an infected person is counted as a smaller offence.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

Costa beach bar is shut down after DJ is caught spitting alcohol at revellers

TORREMOLINIOS

FERNANDO TORRES. A beach bar aimed at Torremolinos partygoers has been told to shut down for two weeks amid a suspected breach of coronavirus health and safety rules.

The council order came after a video emerged via social media of a DJ gulping from a bottle of spirits before spewing the liquid out onto dancing revellers below. The incident allegedly took place on 7 July at the Kokun Ocean Club on Los Álamos beach, although it took a few weeks for the video to go public. It drew national media attention this week.

The owners of the bar announced they had stopped working with the event promoter for the time being. Despite Les Castizos, the event promoters and the DJ, apologising and taking responsibility for the incident, Torremolinos council acted quickly.

Mayor José Ortiz said the pictures were “regrettable”. “This cannot happen again, as the council is working really hard coordinating with professionals from a tour-



A scene from the video. **SUR**

ism industry that is making a huge effort to keep hotels and premises open.”

The town hall announced that the beach bar would be closed down for two weeks as a precautionary measure, amid the hope that the swift action would set an example to others as well.

The regional government also said it was investigating the video's contents.

IN BRIEF

BENALMÁDENA

Naked Brit held after beachgoers' complaint

F.T. A British man in his 40s was held this week after a complaint that he was naked and drunk on a Benalmádena beach and harassing a family.

According to witnesses, the suspect initially did not bother others but later turned his attention to two teenage girls nearby, causing a confrontation with their grandmother. The man was stopped as he tried to flee on a motorbike.

MARBELLA

Three arrests over 7k-watch theft from Briton

C. MÁRQUEZ. Three Bulgarian women have been arrested over the theft of a luxury watch worth more than 7,000 euros from a male British tourist.

The unsuspecting victim is said to have gone into a flat in Puerto Banús with the women before being drugged. He woke up to find wounds on his wrist and SMS messages on his phone saying 846 pounds had been taken from his bank account.



A helicopter releases water onto the fire in Benahavís. **JOSELE**

Wildfires cause a scare in Benahavís and Olvera

BENAHAVÍS / OLVERA

SUR. Several homes were evacuated on Sunday evening after fire broke out just before 6pm on land between the Gazules del Sol residential estate and the Guadamina river, close to the A-7175 that connects Benahavís with the coast.

The wind caused the blaze to spread in the direction of San Pedro Alcántara, affecting around three hectares of scrubland.

A number of properties were evacuated in Valle del Sol, where the flames damaged several houses and a warehouse, accord-

ing to official sources.

The fire was under control soon after 10pm.

More firefighters were deployed to Olvera in Cadiz province on Sunday evening to tackle a forest fire that also affected part of the municipality of Cañete la Real (Malaga).

The blaze, which was “stabilised” by the Infoca forest fire unit on Monday was not considered to be “controlled” until Wednesday morning.

An initial estimation offered by Infoca put the area damaged by the Olvera fire at 450 hectares.

Blevins Franks expansion and new office in La Cala de Mijas

Blevins Franks continues to expand in Southern Spain. After opening a new office in Marbella last year, we are now relocating our Mijas Costa office to larger, more prestigious premises in La Cala de Mijas.

As our client base grows, we have recruited more Partners and staff to maintain a high level of service and have outgrown our Mijas Costa office where we have been for the last 15 years.

The new office **opened on Monday 3rd August**. Located alongside the La Noria golf course, it is a very pleasant location for clients to attend meetings. Its main terrace overlooks the ninth green. The restaurant/clubhouse and first hole are beside the office entrance. There is also ample parking for the convenience of our clients.

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Our team of experienced in-house specialists enables the company to provide integrated tax, wealth management and estate planning services to clients across Europe. With Blevins Franks' guidance, clients living in Spain are able to use compliant arrangements to enjoy favourable tax treatment with a tailor-made investment strategy.



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Five tips to get your finances Brexit-ready

By Sarah Burke, Partner, Blevins Franks

The clock is counting down to the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December. Reassuringly – deal or no-deal – UK nationals lawfully settled in Spain before 2021 will have locked in the right to remain and enjoy uninterrupted citizens' rights. But there are still many unknowns.

Other than establishing your residence, what steps can you take to make your financial position as secure as possible?

1. Review the best currency mix for you

It is common for UK expatriates to retain financial connections with the UK, such as property or bank accounts, with many preferring to keep their savings and investments in British pounds.

While there is comfort in the familiar, this does expose you to exchange rate risk. Once you are living in Spain and spending euros daily, it can therefore become more expensive to take your income in sterling. Explore investment structures that offer the flexibility to invest and make withdrawals in different currencies.

2. Avoid overexposure to UK investments

Likewise, many expatriates favour British investments, such as UK corporate bonds or FTSE-listed shares, especially if you are still using a UK-based adviser. If so, your financial planning may actually be better suited to a UK resident than to someone in your situation. Note also that UK advisers may not be authorised to continue advising you as an EU resident after the transition period, so check with yours.

A local adviser with in-depth knowledge can help you avoid costly mistakes and take advantage of tax-efficient opportunities in Spain that could work more favourably for your circumstances.

3. Diversify, diversify, diversify

Achieving higher returns in today's conditions and low interest rate climate means looking further than bank savings and fixed interest investment options. While market movements can be unsettling, those invested for the medium to long-term in a well-diversified portfolio are best placed to see their wealth grow over

time. Your financial adviser should undertake an objective assessment of your risk appetite to ensure your portfolio offers the right balance of risk and return for your peace of mind.

Amidst today's economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever to make sure your portfolio is not overweight in UK assets and is suitably diversified. You can reduce risk by spreading investments across regions, asset types and market sectors to limit your exposure in any one area.

4. Get your tax planning in order

When it comes to the taxes you pay in Spain, there is no reason for anything to change post-Brexit. Your tax treatment as an expatriate is determined by the UK/Spain tax treaty that exists independently of the EU.

There are, however, some circumstances where taxation may be affected. For example, once the UK leaves the EU/EEA, expatriates selling a home in Spain to buy a British property will no longer be eligible for capital gains tax relief.

Take advice to establish whether there are any potential implications and solutions for your circumstances.

5. Review your pension options

As things stand, Brexit should not impact how expatriates can access funds from UK-registered pension schemes or transfer to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS).

However, many speculate that the UK could widen the 25% 'overseas transfer charge', which currently only affects EU residents who transfer UK pensions to a QROPS based outside the EU/EEA. Once outside the bloc, the UK gains freedom to tax capital within EU borders, so there may be a limited time to transfer to a QROPS tax-free.

Transferring now can shelter pension funds from future changes to UK rules and provide flexible currency options to protect your income from fluctuating exchange rates. However, it is not a one-size-fits-all solution, so seek personalised, regulated advice to establish the right approach for you.

In any case, it is important to regularly review your financial arrangements. Regardless of Brexit, your circumstances and objectives can change over time, so what is right for you now may not be suitable in years to come.

Now has never been a better time to build a good relationship with a locally-based financial adviser who can keep you informed of developments that affect your family. They can explain the cross-border implications and help you plan if and when you need to take action so you can continue enjoying your chosen lifestyle in Spain.

All advice received from any Blevins Franks firm is personalised and provided in writing. This article, however, should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation and/or investment advice. Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; individuals should seek personalised advice.

Brexit: Is your money, and your adviser, in the right place?

As the UK edges closer towards the end of the transition period, potentially breaking all ties with the EU, it has never been more important to ensure your financial affairs are both compliant and suitable as a fiscal resident in Spain.

At Blevins Franks, we provide a range of integrated financial services to give UK nationals peace of mind about your long-term financial security as a non-EU citizen living in Spain. Your local Blevins Franks advisers are regulated, authorised and, equally important, have the experience and knowledge to advise on all aspects of financial and tax planning in post-Brexit Spain.

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Tivoli World theme park goes into administration

The iconic Benalmádena attraction is in the hands of a court-appointed administrator, who will decide whether the park is financially viable or whether to send it into liquidation

EFE / ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena's iconic theme park, Tivoli World, which opened in 1972, has gone into administration.

The firm running the park, Compañía Internacional de Parques and Atracciones SA (Cipasa), has been replaced by an administrator appointed by a Malaga mercantile court, lawyer Juan Antonio Sán-

chez. He now has the job of drawing up a report to determine whether the park's activity is viable or whether it should go into liquidation. This is likely to take several months.

Sánchez told news agency Efe on Tuesday that Cipasa has filed an appeal against the imposed administration which will be heard by the provincial court. Meanwhile though, the process can continue.

The administrator said that Tivoli's main creditors are the tax office (Hacienda) and the Social Security, which are owed between eight and ten million euros.

Park manager Javier del Río told SUR that there are a lot of questions still unanswered as the court process is still "fresh", but Tivoli is open as usual.

"We're all calm and convinced

that the park will continue to function for another 48 years," he said.

Sánchez also sent out a message of reassurance, both to park workers and to Benalmádena town hall "given the importance of the park for tourism on the Costa del Sol".

Tivoli World reopened in July at 50 per cent of its total capacity according to Covid-19 regulations, which still allows the admission of 3,000 people. Most of the rides are open, with extra health and safety measures in place.

Legal battle

The theme park is still at the centre of a legal battle stemming from its sale by the firm Arenal 2000, owned by Cordoba businessman Rafael 'Sandokán' Gómez, to the real estate company Tremón in 2007.



One of the rides at Tivoli World, Benalmádena. **SUR**

The park was included in a larger deal that involved a total of seven million square metres of land around Andalucía. Sandokán claimed that the agreed sum had not been paid and took Tremón to court.

The dispute is still going through the courts, which pre-

vented Tremón from embarking on an ambitious 300-million-euro expansion and modernisation project for Tivoli announced in 2017.

Tivoli World was opened in 1972 by Danish businessman Bent Olsen, who sold the park to Arenal 2000 in 2004.



SHOVE IT INTO 2ND, AND POP THE CLUTCH

British residents react at the "irony" of far-right anti-immigration activist moving family to Marbella

High profile co-founder and former leader of the English Defence League Tommy Robinson said he was leaving the UK after claiming his wife had been the victim of an arson attack

SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. A British far-right activist has reportedly moved to Marbella with his family.

Tommy Robinson is said to have fled the UK after an arson attack on his family home.

The 37-year-old, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, is known for his strong anti-Islamic and anti-immigration views.

The surprise move abroad was revealed in a video he posted on Russian social media platform

VK last Monday, following bans from Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

In the video Robinson can be seen at the upmarket Manolo Santana Rackets Club in Nueva Andalucía, where he was playing a game of padel.

Speaking about the alleged arson, he said: "It was targeted at my wife's property."

"At that point we left the country straight away and I'm looking at relocating my family, which is pretty hard to do, especially with Covid - I couldn't even get a hotel."

"Obviously my wife has had enough of everything - someone gave her somewhere to stay, so we left the country, and I was due to be flying back for the demonstration, but now with this 14-day quarantine, if I fly back I probably won't get back out and my kids are out here."



Tommy Robinson. **SUR FILE PHOTO**

Robinson added that he had found new schools for his daughters and is in the process of finding a "permanent relocation" for them.

He explained: "I need my fam-

ily to be away because they are not safe basically."

Robinson claimed the arson took place following his comments denouncing the Black Lives Matter protest.

Reactions

His move abroad has since been widely mocked online as he is a strong Brexit and anti-immigration supporter.

Louise Brace, 49, who lives in Mijas and runs a Marketing and Accommodation business, www.rentaltonic.com, said: "I find it kind of ironic that someone who is so opposed to immigration in the UK should decide that a move to Spain wouldn't also be considered immigration. But hey, Brits are expats and everyone else immigrants, right? If he's serious about living here (hopefully not) then he'll need to practise what he preaches and learn Spanish,

organise his residency, and pay Spanish taxes, where they're due."

Mary Page, British expat and president of PSOE Estepona, said: "Well, as this area is often called the Costa del Crime, it's not surprising that this former jailbird has ended up here. You couldn't make it up: immigrant basher Tommy is now an immigrant. Let's hope he learns Spanish quickly, he has expressed strong views about immigrants not learning their new language. The man is a con man and a racist thug who has taken advantage of the freedom of movement, he would deny to others."

Meanwhile Giles Brown, 52, broadcaster and blogger at planet-marbella.com, told SUR in English: "As soon as I heard that Tommy Robinson was coming to Spain, there was a crushing inevitability that he would end up on the coast. Despite the outcry among many residents about his visit, I hope that Tommy uses this opportunity to see at first hand the magical mix of cultures and nationalities that live together on the Costa, and that he realises the error of his own policies. But I doubt it."

Renovation work concludes on Marbella bullring, now ready to house new events

The council is looking for a firm to manage the arena and organise a programme of cultural and bullfighting activities from next year

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. Work to renovate the old town bullring in Marbella, which had previously fallen into a state of disrepair, is now complete. Costing 800,000 euros, the council project involved repairing the roof, painting, rewiring, improving accessibility and replacing lighting, loudspeaker and fire safety equipment.

Mayor of Marbella Ángeles Muñoz visited the bullring on Wednesday and said that the



Ángeles Muñoz and councillor Diego López in the bullring. JOSELE

council was preparing conditions for the contract to manage the arena which will go out to tender shortly.

The idea is for "important firms to bring cultural events to the town", said the mayor, who added that the council had not ruled out holding bullfights in the arena, but stressed that the new management would be expected to organise all types of cultural events.

"Bullfighting events are also culture but we want this to be open and more than just a bullring," said Muñoz.

Work started at the venue last October and has not been delayed despite the declaration of the state of alarm due to Covid-19.

The mayor said she hoped events could be held there from next year.

Casares tip and recycling plant to gets 24-million-euro investment

C- MÁRQUEZ

CASARES. Urbaser, the firm that manages the waste disposal plant in Casares is to spend 24 million euros on improvements to the facility, up to 2023. This investment was one of the conditions for the company to have its contract to run the plant, known as the Complejo Medioambiental de Casares, renewed for another 24 years.

Part of the work will be aimed at reducing the smells produced by the plant, in response to demands made by the local residents association. The landfill sites will also be extended and the environmental education centre, where visitors learn about how the plant recycles waste, is to be modernised.

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HERE AND THERE

TORREMOLINOS

New local law to permit fairground bars to open every day

T. BRYANT. Torremolinos town hall has announced its latest initiative to help the local hospitality sector recover from the financial crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Following the announcement of the cancellation of festivals such as the romería and feria, the cultural department has offered the owners of the fairground bars, 'casetas', the opportunity to open outside the usual regulations.

At present, the majority of these bars can only open during the feria that celebrates the town's patron, San Miguel, in September.

Associations and organisations that run the casetas on the fairground can now apply for a licence that will allow them to open every day of the



A previous event in a caseta. T.B.

year.

Councillor for Culture, David Tejeiro claimed that the establishments are ideal "to develop cultural, gastronomic and social activities", while emphasising the fact that the casetas are "large enough to enforce all the current health and safety requirements."

FUENGIROLA

Council creates local business discount scheme for pensioners

A. J. Fuengirola town hall has launched an initiative aimed at giving discounts in local businesses for residents over the age of 65. More local shopkeepers and business-owners are encouraged to sign up to the Mayormente Contigo scheme, which has so far only attracted hairdressing and beauty salons.

All businesses that join the scheme will be given a special sign to use to attract customers and increase their client base, the town hall said this week.

"We encourage all businesses to join the network, offering some discount on the usual price for this group," said Social Welfare councillor Rocío Rodríguez, giving dentists, physiotherapists or clothes shops as examples of services that would be ideal to include in the scheme.



Umbrellas kept off the sun in Malaga on Sunday. FRANCIS SILVA

Maximum temperature of 45.7 degrees recorded in Velez last weekend

SUR

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol suffered its highest temperatures this year on Sunday when thermometers went above 40 degrees Celsius in most areas. The highest reading at an official weather station was in Vélez-Málaga with 45.7°, while the Malaga Airport station gave a reading of 43° for

much of the day.

While the heatwave had affected most of Spain since the previous Thursday, Malaga province was worst hit on Saturday and Sunday, with the warm Teral wind causing temperatures to rise. The weather agency Aemet raised its warning to red over last weekend.

Temperatures settled in the low thirties on most of the Costa del Sol for the rest of this week. Forecasts show that the area looks set to escape the worst of another heatwave that has yellow and amber warnings in place in other parts of Spain for this coming weekend.

