

# SUR

## in English

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August 28th to September 3rd 2020  
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SPORT

### A PLAYER EXODUS AT MALAGA CF

The club's administrator intends to let almost every first-team player go as part of an ERE mass redundancy plan **P33**



Police carry out their inspection of the flame-ravaged site earlier this week. **SUR**

### The search for clues continues

Investigations are ongoing into the cause of the blaze at the Sisu Hotel near Puerto Banús which claimed the life of a 30-year-old French man last Friday **P12**

## Foreign buyers getting nervous over surge in squatters

Reports of second homes being illegally occupied are causing concern in key markets

The Costa property market is facing another new threat, this time from the effects of widespread reports in Nordic countries of property owners in Spain who have arrived and found squatters have

taken over their homes. These reports are now starting to show signs of affecting interest from key foreign markets, especially in Scandinavia, where squatting is a relatively unknown phenomenon. **P7**

**PM gives backing to regional chiefs to declare localised states of alarm** **P4**

**Supersol name to go for good as Carrefour buys chain for €78m** **P4**

# Hotels on the Costa say they have been only 40% full and many will have to close in the winter

The weeks of peak demand are over and the tourism sector is asking ministers for a rescue plan, "otherwise we won't make it through to the spring"

ALBERTO GÓMEZ



MALAGA. With the last peak days of August upon us, hotels on the Costa del Sol are still under half empty, with an average occupancy rate of no more than 40 per cent.

The quarantine imposed by several countries including the UK, which is the area's biggest source market, and the successive advice not to travel to Spain, have dynamited the most optimistic expectations of an occupancy rate of at least 50 per cent this summer.

The slight increase in visitors from other parts of Spain wasn't enough to stitch the wound of cancellations due to international restrictions, which have left most of the approximately 90,000 hotel beds in the province empty.

The worst is yet to come, as the Aehcos hotel association reminds us, warning that the period of grace for loan repayments and extra time to pay taxes have only put off the payment of bills.

With estimates that occupancy will not even reach 25 per cent from September, hotel owners are predicting massive closures in the autumn. In a normal year, around 20 per cent close in low season, but this time more than half the hotels in Malaga are likely to do so.

It wouldn't be profitable to stay open, says Miguel Sánchez of the Confederation of Business Owners of Andalucía (CEA), who owns the MS Hoteles chain: "The busiest period for tourism ended on Sunday and occupancy hasn't even been 40 per cent. We normally keep five hotels open and



Tourists in the centre of Malaga city during the worst peak season the sector has ever known. NITO SALAS

close one in winter, but in this situation we are considering closing them all," he says. "The income would not cover the costs involved in staying open".

This is why hotel owners are calling for an "urgent rescue", aware that their recovery will be slower than in other sectors, and they say it needs to be in the form of a cash injection "otherwise, we are not going to make it through to the spring". Sánchez says he

is "worried" by the reaction of the authorities and is asking the government and the Junta de Andalucía to "take note of the dramatic

**A cash injection is essential to pay the bills. So far there is no rescue in sight and the agony has only just begun**

situation" these businesses are experiencing at the moment.

The president of Aehcos, Luis Callejón, adds that the Costa and tourism "are winning horses", which need to be supported. "We can assure them that if they commit to us for a couple of years with direct help and clear incentives to boost demand, the sector will repay them many times over."

The sector is waiting to see what happens with prime minis-

ter Pedro Sánchez's promise to consider a possible extension to the furloughing measures (ERTEs) for employees of tourism companies. These end in September, but the government has opened the door to them continuing until at least the end of the year.

**Scheme like the UK's called for**

The hotels are also demanding measures similar to those in other countries such as the UK, where VAT on tourism and restaurant businesses has been reduced from 20 to five per cent for six months and the government is financing 50 per cent of the cost of food and drink that British people consume in restaurants on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays this month, up to a maximum discount of £10 per person.

Despite low occupancy levels, hotels say they have noticed a slight increase in spending by tourists, as the manager of the Hotel Ritual in Torremolinos, David Taboas, explains: "People are going out less so they are consuming more in the hotel, but we have still had unexpected costs such as the Covid protocols."

A cash injection is essential to pay the bills for which payment has been postponed. But so far, there is no rescue in sight for the hotel sector and its agony has only just begun.

## A summer with no British, German or Italian tourists: most clients have been from elsewhere in Spain

A. GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The restrictions imposed by half of Europe on people travelling from Spain and the recommendations not to come here, blacklisted because of the way the virus has spread in recent weeks, has transformed the tourist landscape.

There have been very few British, German or Italian visitors, who in previous summers have filled hotels, bars and restaurants on the Costa del Sol. It has been Spanish tourists that have saved the bit of the day that was left of this peak season.

"About 98 per cent of our cli-

ents this summer have been Spanish," says Miguel Sánchez, who has hotels in Malaga and Cordoba.

Although the hotel owners had even offered to pay for coronavirus tests when travellers left their establishments in Spain to avoid quarantine situations such as that in the UK, cancellations by inter-

national tourists have made occupancy levels plummet to figures which have never been seen before. Many hotels dropped their prices to attract more Spanish.

The choice of transport has also changed. The lack of international tourists has badly affected Spanish airports, which in June lost seven million passengers compared with the same month last year. Malaga, the fourth busiest airport in the country, has lost over eight million so far this year even though airlines began flying again in July.

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# Andalucía signs up to national deal to get kids back to school

Central government coordinated standard practice with the regions at a meeting on Thursday which will see all pupils up to 14 back in the classroom

F. GUTIÉRREZ / SUR

MADRID / MALAGA. Agreement was reached on Thursday between central government and the regional ministers of Education to get school children back into classrooms from next month. There had been increasing discontent with regional inconsistencies.

In a route map signed up to by all 17 regions except the Basque Country, standard guidelines included: opening all schools on the agreed dates; full time on-site teaching for pupils up to at least 14 (2nd year ESO); compulsory mask wearing over six years; hand washing at least five times a day; a Covid coordinator in each school; and a recommendation to create peer bubbles beyond Primary students. For children over 14, it is up to each school to decide the amount of remote



A school in Fuengirola being disinfected. SUR

learning.

The Andalucía regional government, responsible for 'state' schooling in Malaga province, has signed up to the guidelines.

## Local schools gets ready

The regional minister for Health, Jesús Aguirre, said after the virtual meeting with Madrid that going to school was a right and that parents had to send their children from six years onwards.

"I understand the concern and fear of families, but I want to get over that we are working to make sure that all our children can get back into the classroom safely."

He added that when positive cases are detected, "the group will be isolated and tracing of contacts carried out. Where the number of cases is high, then the next stage will be closing a classroom, school or whatever is appropriate".

# Regional Health minister admits that Andalucía is facing "a second wave" of Covid-19

Data shows that the Junta has been carrying out PCR diagnostic tests at well below the national average

SUR

SEVILLE / MADRID. The regional Health ministry admitted this week that Andalucía, which is still seeing fewer cases than other parts of Spain, was immersed in a second wave of Covid-19.

Jesus Aguirre, regional Health minister, said on Tuesday that this wave has "very different epidemiological and public health connotations", compared to the first wave, in terms of the average age of those affected and the lesser pressure on hospitals.

Thursday's data showed a worsening situation locally. There were 816 new PCR cases on the previous 24 hours in the Andalucía region, the highest since 30 March, although most new cases were asymptomatic.

In Malaga province, including



Jesús Aguirre. EP

the Costa del Sol, there were 238 new cases, down slightly on Wednesday's 300. There were 110 being treated in hospital for Covid-19 on Thursday in the province, said officials.

It also emerged this week that Andalucía has among the lowest PCR testing rates in Spain. In data up to 20 August, Andalucía had so far tested 57 per 1,000 people, compared to the national average of 124.

Nationally, almost 10,000 new PCR cases were reported on Thursday evening.