Nerja mayor to go on trial over illegal rubbish tip by river

The judge has concluded his investigation and one other councillor and seven business people will also be in the dock

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. A court in the Axarquía has confirmed that it will summon the mayor of Nerja and one of his councillors to stand trial over the illegal tipping of rubbish by a local river bed.

The investigation involves seven people from the building trade as well as the mayor, José Alberto Armijo of the PP party, and his councillor for Planning and Housing, Mari Nieves Atencia. The accusations focus on the illegal dumping in an old quarry by the Miel river in Nerja from June 1998 to September 2016.

The judge said that Nerja town hall, which also is liable, and the two politicians must deposit almost 10.8 million euros to cover any possible public liability payments for the supposed environmental damage. Some



The tip operated from 1998 to 2016. E. CABEZAS

800,000 cubic metres of waste is alleged to have been left at the site without any controls or operating licences in place.

The Torrox-based judge also said that the case was being provisionally and partially shelved against Rosa Arrabal, the former PSOE mayor, and two other local, and one regional, politicians initially under investigation.

AGRECA, a regional association of waste management firms, said it welcomed the move to a trial.

It explained that it would set an example and put an end to, what it says, is the culture of councils in Spain turning a blind eye when illegal tipping of waste and building materials is carried out in their areas.

HERE AND THERE



Luis Morán and María Mancha with their family . SUR

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

Rincón couple celebrate diamond wedding

E. C. Luis Morán, 87 and his wife María Mancha, 85, were taken by surprise when their family secretly organised a special celebration to mark their diamond wedding in July.

The couple's four children and four grandchildren arranged the party which was held at Rincón de la Victoria town hall on 24 July, 60 years on from their wedding at Santo Domingo church in Malaga.

"They tricked us. They said we were just going out for dinner somewhere," the couple said after the celebration.

TORRE DEL MAR

Torre del Mar theatre plans reactivated

E. C. Vélez-Málaga town hall has reactivated plans to build a 550-seat theatre in Torre del Mar. Councillors approved the plans in July and said last week that once they get the "green light" from technical staff, the work will be able to go out to tender. The eight-million-euro project will be built in the Cerro de Águila area near the town's indoor swimming pool.

NERJA

Ancient funeral objects discovered in cave

E. C. Archaeologists have found what are thought to be funeral objects belonging to a child during ongoing conservation work in the Nerja cave. Marble beads were found alongside teeth and hand bones in a section of the cave known as A-13 at the end of July. While scientists don't know the exact age of the pieces, they are thought to date back to the Neolithic period.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Aquavelis voted third best water park in Spain

E. CABEZAS. Vélez-Málaga's Aquavelis water park has been voted the third best of its kind in Spain in the Trip Advisor Travellers' Choice 2020 awards. "It's great to know that our users have awarded us with their opinions and ratings," said manager Rafael Gálvez, last week. He added that this year the park is only allowing 40 per cent of its usual capacity in each day and that new attractions include a spa area.



Aquavelis water park. J. R.



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Local coronavirus outbreaks shoot up on the western Costa del Sol

Nightclubs and private gatherings are the focus of attention for the health authorities, and club owners have asked to be allowed to shut again

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. The number of people testing positive for coronavirus continues to rise in the Malaga area. Small, separate local outbreaks in coastal holiday resorts west of the city are a particular focus for the health authorities at the moment.

Nightclubs were still at the centre of attention this week, and increasingly private gatherings of family and friends at home.

Eight new local outbreaks were announced in the latest daily update, published by the regional Health Ministry on Thursday, bringing the total active in Malaga province to 23. 18 of the 23 were in the western Costa del Sol. Some 20 are still considered under investigation, where people who have had contact with positive cases are being traced by health officials.

On the western Costa (which is the area covered by the Costa del Sol Health District) there had been 207 new positive cases in the week of 31 July to 6 August, detected by PCR tests. Of these, 124 were identified in Marbella, 18 in Fuengirola, 14 in Estepona, 10 in Torremolinos and 7 in Benalmádena. There were 57 new cases in Malaga city in the last week, 12 in the Guadalhorce valley, 5 in the La Vega area around Antequera, 5 in the Ronda area and 4 in Axarquía. Most cases show no symptoms.

In all Malaga province's hospitals, there were 13 in hospital on Thursday one of whom was in intensive care.

Across the whole Andalucía region, there were 86 local outbreaks being monitored on Thursday, 14 more on the previous day.

Club bosses ask to close

Nightlife bosses in Andalucía have asked the regional government to force them to close. They claim new restrictions on opening times are making them lose money and it is better for them financially to be forced into closing the shutters again.



The Costa del Sol Health District saw 207 new cases this week. JOSELE

Government denies return of state of alarm as Covid-19 numbers continue to tick up

Central government said on Thursday that it had no plans to bring back a state of alarm, despite there being 580 monitored localised outbreaks in Spain. Finance minister, María Jesús Montero, explained, "The indicators of the epidemic don't point in that direction and no autonomous regional government has requested it."

In the latest reported case data on Thursday, the outbreaks in Spain were still concentrated in the north of the country. Aragon and the Basque Country were reporting that their health services could come under strain. 338 new individual cases were reported in the Basque Country in a day, levels last seen at the end of April, and 329 in Aragon.

Meanwhile, residents of Aranda del Duero in the central Castilla y León region have been told they cannot leave for two weeks as cases grow there.

Marbella nightclub due to reopen after closing down when staff tested positive for Covid

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. The Olivia Valère nightclub in Marbella was due to reopen this week after closing unexpectedly on Monday due to some members of staff testing positive for Covid-19.

The management cancelled the event planned saying that "due to safety measures and for the wellbeing of our customers we have decided to close our premises".

It said, however that it was disinfecting and deep cleaning the club and that the doors would open again on Thursday 6 August, when Drian López was due to perform.

On Monday 27, the nightclub's staff, formed by some 80 people, were tested for coronavirus and the firm published on its Facebook page that 100 per cent of the workforce were negative. However some employees started to feel unwell a few days later, with Covid-19 symptoms. One of them publicly denounced the situation.

Marbella Local Police then contacted the firm to ensure that the correct protocol for positive tests in a business was being followed.

On Wednesday 29 July, the Costa del Sol Health District Epidemiology Unit asked the firm to provide the details of the members of staff as a possible case had been detected.

The nightclub's management has said that owner Olivia Valère was very upset by the situation. "While this is happening in many other businesses, our nightclub is always in the news; it must be because our brand is internationally known," she said.

Marbella town hall said that according to regulations, when cases are detected in a workplace, those affected must self-isolate and the premises disinfected and sanitised to be able to reopen.



Olivia Valère. JOSELE

World tourism expert calls on UK to lift the restrictions on travel to Spain

The head of the WTO said from Malaga that Spain's tourist industry will recover but it currently needs financial support and flexible taxation

PILAR MARTÍNEZ



MALAGA. The general secretary of the UN's World Tourism Organisation (WTO) has said that the UK's quarantine for travellers arriving from Spain doesn't make much sense.

Speaking in Malaga at the presentation of the pioneering World Tourist Identification (WTID) app, Zurab questioned "unilateral decisions to restrict travel between EU countries", in clear reference to Britain's move.

Malaga will be the first city to have full coverage on the new WTID app, which makes it easier and safer for people to identify themselves on holiday.

Pololikashvili said he had written to the British government, urging them to change their minds and lift the restriction on travel to Spain, adding that it is "harmful

to Spanish tourism". He called for a standard protocol in the EU, and said he hopes the UK will do all it can to enable British people to travel and give Spanish tourism a chance. "The self-isolation is not going to facilitate these matters," he said.

The WTO boss sent a message of hope to the sector, but also warned that Spanish tourism firms need support with cashflow and fiscal flexibility in order to recover. He recommended that the Spanish government use its EU funding to give more help to tourism, which represents 11 per cent of GDP and has a major effect on



Zurab Pololikashvili. SUR

other productive sectors.

Praising the government's work on safety guidelines, which he said had been "an example to other countries", Pololikashvili insisted that "the time has come to travel and people have to start doing so. Safety measures are in place and I see no risk of a second wave like the one in March".

He also stressed that all companies are applying strict measures to prevent infection. "Spain is safe," he said. He believes the country and Europe will be the first to recover visitor numbers, but it will be a matter of time and effort.

The WTID app will be ready to use by mid-August

P. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The WTID app project, backed by the World Tourism Organisation and the result of three years' work, is expected to be available this month. It is the first app which enables travellers to carry their passport, ID, health documents, tourism services and payment methods on their mobile phones so they don't need to carry the originals around with them, as has always been the case until now. World Tourist Identification (WTID) has been designed by Wanderlust and it was officially presented this week at an event organised by Malaga council.

Antonio Santos del Valle, CEO of Wanderlust, said it will be ready to download in mid-August and described it as marking a "before and after" for travel and tourism.

Hotels expect August to be quieter than July, when occupancy was 40%

In the first week of this month, 72.5 per cent fewer international tourists came to Andalucía compared with last year, because of the pandemic

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. August is going to be even quieter than July was, say hoteliers on the Costa del Sol. Last month there was 40 per cent average occupancy, and they expect the average for the peak summer season to be 39.9 per cent at the very most. They attribute the low numbers to the British government's decision

to apply a self-isolation requirement to travellers entering the UK from Spain, and a general fear of travelling because of spikes in the coronavirus. They do, however, say that people are tending to book at the last minute so it is difficult to predict exactly what might happen.

Hoteliers believe the cause is the quarantine requirement in the UK and a general fear of travel due to the coronavirus

Official tourism figures for the first six months of this year show that 1.5 million international travellers came to Spain, compared with 5.6 million in the same period last year. The report says Andalusian destinations received 72.5 per cent fewer international tourists between January and the end of June.

Not only are there fewer visitors, but they are spending less and staying for a shorter time. The statistics show that compared with last year, spending by tourists in Spain as a whole has dropped by 40.8 per cent to 651 euros per person, and the average length of stay has reduced by one day to 5.7 days.

HERE AND THERE



Work in progress. SUR

ÁLORA

New visitor centre for end of El Caminito walk

A. JIMÉNEZ. The Caminito del Rey walkway is to have a new visitor centre at its southern end, near El Chorro. The company running the attraction is spending 180,000 euros on the building which will provide better facilities for visitors after they have completed the popular elevated walk through the nearby gorge. The wooden structures will include an information centre, toilets and stands for small shops, part-paid with EU funds.

MALAGA

Turkish Airlines starts up again from Malaga

P. MARTÍNEZ. Turkish Airlines has started up its flights again from Malaga Airport following their suspension at the onset of the Covid-19 crisis. These are the only flights currently coming into the airport from outside Europe. From 1 August, Turkish is operating four flights a week to Istanbul, which contrasts with the two daily flights it had been running up to March. The airline started flying from the Costa in 2011.

ANTEQUERA

6,000 flamingo chicks born at lake reserve

F. TORRES. A total of 6,030 flamingo chicks have been born this year at the Laguna de Fuente de Piedra near Antequera. The lake is recognised as one of the main breeding grounds for flamingos in the Mediterranean and North Africa. Some 10,000 breeding pairs are believed to have descended on this inland nature reserve this season.

The authorities said that this week 2,500 pairs were still on the lake caring for their young.

"Straitened circumstances" force Lux Mundi to relocate to smaller premises

In order to reduce overheads, the new ecumenical centre will be located in Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Fuengirola

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Lux Mundi has announced that, due to financial complications, the association is unable to continue to maintain its ecumenical centre in Fuengirola. The centre in Calle Nueva will cease to function from 1 September, when the charity will move to a smaller premises to enable it to continue to function with greatly reduced overheads.

Lux Mundi, which has been serving the local international community for almost 50 years, re-

cently held a series of meetings with the patrons who oversee the administration of the centre; the Bishop of Malaga and the Jesuits. All have stressed the importance of keeping the ecumenical centre open, as well continuing the pastoral assistance it provides to the large community of foreigners, especially those in need.

Like many charities along the Costa del Sol, Lux Mundi's financial situation has worsened as all fundraising activities had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The organisation will now move its headquarters to the Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Calle María Josefa Larrucea (Fuengirola).

Lux Mundi has stressed that the second-hand shop in Calle Nueva will still be open from Tuesday to



Centre in Calle Nueva to close. SUR

The charity will continue to offer help to those in need, especially the homeless of Fuengirola

Friday between 10 am and 1pm in order to provide income, although it is unable to accept donations.

Lux Mundi will continue to work closely with Cáritas Española - an organisation that carries out charitable and social activities in Catholic churches throughout Spain - in order to continue to offer help to those in need, especially the homeless. However, in order to reduce costs further, the centre will only operate during the mornings.

The charity has sent out a desperate appeal for volunteers and financial assistance to continue to

offer a meeting point where unity is promoted by means of helping others.

President Gloria Uribe Cifuentes said, "Lux Mundi needs support now more than ever. We badly need money and manpower, and so we are sincerely appealing to the goodness of every one of our volunteers and friends to help us in our straitened circumstances. We are continuing to review the situation in the hope and expectation of finding a long-term solution to our financial problems."

Uribe expressed the charity's sincere appreciation for the support the expat community has provided since it was founded in 1973, saying, "Lux Mundi wants to inform every one of our current situation and to especially thank them for the support they have given to us, both financially and by participating in our activities. Without this help it would have been impossible for us to carry out our work in previous years."

More information :
www.luxmundi.org

Torre del Mar branch's long-term survival to be reviewed at the end of the year

JENNIE RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. Gloria Uribe, Lux Mundi president, said that for the time being the Torre del Mar branch of the ecumenical organisation will remain open.

"The situation [is] being reviewed at the end of the year

as to whether it is viable to keep the centre open in the long run," explained Uribe.

The Lux Mundi centre in Torre del Mar opens on Fridays from 11am until 1pm and on Tuesdays by appointment only from 10am until 1pm throughout summer, with a view to extending the opening times to every morning (Monday to Friday) from September onwards.

The Torre del Mar shop is open on Fridays although it is unable to accept donations of items to sell as it does not have the equipment to sterilise them.

Uribe also appealed for Friends of Lux Mundi members to renew their cards.



New chaplain installed at St George's

A licensing service for the new chaplain, the Rev Louis Darrant (c), took place at St George's Anglican Church in Malaga, on Saturday. The service was led by the Ven David Waller, Archdeacon of Gibraltar, and was attended by representatives of the clergy in Andalucía and members of the chaplaincy's congregations.

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Forecasts for the Malaga economy downgraded: it could fall by up to 14.7 per cent

Malaga is the province of Andalucía most affected by the Covid-19 crisis, and a reduction in GDP of 10.6 per cent is now the most favourable scenario

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. In their previous report, analysts at Analistas Económicos de Andalucía (AEA) warned that the recession the regional economy is bound to suffer this year would be more or less intense depending on tourism this summer. There was a certain optimism at the start of the season, but the quarantine imposed by the UK and the number of new outbreaks of Covid-19 have dashed the hopes of hoteliers who thought things might approach something like normal. Now the group, which is part of Unicaja, has updated its forecasts.

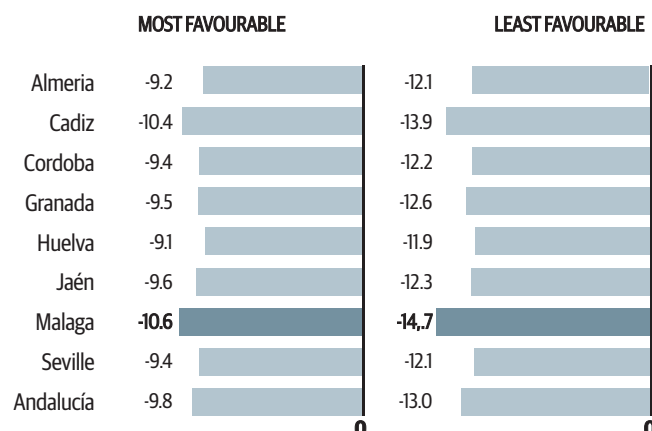
In Malaga, the province of Andalucía where GDP is expected to fall more than anywhere else, they are predicting a reduction of 10.6 per cent as the most favourable scenario and 14.7 per cent as the worst. The previous report had talked of a fall of between 9.3 and 13.9 per cent. As a region, Andalucía's economy could fall between 9.8 and 13 per cent this year.

Employment

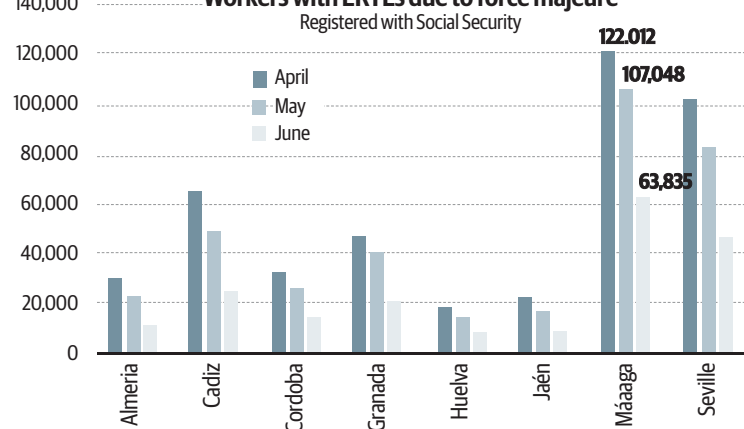
With regard to employment, AEA say the number of workers registered with Social Security dropped by 2.5 per cent in the region in the first six months of this year, especially in provinces with a strong dependence on the Services sector, such as Malaga.

However, there are signs that things stabilised a little from May onwards. Between April and June nearly 32,000 other workers registered with Social Security, following a drop of 177,500 from February to April.

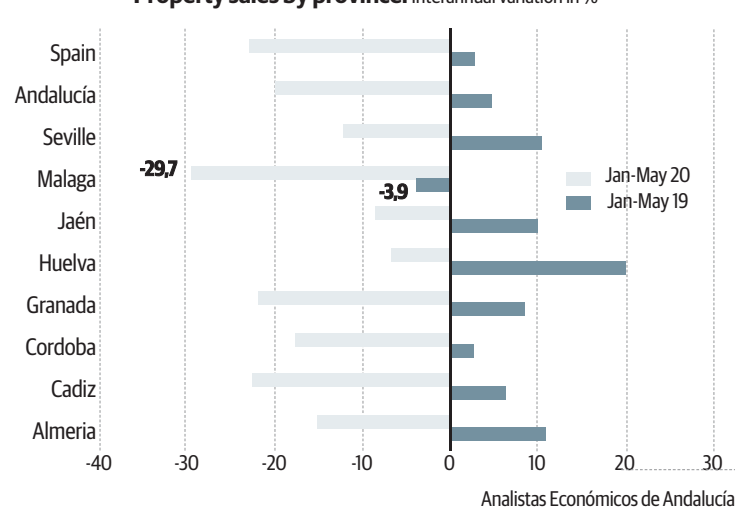
Estimations of decrease. Possible scenarios



Workers with ERTes due to force majeure



Property sales by province. Interannual variation in %



THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Compare and contrast



Did Pedro Sánchez make the right choice in locking down Spain to the extent that he did? It's likely to be some time before we can answer that question with any certainty, even after it emerged this week that between April and June, the country's economy shrunk by 18.5% - the worst contraction seen since the outbreak of the Civil War in 1936. Another question linked to the first is whether some of the economic damage the country has sustained is owed not just to the virus (although a lot certainly is), but also to measures employed by the Spanish government to reduce its effect on the health services.

A comparison with Sweden, which controversially refused to impose lockdown on its citizens in March, yields no clear answer to either question.

Despite having no new outbreaks such as those recently seen in Catalonia and Aragón, Sweden's per capita death-rate is higher even than that of the United States.

And although the economic impact of the virus and/or of the Swedish government's containment measures has been much less severe than it has in Spain, it has still been worse than experts predicted.

Another question raised by comparing and contrasting Spain with Sweden is whether governments were justified in imposing their Covid regulations by force, or whether some or most of the rules should have taken the form of recommendations,

leaving the rest to people's rationality and compassion. Sweden's recent GDP statistics, for example, could be used to support the argument that although no lockdown was forced upon the population, most citizens obeyed the government's recommendations anyway, which is why the country's economic activity slowed considerably (although nowhere near as much as Spain's).

Of course, this is an unfashionable case to make when there's such widespread support for the idea that citizens need to be told what to do, what to say and even what to think - an idea that has always seemed to me to rest on a very dim view of humanity.

To question that imposing total lockdowns during pandemics is the only, or at least the best, way to proceed has become an almost unspeakable taboo, anathema to the standard view that not shutting down a country in the way that Spain's government did is almost homicidally irresponsible.

Yet we must criticise that orthodoxy, and analyse the results from countries such as Sweden with open minds about the merits, and of course flaws, of other approaches.

In a way that suggested he thought he was uttering an obvious truism, a friend of mine said to me this week, "It's precisely in times like these that we need totalitarianism".

I agree entirely, provided a "don't" is added at the appropriate place in that sentence.

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Spain left guessing as to whereabouts of Juan Carlos I after he leaves the country

King Felipe VI accepted his father's decision to move abroad with "gratitude" and stressed the "historical importance" of his 39-year reign

SUR

MADRID. People in Spain still did not have confirmation of the whereabouts of their former head of state on Thursday evening. Despite fervent speculation in the media as to where Juan Carlos de Borbón, King of Spain until his abdication in 2014, had gone, the government and the Royal household of his son, Felipe VI, were not giving away any details.

In a statement on Monday, King Juan Carlos said that he had taken a "measured decision" to leave the country due to the repercussions of "certain past events" in his private life and to help his son carry out his role as Head of State without distraction.

"I'm bound [to leave] by my legacy and my personal dignity," he said in the letter made public by the Royal Family.

In response, Felipe VI offered his father his "heartfelt respect and gratitude for his decision" and stressed "the historical importance" of his father's 39-year reign, "as the legacy and political and institutional work at the service of Spain and democracy".

The emeritus king's decision comes after information was revealed regarding a multimillion-euro fortune in Switzerland and tax havens, allegedly part due to the receipt of commissions and illicit financial activity. The main investigation is centring on possible commissions from Saudi



Rumours had Juan Carlos at this gated estate in the Dominican Republic. EFE



Juan Carlos and Felipe, on the former's abdication in 2014. AFP

The emeritus king's decision comes after information was revealed regarding a multimillion-euro fortune in Switzerland and tax havens

The King was said to have left a yacht club in Galicia on Monday where he was staying, before crossing the nearby border to Portugal

Arabia to the King linked to Spanish companies winning a contract to build a high-speed railway to Mecca while he was still King. Juan Carlos had been immune for prosecution while still ruler of Spain.

The possibility of undeclared money came to light after a former lover of Juan Carlos was secretly taped discussing his financial affairs. Amid claims and counter claims, complex legal moves are now under way in Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

The lawyer of the former head of state said that despite Juan Carlos' departure from Spain, his client was at the disposal of the Public Prosecution Department "for any formality or action it deems necessary".

During the coronavirus lockdown, King Felipe announced that he was giving up all inheritance from his father, due to the growing allegations of corrupt practice involving funds of which the current king had been put down as a hereditary beneficiary.

Juan Carlos's wife, Queen Sofia, continues living in Spain and will carry out Royal duties. This week she was on her usual holiday at the Marivent palace in Mallorca.

The King was said to have left a yacht club in Galicia on Monday where he was staying before crossing the nearby border to Portugal. According to press speculation, he was either still in Portugal, staying at a friend's estate, or had flown to the Dominican Republic to a secluded luxury development that he has visited in the past.

Friends were reported as saying that he had no plans to have a fixed address outside Spain and would travel around.

PM firmly backs a parliamentary monarchy amid fresh calls from the Left for a republic

SUR

MADRID. The Socialist-led government was coping with a surge in antimonarchist feeling on the Left this week, not least from its minority coalition partners, Unidas Podemos (UP).

Following the news that King Juan Carlos had moved to another country, the prime minister Pedro Sánchez launched a calming message to his own PSOE party. He said that the monarchy was a key part of the Constitution. "The parliamentary monarchy is an element of that pact, not the [entire] pact. All the pact is the Constitution and it can't be chopped and changed on a whim. We are loyal to the Constitution; all of it from start to finish. And we will defend it through thick and thin," he explained in a letter.

The clear support for the status quo came after his deputy PM, Pablo Iglesias, of his political ally, the anticapitalist UP, called for a debate on Spain becoming a republic. UP ministers had apparently been kept in the dark about the PM's conversations with the Royal household over Juan Carlos leaving Spain.

Iglesias said it had been "an undignified flight" and added that, "sooner or later, younger people will make a republic possible in Spain".

Deputy PM Carmen Calvo (PSOE) stressed on Wednesday that the former monarch wasn't fleeing from anything as he had not been formally accused in any legal case.

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Hope in Jimena as Civil War victims are found and exhumed

Twelve bodies have been found in two mass graves at the cemetery in the castle and experts believe there may be 30 to 40 there in total

DEBBIE BARTLETT

JIMENA DE LA FRONTERA. Archaeologists working in the cemetery in the castle in Jimena to exhume the bodies of victims killed during and after the Civil War say they have found the remains of at least 12 people in the two mass graves they have opened so far. They have notified the Junta de Andalucía

which, under the Democratic Memory law of 2017, should now notify the Guardia Civil and the courts so that the relevant investigation can be carried out.

A press release issued by the Foro por la Memoria del Campo de Gibraltar explains that written notification has been sent to the Junta from the Cadiz provincial government, Jimena council, representatives of relatives of the victims and the Foro itself, and it states that the bodies recovered show clear signs of violence, including gunshot wounds, and in some cases their hands were tied. They could be classified as victims of a crime of forced disappearance, which is



The exhumation works are slow and painstaking. **SUR**

included in the legislation of several countries.

The archaeologists and anthropologists have now begun to remove the bodies, which will be studied in minute detail and

DNA samples taken. People in Jimena who know that their relatives were killed and are in mass graves at the cemetery have already provided their own DNA samples in the hope of finding

a match, so they can give their loved ones a dignified burial.

Jesús Román Román, the archaeologist who is coordinating the exhumations, says they thought there were six people in the first grave, but as they removed the last one they discovered the remains of somebody else underneath. So far five people have been found in the second mass grave, and it is possible that there will be more.

The next stage of the exhumation works will be to open another mass grave which has been located in a different courtyard at the cemetery. Family members of victims regularly visit the site to see how the work is progressing.

Historians say at least 100 people from Jimena were killed by Franco's troops, but not all of them were buried in the cemetery. Research carried out prior to the exhumations indicated that between 30 and 40 may be there. Their families are hoping desperately that they will all be found and identified.

A man in a yellow shirt and khaki shorts is pushing a green car from behind. The car is on a grassy field with hills in the background.

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GIBRALTAR

Museum scientists involved in major discovery

Tracks of ancient animal species exposed after a storm in Doñana National Park indicate a connection with the Pleistocene ecosystems of the Rock

D.BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Scientists from the Gibraltar National Museum have collaborated with others from the universities of Lisbon, Seville, Huelva, Coimbra and Barcelona on research which has led to a major palaeontological discovery and has just been published online in the international journal Quaternary Science Reviews.

A Late Pleistocene surface dating to approximately 106,000 years ago at the base of the 'El Asperillo'

cliff in the Doñana National Park, south-western Spain, was recently exposed by storms. The trampled surface was full of exceptional tracks and trackways of different terrestrial vertebrates, which have now been identified as ancestral wild cattle known as aurochs, red deer, wild boar, straight-tusked elephant, wolves and also geese and wading birds. The scientists believe the trampled surface was related to puddled areas of shallow waters in an inter-dune position, similar to present day examples in Doñana.

This is important because it strengthens the connection between Gibraltar's Pleistocene ecosystems and those of Doñana, which scientists have been using as a proxy model for Gibraltar's ancient landscapes and habitats.



The packages had been stuffed into all the vehicle's tyres. **SUR**

Two arrests after 57 cartons of cigarettes found in car tyres

GIBRALTAR

D. BARTLETT. Customs officers arrested two Spanish nationals on Tuesday after finding around 57 cartons of cigarettes stashed away inside the tyres of their vehicle. The officers became suspicious of their behaviour in the area of Flat Bas-

tion Road and stopped the car when it reached Line Wall Road. The vehicle was moved to Four Corners Station to be searched thoroughly, and when a front tyre was found to contain cartons of cigarettes the occupants admitted that all four tyres were the same.

COVID-19

Coronavirus cases rise slightly in Gibraltar

D.B. The number of active Covid-19 cases in Gibraltar has risen to six (four residents and two visitors), bringing the total since the pandemic began to 190. A total of 9,983 tests have been carried out so far in frontline, targeted and systematic sampling, and 60 people are currently in self-isolation for varying reasons.

FINANCE

Gibraltar Finance has joined INATBA

D.B. Gibraltar Finance, which promotes the Rock as a financial centre, has been accepted as a member of INATBA. This organisation provides Distributed Ledger Technology users with a global forum to interact with regulators and policymakers to expedite the development of blockchain technology.

AEDAS HOMES

COSTA DEL SOL. Estepona, Marbella, Malaga city, Fuengirola and Rincón de la Victoria are just some of the places where the company has projects under way



Soul Marbella Sunset, apartments, semi-detached houses and villas in Marbella. AEDAS HOMES

David Martínez: «The outstanding feature of this development is its location, just a few minutes from the Marina and Estepona town centre»

This residential complex stands in Santa Clara, the city's most exclusive district, beside the golf course of the same name, and provides some spectacular sea views. In Soul Marbella Sunset (the name of the first of the developments making up this project), works are now ongoing to conclude its 42 homes (2 villas, 12 semi-detached single-family houses and 28 stunning apartments) with footages starting from 245 m². Soul Marbella will be offering community facilities that will include 5 pool areas, a gymnasium, coworking room and concierge service.

The best options for buying a new home on the Costa del Sol

With its focus always set on the customer's comfort and wellness, AEDAS Homes offers different types of homes to cater for all demand profiles

MÁLAGA

SUR. La Costa del Sol is undoubtedly one of the regions with the best quality of life in Spain. A climate boasting over 300 days' sunshine a year, beaches of unrivalled beauty and natural settings that dreams are made of all shape this part of southern Spain. For those seeking to acquire a new-build home in this paradise on earth, the developer AEDAS Homes offers a number of developments sited in the very best locations.

Estepona, Marbella, Malaga city, Fuengirola and Rincón de la Victoria are just some of the places where the company has projects under way. With its focus always set on the customer's comfort

and wellness, AEDAS Homes offers different types of homes to cater for all demand profiles: from apartments to penthouses with solarium, or semi-detached houses, ground-floor flats with gardens or independent villas.

Live in the Costa del Sol's new "Golden Mile"

Dubbed "the Costa del Sol's New Golden Mile", those looking to start a new life in the town of Estepona have various projects available. In the Selwo Park district, AEDAS Homes has the Vania Gardens development now on sale. With building work completed and part of the 72 dwellings already delivered, there are still 2- and 3-bedroom options available (phase 2 also includes 4-bedroom models). All of them can make use of the project's superb community facilities which include 5 pool areas, a spa, gymnasium and fitness room.

In this same town, AEDAS Homes is also offering the various phases comprising its South Bay Las Mesas development, a



Kane, luxury new-build flats for sale in Málaga. AEDAS HOMES

residential complex totalling over 200 dwellings. "The outstanding feature of this development is its location, just a few minutes from the Marina and Estepona town centre," explains David Martínez, manager of AEDAS Homes on the Costa del Sol and head of this project which now has a show home open for viewing. The different phases of South Bay Las Mesas have parks, restaurants, sports

centres and healthcare facilities close by and their community installations include a swimming pool and gymnasium; phases 2 and 3 also come with a spa.

Exclusivity lives on in Marbella

AEDAS Homes boasts its flagship development, Soul Marbella in the well-known city of Marbella.

The best views over the Mediterranean

Those choosing Middel Views and Idilia will not want to miss a single sunset from their homes. The privileged sea views they get from their terraces will make these spaces a definite favourite in every new home. Located in Fuengirola and Rincón de la Victoria, respectively, quality is the hallmark of these developments whose community facilities include a pool and landscaped gardens.

Kane, the AEDAS Homes development in the city of Malaga, also has meticulously designed terraces and large windowpanes to boost natural light. This project, with 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom options includes a rooftop pool so residents can take a refreshing dip whilst soaking up the city skyline.

All AEDAS Homes projects are committed to sustainability as a way of life and include energy efficiency measures to protect the planet and help our homeowners' household economies. A further indication of the company's pledge to the environment and to its customers.

INFORMATION

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INTERVIEW. José Ignacio Fernández de Jódar, Director of AEDAS Homes

«AEDAS Homes has always been a step ahead, and due to our strong focus on innovation and technology»

MÁLAGA

SUR. How is the Costa del Sol property behaving now, given the current situation caused by Covid-19? Has there been an increase in interest from buyers from abroad?

I believe we are in a situation characterized by pent-up demand pending consolidation, due to the present circumstances that prevent customers from travelling freely.