## HOSPITAL

# Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital introduces a cardiac rehabilitation programme

MARBELLA

SUR. Ischemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease are the two cardiovascular diseases which cause the greatest amount of cardiovascular deaths, accounting for 60% of the total cardiovascular death rate: 31% from coronary disease and 29% from strokes.

In Spain alone, every year there are 70,000 cases of acute coronary syndrome from acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) and angina pectoris.

The death rate has decreased considerably over the last decade, particularly at hospitals, due to new pharmacological treatments and surgical treatments, especially

when applied early by implanting stents.

However, more than 50% of heart attack patients don't reach the hospital in time and cardiovascular mortality remains one of the main causes of death all over the world. Prevention is still one of the best allies when it comes to reducing cardiovascular death rates.

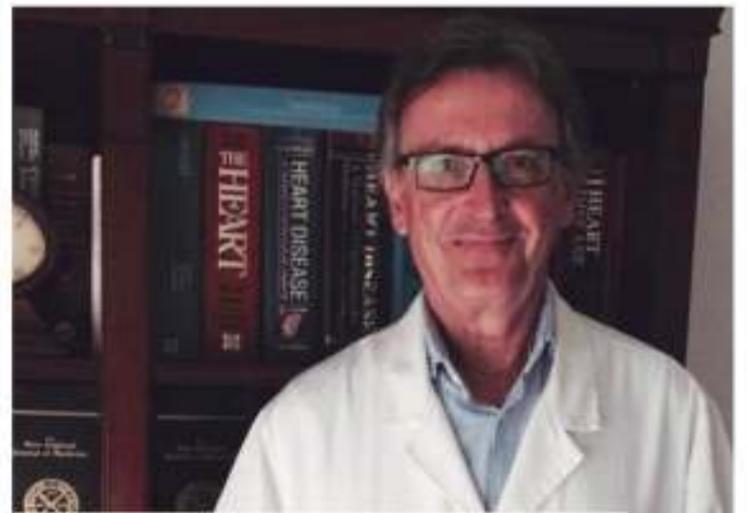
Exercise plays an important role in this field and is recommended for all patients with a history of heart attacks; to this respect cardiac rehabilitation includes a variety of recommendations and activities which have been shown to reduce mortality and improve

quality of life. These cardiac rehabilitation programmes are carried out at hospitals over a period of between 8 and 12 weeks in 2 or 3 sessions per week.

Due to the fact that compliance to pharmacological treatments is not as good as doctors expected, a cardiac rehabilitation programme with close monitoring has proven to bring very favourable results, showing a high rate of adherence and good clinical results in all aspects, from exercise programmes to control of risk factors and psychological evaluations.

At Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital, cardiologist Emilio González Cocina, together with other professional nurses, physiotherapists and psychologists, has created a team which has developed an entirely new understanding of prevention programmes through telemedicine, so patients can do the entire programme online depending on each patient's age and individual characteristics.

All of this has brought positive results towards meeting short-term goals such as controlling risk factors and improving quality of life. In the long term, this has proved to give these patients a greater life expectancy.



Cardiologist Emilio González Cocina. Helicópteros Sanitarios



Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital. Helicópteros Sanitarios

# Government to back regional chiefs should they request a localised state of alarm

"The evolution [of the virus] is not good, especially in some territories," Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez said on Tuesday

ÁLVARO SOTO / SUR

MADRID. Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez on Tuesday opened up the possibility of individual regions being able to request the declaration of a state of alarm in their territory (or part of it) in order to impose stricter measures against the spread of Covid-19, including localised lockdowns.

"Requests which fulfil the health criteria will have the support of the government," said Sánchez, who explained that regional chiefs would have to bring their case to the national parliament for debate before such measures could be approved.

"The evolution [of the virus] is not good, especially in some territories, which have done worse than others, but we are far from the situation of March. Now we must not let fear paralyse us," Sánchez said.

The national government had been called on to react after a regional judge for Madrid had ruled that the local government's rules banning smoking if social distancing cannot be observed infringed human rights. The judge's



Sánchez speaking this week. EFE

local move raised the spectre of other regional initiatives being overturned in the courts without stronger national legislation to help the regional politicians.

In response to the PM's offer to debate states of alarm region by region, many of the devolved governments were skeptical.

The vicepresident of Andalucía, Juan Marín, said that the PM had ducked the issue. He added that the process to declare a local state of alarm, is "not agile, fast or effective" and conflicted with national government's competencies. He also said that his region didn't need a state of alarm as a solution.

Meanwhile the acting president of Galicia, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, has said he will take a draft law to the national parliament in September to try to force a legal device that will give regional presidents more flexibility.

Another measure announced

by Sánchez in his appeal for "co-governance" in the fight against the pandemic was to make 2,000 military personnel available to the 17 devolved regions to bolster contact tracing which now has the additional help of the Radar Covid mobile application.

## "Download the app"

"[The app's] effectiveness was proven in the pilot test in La Gomera, detecting almost twice as many contacts as manual trackers. With more than 20 per cent implementation, it could reduce the impact of the pandemic by 30 per cent. Everyone should download the application," said Sánchez. "Covid-19 cannot take over our lives. We are going to flatten the curve again," he added.

## Minister banks on Oxford vaccine reaching Spain by end of 2020

DANIEL ROLDÁN

MADRID. The national minister of Health, Salvador Illa, said on Wednesday this week that he thought that the Covid-19 vaccine, being developed by Oxford University with AstraZeneca, could reach Spain before the end of 2020.

"We could have the first batches by the end of December," he said in a TV interview.

The Oxford vaccine is currently in the third phase of tests on volunteers and a date of 3 November has been muted for its launch onto the market. Many countries have already signed up to millions of doses.

The Health minister explained that sign-off from the World Health Organization was still needed first.

"We need to make sure the last stages of the research of this vaccine give a satisfactory result," he said, adding that the AstraZeneca supply comes from agreements between EU countries to work together on distribution of vaccines. "It will stop different countries racing to get the vaccine first," said Illa. He added that four other possible vaccines are also on the table.

## Two dead in biggest West Nile fever outbreak detected in Andalucía

EFE

SEVILLE. The number of confirmed cases of West Nile fever in Andalucía reached 37 on Thursday, with three new cases in the day, making it the largest outbreak of the virus ever recorded in the region.

So far two people have died from the virus in the Seville area - an 85-year-old woman and a 77-year-old man. As of Thursday, 17 patients are in hospital, six of whom are in intensive care.

This outbreak of the virus, which is spread through the bites of infected mosquitos, has been attributed to the 30 per cent increase in the number of the insects in the wetlands of the Doñana National Park and around the Guadalquivir river near La Puebla and Coria del Río in Seville province.

Around 20 per cent of those infected develop a fever, headache, vomiting, or a rash. Rare complications include encephalitis or meningitis, leading to neck stiffness, confusion, or seizures.

A dozen mayors from towns on the Guadalquivir have called on the regional government to carry out more actions to halt the spread.

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## Supersol name set to disappear as Carrefour buys up familiar chain

The Lithuanian-owned firm has 173 shops and the French giant wants them to expand its express and discount labels, plus improve home delivery

EFE / N. HESKETH

MALAGA. They are a familiar sight to over a generation of expat residents and holidaymakers on the Costa del Sol, but next year Supersol supermarkets are set to disappear for good.

On Thursday, it was announced that the stores, currently owned by Lithuanians, were being sold to Carrefour for 78 million euros.

The French retail giant plans to roll out its Carrefour Express or Market brands instead of Supersol, as well as its separate Supesco low-cost stores, after the sale of 172 stores is completed at the start of 2021.



Inside Supersol's El Capistrano branch outside Nerja. SUR

At the moment Supersol has 173 supermarkets in Spain and 90 per cent of these are in Andalucía and Madrid.

Carrefour said that the new sales points will help it expand its home delivery capability.

Supersol employs over 4,000

people and last year turned over 450 million euros but has faced stiffer competition from other, faster-moving supermarket chains in recent years and its market share has declined. Lithuania's Maxima bought Supersol from Dinosol in 2012.