In the specific case of Costa del Sol, we find ourselves with a solid real estate market that has proven demand for new-build homes.

With regard to interest, Costa del Sol is a privileged destination - for its climate, for its ample leisure offerings, and for being well-connected with the rest of Europe. This means that customers from abroad can easily find everything they need in the area, making it a preferred destination.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought changes in trends in terms of customer preferences. Customers are now seeking spacious, light-filled, sustainable homes, with spaces that can serve a variety of functions, to be able to work from home comfortably and productively if needed. How is AEDAS Homes adapting its product to these evolving customer preferences?

Covid-19 has brought on an acceleration in residential design and construction trends that favour better layouts and more natural light, two things that were already an integral part of the way AEDAS Homes designs and builds homes.

Our company philosophy has always been clear - that architecture should be on a human scale. What this means, in simpler terms, is that we design and build houses to be lived in. In this sense, our homes in Costa del Sol respond to the needs of a wide variety of customers, from people over 65 who want to spend long periods in Spain and are looking for a house with spectacular views where they can fully relax, to those who are looking for a sec-



José Ignacio Fernández de Jódar. AEDAS HOMES

ond residence that will make it easy to work from home part-time. Our homes are designed to be multidisciplinary - to serve all kinds of aspirations in the same space, where people can live, work and enjoy.

AEDAS Homes has a number of developments in Costa del Sol, and of these, Soul Marbella is considered to be the flagship. What sets it apart?

Everything about Soul Marbella is unique and exclusive. Imagine a five-star resort with every imaginable amenity and service, in an unparalleled location on a 120,000 sqm plot surrounded by stunning views and golf - this is Marbella in its purest form, and in fact, it's the only plot in Marbella with these characteristics. From its natural surroundings and spectacular views, to the thoughtfully landscaped common areas that meet all our customers' essential needs, to com-

fortable homes that are filled with natural light and invite you to rest, Soul Marbella is a unique and exclusive residential development in the most privileged of settings.

How can someone arrange a visit to see one of the developments that AEDAS Homes has in the area?

Undoubtedly, the best option would be to contact our Call Centre, where our agents will be able to propose convenient dates and times to arrange a visit to the development that you are interested in. There is really nothing comparable to seeing our developments in person. However, these are unprecedented times, and we know how difficult it can be right now to travel, but we don't want that to keep our customers from getting the information they want. Fortunately, AEDAS Homes has always been a step ahead, and due to our strong focus on inno-

«With regard to interest, Costa del Sol is a privileged destination - for its climate, for its ample leisure offerings, and for being well-connected with the rest of Europe»

«Our 'Live Virtual Tours' platform allows our customers to visit our developments from the comfort of their own living rooms, without having to travel»

vation and technology, we have an in-house tool that makes visiting properties virtually very easy and convenient.

Our 'Live Virtual Tours' platform allows our customers to visit our developments from the comfort of their own living rooms, without having to travel. All they need to do is schedule an appointment and connect from their mobile or tablet with one of our bilingual sales advisers, who will guided them through the common areas and all the rooms of the house or apartment, just as if they were there in person. At the same time, the sales adviser is on hand to give them all the details they need and answer any questions that come up. This tool makes it easier for all AEDAS Homes customers, but especially for those residing outside Spain, to be able to get to know their new home through a bespoke, seamless virtual experience.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An example to follow

I have just returned, on Sunday second day of August, from a walk along the Paseo in San Pedro.

Everything was absolutely delightful. The beaches were busy, with lots of families and couples enjoying the sun and sea with plenty of space around them.

The walkway itself had people strolling along without any sign of crowding. I counted one police car, two special security people patrolling, and two policemen on horseback slowly making their way along, but no untoward incidents at all. Everyone was wearing a mask, and there was no sign whatsoever of rowdiness or shouting or fighting.

The San Pedro authorities are to be congratulated on the cleanliness of everything, the gardens and beaches are immaculate, and people are responding by leaving no unsightly litter around. Well done everyone, it is a great example for other countries to follow. **JUNE RENDLE**

Train cards

Re SUR in English July 31st to August 6th, Costa's Cercanías. The idea to pay with credit card might sound clever; it is not at all. It forms a danger to steal identities, the cards are not made for frequent use and the companies will certainly not be fond of handling such small amounts. However, the payment systems in Andalucía are really medieval - there are some kind of subscription cards (Avanza) but nothing else. Let me refer to Singapore, Seoul or Hong Kong. They all

have a kind of debit card system - you buy the card with a deposit and add the money for daily use. The amount can be topped up in station automates or shops. Tap-in and tap-out is the rule. Such a system or other magnetic cards - as I remember from Belgium - might be another idea and will contribute to punctuality of buses - the driver has neither to accept nor to return small coins (which is annoying and ridiculous). Will there be nobody who makes this really clever system happen?

CHRISTIAN HORIG

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Wave culture

It might be prudent, I think, if we all began to adopt the gestures of one of those golden Chinese waving cats as we toddle around town - simply flapping our arm up and down and sporting a vaguely sinister rictus grin. As things stand, I can see no other feasible solution to what can only be described as a social nightmare.

A couple of years ago, on these esteemed and hallowed pages I wrote about the difficulties of negotiating the summertime in Malaga because, frankly, people in sunglasses all look exactly the same. As a consequence, you often end up saluting chaps you don't know from Adam and ignoring your own granddad.

Now, with the masks and everything, the situation has reached a whole different level.

At least before there was a chance you could distinguish someone by their Mick Jagger lips, mummy's boy chin or crooked, rotting teeth; not now, though. Only yesterday, somebody waved at me wearing a mask, sunglasses and humungous baseball cap. It could have been anyone from Homer Simpson to Barack Obama for all I knew. Anyway, just to be polite, I responded with a hearty salute, only to realise far too late that he was, in fact, a total stranger saying hello to the bloke who was walking just behind me. I tried the old scratching-behind-my-ear-like-a-flea-bitten-dog routine in a futile attempt to claw back some dignity, but all to no avail I'm afraid; the damage had been done and I looked like a total chump.

Another possibility would be

for nobody to ever say hello to anyone - a bit like living in Yorkshire, then. Sadly, I don't think the Andalusian joie de vivre would adapt very well to the occasional grunt offered to nobody in particular. It's a good job that all those Spanish fond embraces have been sidelined for the moment; there's enough confusion already, without having to contend with random strangers throwing their arms around you on the high street having mistaken you for their spouse.

No, I think the Chinese waving cat solution would be the best. A fixed, false smile, glazed expression and constantly pumping arm for everyone - that should do the trick.

After all, politicians have been acting like that for centuries and it doesn't seem to have done them any harm. Oh wait..

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.
Director General: ANTONIO GONZÁLEZ

Editor in Chief
MANUEL CASTILLO
Publications Director
Pedro Luis Gómez

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Rachel Haynes
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THE BOTTOM LINE RACHEL HAYNES

Tales from the old days

The schoolgirl picks up her history book and starts to read. She's on the chapter when countries across the world were struck by a fierce disease that left millions tossing and turning with high fever and killed hundreds of thousands of them.

Governments sent out orders for all citizens to stay at home and anyone showing any sort of feverish symptoms or a cough had to be totally isolated, so fierce was this unknown evil, travelling through the land at great speed. As more and more

patients infected by the new disease turned up at hospitals, wards became cramped and makeshift medical facilities were set up wherever there was space. Many of the new beds were occupied by doctors and nurses themselves who became infected by their own patients. Relatives were unable to mourn their dead in their own traditional way.

Meanwhile, armed guards patrolled the streets to keep people inside their homes. Citizens were only allowed out to get food, a growing number of them having to queue

for charity, as their source of income had dried up.

The worried leaders summoned their wisest medical men for advice. They all scratched their heads and asked for several months to find an answer. Meanwhile don't let anyone go near anyone else, they told their leaders, and order all men, women and children to cover their faces.

The girl looks up from her history book. Without checking the date, she assumes she's been reading about the 17th or 18th century, even earlier. She reminds herself how times change, thank goodness. Things were so primitive in the old days, people so ill-informed, no idea of hygiene; no wonder these epidemics affected so many back then.

She turns to the next chapter, which explains how those millions of people locked in their homes managed to pass the time. It's then that the reader realises the mis-

take in her previous assumption. Mobile phones, Zoom meetings and remote working: she's reading about the 21st century after all - 2020 to be precise.

She puts down one book and picks up another; this one full of stories about kings and queens, princes and princesses.

One particular saga catches her attention. A much-loved king for many years, abdicates in favour of his son. All are happy with the situation until one day the young king finds he has to banish his own father from the kingdom he reigned over for decades. The old man, disgraced, leaves everyone wondering why someone who has considerably more than most would want to hide away more riches, obtained using dubious methods.

Again, our reader imagines the story comes from centuries gone by... and again she gets a shock. 2020, a year for the history books.



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IN THE FRAME

Travelling the world in search of ancient history

Peter Shield. The acclaimed photojournalist, author and archaeologist has worked in 225 cities and 25 countries

TONY BRYANT

Described as a 'real Indiana Jones' by the US Smithsonian Institute, with whom he is a distinguished lecturer, Dr Peter Shield has lived an interesting, albeit, at times, hair-raising life. Shot twice in the face; surviving two bouts of cancer; escaping from an inferno that engulfed his family home in Australia and being robbed by Malaysian pirates are some of the life-threatening things that the 86-year-old has encountered.

The internationally acclaimed photojournalist, author, broadcaster and retired archaeologist has recently returned to live on the Costa del Sol after a 12-year absence.

Born in Jersey in 1933, Peter grew up in Canada. His father was a pilot in the RAF and his mother worked at a photographic studio: it was while working as an office boy at the studio that Peter gained his love of photography.

The adventure seeker joined the British Royal Air Force at 17 with desires of becoming an aerial photographer, and although he ended up working in communications, his love of photography persisted. After ten years of military service, Peter became an Associated Press photojournalist and was

based on the island of Malta. Here, he would be able to engage both of his passions.

"I began working for AP covering the Middle East. I was recruited by the Maltese government and assigned the task of recording all the treasures displayed in museums and churches. This was wonderful, because I could fulfil my love of ancient history and the thrill of discovery," Peter explains to SUR in English.

Exciting experience

One of the most "exciting" experiences for Peter took place when he was in Singapore.

"Our client wanted some topless shots of an Australian glamour model, but this was forbidden in Singapore at that time. We were invited to go to an island owned by a prominent businessman just off the Malaysian coast. On the way back we were boarded by Malaysian pirates. They took all my equipment and dumped us on the coast. We eventually made it back to civilization and headlines," he says, laughing as he remembers the incident.

During his life, Peter, who has enjoyed the company of seven wives, has lived and worked in 225 cities and 25 countries.

These have included Los Angeles (his favourite), China and



Dr Peter Shield has travelled to 225 cities and 25 countries in search of ancient history. SUR

Ireland, to name a few.

Peter, who now lives in Fuen-girola, has many strings to his bow, another of which is his magic act.

"I decided to rekindle my childhood passion for magic. I worked the act into an insurance presentation, which worked very well. I eventually took the show around the world. Unfortunately, there was a couple of occasions while performing the bullet catch that I was actually hit in the face," he says smiling.

Peter declares that the '80s were the most magical years of his life, as this was when he entered the world of television and radio and began making documentaries.

He first visited Spain in the late 1990's and during the visit, his World of Unexplained Mysteries radio series was broad-

The Smithsonian Institute described the internationally acclaimed archaeologist and photojournalist as a 'real Indiana Jones'

cast on the Mary Harboe show on Onda Cero International.

He would return again in 2007. At the time he was a consultant to the Marietta Corporation in Las Vegas, USA. He transferred to Spain in order to become a resident to obtain a divorce for his future bride, now his seventh wife Rosaria. Peter met Rosaria on Malta while working with the archaeological team from Cambridge University.

"Divorce was prohibited on

the island at the time and we were forced to take an overseas residency and file for divorce before Rosaria could obtain the visa necessary for us to marry in the USA in 2008," Peter explains.

Peter's photographic collection of Malta during the 1950s is currently featured in a weekly series by Malta's Heritage Department. He donated part of a collection of 350 photographs that were taken while working for the Associated Press.

As a member of the council set up to research the Sacred Shroud of Turin, in 2009, Peter published a historic fiction based on the history of the shroud - one of 13 books he has published. These include Memoirs of a Man Who Doesn't Fit In, which recounts a fascinating life of countless trials and tribulations.

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THE WORLD ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Going Japanese on the Costa del Sol

Japan. The international nature of southern Spain offers the chance to experience the flavour of another country without travelling there

In recent years all things Japanese have become more popular, from food to gardens and life-style.

Somewhere to stay A Japanese style hotel

In 2003, a hotel in Japanese style named La Luna Blanca appeared in Torremolinos. The lovely boutique hotel is situated in a residential area of the most picturesque part of the resort - Montemar. The owners, from Japan themselves, have done their best to create a Japanese "island" in Andalucía.

The hotel could be considered as intimate because it has only eleven rooms, including two suites

and nine twin or double rooms. The real pride of the hotel is the Japanese suite, complete with a typical tatami mat and a furo bath.

It is also possible to enjoy sea water in the swimming pool all year round. Everywhere in the hotel you can appear in elegant yukata - a summer kimono-bathrobe. From the roof-top you can see the Sierra Nevada where one of the peaks might resemble Mount Fuji.

The atmosphere Feeling Japan

On the Costa del Sol, there are places where you can feel the atmosphere of Japan.

In 2013, Mijas wanted to sur-



Japanese garden at Molino de Inca, Torremolinos. TONY BRYANT

prise its numerous Japanese tourists by opening its own "sakura" cherry tree garden. This Japanese corner can be found in the centre of Mijas Pueblo, beside the

town hall.

Torremolinos has always been proud of its own Japanese corner at the Molino de Inca botanical garden, known for its abundance



Entrance to the Mijas garden.

of wildlife and a spectacular collection of bonsai trees. In these gardens the natural shade invites you to spend a couple of relaxing hours on a hot summer's day.

ARESI / PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

#BETTERTOGETHER WE ARE CAPABLE OF EVERYTHING

MÁLAGA

SUR. Aresi is a property management company based in the Costa del Sol that is revolutionising the sector through the use of a large back office and by providing a comprehensive service to communities.

The #BetterTogether revolution during the health crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic that we're all going through right now is a major challenge to companies that deal closely with their customers, as is the case with Aresi.

We now find ourselves in a new technological reality where companies need to be able to provide digital services to their customers and be ready to adapt to any new situation.

Aresi has adapted well to this pandemic as, in addition to employing a team of well-trained property managers, they offer their customers a wide range of different solutions via the digital world:



Aresi Office in S. Pedro de Alcántara. Aresi

Online communication methods without physical contact, the potential for online meetings, 24-hour free-of-charge specialised telephone service and access to a homeowners' community management app; and all of this is available from the comfort of your

home anywhere in the world, thanks to the digitalisation of Aresi services. This works so well that they've even managed to hold meetings with chairmen at sea via a video conference.

Even more, these newly digitalised services also offer extra sup-

port to their customers to make management easier through the use of digital platforms, offering free training and readily available assistance, 24 hours a day.

All this to ensure that services to your customers are not stopped by anything, not even a pandemic. "We are fully prepared to continue working at a full capacity should there be a future resurgence", assured the company's area manager in the Costa del Sol, Isabel Román.

"Get a brand new community" with Aresi property management

Another innovative aspect that Aresi brings to the sector is its expansion plan, which involves a commercial offer for new customers that is creating quite a buzz. This offer provides an extra economic amount to communities as it allows homeowners to move forward with all the improvement projects that they had put to aside for financial reasons.

Disinfecting common areas, repairing façades, renovating pools, etc. The intention is to make all this possible without any additional costs for communities, meaning that the homeowners need not put off till tomorrow what they can do today.

Currently, there are already 200 communities that can benefit from this offer, and this doesn't only apply to the Costa del Sol, but also to all areas where Aresi offers their services: Alicante, Murcia and Madrid. The only thing to do is that you entrust Aresi as your property manager.

ARESI

Further information:

If you'd like more information about Aresi or their "Get a brand new community" promotion, you can contact them 24 hours a day by calling their customer service line on +34 910 585 585 or by sending an email to info@aresi.es

Another Japanese oasis that unfortunately closed two years ago was the Bonsai museum in Marbella, established in an oriental-inspired building. The private collection owned by Miguel Ángel García consisted of quite rare bonsai trees. One of them was a 300-year-old typical Mediterranean wild olive tree - acebuche. Another one also represented Andalucía, a bonsai pinsapo pine - a unique variety found in the Ronda mountains.

The experience

Relaxing spas and massage

The Japanese have used personal wooden soaking tubs for centuries. In 737 AD the first onsen (hot spring bath) with soaking tubs called ofuro opened in Japan. Inspired by the Japanese ofuro, hot tubs, known also as jacuzzi, became a must for any spa.

On the border between Benalmádena and Fuengirola there is a spa named Nagomi. In Japanese style it has a pool full of high-pressure jets which help reduce tension and relax muscles.

At the aforementioned Torremolinos hotel you can get a Shiatsu massage. They use only fingers, thumbs and the palm of the hand to apply pressure on various areas of the body's surface.

This type of massage originated in Japan and is based on traditional Chinese medicine with elements of Western therapies.

Shiatsu amplifies the body's own ability to heal itself. It regulates the automatic nervous system activity and stimulates the circulatory, lymphatic and hormonal systems.

Eating Japanese Sushi and more

Japan is gastronomically associated with sushi. Sushi bars and restaurants can be easily found in any town of the Costa del Sol. However, Marbella is most known for its Japanese cuisine where Japanese chefs create their dishes. The renowned chefs Toshio Tsutsui and Álvaro Arbeloa invite diners to Takumi, a place of cultural encounter and culinary fusion with Japanese dominance.

A couple years ago, on 16 May 2018, the famous Hollywood actor Robert De Niro opened a restaurant on the Golden Mile of Marbella with Japanese chef Nobu Matsuhisa.

The Andalusians fell in love with sushi years ago and now local chefs prepare their own sushi, even in small villages.

In Ronda there are at least two



La Luna Blanca hotel, Torremolinos.



Sushi fusion, Doña Pakita, Ronda.



Dried flower jewellery, Mijas.



Spa Nagomi, Fuengirola.

places where the local people would advise you to enjoy the "local" sushi tapas.

After eating sushi at Doña Pakita you realise what fusion means - there Andalusian really does meet Japanese.

The hotel Catalonia in the very centre of Ronda offers sushi by an Andalusian chef trained in Japan in its rooftop restaurant, which offers stunning views of the surrounding landscapes and the ancient bullring.

A souvenir

A Japanese gift

Mijas Pueblo can be considered as the most Japanese spot on the Costa del Sol. This fact was stressed by the official visit of the ambassador of Japan just to this picturesque village in 2015.

In 1980, a Japanese entrepreneur moved to Spain and in 1997 he opened his own shop, Amapola, in Mijas.

There you can buy jewellery made using techniques for dried flowers. The Japanese business-owner developed his own unique flower-motif designs inspired by his homeland. The Mijas workshop, which is on the first floor of the shop, is said to use only local flowers.



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We hope the information provided in this article is of interest. If you would like to contact Linea Directa please call **952 147 834**. More information about Linea Directa online at www.lineadirecta.com



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DENISE BUSH

READERS' PHOTOS



YVONNE PRADE

Vaschellia seyal

Yvonne Prade from Alhaurín de la Torre sent in this photo of a magnificent Vaschellia seyal or red acacia / shittah tree. Apart from its thorns and its huge size when mature, this tree is hard to fault. It provides bees with masses of nectar and fixes nitrogen in the soil, the flowers are scented and the canopy gives lots of shade.



CAROLINE SELLERS

Mystery shrub

Hopefully a reader of this page will be able to identify the plant in the photo sent in by Caroline Sellers. She says, "I spotted this in Marbella; the park is now called the Parque de la Constitución, but it used to be a nursery hence all the different species of plants."

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies and some like to take photos of plants they see when out and about. 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 (suri-english) or Twitter (@SUR_English).

GARDENING
The fairy iris

Dietes grandiflora (common name fairy iris) is an evergreen, clump-forming perennial, native to eastern and southern Africa. It has stiff, sword-like spiky leaves and iris-like flowers on slender, erect stems.

It is easy to grow and maintain, being both frost and drought tolerant once established. However, regular watering during the hottest

months will ensure a healthy plant.

The waxy blooms consist of three white outer petals, each with a yellow stripe (said to act like a runway to lead pollinating insects into the centre), three inner petals flecked with maroon at the base and, radiating out from the centre, three lavender coloured segments.

The flowers open during the summer but in temperate climates the fairy iris may bloom all year round.

Established clumps can reach 1.5 metres tall by about 90cm wide.

They spread by fleshy underground rhizomes and are an ideal for mass plantings to stabilise slopes. They can also be grown in a large container. The flowers, which attract lots of bees and other pollinators, fade after just two days and brown seed pods form, containing shiny, brown seeds. Removing the seed pods ensures prolonged flowering but do not remove the flowering stem as it will continue to produce for several years. Deadheading also prevents self-seeding which can be a problem when the climate is temperate.

Propagation is by seed, although germination is slow, or by dividing the rhizomes after flowering has finished. The resulting plants will need extra care for a few months to get established.

Dietes means 'having two relatives', and refers to the close relationship the genus has with Moraea and Iris. Five of the species in the genus are found in South Africa, the other one is found one an island in the Tasman Sea.



Dietes grandiflora and close-up of bloom (insert). FLICKR / WIKIMEDIA

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REF. T. R. I.

A year ago I bought a property in Marbella and employed a Spanish removal firm to bring all my furniture and personal belongings from the UK. Unfortunately, when the driver unloaded them from the lorry, many of them were badly

damaged and some broken. The driver refused to accept liability, and told me to speak with the manager of the company. They are offering a small amount of compensation, an amount much lower than the value of the goods that were damaged, as supposedly they have no obligation to pay for everything. Is that true?

No, according to the law, the transport company is liable for all the damages that the shipment suffers during transportation, unless they are a consequence of a case of force majeure. Nevertheless, it would be necessary to check the contract you signed with the company when you hired their services. In any case, almost all removal firms have insurance for these kind of occurrences.

REF. H. S. T.

In the adjoining plot to my villa they have started to build a house. The work is causing major damage to my property. The vibration has caused huge cracks to appear in the walls, the pillars and the foundations. An architect has made a report and I would like to know if I could ask for the works to be stopped, even if they have a permit.

Yes, you can. It is necessary to distinguish between the building permit, without which it is not possible to build, and the responsibility for the damages that those works can cause. In the event that there are damages and before the works finish, it is possible to ask the Court for the works to be stopped immediately, even if there is a building permit.

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Anette Skou retires after 35 years devoted to Mijas's international community

Anette set up the foreign residents department at the local town hall and organised the first Mijas International day in 1987



Anette Skou. **SUR**

RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. After more than 35 years offering information and advice to foreign residents in Mijas, Anette Skou retired at the end of July.

Originally from Denmark, but resident on the Costa del Sol since 1972, Anette first joined Mijas Town Hall in 1984 as an interpreter.

In 1986 she started the Foreign Residents Department, and launched the first Mijas International Day in 1987, as well as organising numerous informative talks in different languages, gastronomy events, fairs and music festivals over the years.

"I am going to miss my job a lot, as I have always enjoyed being able to help others. Over the years I have had an opportunity to meet thousands of people and to organise countless activities,"

she told SUR in English this week. "From now on I will use my time to do some volunteer work and spend more time with my family and friends," she added.

The Mijas Foreign Residents Department remains open in the town hall building in La Cala where Anette's colleague Katja Thirion offers a daily free information and advice service in English, German, French and Spanish. The department continues to organise activities for the foreign community in Mijas, with the help of local councillor Arancha López.



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

7 AUGUST 1996

Flash flood kills 87 at Las Nieves campsite

Cars, caravans, tents and holidaymakers were swept away by a fast-moving avalanche of water, rock and mud during the freak storm

On Wednesday 7 August 1996, 87 holidaymakers were killed and nearly 200 injured when a torrent of mud and rock engulfed a crowded family campsite near the town of Biescas in northern Spain. Remnants of the Las Nieves campsite were strewn for miles as torrential rains caused an avalanche that swept away people, tents, caravans and cars. Some of the bodies of the victims were discovered ten miles downstream.

The campsite was full when the flash flood struck and hundreds of people had to be evacuated from the area to a sports stadium in Biescas. Authorities

said there were around 700 Spanish holidaymakers, along with several French, British and Dutch families, staying at the site, 15 miles from the French border.

The ferocity of the torrent that engulfed the riverside campsite was so fierce that rescuers had extreme difficulty recovering the bodies from the mudslide. Police were not able to identify some victims because many of the campers were not carrying identification. A computer disk drive that contained information on the campsite's guests proved to be useless as it had been damaged by flood waters.

Some 500 rescue workers, including firefighters backed by helicopter teams, worked throughout the night and following days to recover the victims. Many of the bodies, six of whom were children, were found without clothes, which emergency services said had probably been torn off by the



Rescuers sift through the rubble in search of victims of the flood. **SUR**

force of the water.

The bodies were taken to a makeshift morgue at the cultural centre of the nearby town of Jaca.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia flew to the disaster area to comfort relatives of victims.

Prime Minister José María

Aznar interrupted his holiday to inspect the carnage. He told reporters that it was a "dreadful sight".

Survivors described how the campsite, about the size of two football fields, was suddenly deluged with water, mud and rocks. One survivor said, "It was a mat-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Camping	Campsite
Inundación	Flood
Tormenta	Storm
Vacaciones	Holidays
Caravana	Caravan
Tienda	Tent
Familiares	Relatives
Barro	Mud
Tronco	Tree trunk
Barranco	Ravine
Superviviente	Survivor
Víctima	Victim
Escombros	Rubble
Aguacero	Downpour
Tonelada	Tonne
Viento	Wind
Lluvia	Rain
Desembocadura	River mouth

ter of seconds, not even minutes. The main street in the campsite was a river of mud." Another described how he had to give up helping other people swept away by the flood to save his own life. "There comes a moment when it's you or nobody," he is reported to have said from his hospital bed.

1 Bilingual crossword inside back page



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SOCIETY SCENE

ADANA

A new president for animal charity

SUR IN ENGLISH. The AGM of ADANA (Asociación por los Derechos de Animales Abandonados) recently voted in a new president, Susie Brown. She started volunteering at the shelter in 2004, cleaning pens and finding homes for puppies. Her regular coffee mornings raised funds for the charity and she became Shelter Manager three years ago. The charity also has a new Public relations Officer, Shellie Outram.

ADANA have announced that thanks to the efforts of all their supporters they have reached



Susie Brown. **SUR**

the required amount for a pledge of 2,500 euros, they can now move onto the last phase of the pledge for August, another 2,500 euros.

LIONS CLUB

Mexican night raises money for charity

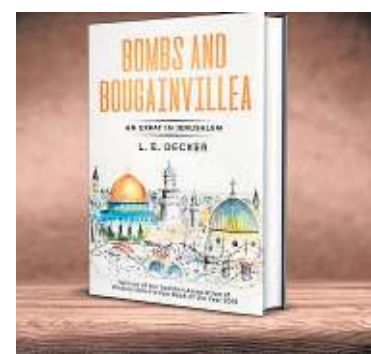
SUR IN ENGLISH. The La Cala Lions recently held a Mexican-themed night at the Village Inn, Riviera del Sol. Members and guests were encouraged to attend in fancy dress with the

prize for the overall best outfit won by Colin Rae. Shauna from Ibex Insurance won the ladies' prize whilst the men's prize went to La Cala Lions president, Graham Rutland. The club enjoyed a spicy meal of chilli con carne and various games. The evening raised nearly 800 euros for charitable causes.

Sayalonga author sees award-winning memoirs published

J. RHODES

SAYALONGA. Sayalonga-based writer Linda Decker's autobiographical book, *Bombs and Bougainvillea*, is now available to buy on Amazon and in shops in paperback. The travel memoir narrates the five years that Linda and her family spent living in Ramallah and Jerusalem. "Initially, I wrote it so that I could share our experiences with friends and family," she explains. Her manuscript was awarded nonfiction book of the year by the Scottish Association of Writers in 2018.



The book. **L. DECKER**

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owners over €4Million in commission since 2014. In recent months the business has grown considerably as more people accept online agency as the way forward. The awareness of online agents in the UK like Purplebricks (now the UK's largest agency) makes people search for a similar service in Spain.

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their properties using our basic service for free," Simon continued, "however most opt for our Gold or Silver packages which cost €99 and €69 per month respectively. Owners can cancel anytime, and all paid-for services come with

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More information: Visit the Sell4LessSpain.com website at <https://sell4lesspain.com>

EXHIBITIONS

Galeria Justo / Giner

MARBELLA. Until 10 September. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. Before 1881 is an exhibition by Julio Anaya Cabanding. Open in August only by previous appt. Email: gale-ria@yusto-giner.com Call: 951507053

Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. Until 13 September 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. During a brief stay in a sanatorium, Henri Toulouse - Lautrec created 39 drawings in crayon about the circus. Prints of these drawings are on display in the museum until 13 September. The new season's exhibition running until 10 January 2021 is entitled Máscaras. Metamorfosis de la Identidad Moderna, and consists of over 100 works by national and international artists.

Lola Guerrero

MALAGA. Until 8 September. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter. Fragilidad-Es is the name of the new, seasonal exhibition at the Alfajar gallery in Malaga. The artist, Lola Guerrero, reflects the fragility of nature in a series of delicate ceramics.

Ángeles Caídas

MALAGA. Until 20 September, Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal, 23.



Ángeles Caídas, Malaga

Artists Paco Aguilar, Pilar Bandres, David Burbano, Carmen Campos, Pablo Caro Revidiego, Juanjo Fuentes, Isabel Garnelo, María Gkaliata, Julia Holtman, Mister Kaikus, Ismael Kachtihi, Roy Laguna, Marta O Nilsson., Eryk Pall, Cayetano Romero, Javier Roz, Tina Sánchez, Sara Sarrabia, Cristina Savage and Marta Troya have collaborated to present this exhibition of their work which includes canvases, ceramics, videos and photographs.

Enrique Brinkmann

MALAGA. Until 5 January, 2021. Casa Gerald Brenan, Calle Torremolinos. Artist Enrique Brinkmann has an exhibition of 12 of his works entitled Estrellas para Brenan, Obra Gráfica, a personal tribute to the writer. Brinkmann has exhibited in the MOMA in New York as well as many other museums and art galleries around the world.

Traditional song and dance at two-day flamenco festival

The festival will present some of Andalucía's finest flamenco artists, including Chato de Vélez, Rocío Alcalá and José Lucena

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Some of Andalucía's most revered singers, dancers and guitarists will perform at the forty-first edition of the Ciudad de Malaga Flamenco Festival in the Malagueta bullring this weekend. The two-day festival starts at 9pm tonight (Friday) with a lineup of artists that includes the celebrated Chato de Malaga, an old-school style singer from Granada who has lived in Malaga for many years.

Also on the bill is one of Malaga's top female singers, Rocío Alcalá. This popular singer has performed her traditional Malagueña style of flamenco at festivals and in peñas all over Spain.

The Malaga-born dancer,



José Lucena will perform at the festival. DIPUTACIÓN DE MALAGA

José Lucena, has performed all over Spain, his show includes traditional flamenco mixed with classic Spanish dance and ballet.

Saturday's performers will include Rosi Campos, Rafael Sánchez, Ana Pastrana and Luis Perdiguero. The highlight

of the night will be the performance of Gypsy singer Chato de Vélez, who will be accompanied by guitarist Antonio Soto.

Tickets (free), available at www.malagadecultura.com

Early reservations are advised.



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EXHIBITIONS

Painted satellite dishes

ALMUÑÉCAR. Until 31 August. The facade of the Town Hall.

Members of Arte Sur Almuñécar are displaying 15 satellite dishes which they have decoratively painted and have suspended from the facade of the town hall.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Jueves del Verano

MÁLAGA. July, August.

13 August, 8pm. Centro Pompidou. Proyecto Dasein accompanied by soprano Elena Garrido.

Un Paseo por la Opera

MÁLAGA. 8 August, 8.45pm. The English Cemetery. 10€.

A selection of pieces by Monteverdi, through to Handel's bel canto, Gluck and Mozart. On to Rossini and Bellini, Catalani and others. With Malaga baritone Naser Rodríguez, soprano Elena Ramos and pianist Tania Moya. <https://cementerioinglesmalaga>

Moraga Sound

MÁLAGA. Until 30 August. Auditorio Playa Virginia, Auditorio Parque Héroes de la Batalla de Teatinos, Skate Park Rubén Alcántara, Auditorio Eduardo Ocón.