# Are you planning on living in Spain long-term?

From 2021, once the Brexit transition period is over, UK nationals will only be able to spend 90 days in Spain within a 180-day period unless they already have a residence permit, such as the 'green card' or new 'TIE' foreigner identity card.

If you intend to be 'lawfully resident' in Spain and are not in possession of a residence certificate yet, you need to apply for a TIE as soon as possible to lock in your rights in Spain under the Withdrawal Agreement.

If you need help understanding the residence issues in Spain, talk to us.

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# Family alerted by a smell and flies to the death of their British neighbour

The man in his 50s had not brought his washing in off the line and did not answer the door when they knocked

**CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

**ESTEPONA.** Juan Manuel Fuentes and his family arrived on the Costa del Sol from Madrid on 7 August, excited about their summer holidays. When they reached their second home in the Sierra Bermeja development, at the edge of Estepona, they came across a very sad story.

“There was a strong smell and a lot of flies, and when nothing changed after a few days, I started to suspect that it could be a smell from a dead body,” explained Juan Manuel.

His thoughts turned to a neighbour who hadn't been seen since they arrived. “There were clothes hanging out that hadn't been brought in,” he added. There was no reply after several attempts knocking on the door.

Fearing the worst, Juan Manuel called the Local Police in Estepona and the municipal Health



Outside the apartment building where the deceased was found. **C.M.**

department, “but they didn't pay any attention to me”, explained Juan Manuel. He then contacted National Police and the local fire brigade, who did come and break into the building, discovering the dead neighbour.

The man was a Briton, around 50 years old and who had been living in the rented property for some 20 years, sources said.

“He didn't speak Spanish and he only said ‘hola’ and ‘adios’

when our paths crossed in the passageway or entrance,” explained Juan Manuel.

Juan Manuel's family were also concerned that the man may have died of Covid-19. “We don't know how long he had been there for and if there are remains in the property that could be contagious,” he said.

The local council later confirmed that the death was due to natural causes and not coronavirus.

## 112 REPORTS

**MARBELLA**

### Hunt on for ‘kidnappers’ but with little to go on

**F. TORRES.** Two cars blocked the man's way. Eight people got out, threatened him with a gun and bundled him into one of the vehicles. This was as much as was known early this week about a supposed kidnapping outside

a well-known restaurant in the Nueva Andalucía area of Marbella last Saturday night. Witnesses reported what happened to emergency services.

Official sources told SUR that police are looking for the presumed kidnappers but with little else to go on. Investigations suggest that the kidnappers might have links to eastern Europe.

**MALAGA**

### Investigation under way into cruelty to horses

**R.M.** A 63-year-old Malaga man is being investigated over presumed maltreatment of his horses and irregular paperwork relating to the animals and their stabling. Evidence of starvation and neglect was found.

**MALAGA**

### Man held for drowning girlfriend's chihuahua

**FT. / J.C.** A man has been arrested in Malaga over the drowning of his partner's dog, a chihuahua, two days after allegedly threatening to slit her throat. The woman had found the sodden pet on the floor of the bathroom.

**MARBELLA**

### Man saved after three days at sea on a surf board

**E.P.** A 55-year-old man, thought to be British, was rescued from the sea in waters near Marbella on Monday afternoon.

According to the statement he gave to rescuers, the man appar-

ently had spent three days at sea on a surf board after falling from a cruise ship.

Reports from Europa Press say that the man, who was wearing street clothes, was spotted at around 1.53pm by the crew of a yacht called Estelar. Maritime Rescue then saved the man who was suffering from severe hypothermia.



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# Fear of squatters could start to hit sales of Costa properties to foreign buyers

The local real estate sector is worried about media reports of illegal occupation of second homes, especially those owned by Scandinavians

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Increasing news of squatters entering empty second homes across Spain is threatening to destabilise the already weakened demand for an extra property in the sun.

The local real estate sector on the Costa del Sol is worried about the repercussion of these negative reports, which are now starting to show signs of affecting markets such as Scandinavia.

In Nordic countries there have been widespread reports of Spanish property owners - some on the Costa del Sol - who have arrived and found squatters have taken over their homes.

Pelle Lundborg, a Swedish busi-

nessman who lives in Malaga, says there has been great concern in his home country about the case of a couple who are over 80 years old, built a house years ago and have now spent over a year trying to get it back. He says this is not an isolated case.

"People weren't able to come here because of coronavirus, and when they finally did, some of them found their houses occupied by squatters. And of course they have a problem with the language and the law," he says.

## Thinking again?

Some in Scandinavia are reportedly now thinking it might be better to buy in Portugal, Morocco, Croatia or Turkey, even though Spain is still very popular.

"People don't understand why the law protects the squatter mafias. It is very negative for the image of the country and it is affecting investors on the Costa del Sol. It is unfair, because in reality it is very safe here," says Lundborg.

## The luxury property market, less prone to worries over squatters

The luxury property sector on the Costa del Sol does not appear to be affected by fears about squatters. José Carlos León, president of Leading Property Agents and owner of NVOGA, says squatting tends to be more of a problem in homes that a bank has repossessed. What's more, most residential developments have private security.

"We have heard of a few isolated cases, but fortunately not on the Costa," he says.

In any case, he recommends that his clients install an alarm "because if you can prove it has been a forced entry it is easier to get rid of squatters," he points out.

He believes the law should be changed but says there is no political interest in doing so.

Violeta Aragón, the general secretary of the Association of Builders and Developers (ACP), says she is aware of the situation but that at the moment the Costa del Sol does not appear to be a problem area. However, when it comes to investing, potential foreign clients don't discriminate. "We see that it is happening in other parts of Spain, and we need to stop it happening elsewhere," she says.

"The security of private property is essential. There needs to be legislation, which at present doesn't exist, that enables some-

## The television programme about a Norwegian couple has had a big impact and an immediate consequence

one to have a property standing empty for several months with the guarantee that if someone squats there then they can be easily thrown out," she adds.

Sarah Severin is the franchise holder in Malaga of Fastighetsbyrå, the biggest estate agency in Sweden, and she has numerous Scandinavian clients from other countries as well.

## "What are okupas?"

"People there don't know what an 'okupa' [squatter] is. Squatters don't exist in Sweden. This story has appeared in the media there and everyone is amazed at the idea that someone could take over your house and have rights over it. They can't believe that could happen," she says.

She admits the television programme about the Norwegian couple has had a big impact and an immediate consequence. "We received many calls from people who want information about their rights in Spain," she says.

She is optimistic and agrees with the developers that the problem has not affected sales locally so far, but can't hide her concern. "More news like that will negatively effect the market," she says.

Many owners of second homes are also installing alarm systems.



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# The risk of illegal entry has increased demand for armoured doors in Malaga

I. LILLO

MALAGA. He received a phone call from neighbours: squatters were trying to get into his apartment in a block of flats in Malaga city. The owner, who lives in Madrid, got into his car and drove like the wind to Malaga. It was a Friday, and just before setting off he rang a company specialising in security doors. He arrived in the early hours of the morning and managed to stop anyone getting in to the property. The next morning an armoured door was fitted.

This is a real story and "there are a lot of cases" like it, says Ra-

fael Moreno Escalona, who runs the Interestil company on El Viso industrial estate. It was he who installed the door.

Many people, especially the elderly, middle-aged and owners of second homes, are afraid of finding that someone has got into their property. The government, which has the legislative power to do something about the problem, doesn't seem interested and a lot of people are now installing armoured doors, high-security antibumping doors and alarms, for which demand has shot up.

"In recent months we have in-



A customer in a showroom of a security door company. NITO SALAS

stalled twice as many as last year. People are very scared," says Moreno. "They are more worried about squatters than thieves, because they take over your house and then you have to pay them compensation to get out". During August many installers have

been on holiday, but Rafael Moreno decided not to close this year, because demand was so high.

Víctor García-Miña, who runs Puertas Miña, a company which manufactures and installs this type of door, agrees. He says sales have tripled this summer. "Eve-

ryone wants their door fitted urgently. Some say they are too scared to go out shopping or to visit their families. We have had so many orders that it is taking us time to meet them all," he says.

## Biggest maker is in Malaga

Manuel Ruiz Jiménez, of Segurycal Almayate, says people are as afraid of squatters as they are of Covid-19 nowadays. "They can always get in if they really want to, but we make it more difficult," he says. One of his fitters even found somebody inside a customer's apartment, but managed to throw him out.

The leading manufacturer of armoured doors in Spain is SegureStil, based in Malaga city. Luis María Jiménez, the sales manager, says demand for their products has risen 17 per cent between June and August and 25 per cent compared with last year. "People feel a need to protect themselves," he says.

SOCIETY SCENE

FUENGIROLA

Salón Varietés postpone opening until October

**T. BRYANT.** The Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola has announced that the theatre will not now reopen in September as planned. Theatre organisers had intended to kick off the new post-lockdown season with four Prince tribute concerts beginning on 3 September. Other planned performances included tribute shows to Cliff Richards and The Carpenters, a dance spectacular and a country and western show starring Johnny G. A spokesperson for the theatre said that the shows had been cancelled because ticket sales had been “disappointingly poor”.

The theatre is offering a refund



Theatre will open in October. **SUR**

on tickets, or they can be exchanged for any future shows.

The opening will now take place on October 14th, with a special production of Evita, a show that had originally been planned for the theatre’s 35th anniversary celebration.

BENALMÁDENA

Age Concern forced to relocate social meeting

**T.B.** Due to the government’s restrictions on night venues and music bars introduced to curb a resurgence of coronavirus, Age Concern, (Fuengirola, Mijas and Benalmádena branch), is temporarily unable to use the El Elefante Bar in Benalmádena to hold its weekly social meetings. From Monday 31 August, the charity association will hold the gathering, which starts at 10.30am, in the nearby Stagecoach Bar, in Avenida San Carlos, Plaza Ibensa, (Arroyo de la Miel).

Secretary Steve Marshall said: “Despite our best efforts, we have had to temporarily relocate.”  
info@ageconcernfym.com

OBITUARY

Michael Lewin

1938 - 2020

**T**he local theatrical community is in mourning this week after the death of Michael Lewin, who died last Saturday at the age of 82.

One of the founding members of the Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola, Michael, originally from South Africa, moved with his family to Fuengirola in 1965 and quickly made friends among the local expat community.

Described by his peers as a ‘talented and very creative

man’, Michael was a keen photographer who had an eye for detail. He was a lover of the arts and was actively involved with local theatrical productions: he also had a passion for singing, especially in choral ensembles.

It was his love of the theatre that led to the inauguration of the Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola 1985. Together with a group of like-minded thespians, Michael, who was also affiliated with The English Speaking Players Association (THESPA), spearheaded an initiative to negotiate a lease on the old cinema in order to turn it into an English-run



Lewin was a founder of the Salón Varietés theatre. **SUR**

theatre, the only one of its kind in Spain. It had long been one of Michael’s dreams to open a venue for theatre productions and light entertainment, and through his hard work and sheer determination, the Salón, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, was born.

Michael’s contribution to the success of the theatre was highlighted in a statement issued by the theatre’s board of directors, who said: “The Salón Varietés owes a lot to Michael’s vision, and his memory lives on with the legacy that we as custodians and theatre lovers enjoy today.”



The area’s streets are in need of decent infrastructure. **T. B.**

Torremolinos council repeats promise to renovate the La Cañada de los Cardos area

The redevelopment project will include the installation of street lighting, parking facilities and green spaces

TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** Mayor of Torremolinos José Ortiz and councillor for Infrastructure Maribel Baeza held a meeting with the residents of La Cañada de los Cardos and Las Velas last week to reiterate the council’s promise to initiate the long-awaited redevelopment of the area.

The project, which will cost around eight-million euros, focuses on sewerage and drainage, new pavements and walkways, the installation of street lighting and fibre optics, as well as adequate parking facilities. The renovation scheme was included in the town hall’s 2020 budget, but it was put on hold

during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Residents have been spearheading a campaign to have the area, close to the main road into the town from Malaga, tidied up for many years. They claim that the district is especially dangerous for pedestrians and children because of the lack of pavements and street lighting.

One resident said that the town hall had been promising to undertake the work for many years, but as of yet, nothing had been done. “It’s like we have just been ignored,” she said.

The work, which the town hall promised would start at the beginning of 2021, will also include the installation of green areas and spaces for leisure activities.

“We have been the only council team in the last 30 years to commit to a firm redevelopment plan. This is an ambitious project that will put an end to a problem that neighbours have been reporting for many years,” Baeza said.

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# Record queues at Nerja beaches as fines come in for 'beach-hoggers'

A town hall spokesperson said it was "impossible" to control numbers on Burriana as there aren't enough lifeguards to patrol the promenade

E. C.

NERJA. Record queues to access Nerja's most popular beaches formed last weekend as people waited for over an hour to get a spot.

Would-be beach-goers joined long lines to get on to the iconic Calahonda beach, next to the Balcón de Europa, as well as El Salón, Carabeo and Torrecilla.

The father of the Barrera family, who were visiting the area from Barcelona, told SUR, "We don't mind having to wait a few minutes to get onto the beach. It's perfect



People queue to get on to Calahonda beach in Nerja last Saturday. SUR

that they are controlling the numbers."

However, a town hall spokesperson said it was "impossible" to control the capacity of larger beaches like Burriana as there "aren't enough lifeguards to pa-

trol the whole length of the beach."

The queues came a day after Nerja town hall introduced fines for 'beach-hoggers'; people who reserve space by leaving items such as sunshades and chairs early in the morning.

## Rincón de la Victoria streams and river beds cleared to help minimise risk of fires and flooding

SUR

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Rincón de la Victoria council announced on Monday that the town's 14 dry

stream and river beds are to be cleared of vegetation and non-organic waste ahead of autumn, to prevent flooding in case of heavy rainfall.

A spokesperson added that during the summer the work would also help to minimise the risk of wildfires.

The town hall called for residents' collaboration, asking them to use the municipal dump (punto limpio) to dispose of unwanted household items and to throw away other waste responsibly.



A crane clears vegetation. SUR

### IN BRIEF



Amigos del Mar volunteers with the info-bike. A. ZIPSE

LA HERRADURA

### Info-bike educates about importance of local cliffs

J. RHODES. La Herradura's Amigos del Mar association will be running an information campaign to raise awareness of the importance of the Maro- Cerro Gordo nature reserve until mid-September.

The Ocean Info-Bike is a mobile service run by the volunteers on the sea front promenade of La Herradura from Thursday to Sunday

evenings.

Organiser Anne Zipse said, "We find it important to inform locals and visitors about the protected natural area of Paraje Natural de Maro-Cerro Gordo."

She added, "We realised that there is an enormous lack of information about the area. People don't know where the limits are, why it is protected, which activities are allowed and where."

Information is in English and Spanish. Facebook: Asociación Amigos del Mar for further details.

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

### Improved access to Rincón tourist spot

SUR. Rincón de la Victoria town hall said on Tuesday that work to improve access to the Cueva del Tesoro was complete. The improvements include a bus stop for tour buses, more disabled parking places and better signposting to the cave. The town hall added that visitor numbers have been high over summer despite Covid-19.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

### Spanish classes for foreign residents

J. R. The CEPER María Zambrano adult education centre in Vélez-Málaga is offering Spanish classes for foreign residents as part of its 2020/21 programme. Other courses, given in Spanish, include basic information technology lessons. For further information visit the website: www.cepervelez.es or go to the centre, which is on Paseo Nuevo near the town hall.