A series of concerts and dance performances including flamenco, funk, rock, jazz, hip hop, punk, folk, Indie and reggae organised by Malaga town hall. <http://www.malaga.eu/>



Painted satellite dishes, Almuñécar.

Conciertos en la Cuarto Fase

GRANADA. Plaza de las Culturas, Centro Cultural Caja Granada.

7 August, 9.30pm. Fon Román.

8 August, 9.30pm. Arco.

Tickets: <http://www.entradascajagranada.es/>

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MÁLAGA. 8 August, 11am, 12.15pm. Patio of the Museo Picasso Málaga.

The wind quintet of the OFM will be playing extracts from Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf.

9 August, 8pm. Patio of the Museo Picasso Málaga.

Manuel Hernández Silva will conduct the orchestra playing pieces by Schubert and Beethoven.

Málaga Inquieta

MÁLAGA. From 7 - 16 August. Plaza de Toros La Malagueta.

More than 50 Malaga musicians will participate in a series of 10 concerts in the bull ring including Pasión Vega, La Mari from Chambao and La trinidad Airbag. Entry is free but by ticket: www.malagaentradas.com

Celtic Night

MIJAS. 8 August, 9.30pm. Auditorio Municipal Miguel González Berral.

Performances by Surpipes, Amigos de Guinness, Xábega y Percutora and Finndog Macrea with live music and dances by Mamen Garro. Reservations: turismo@mijas.es or call: 952589034 Doors open at 8pm. Free.

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Starlite Festival

MARBELLA. Until 29 August. Nagüeles quarry.

A shortened version of the festival this year. Doors open at 8pm, concerts start at 10pm. Tickets and information: Ticketmaster and El Corte Inglés.

8 August. Spanish copla and Flamenco - soul music with María Jiménez and Pitingo

12 August. Violin maestro Ara Malikian.

Día de la Juventud

TORREMOLINOS. 12, 13, August. Plaza San Miguel.

A performance by the Mitad Doble group at 9.30pm in the Plaza San Miguel on 12 August is followed by performances by Abadía Capoeira, ESAEM, Artea-T and Shine School from 9pm in the plaza the next day.

Flamenco

MÁLAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. 10€.

8 August, 8pm, 9.15pm. Kiko Peña and David Arahal.

THEATRE AND DANCE

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LOS JARDINES DEL GENERALIFE. Until 29 August.

The award winning flamenco dance show, ¡Viva! is on until 12 August (except 9 August) with the Manuel Liñán dance company. Information,



Berna Perles, Terral, Malaga

tickets etc: <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/lorcaygranada/>

Tribute to Frozen

ESTEPONA. 11 August, 8pm. Plaza de Toros. 15€.

El Origen del Hielo. Tributo a Frozen features the songs and music from Frozen 1 and Frozen 2 as well as songs from the Broadway show Frozen. Tickets: www.emelleventos.com or www.tickettradas.com or ticket office of the bull ring on the night.

CHARITY

A night of music and comedy

SOTOGRANDE. 15 August, from 7pm. Centro Comercial Sotomarket, Local 3C. 15€.

The event is to raise money for the charities Fate Foods, Free Meals On

Wheels, Feeding The Community and ADANA. Includes a free drink and tapa. Reservations: 603226099

O. V. FILMS

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

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Color Out Of Space: 22.25 (Tues).
The Way Back: 17.55 (Tues).

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RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
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The Way Back: 22.30 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

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Color Out Of Space 19.50(Tues).
The Peanut Butter Falcon: 19.45 (Tues).
The Way Back: 22.40(Tues).

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
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Good Sam: 22.00 (Thurs).
The Bra: 16.45, 22.30
The Peanut Butter Falcon: 20.15, 22.15.

The rhythm of Jamaica comes to Torremolinos



1213 Reggae Band will perform in Torremolinos next month. SUR

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. One of Malaga's most established reggae bands will bring its trench town rock to Torremolinos next month. Formed in the early 1990 as Raza Reggae, the band changed its name to the 1213 Reggae Band and has since built up a strong following on the Malaga reggae scene. The four-piece band, who released their CD Remastered 2019 last year,

produce an authentic Caribbean sound, which is enriched by the unusual voice of lead singer El Gordo. The group has a consolidated sound based on roots reggae, Jamaican dance hall, and ragga, a subgenre that has undertones of hip-hop.

The open-air concert will be held in Plaza de Andalucía in Torremolinos on 8 August. The free concert begins at 9.45pm, early arrival is advised.

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Glorious sun... but be careful

Just half an hour is enough to get sunburnt, so apply plenty of cream every two hours. Yes, even if you're wearing a mask

**CARMEN
BARREIRO**



Reducing the number of coronavirus infections is top priority right now, but we must not forget the dangers of skin cancer, either. That is something else we need to focus on, say specialists, who recommend ways to keep our skin healthy, especially in the summer, the time of year when the danger is greatest. How do we do that? Read on....

1 Hats with a brim measuring at least 7 centimetres

Exposure to the sun needs to be built up gradually, especially this summer because after such a long period of lockdown our skin is less prepared than in other years. "What you need to avoid, above all, is burning," warns Dr Agustín Buendía, coordinator of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology (AEDV) Euromelanoma campaign. To do that, it is best not to be out in the sun in the middle of the day. Here's a useful tip: the longer your shadow is on the ground, the better. It means that the ultraviolet radiation at that time of day is lower and it is safer to sunbathe. In any case, this specialist insists that "clothes are the best type of sun protection". A loose tee-shirt, long cool trousers, sunglasses and a good hat with a brim of at least seven centimetres is the perfect outfit to prevent sunburn.

2 Don't forget ears and feet because they can burn as well

Hands up anyone who has not

had sunburned ears or soles of the feet because they didn't put cream on them. "This is the big problem we have with sun protection, people don't use it properly on all parts of the body. We mustn't forget to protect any area which is exposed to the sun, from the nape of the neck to the ears, feet and end of the nose, because those are also areas which are vulnerable to different types of skin cancer," warns Dr Buendía.

3 How much cream should I use?

Dermatologists say we don't put enough sun cream on and we don't apply it properly, which is why we get sunburn so often. They advise always using a high factor (50 or more) all over the body, for this reason: "Normally we don't apply as much cream as we should, which is why it is better that it has a high protection factor. The recommendation is for two milligrams of product per square centimetre and studies say that we normally only use about 0.5 milligrams," say the specialists. How we ap-

ply it is also as important as the amount we use. We should put more on "every two hours".

4 Don't put sun cream on babies. A hat and clothes are best

Forget the idea of smothering your baby in sun cream. It won't protect him or her from the sun even if you apply it everywhere except the eyelashes. Dermatologists warn against it because for babies under the age of six months there is "a risk of reabsorbing the product". It is best to keep babies in the shade at

all times and protect them with physical barriers such as a hat, clothes that cover their whole bodies and sunshades. Children a bit older should always wear a tee-shirt, a hat to protect their head, sunglasses which are suitable for their age and very high protection sun cream applied frequently.

5 FPS, UVB, UVA... what should I look for when buying sun protection products?

Nowadays there are sun protection products to suit all tastes

on the market. Creams, gels, sprays, thinner, thicker, coloured... what is important for the dermatologists is that they comply with three conditions. "The first, that they have a very high sun protection factor, so at least factor 50 for all parts of the body. The second is that they protect against UVA rays - that is normally indicated by a circle around the word UVA on the packaging - and finally, that they also protect against infrared and visible light, the famous blue light that we now know is able to colour our skin," says Dr Ana Molina, a dermatologist at the Fundación Jiménez Díaz hospital in Madrid.

If we want to be completely protected from the sun, an increasingly popular option is to use nutricosmetics or oral sun protectors. "These are normally taken by mouth and they include antioxidants such as vitamins C and E and ferulic acid, which helps us to fight against the oxidative stress that solar radiation produces on the skin," says Dr Molina, who is one of the best-known scientists in the field of dermatology.

Take great care of your eyes, especially in swimming pools

"This summer hygiene and disinfecting measures have been stepped up in public swimming pools and that means we have to be really careful about our eyes," warns eye specialist Javier Araiz, who is the scientific di-

rector of the ICQO (Instituto Clínico Quirúrgico de Oftalmología). This year, more than ever, experts recommend using goggles every time we get into the water and washing our eyes well in the shower after swimming. "Also, don't forget that the use of contact lenses, especially in swimming pools, can lead to many different ocular infections," he says.



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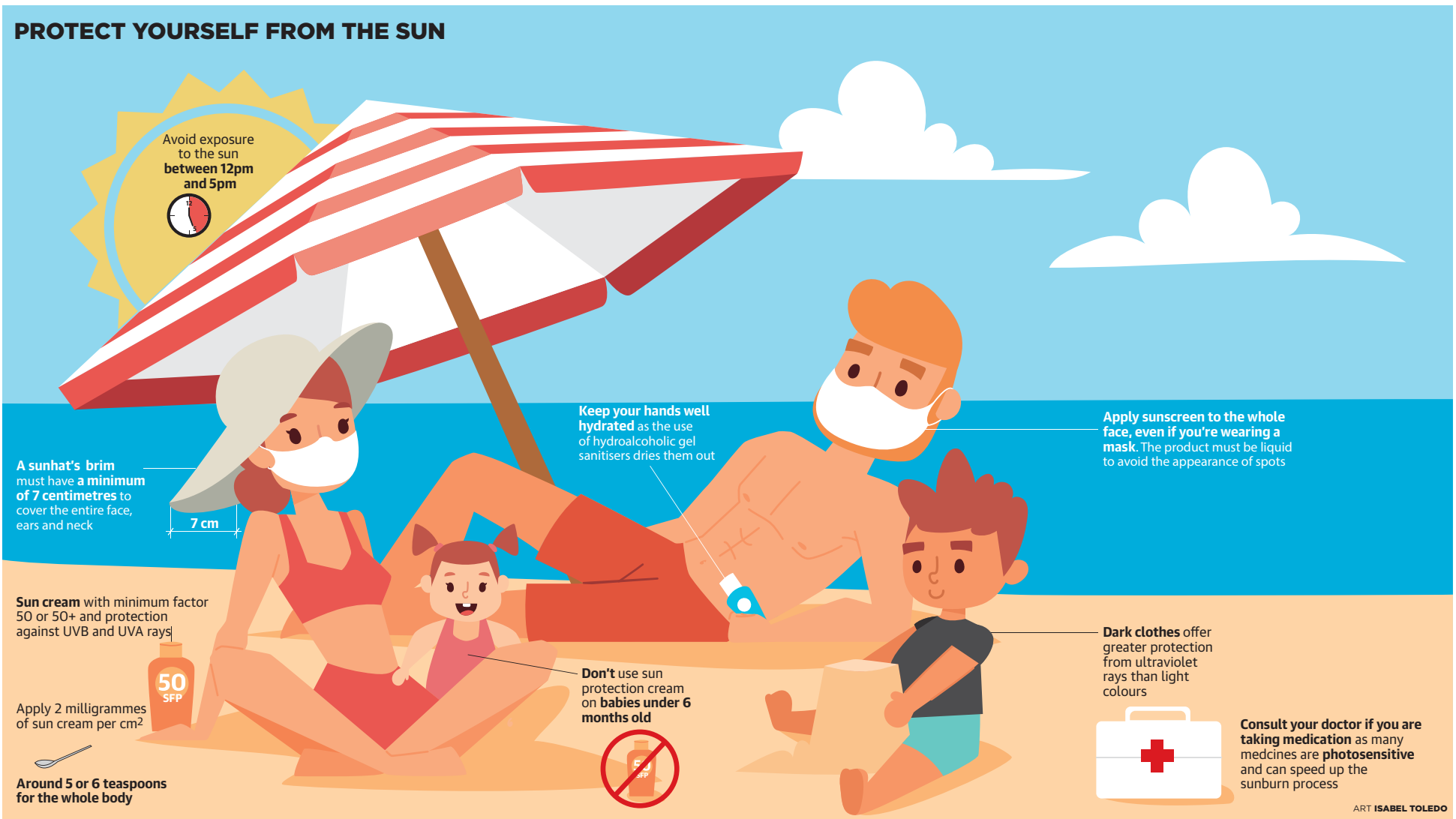
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6 Do I need to put cream on my face if I'm using a mask?

If you don't want a two-tone face, it is best to apply protection to all of it. Also, bear in mind that not all masks protect equally against the sun's rays, so it is best to use some form of protection. "What we have to bear in mind this year is the type of excipient we use, because if it is very greasy we could end up with a bout of acne or it can cause problems for patients with rosacea. The best option in this case is to use very light, fluid protectors to prevent the side effects of using a mask in the

summer," says Dr Buendía.

7 Will my hands burn if I use sanitising gel before sunbathing?

The Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology insists that hydroalcoholic gels have never been associated with photosensitive reactions which result in burns on the hands when they are exposed to the sun. "If that happens, it is likely that the product contains some type of additional substance which is not necessary for its antiseptic effect," say sources from the AEDV's Photobiology Group. "Excessive hand washing and

frequent use of hydroalcoholic gels, which are so necessary now, makes the skin dry and that can lead to irritative dermatitis, which we are seeing more frequently in patients at the moment. What people need to do to prevent that type of reaction is to make sure they hydrate their hands well after washing them, and every time they use hand sanitiser," says Agustín Buendía.

8 Be careful if you are taking medications, because many are photosensitive and they will mean you burn more quickly

If you're taking any medication,

"The sun protection you use on your face should be very fluid to prevent a bout of acne occurring from prolonged use of masks"

check with your doctor before sunbathing.

Some very common drugs, such as the tetracyclines, which are taken to treat acne, and their derivatives - which many other medications contain - increase the skin's sensitivity to the sun to such an extent that it can cause an exaggerated response when sunbathing.

"In the summer months your skin normally starts to burn after half an hour in the sun, but if you are taking any of these drugs then you could burn in five minutes, which is why it is so important to be careful," says Dr Buendía.



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MÁLAGA PUERTO DE LA TORRE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA NERJA

Aitor Francesena has been blind for seven years. When he left hospital, he persuaded the person looking after him to let him go back into the sea. And now he is a surfing champion

QUICO CHIRINO

Aitor Francesena was born with a congenital glaucoma and a prognosis that one day he would go blind. When he was 14 he lost the sight in his right eye and seven years ago, while he was waiting for his third cornea transplant, a bad fall in the water left him with no vision in his left eye. He was plunged into darkness. However, as soon as he left hospital, still with stitches in place, Aitor was back in the sea.

He is nicknamed 'Gallo' (cock-erel) because when he was little, in Zarautz - in the Basque Country, where he still lives - some thugs put a knife to his throat and forced him to make noises like a chicken.

In March he went to the US and became world champion of adapted surfing. When he got back, he came down with a fever and found he had coronavirus. But alone in his house, he couldn't see

Aitor Francesena World adapted surfing champion

"I'm not bitter about life. I'm happy because I was able to see until I was 42"



IGNACIO PÉREZ

to check his temperature.

–What did you think about during that difficult time?

–Our brains are so intelligent that, in critical situations, they know how to cope, whatever happens. I

rang my daughter and said, "One day down, one less to go." But I didn't get better. I had no strength, I was sweating all day long; I got through a load of tee-shirts. I just kept well hydrated, had something

to eat and then went back to bed. Then, I finally gained my strength back. The virus left me feeling destroyed, but I'm fantastic now.

–Does surfing teach you to fall over and get up again?

–I grew up in a working-class home with a congenital glaucoma. That background has made me what I am. Because of the people I grew up with, or because I was always faced with a 'no' whatever I wanted to do, I became a fighter. I wanted to explore the world, to travel, because I knew that one day I wouldn't be able to see anything. And if I can't surf I'm not happy. If I don't swallow a bit of salt water I can't face the day the same way. All this has made me what I am. Positive, a fighter, and with a real will to enjoy life.

–Your philosophy is to live life 'to the limit'. Can you live it with the same intensity a metre and a half away and wearing a mask?

–I'm very happy and happiness comes from the sunshine, the rain, drinking water, going into the sea, walking in the mountains and my daughter every time she kisses me. I go to other countries and I see a chap, sitting against a wall, using a handful of twigs looking like he's sweeping. You pass him in the morning and he's sweeping, and in the evening he's still sweeping in the same place. But you say 'good evening' to him and he gives you a huge smile. We live at a super-powerful, dizzying speed, but we would be happier if we had less.

–After all you've been through, doesn't it make you bitter about life?