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# Investigators search for clues as to what started the deadly fire at Sisu Hotel near Puerto Banús

Firefighters, police and ambulance services were praised for their swift action last Friday morning as the building burned out of control

**F. TORRES / C. MÁRQUEZ / J. CANO**

MARBELLA. Police have been searching inside the fire-damaged Sisu Boutique Hotel in Puerto Banús this week, looking for clues as to the cause of the devastating blaze there last Friday morning. A 30-year-old French guest died in the dramatic fire, visible from most of Marbella.

Forensic experts were inside the badly damaged building and grounds on Monday, combing the site for evidence.

The investigators are working with the so-far confidential initial findings of Marbella fire brigade after they had damped down the final flames last Friday.

Sources said that the investigators used a drone to overfly the site, trying to ascertain if the deadly blaze had been started deliberately or was an accident.

Last weekend, the management of the hotel published a statement which, as well as offering condolences to the family of the dead man, stated that they were considering legal action against some media and individuals over “insulting” reports speculating over the causes of the fire.

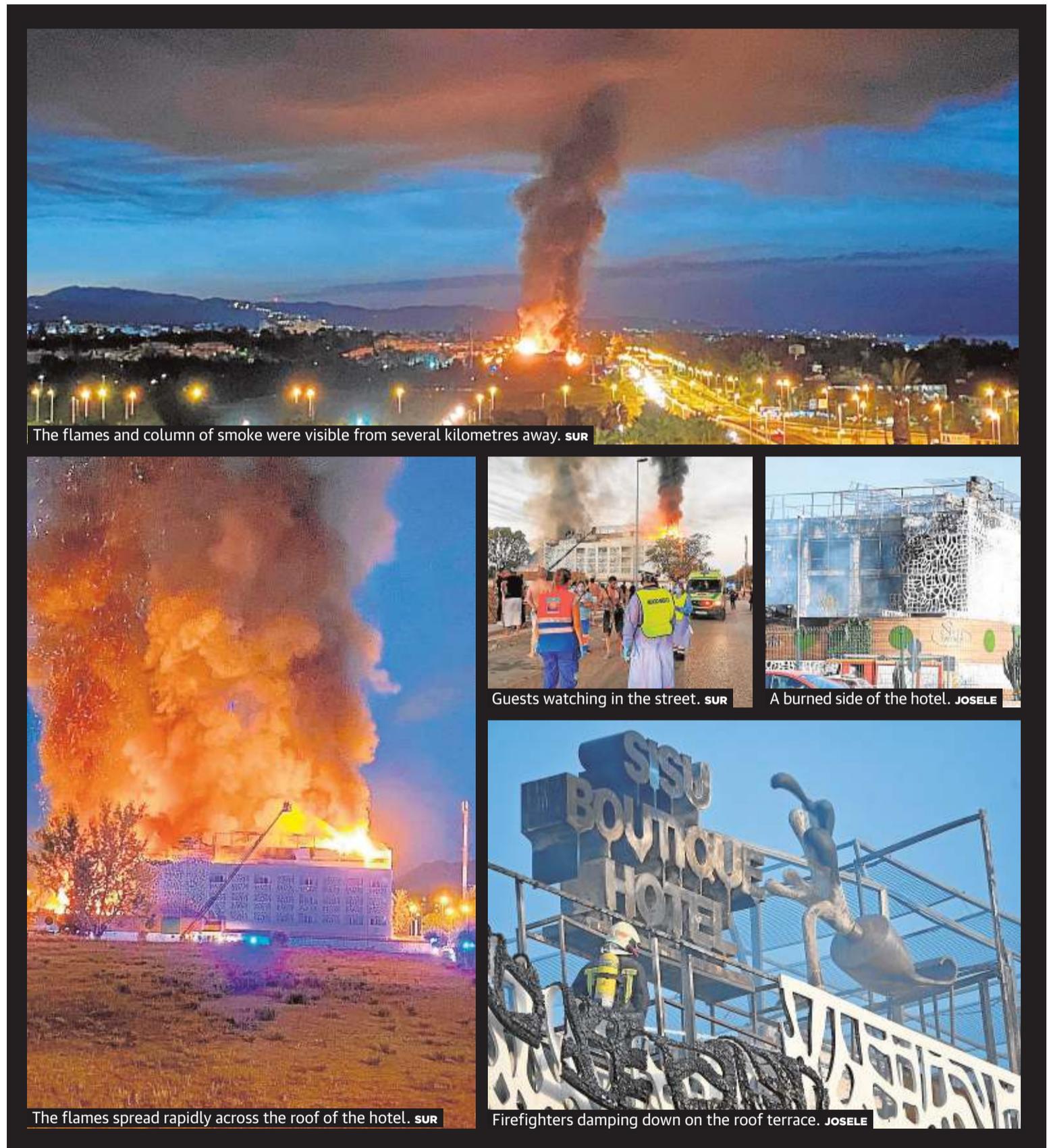
The dawn blaze at the Sisu Hotel, alongside the A-7 motorway between Puerto Banús and San Pedro, produced an enormous ball of fire and smoke that could be seen for kilometres.

Fire, ambulance and police services were called to the scene. Around 100 people from the hotel and residents of adjoining building had to be evacuated. Nine people needed treatment, mostly as a result of smoke inhalation.

## Almost a bloodbath

Marbella council sources said that the fire could have been “a bloodbath”, if it wasn’t for the swift intervention of Local Police and firefighters, who were able to control the flames, and above all, rescue people inside the building.

Many guests had to escape from the balconies of their room, breaking a wooden ornamental latticework, and climbing down below. Others waited for firefighters to reach them by elevated cradle. It is believed that the man who died was trying to



The flames and column of smoke were visible from several kilometres away. SUR

Guests watching in the street. SUR

A burned side of the hotel. JOSELE

The flames spread rapidly across the roof of the hotel. SUR

Firefighters damping down on the roof terrace. JOSELE

climb down the building when he fell.

Several firefighters were treated for exposure to heat and smoke, as flames raced up one side of the building, across the roof and towards the other side.

One guest on the first floor explained how he woke up and saw how the room was full of smoke. “I warned my friend, we saw the flames and we climbed out of the window, lowering ourselves down,” he said.

The hotel had finally reopened for the season just three weeks ago.

## Second fire at a hotel mired in a complex ongoing legal dispute

**F. TORRES**

MARBELLA. The Sisu Boutique Hotel is involved in a complex ongoing legal tangle. The company that currently rents and manages the premises should have vacated them in February this year, according to a court’s mortgage repossession

order, seen by SUR.

This document is the tip of the iceberg of a legal dispute between the owner of the building and this tenant which has lasted for several years. The owner of the building was declared bankrupt and the property is needed back to cancel some of the debt. The owner is also asking for over one million

euros in unpaid rent from the tenant running the hotel.

Lawyers for the owner say there was a failed attempt to take repossession of the building in May this year, when police were involved.

In 2017, a fire grenade was thrown into the building causing substantial damage to the ground floor, although the hotel was closed at the time.

Neighbours have also frequently complained about noisy outdoor parties with guests at the hotel.

## Council says Marbella is missing almost a third of the National Police it should have

C. MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. A deadly fire in a hotel, a gunpoint kidnap, closure of clubs and beach bars; these are just some of the events Marbella has had to deal with this summer.

The local council's spokesperson, Félix Romero, has called for more crime-fighting resources for the National Police based in the resort, "because with a larger allocation [of officers], events like these would be easier to avoid".

Romero said that there is a 30 per cent local shortfall in the 400 officers of the National Police, which is controlled by central government.

"I understand that the Ministry has other priorities or other needs," he said, adding that, "a town like Marbella, or any touristic place, can't have the same holiday shifts for National Police officers as other places in inland Spain that don't have tourism".

# Estepona's new hospital to open up at last "by next year"

The regional Health Service has been handed the keys to the 16-million-euro building by the local council and must now invest a further million kitting it out

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. The new, town-hall-built hospital building outside Estepona has been handed over to the regional government's Health Service for fitting out and to make it operational.

Since Estepona town hall finished the construction of the new local facility in December 2018, the building has been empty waiting to be taken over by health authorities.

The president of the Junta de Andalucía regional government, Juanma Moreno, was in Estepona on Tuesday to officially be handed the keys, saying his ministers are "committed to" the new service.

Moreno said that the first outpatient appointments would be,



The official handing over took place on Tuesday. JOSELE

"if everything goes well", and the Covid pandemic allows for it, in less than six months and the centre will be fully operational next year.

The new local hospital is in the Santa María area, just west of Estepona town. It will serve some 100,000 people in the resort and surrounding area, as well as an extra 36,000 people who stay on the coast in the summer months.

Its operational plan allows for

85,000 outpatient appointments in 20 specialisms a year, as well as 91,000 emergency cases and 4,000 surgical operations. Day cases and the Casualty department will start first.

The Junta will spend a million euros kitting out the building. The site was financed by the town hall, which spent 16 million euros as part of an unorthodox deal with the regional Health Service in order to speed up its construction.

### IN BRIEF

#### MARBELLA

### Starlite Festival axes staff under Covid rules

C.M. The organisers of the Starlite Festival summer concert series in Marbella have had to axe 42 per cent of their staff, after new opening times were forced on them under Covid-19 rules. The venue now has to close at 1am, as other bars and night venues do, which means it cannot open its second stage where a programme of DJ performances was planned each evening.

#### ESTEPONA

### New signs explain resort's Roman ruin

C.M. Estepona town hall has improved the signage and interpretation of the remains of the Roman tower in Calle Villa. The new information panels explain about the ruins and Roman life in the town in general.

The archaeological remains were uncovered in 2012 and include the base of an octagonal tower with walls over a metre thick.



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# Gibraltar brings in new Covid-19 restrictions starting today

Nobody is in hospital and those affected are asymptomatic or have slight symptoms, but numbers are rising and the government says it needs to stop the spread

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. On Wednesday evening the Gibraltar authorities announced that further anti-Covid measures would come into force today, Friday 28 August. The number of active cases of the virus has been steadily increasing in recent days and was 67 on Wednesday, but Gibraltar is carrying out large-

scale testing of its population and cross-border workers, so the rise in figures is not unexpected.

Under the new measures, people in Gibraltar must now wear a mask in all covered public spaces, and socialising is discouraged except with family or established social groups. The over-70s are being asked once again to stay indoors unless it is absolutely necessary for them to go out, and young people are advised not to socialise with or visit grandparents over 70 for the time being.

Changes have also been announced for Gibraltar's National Day celebrations. The traditional firework display has been cancelled and no large screens will be installed in public places to broadcast the online events, to avoid people gathering around them to watch.

With regard to air travel, the government is considering introducing further measures at the airport before people are permitted to board aircraft bound for the UK. The subject is under discussion and the Gibraltar authorities plan to hold talks with the UK. If any action is deemed necessary, it will be announced later on.

News of the new restrictions coincided with Germany issuing a travel warning for Gibraltar. However, in a BBC radio interview chief minister Fabian Picardo said the German authorities need to look beyond the Covid figures. He said that if you extrapolate them per 100,000 inhabitants they do look high, but Gibraltar has tested 32,000 people, equal to its population, tests 2 per cent of its population every day and that its controls are working well.



There are more restrictions on the Rock from today. FILE PHOTO - REUTERS

## IN BRIEF



José Netto and the association president Malgara García Díaz . A.R.

### HISTORICAL MEMORY

#### José Netto donates books to the Casa Memoria

D.B. José Netto, the well-known trade union leader of Gibraltar, has donated part of his personal library to the Casa de la Memoria in Jimena de la Frontera, including books he received from republicans from the Campo de

Gibraltar who sought refuge on the Rock and stayed after the end of the Spanish Civil War and WW2. This generous donation was warmly welcomed by the board of the Casa de la Memoria, and the president of the Casa de la Memoria Association, Malgara García Díaz, also presented José with a copy of her book on the closure of the Gibraltar border as seen by the Spanish press.

### CRIME

#### Construction boss charged with bribery

D.B. The managing director of Casais (Gibraltar) Ltd construction company has been charged with bribery, following a criminal complaint about a project for which the firm had been contracted. It is alleged that in April this year, during discussions about payments for building works, a 20,000 euro cash bribe was offered to encourage a third party to approve disputed works on the project, with a value close to £2,000,000.

### INNOVATION

#### INX cleared by US Securities Commission

D. B. Gibraltar-domiciled company INX has become the first security token IPO cleared by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Minister for Digital and Financial Services, Albert Isola, said this is not only hugely important for INX but also for the jurisdiction's burgeoning ecosystem. "Here in Gibraltar, we continue to break new ground with regard to blockchain and crypto innovation," he said.



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# More branch closures likely as banks rethink plans and cut costs

There used to be more than 1,400 bank branches in Malaga province but in the past ten years the number has been reduced to 721, according to the Bank of Spain

**NURIA TRIGUERO**

MALAGA. During the lockdown, many people started using online banking for the first time. This was good news for the banks, which had been encouraging this 'digital conversion' for some time: the pandemic achieved in a few months what would otherwise have taken years. However, there is another side to this coin: many branches are likely to close.

All the banks have had to rethink their plans this year, due to the harsh reality of the pandemic. They have earned much less than expected or have even made losses as the financial hit starts to take effect.

When things are this bad, those who run the banks are obsessed with cutting costs, and there are three main ways the sector does this: mergers, closing branches and reducing staff levels. Inigo Vicente of COMFIA, the CC OO union's Federation of Financial and Administrative Services, says we are facing a double whammy: "There is going to be a new wave of restructuring, with mergers which will mean fewer staff, and the banks themselves are also going to close branches".

During lockdown, they all closed some branches temporarily to reduce their employees' exposure to Covid-19. These have now reopened, but with fewer staff as many are still working from home. "They realised that staff working from home could handle many of the services provided by branches. They want fewer offices, and to focus on selling products and advice," says Vicente.

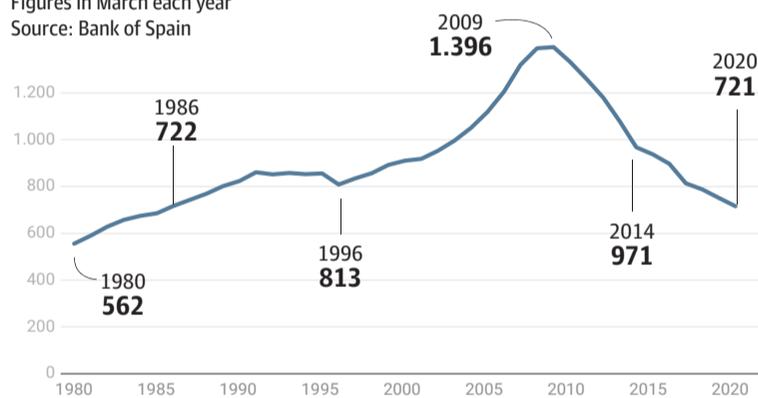
The bank with the highest num-



Banks in Spain had already closed thousands of branches. SUR. ARCHIVE

## Number of bank branches in Malaga

Figures in March each year  
Source: Bank of Spain



ber of branches in Malaga province (180), Unicaja Banco, says it is continuing a "process of transformation" which began some time ago. It won't say which branches are to close, as the situation is under constant review, but says the alternatives to traditional banking include an extensive network of ATMs and online banking. Bankia had already planned to close 140 branches in Spain by July, even without the pandemic. CaixaBank was already planning to reduce its branches in Spain

from 4,219 'sucursales' to 3,640 by the end of this year, and in February BBVA announced the closure of 160 branches this year.

The unions seem to have accepted that branch closures are inevitable, but are concerned about the consequences for staff. "We want regulations about conditions for working from home and guarantees that transfers are justified," says Vicente. However, they are not expecting massive job losses, such as those which took place in the past.