–No way! I'm not bitter about life. I'm happy because I was able to see until I was 42. Honestly, the only things I haven't done yet are jump out of a plane and go to Nias, an island in Indonesia. And the thought of jumping out of a plane without being able to see still gets my heart racing. I've done everything I wanted to do. I snowboard and people are amazed. If you leave me in the middle of a run, I'll turn one way for a while and then the other. I always stay in the middle.

–How do you see the waves coming at you?

–The first day I went into the water I realised that the sea was giving me clues. It tells me what the waves are like. If I face ahead and the wave passes in front of me, I'm north. If I turn left and the wave passes me on the right, I'm in the west. The first time I went in I sat on the bottom of the sea and I was fine. I had stitches in my eye, I paddled towards the shore, a wave passed beneath me and I noticed how it curved and the board tilted. The next day I went in thinking about what I'd learned. I started to paddle to the shore, a wave came and I stood up. I was surfing, and everyone was cheering.

–Do you prefer to have your feet on the ground or in the water?

–I feel safer in the water. There are no obstacles. I often surf at night and feel like a fish in water. The waves bring me peace.

–Who lives on the crest of a wave?

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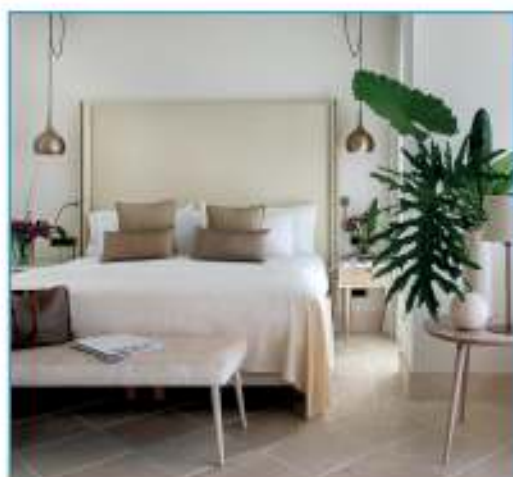


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Restaurants around the province celebrate the 'bull's ball' harvest

The 'huevo de toro' or 'bull's ball' is an old variety that has been rescued from extinction

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MALAGA. The Guadalhorce valley's 'huevo de toro' (bull's ball) tomato is one of the stars of Malaga province's summer harvest.

Every year restaurants in the area join an initiative to celebrate the bull's ball season the way it deserves, with a programme of foodie events organised by the Grupo de Desarrollo Rural Valle del Guadalhorce (Guadalhorce Valley Rural Development Group).

Throughout August, the 44 bars and restaurants that have signed up for the special bull's



The 'huevo de toro' tomato with sticker of origin. **SUR**

ball gastronomy route will make the tomato the main ingredient of their special dishes.

Most of the participating establishments are in Guadalhorce towns such as Alhaurin el Grande, Coín, Cártama and Álora,

although others have joined in from further field, taking this year's tomato route as far west as San Pedro Alcántara and east to Caleta de Vélez, La Viñuela and Nerja, with numerous stops in Malaga, Benalmádena and Fuengirola in between.

There will also be an open-air market in Coín on 15 and 16 August with an exhibition, show cooking, competition and auction of the best huevo de toro tomatoes of the season.

Information on the restaurants and bars participating in the route is on the website <http://www.tomatehuevotorogualdhorce.com>.

The site also provides information about the characteristics of this ancient variety of tomato, rescued from extinction by farmers in the Guadalhorce area.

Get paid to eat

ANDREW J. LINN



Governments worldwide are between a rock and a hard place when it comes to supporting the hospitality business while looking after the health of their citizens. On the one hand they need to get restaurant and bar workers back to their jobs and stop subsidising them, while on the other, they are telling us that we should eat in.

The UK government's plan to give ten pounds towards each individual meal sounds a worthwhile idea in principle. Anyone going to a restaurant will receive the subsidy on meals consumed from Monday to Wednesday in pubs, restaurants, cafes, hotels, etc. The maximum is ten pounds per person, wine and alcoholic drinks not subsidised. IVA has been cut from 20% to 5% on hospitality and tourism, which is a measure Spain should copy.

Britain is not alone in offering financial incentives to reinvigorate the severely damaged sector. Many countries have come up with similar ideas, ranging from big discounts to free vouchers for future meals. In Germany and Austria unlimited beer is on the menu, and

in restaurants in many Eastern European countries two meals are offered for the price of one. But surely isn't the one catch-all trick to offer wine at half price across the board? The wine industry is suffering badly and needs to shift stocks, and the usually immoral restaurant markup of a typical 300% on cost gives plenty of room for this, and leaves everyone happy. A bottle costing the restaurant ten euros is usually priced at 25 or 30, so why not sell it for 15?

WINE OF THE WEEK

Carmelo Rodero 9 Meses

This outstanding red from Ribera del Duero was recently nominated Spain's best young wine by a highly qualified panel of experts. While there are of course similar vinos del año at much lower prices, this should be every wine lover's yardstick, primarily for its elegance and momentary exposure to oak. Around €15.



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A change of priorities for Alhambra Nievas

Working mother. The retired referee, who discovered a passion for rugby at Malaga University, has become a mother and now works for World Rugby

MARINA RIVAS



It seems like only yesterday, but in fact two years have passed since 2018, when the woman who was recognised as World Rugby Referee of the Year in 2016 decided to put down her whistle.

Refereeing was a passion that Alhambra Nievas discovered quite late - already an adult - at the University of Malaga Sports Club, while studying Telecommunications Engineering.

Those years shaped her life and continue to do so, although nowadays she is no longer fighting on the frontline, but from within, to improve the present and future of

rugby.

After travelling the globe to referee some of the most important championships (King's Cups, World Series, Olympic Games), Alhambra Nievas decided it was time to change her priorities in life.

One year later she fulfilled one of her biggest objectives in life with the birth of Ibon, her first child, who is 11 months old. She now enjoys a close family life with Ibon and her partner at their home in her native Granada.

"Becoming a mother was one of my priorities and I didn't want to put it off any longer because I am



Nievas, 37, was the first woman to officiate in a men's rugby union international. FERMÍN RODRÍGUEZ

37 now. Being involved in sport always poses challenges and you enter a maelstrom which is more

complicated to deal with when you are a mother, so I decided that although I was still able to continue with my career, this was more important for me," she told SUR.

Unlike many others, she didn't mind the lockdown as it meant she didn't miss a single moment of Ibon's early months, and could even get ahead with her work.

Nievas has never given up her links with rugby; no sooner did she retire as a referee than she began a new post as World Rugby's Referee Development Manager. What does that position entail?

"There are a great many different tasks; I work with federations that do not have professional structures, trying to provide them with support, then I find people who have talent and good abilities, to help them develop and ensure that someone who has a talent can get to the top level," she explained.

All this, which at present she is doing from home, is usually combined with a great deal of travel.

"I also go to all the world rugby sevens tournaments and I'm part of the support staff for the referees, carrying out checks, analysing performance, so they get to competition level. And then I also carry out training, because I'm a World Rugby educator. I try to get more people interested in refereeing," she added.

One of her main priorities is trying to motivate women to discover that this is their sport and that, like

her, if they work hard they can get to the very top.

"One of the priorities is for more women to become interested in refereeing, because there is a framework of equal opportunities for them to grow in the right environment so they can get to top level. Nowadays, as in all sports, there are more male players, referees, trainers, managers... but we are working so that all the girls realise that any sport is for anybody, no matter what gender they are," she said.

A return to the pitch?

Nievas is happily wrapped-up in her work and in motherhood, but she can't deny that she misses being on the pitch.

"Yes, I do miss it a great deal. Nothing compares with being out on the field, whether as a player or a referee, but right now I'm at a different stage of my personal and professional life. I'm not ruling out refereeing at a different level when things pick up again, maybe here in Andalucía at weekends, for a while," she said.

"I think that in the end we must give training the same importance, because when you're going out onto any pitch you always have to be prepared. I believe it is also a way of making people see that with love and effort, they can achieve their aims, and it is very nice to transmit all this from the place where I learned it myself, at home".



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Musampa: "Malaga did so well in my day because they were well-run from top to bottom"

The now-retired winger made almost 100 appearances for the Blue and Whites between 1999 and 2003, during a much rosier era for the club, which saw the team play in Europe for the first time

HENRY FLYNN

MALAGA. Former Malaga winger Kiki Musampa still makes the occasional trip to La Rosaleda, but his experience now is very different to how it was 20 years ago.

"I'm still watching their results," says the 43-year-old - currently enjoying some time on the Costa de Sol - though he admits: "It's a pity that they're in the second division. It's a club that certainly should be in the highest league."

Musampa, originally from Zaire - now DR Congo - arrived at the club in August 1999 from Bordeaux. His new club had just won

promotion to the first division, marking the beginning of an upward curve. Fast forward two decades, the team is stuck in Segunda without much hope of an escape any time soon.

During his four-year stay, Musampa was part of a side that established itself in La Liga and qualified for the UEFA Cup in 2002 through winning the now-defunct Intertoto Cup. It was a huge triumph for Malaga, who had never competed in elite-level European competition before. They even reached the last eight, losing on penalties to Boavista in the quarter-finals.

He credits former club president Fernando Puche and manager Joaquín Peiró for providing the platform for players like him to succeed.

"He was a man with a vision," Musampa remembers of Puche. "He said that we had to stay up and that he wanted to get to Europe."

"He took a coach, Joaquín Peiró,



Musampa, right, celebrates a goal with teammate Gerardo in 2001. Below, in a recent image posted on Instagram. **N.S. / @KIKIMUSAMPAOFFICIAL**

from the second division who took them up. He kept him for all those years and had confidence in him. That gave the club a certain peace and made the atmosphere very consistent because you knew the people, you knew the way of working and year after year you could see the progress of the team."

Musampa played almost 100 times for Malaga and also had spells with Ajax, Atlético Madrid, Manchester City and FC Seoul. Part of a flourishing side, he fondly remembers his time on the Costa del Sol where he stayed longer than anywhere else in his career.

"I came from France back then and I didn't know the Spanish culture and I didn't speak the language. It always takes some time for you to settle in and in my case, it was no different."

"After a year, things really

changed for me. I became a totally different person which also made me a totally different player."

Musampa, who has a serene, laid-back demeanour, is proud to call Andalucía his second home. He frequently visits Marbella and Fuengirola for holidays and chose the word 'adorable' to describe the place which made such an impression on him.

"You don't need much to enjoy life when you're out here. That is one thing that I like. You can just have a little coffee on the terrace and read your newspaper and enjoy that moment easily."

"The food is marvellous too. I'm a fish man so it couldn't be better here."



As Musampa sampled the joys of Spain, he and his teammates served their own treats on the pitch.

The 43-year-old belonged to an era which saw the club rise from relative obscurity to announce itself as a force in Spanish football, but those heady days now feel very distant.

"How the club is being managed is important," Musampa adds.

"In recent times, things haven't been managed very well by the new president. It's not worked out as it should have. There's no structure, and when it's like that it's hard for players to perform because any success starts with the club itself."

He believes there is a lot of work to be done if Malaga are to return to the top division. And while it's a lofty aspiration, Musampa knows the value of competing against the best opponents each week: "As a player it's wonderful [...]

Those are the games that you can make the difference in. Those are the games you can make history."

When Musampa reflects on his playing days, his achievements at Malaga are hard to match, as he realises the tremendous effect the team had on the city.

"Those are wonderful times, wonderful moments that people will always remember because it was the first time for the club to play in Europe - especially with the team from those days because they were all lads from Malaga."

"Most of them came from the second division, and were at Malaga already, and I was one of the few changes that came around, so that's what makes it special."

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Malaga CF season ticket holders offered a discount or free tickets as Covid compensation

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Malaga CF season ticket holders are being offered a choice of compensation for the six matches that were played behind closed doors due to the coronavirus restrictions.

The club announced this week that fans can opt for a 20 per cent discount when they renew their ticket for the coming season. Alternatively, they can accept the offer of six free tickets to be used when matches are played again with no Covid restrictions in force. The third option, one heartily recommended by the club, is to give up any form of compensation.

Fans have until the end of August to register their choice at <https://malaguista.malagacf.es/registro/>. Silence will be considered as choosing the third option.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

San Iker (Casillas)

One of the greatest goalkeepers of all time announces his retirement



The first time I cast eyes on Iker Casillas, he was sitting in the passenger's seat of his dad's car leaving the secret exit of the Bernabéu Stadium.

My TV crew and I were waiting to follow Steve McManaman back to his home as part of a 'day in the life' feature. Top-of-the-range vehicles from every leading manufacturer whizzed past us and then came an ordinary family estate.

Casillas senior was carefully chauffeuring his teenage son back home. He looked so out of place among the superstars of Real Madrid. He was the fresh-faced teenage goalkeeper who'd just broken into the most famous first team.

Twenty-one years later, he's announced the end of a career that reached unprecedented heights.

You are normally adorned with a sainthood in retrospect. For Iker Casillas, the canonisation came right in the middle of his glorious professional life. A Champions League winner at just 19, he won it twice more, claimed the La Liga title five times and excelled for his country.

'San Iker' got his gloves in the World Cup in 2010 and took home the European Champions trophy in 2008 and 2012. There's not enough space on this page to chronicle all of his incredible achievements.

He earned every single one of the medals with his outstanding ability, superhuman reflexes, presence, acrobatics and leadership.

Leadership wasn't merely walking up the steps to lift trophies. Just before Euro 2012, he



Casillas, during a game with his last club, Porto, in 2018. EFE

led a Spain national team that was in danger of being divided into Real Madrid and Barcelona camps. Along with Carles Puyol and Xavi, he called a meeting to thrash out growing differences.

The conclusion was the unification of a squad that went on to retain the title.

Back in Madrid, his diplomatic efforts weren't appreciated by his club coach; Jose Mourinho

thrived on creating antagonism with his rivals and Casillas had undone his groundwork. This signalled the beginning of the end for the goalkeeper at the club he'd represented since the age of nine.

Mourinho always left a trail. It was a fall-out with a physio at Chelsea, clashes with Paul Pogba at Manchester United, a poke in the eye to a Barcelona assistant.

He dropped the goalkeeper and made the fall-out public. Things were never the same. Mourinho soon departed and, a couple of years later, Casillas moved onto Porto where he added to his collection of league and cup titles.

Sadly, he suffered a heart attack during training in May 2019 and his career was curtailed.

There was talk of him standing for the Presidency of the Spanish Football Federation and, at the age of 39, I'm sure he will adapt his experiences to excel somewhere very important in the footballing world.

He is one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time with a multitude of awards to mark his achievements.

He truly is 'San Iker', who needed the patience of a saint to deal with the aftermath of a ruck with Jose Mourinho.



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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Getting back to what is a more normal pattern for you? There comes, however, the chance to indulge in something rather fanciful and luxurious.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
A lot of energy and a restless spirit can make you feel rather 'edgy'. Get stuck into something mundane and even boring.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
A small blip in your romantic life is most likely due to lack of attention to social matters. If this can be fixed easily it will be well worth the peace that ensues.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
There is a need to check and double-check that things are going in the right direction. Not that anyone is out to trip you up, quite the reverse.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Getting together with like-minded people can really see your plans shoot ahead this week. Progress is all about mutual support even if it has to be from a distance.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Do you realise how much you have changed inside? In your approach to life? Think on this and pick out the habits and routines that will carry forward into the future




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Expecting too much of others could see you disappointed this week. Just because you admire someone does not mean that they are (or could be) perfect.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
You really do have to lighten up and have some fun. Life has been very serious for a time and will be in the future so this little oasis of calm should be given all of your attention.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Too much going on? If you really cannot take a break this week then at least find time to relax. It is amazing what a sit down, cup of something and a chat will do for your nerves!



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
All sorts of delays seem likely. Even though these are small, they are still irritating. Gather your patience and tie up any loose ends, for that is what they are.

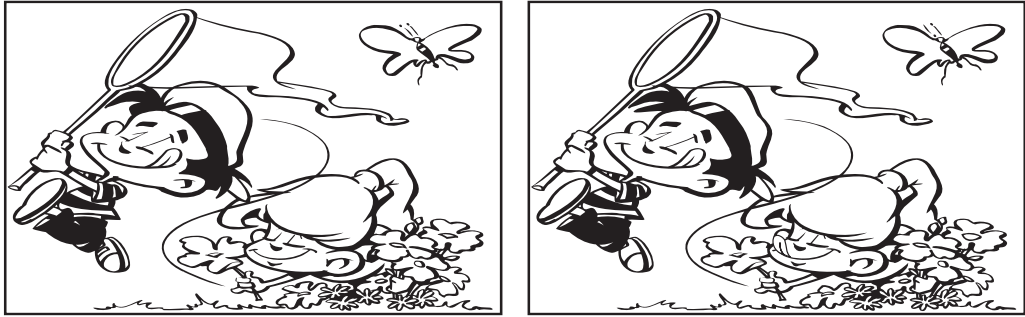


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Thinking before you utter is advised this week. There are certain people and situations who seem irritating. Jangled nerves don't help but realise that you are not alone in this.