THE BIGGER PICTURE  
JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jbl@ehh.gi

## Is there a safe haven for investors in these uncertain times?



The term "safe haven" has always been part of the investor's vocabulary, taking on special significance in times of increased uncertainty. The attributes of a safe haven asset lie more with the investor than with any opportunity in the market.

It has everything to do with who you are. How well do you know yourself? How do you react to risk and how do you perceive and react to opportunity? When market prices fall suddenly, commentators and money managers often refer to 'volatility'. A sharp decline can lead to negative or even fearful reactions, but a more accurate definition of volatility is a 'statistical measure of the dispersion of returns for a given security or market index'. We can embrace volatility and use it to our advantage as investors, or we can be used by it.

As I manage money for clients and my family, I retain sufficient liquidity to meet unforeseen circumstances without having to redeem shares from an investment strategy. Thus I am able to embrace market volatility.

If the price of a security or index falls by 50% a few weeks after you bought it, you should be delighted to buy more shares at half the price. In addition, you should not own even one share in a business unless you are prepared to buy the entire business. Having already expended the intellectual capital that caused you to buy, why would you not wish to own more, if you have the means? An investor who does not have conviction of ownership will not be capable of using volatility to their advantage or of creating a safe haven.

If you are able to handle the

emotional challenges that volatility brings, then you can find a safe haven in buying a reasonably priced, well-managed business run by honourable people who deliver a duty of fiduciary care to shareholders. But for others who do not have this emotional fortitude, it is anything but safe.

Ownership of gold bullion, a proven store of value and the only asset that is not someone else's liability, is another safe haven. Developed government treasury bonds have historically proved to be a safe haven. However, excessive government indebtedness may reduce the safety of this security in the very long term.

In the very near term, cash is a safe haven asset, especially the US dollar, which is the world's reserve currency. To take advantage of buying mispriced assets, the inevitable fall in purchasing power due to the negative real interest should be offset by the optionality provided by cash.

According to Benjamin Graham, "In the short-run, the market is a voting machine [reflecting price]. Yet, in the long-run, it is a weighing machine [reflecting value]." In today's market, we must either be contrarians or we will become victims. Safe havens are created by the investor, not by the market.

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

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## A warm embrace

I'm not normally a bar type of person but these last few weeks, with the soaring heat, I've nipped out for the odd caña - you know, to support the local family-run bar on the corner.

They've gone to great lengths to ensure the tables are set out correctly, there's alcohol gel everywhere and the servers all keep their distances and wear their masks diligently. But I fear this is all in vain. The moment any group of people arrive in the bar, what do they do? They move their mask to one side, then kiss each other on the face twice. Some even throw in a little cuddle.

(On a separate occasion, I even saw a woman remove her mask to sneeze. Unbelievable!)

How silly can some people be? Do they think that coronavirus only affects \*other\* people? That it skips the people they know? We have to be vigilant... And that means not only of strangers. **ANDREW STRUMMER**

## Covid surcharge

Now I understand that people have got to make a living. But has anyone else noticed this 'Covid surcharge' that many restaurants and bars seem to be adding?

Of course they're not so blatant about it, but when I've been checking my 'cuenta', I've noticed the odd extra 20 cents here, 50 there...

When I ask the waiter about it they say: "We've changed our prices".

Very sneaky if you ask me... Restaurants are not the only ones suffering. It's not like

I'm earning any more...

**BRIAN STOCKTON**

## Suffering

In response to Jean Cooper's letter (SUR in English, 21 August), I must say I agree wholeheartedly. Also I've always found it odd how scores of people can be indifferent to suffering within their own species and yet give so much love and (financial) support to others. Don't get me wrong, stray animals deserve help but what do they say? Charity begins at home...

**EGLANTINE BINNS**

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## THE MUSIC MAKER

PETER EDGERTON

[www.e-peter.com](http://www.e-peter.com)

## Complimentary medicine

Once upon a time, you dressed so fine...' (My concerts always began with Like A Rolling Stone in those days).

I looked out into the audience to get a feel of the place and immediately spotted a man at the table nearest the stage reading a newspaper and sipping a pint, which was a bit strange but, frankly, I'd seen stranger over the years. The concert continued and eventually reached a crescendo. It had been a good one - by the end the whole room, including bar staff, were singing and clapping along. Meanwhile Newspaper Man had progressed to the cryptic crossword, having not looked up once during the ninety minute set. How very odd. Even odder, though, was what happened next.

"Great gig, mate. It's a long time since I enjoyed a concert

that much," he smiled, thrusting his opened hand towards me.

"Er, glad you had a good time. I think seven across might be 'apple tree'," I mumbled. Ok, not the last bit but, really, it was quite the weirdest thing I'd seen in a long time.

The reason for availing you of this quirky tale is to offer an illustration of the wide-ranging reactions a live performance can provoke. I've had people sing, dance, cry, laugh (and not in a good way), grab the microphone, fall to their knees in prayer (no, really), fight and faint. The true list is much longer but they're just a few highlights. You kind of get used to expecting the unexpected.

What I've never quite got used to, though, is the everyday compliment. Well, if someone says they liked the concert, that's ok, in fact very nice of them and I'll always reply with a standard but

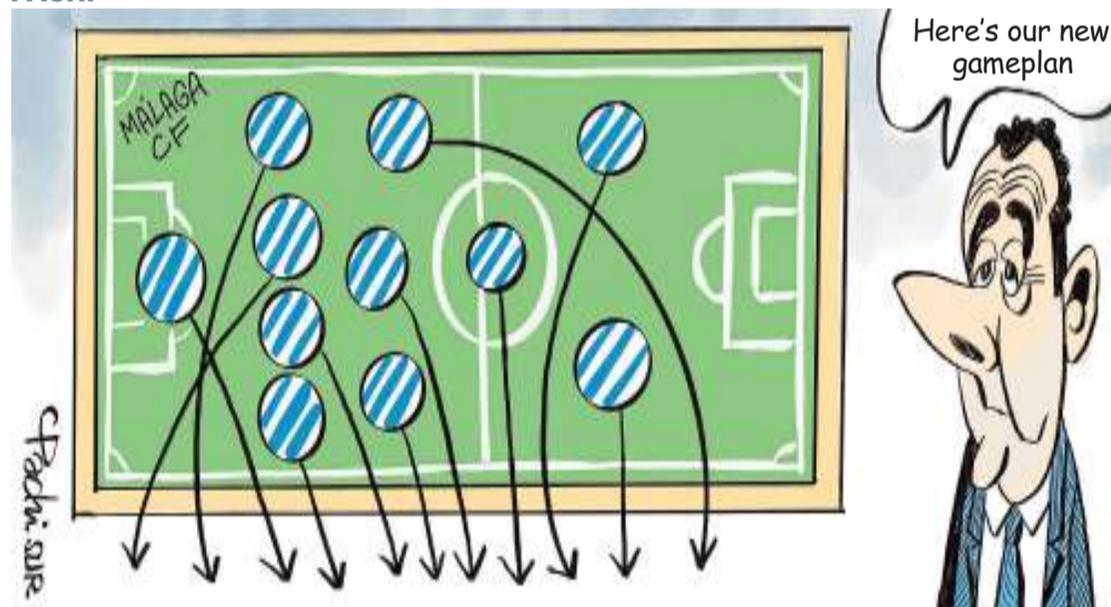
sincere, "Thank you, that's very kind of you." The problem is when somebody compliments my voice; it feels odd to even say thank you (although I always do) because the larynx we're blessed with is of absolutely no personal merit whatsoever. I was born like that, just as I was born ginger.

"I love your carrotty red hair," nobody ever said when I was a child but it would be the same principle if they had.

Similarly if you tell a beautiful woman she's, well, beautiful, how does she feel? It's not the same as complimenting her on an achievement of hers, is it?

No, it would be better if we praised each other only for what we'd actually worked for, rather than any God given gifts. In the end, it's not our beautiful hands that need complimenting, but rather what we manage to build with them.