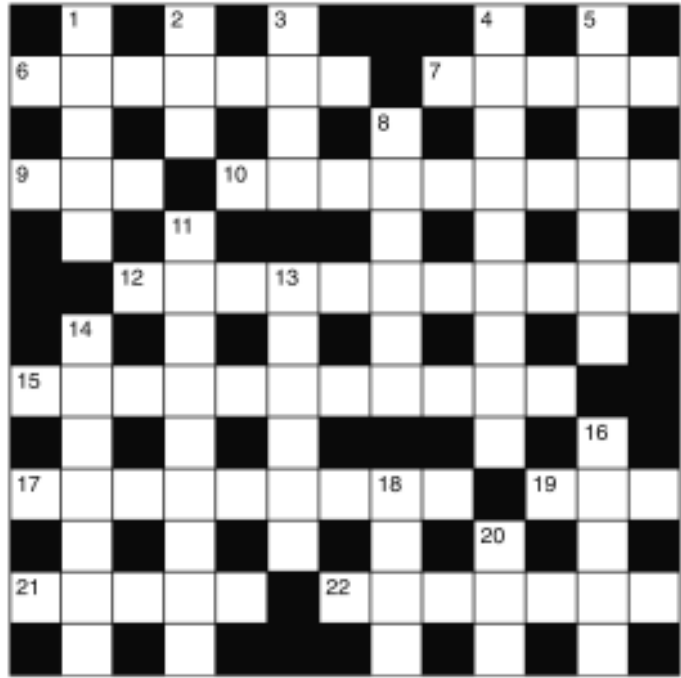


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
This could be just the time to turn emotions in a new direction. Let go of any feelings of apprehension. It is important now to look forward.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11421



- Across
- 6 Unsatisfactory legislation once concerned the underprivileged (4,3)
 - 7 One who shows the way, we hear, to be caricatured (5)
 - 9 Hard water (3)
 - 10 A willing female (8)
 - 12 The view I have, looking to the future (11)
 - 15 Writer is about to restrict those who wield power (11)
 - 17 & 16Dn Used by French capitalists when facing the wall! (7,2,5)
 - 19 See 8 Down
 - 21 Number of competitors at the start of the alleyway (5)
 - 22 Part of the batten drilled as support for climbers (7)

- Down
- 1 Road transport or train (5)
 - 2 Young fish to put in the pan (3)
 - 3 & 5Dn Pretend to force one to accept the faith (4-7)
 - 4 Not the main names for underwater craft! (9)
 - 5 See 3 Down
 - 8 & 19Ac It's used by people wishing to know the ways of the town (6,3)
 - 11 Group of players who should know the score (9)
 - 13 Sudden power increases provide stimulus in the vessel (6)
 - 14 Making a pitch for Irish game (7)
 - 16 See 17 Across
 - 18 Sign an invocation to the rank and file (4)
 - 20 Short notice given by a girl (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

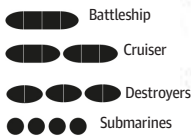
THE WORDPUZZLER

M	A	G	L	O	A	W	E	L	B
E	K	L	O	W	V	I	G	O	L
C	L	O	W	E	R	I	F	W	O
L	O	W	C	O	S	S	L	O	W
O	W	S	H	W	A	L	O	W	E
E	D	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	R
L	A	D	L	O	L	R	N	E	L
O	B	E	L	L	O	W	E	D	O
R	E	L	O	I	W	M	L	O	W
C	L	O	W	N	C	L	O	W	K

- Can you identify the words that contain LOW from the clues listed below?
- 1. Tail
 - 2. Strike
 - 3. Decrease
 - 4. Permit
 - 5. Gone by plane
 - 6. Radiate
 - 7. Roar
 - 8. Circus performer
 - 9. Sluggish
 - 10. Empty

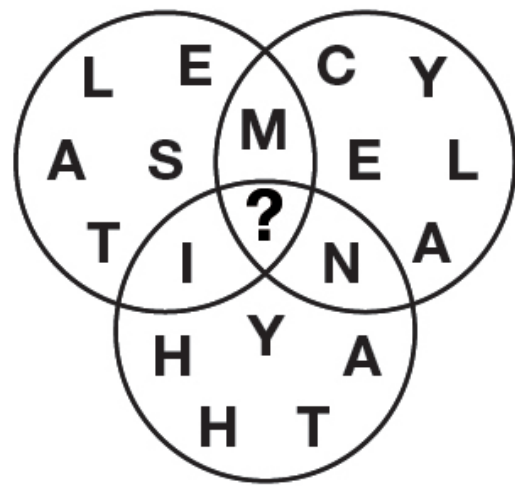
BATTLESHIPS

Instructions Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



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

CIRCLEGRAM



Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) River mouth (13)

6) Victims (8)

10) Rubble (9)

11) Ferocity (9)

12) Smell (4)

14) Month (3)

16) Tonne (8)

17) Mud (5)

18) Blood (6)

20) Law (3)

23) Net (3)

24) Leisure (4)

25) Dam (5)

26) Climate (5)

30) To swim (5)

32) Flood (10)

33) Wing (3)

34) That (f) (3)

36) Tree trunks (7)

38) Frogs (5)

39) Mine (f) (3)

40) I'll go (3)

41) He takes in (5)

43) Holidays (10)

44) She cancels (5)

45) Such (3)

46) Cream (4)

47) Campsite (7)

49) Table (4)

51) I heard (2)

52) Survivors (14)

53) Bodies (7)
- 1) Sports (8)

2) Emergency (10)

3) Bears (m) (4)

4) Hard (m.pl) (5)

5) Farm animal (3)

6) Wind (6)

7) Fees (6)

8) I get up early (7)

9) Sediment (9)

13) Ravine (8)

14) Nastiness (6)

15) Relatives (10)

19) Downpour (8)

21) I (2)

22) Easily scared (f) (7)

27) Five hundred (10)

28) Storm (8)

29) Caravans (9)

31) I will withstand (9)

35) Families (8)

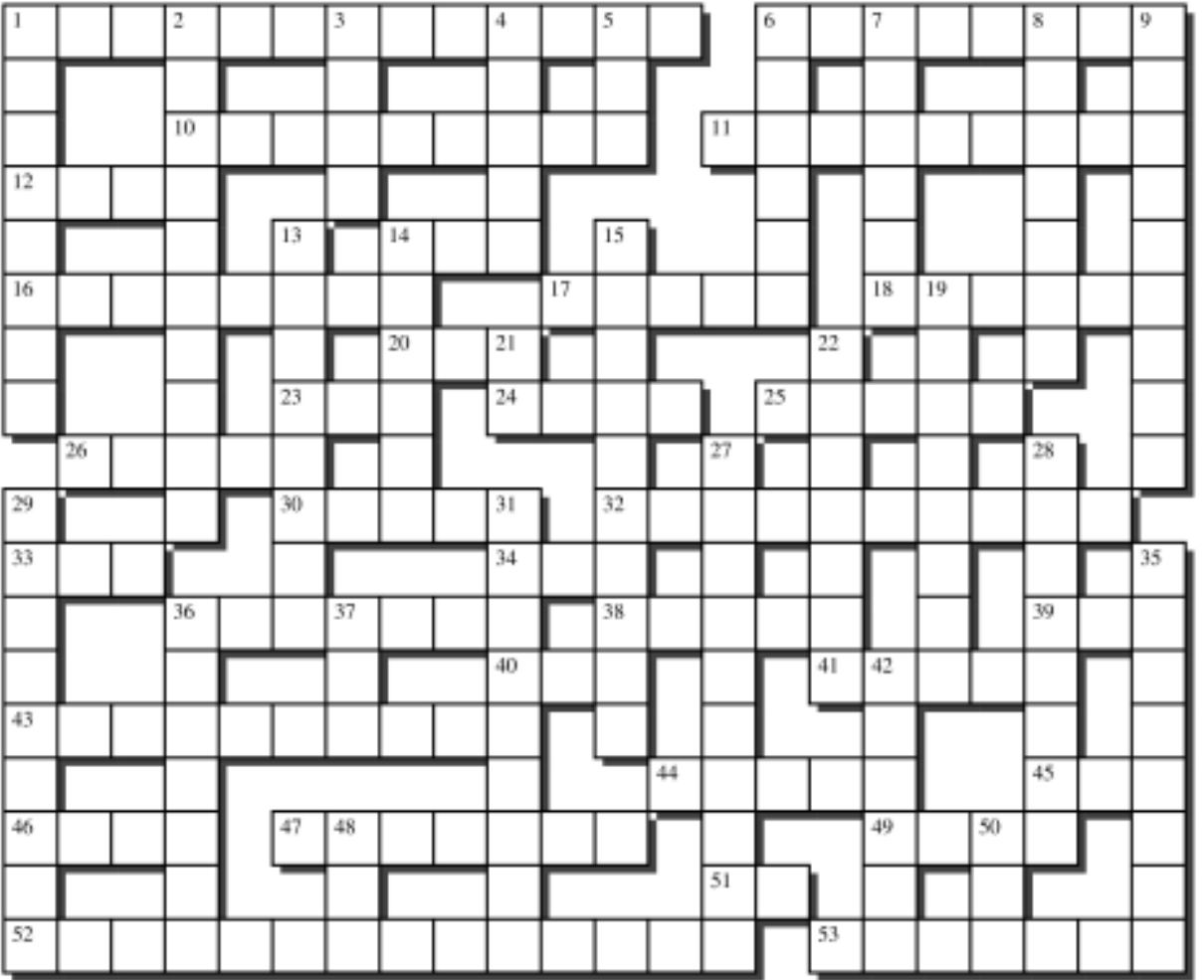
36) I'll treat (7)

37) New (prefix) (3)

42) Shampoo (6)

48) Like that (3)

50) To be (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: The Indian constitution recognises 22 official languages with Hindi the most widely spoken followed by Bengali, Marathi and Telugu. Urdu is ranked around 7th and Punjabi 11th.

Answer: Cow

Of interest: In Hinduism, the cow is a symbol of wealth, strength, abundance, selfless giving and a full Earthly life. The cow is seen as a 'caretaker' or maternal figure. One Hindu goddess named Bhoomi is usually shown in the form of a cow. She represents the Earth.

Answer: Bengal

Of interest: The Indian constitution recognises 22 official languages with Hindi the most widely spoken followed by Bengali, Marathi and Telugu. Urdu is ranked around 7th and Punjabi 11th.

Language Crossword



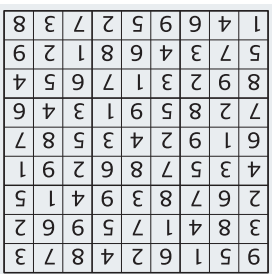
Cryptic Crossword

Solution: Across: 6 Poor law; 7 Gayed; 8 Ice; 10 Teatime; 12 Prospective; 15 Authorities; 17 Pastor of 18 Map; 21 Entry; 22 Thendil. Down: 1 Coach; 2 Fry; 3 Make; 4 Sublime; 5 Believe; 8 Street; 11 Lichfield; 13 Surge; 14 Hunting; 16 Pains; 18 Cimen; 20 Ada.

Wordpuzzler solution



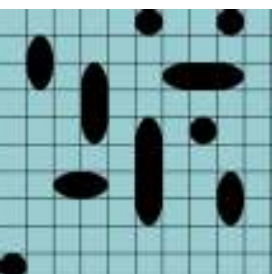
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Clematis, cyclamen, hyacinth, all flowering plants.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Last week: Alfarnate

This quiet little square, with the town hall on one side, is situated in the little village of Alfarnate. Alfarnate is located to the far north west of the Axarquía, 925 metres above sea level.



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Short and sweet

History. Arroyo de la Miel was once an enormous estate, where an Italian businessman made paper for playing cards

FERNANDO ALONSO



Sunday 8 April 1787, Easter Sunday. British traveller Joseph Townsend is watching attentively as Mass is celebrated in the recently completed cathedral in Málaga. Amid the incense, organ music and ceremony, a well-mannered young man approaches him and offers to answer any questions this curious traveller may have.

Afterwards, as they seemed to be getting on well, he persuaded Townsend to accompany him to Calle Granada, where his father, Félix Solesio, lived opposite the church of Santiago. Townsend and Solesio immediately struck up a friendship and the traveller was invited to spend a few days at their house in the countryside.

Félix Solesio, who was Genoese, had bought the estate called Arroyo de la Miel three years earlier, in 1784. It had a huge amount of land, measuring 11 kilometres in length by nearly six wide, now Benalmádena Costa and Arroyo de la Miel.

This immense estate had cost the Italian 300,000 'reales'. Bearing in mind that he had bought his three 'houses' in Calle Granada for 141,000 reales, we get an idea of what land on the Costa was worth in those days.

The estate bordered the Molino del Moro to the east, neighbouring estates owned by people from Benalmádena to the west, the Si-



▲ La Tribuna building, in Arroyo.

◀ The archway leading to the San Carlos complex.

► Round photo: the statue of Félix Solesio. SUR

erra de Mijas to the north and "the coast, sand and sea" to the south. From the early 16th century this land had belonged to the Zurita-Zambrana family, and one of their descendants had sold it to Solesio.

So, the English traveller was to spend a few days on the Arroyo de la Miel estate. He arrived on Thursday 12 April after just a few hours' travel from Málaga.

Townsend described with typical British precision everything he saw. In the two and a bit years that Solesio had owned it, he had planted 200,000 grapevines, 5,000 olive trees, 100,000 mulberry trees,

580 fig trees, 300 pomegranate trees, 700 lemon trees, 700 orange trees and a large amount of sugar cane.

He also had 56 oxen, 1,200 lambs, 400 goats and 158 pigs. The shepherds slept next to their herds and every night a man on horseback rode around the estate to prevent possible attacks by thieves.

The figures may sound exaggerated, but they are supported by historical documents, as historians José Carlos Balmaseda and María del Carmen Martín show in their book *Félix Solesio, Fundador de Arroyo de la Miel*.

There was also a quarry on the estate and in an area near the sea they had even discovered Roman baths with mosaic floor tiles.

Félix Solesio built six mills to produce paper. We know their names: Los Fundadores, Santa Rita, La Victoria and San Bonifacio, which produced white paper, and Los Apóstoles and San Nicolás, where brown paper was made. All these provided work for around 112 people, according to Townsend, nearly 20 per cent of the population of Benalmádena.

Solesio also built ten homes for workers and a church, complete with a tower and bell.

Félix Solesio was a dreamer. He called his dream the San Carlos industrial complex after the King, Carlos III. In Arroyo de la Miel today you can still see the entrance leading to the houses on the estate, with a marble inscription explaining that everything had been created in the public interest and for the future of the nation. It was the dream of every illustrious man.

Félix Solesio has always been overshadowed by the man who was his protector, José de Gálvez, Minister of the Indies from the Court of Charles III and Marquess of Sonora, and for that reason his fig-

How did a place get to be called Stream of Honey?

The most credible theory comes from the abundance of bee hives, because of the extensive areas of thyme bushes. The name already appeared in documents about the land at the end of the 15th century. In 1751, according to official records, there were 65 bee hives in that area.

The second, less credible hypothesis, is more poetic, as Juan José Jurado explains: the name, which means Stream of Honey, comes from the existence of a mill where cane was ground down to make sugar. The residue from the cane, "honey", was thrown into the stream, which gave its waters a certain sweet flavour.

You can still see La Tribuna building in the centre of Arroyo de la Miel, in the square of the same name. It is without a doubt the oldest building in the town. Restored in 2007, and 60 square metres in size, it is all that remains of the early San Carlos estate; outside there is a sculpture of Félix Solesio.

ure has rarely been given much attention. Solesio was appointed director of De Gálvez's playing card factory in Macharaviaya, for which he produced the paper in Arroyo de la Miel.

Townsend described him as an "enterprising man who uses all his profits to make improvements on his estates".

By 1797 his industrial complex was valued at five million reales, in other words its worth had multiplied by 15 in just 13 years.

In 1800 Arroyo de la Miel was already like a small town which was to grow during the 19th century thanks to its paper mills.

The mansion owned by Félix Solesio in Málaga's Calle Granada, has now been converted into the new Palacio Solecio hotel.

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