## PACHI



**SUR** in English

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## Recovery effort

Come bearing good news: Spain's economy is already recovering from Covid! I know you're probably thinking that most of the available evidence points to the contrary, but it really is true, because Economy minister Nadia Calviño said so in a TV interview with Antena 3 this week.

Calviño, who is also one of the country's four deputy prime ministers, admitted that there had been an "intense but temporary" contraction in Spain's GDP so far this year, but quickly added that the "revival is under way". Phew!

It's not the first time that Calviño has spun this line. At a parliamentary session back in June, the boundlessly optimistic minister said that the economic recovery from Covid and lockdown had "already started". But what exactly did she mean?

Clearly, Calviño can't have meant that the economy had already started to regain strength just a few weeks after lockdown had been lifted: at the end of July, it emerged that Spain's GDP contracted 18.5% between April and June, a rate not seen since the outbreak of civil war in

1936. Combined with a reduction of 5.2% during the first three months of the year, that means that Spain lost almost a quarter of its annual GDP in the first half of 2020.

Tourism has also been severely affected by the virus and resulting lockdown. There were zero international visitors to Spain in April, and in June there were 97% less than in the same month last year. Tourist spending in the first six months of 2020 was down by 70% compared with 2019. And that was even before the UK's remarkably inept government slammed an indiscriminate quarantine on British tourists returning from any and all parts of Spain.

It's also hard to believe that the inexplicably early closing times of bars and restaurants is helping the hospitality industry return to full strength as quickly as it otherwise could.

Even more bafflingly, Calviño said in

this week's interview that the government has to "keep on controlling the outbreaks to keep this [economic] trend going on". Controlling the outbreaks? Spain has recently seen a substantial increase in new Covid infections, despite the obligatory use of face masks, the imposition of social distancing and new regulations about smoking and bar and restaurant opening hours.

If taken literally, Calviño seems to be saying that cases must keep on rising, to ensure that Covid continues to have the same (negative) effect on the economy that it already has - which cannot possibly be what she meant.

What Calviño really meant is that her government is doing a sterling job of managing the current situation and that, as a result, Spain's battered economy is already out of the danger zone.

I'll let you be the judge of whether she's justified in making either of those claims.





## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

28 AUGUST 1565

# Spanish conquerors sight land off America

St Augustine is the oldest European settlement in the conterminous USA and has been occupied by Spain twice and Britain once

On 28 August 1565 the Spanish admiral Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, on board the San Pelayo, first spotted land on the southeast coast of America; the area that today is northeast Florida.

Menéndez de Avilés went on to name the settlement Saint Augustine in the name of the king of Spain and in honour of the saint whose feast day is celebrated on 28 August.

Menéndez de Avilés, who had been appointed pioneer and

governor by King Philip II, set sail from Cadiz on 29 June that year.

Around one thousand men joined the admiral's fleet, which was made up of the king's galleon - the San Pelayo, the Magdalena, San Miguel, San Andrés and Concepción shallots (small boats), the Victoria galley, the Esperanza brigantine, the San Antonio and Nuestra Señora de las Virtudes caravels, and the Espíritu Santo and Nuestra Señora del Rosario vessels.

The admiral became the first governor of Florida and

Saint Augustine is famous for being the first European city in the USA.

It is the oldest continually occupied settlement of European origin in the conterminous USA (the 48 adjoining states), with San



A 2015 reenactment of Menéndez de Avilés founding St Augustine. SUR

Juan in Puerto Rico being the oldest on US territory. San Juan was established in 1521.

Saint Augustine was the capital of Spanish Florida for 200 years, before becoming the capital of British East Florida in 1763.

The British returned it to the Spanish in 1783 and it became

part of the USA in 1819.

### Saint Augustine

Saint Augustine of Hippo was a Roman Catholic Theologian who lived from 354 to 12 August 430 AD.

He was born in North Africa and converted to Catholicism on a trip to Rome. He died from

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Marinero	Sailor
Almirante	Admiral
Flota	Fleet
Galeón	Galleon
Nacimiento	Birth
Nombrar	To appoint
Europeo	European
Asentamiento	Settlement
Fundador	Founder
Navegante	Navigator
Festivo	Feast day
Establecer	To establish
Gobernador	Governor
Noreste	Northeast
Sureste	Southeast
Convertir	To convert
Colonia	Colony
Ciudad	City
Santo	Saint

malaria.

In 1295 Saint Augustine was canonised by Pope Boniface VIII. His mother was Saint Monica.

San Agustín, as he is known in Spanish, is the patron saint of the city of Linares in Jaén, which celebrates his feast on 28 August every year.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



Goya's San Agustín. SUR

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◀ The iconic Grand Canal is largely devoid of visitors. **A. FORBES**

# Venice - rising above the tide of mass tourism?



◀ **Hidden Venice.** Away from the familiar renaissance grandeur. **A. F.**

**The lagoon city** that established 'quarantine' 700 years ago, has emerged from lockdown with a new perspective

**ANDREW FORBES**



was born here, and her French husband Frederic are international designers who have made Venice their home. A striking signature project of theirs has been the renovation of a 16th-century noble house standing on the square of Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo.

Christened Palazzo Cristo, it is now home to four magnificent, luxury serviced apartments created by the refined style and creativity of Frederic and Anna, for visitors looking for a stylish yet authentic Venice experience. As part of my stay, living like a (pampered) local, the boat tour had introduced me to some of the less well-known canals, running through neighbourhoods that are home to Venetians that still reside on the islands.

I was seeing the unexpected Venice, away from the familiar renaissance grandeur, offering an alternative viewpoint that felt all the more powerful during this year, which has probably changed tourism for ever. Cities like Venice are presently not facing the perils of over-tourism for the first time in decades.

That said, the city was lively with international tourism; European couples and families strolled through St Mark's Square and took selfies on gondolas. Yet there were no waves of group tours brought in with the usual unrelenting flow of coaches or cruise ships.

To come to Venice this year is a privilege. The ocean liners that used to unload almost two million day-visitors a year have yet to return. In addition, North American and Asian travellers are not coming to Europe. Venice is free from the usually ever-rising tide of tourists; residents are reconnecting with their home.

## Changing course

This extraordinary year could be the one when Venice chooses to reevaluate its approach to tourism and the way it attracts international tourists.

Frederic of Palazzo Cristo explains, "Venice really deserves to be treated as an exclusive destination as it is a city steeped in history, culture and art. It is a fragile city, built on water. It is being gradually eroded due to over-tourism."

Early this year Venice was making international headlines. During the unprecedented lockdown, the city had started to recover from the pressures of millions of visitors. The lagoon was said to be cleaner than ever, attracting

**A**s our elegant boat passed through the narrow canal, the wake lapped at the edges of ancient facades of crumbling plaster and exposed brickwork of walls rising directly out of the water, each with a time-worn patina of terracotta, ochre, pink, with the occasional splash of yellow.

The hot and humid August weather was about to break. Clouds were closing in over the lagoon, and drops of rain were beginning to fall, beading on the chrome navigation light and immaculately polished wooden bow of the vintage boat. Sitting aboard this classic Italian-crafted launch from the 1950s, beneath a stormy sky, I felt immersed in the Venice of bygone movies.

Despite it being high season in one of the world's most visited cities, I was never battling crowds or noise. Of course, this is no 'normal summer'.

Just a few months after the reopening of European borders, Venice has emerged from lockdown into a new travel and tourism landscape, one where island residents have regained the city for themselves, able to live and work without the usual mass-tourism that has been inundating Venice in recent years.

## Palazzo Cristo

My boat trip gave me an insider's perspective of this romantic lagoon city. My hosts Anne, who



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Palazzo Cristo, home to four magnificent luxury apartments, is on the square of Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo. SUR

more wildlife from the Adriatic, while the canals, without the regular commercial and public transport traffic, had become clear.

Frederic continues, "During lockdown the Venetians took back possession of their beautiful city, freed from mass tourism, and now at Palazzo Cristo we have noticed that post-lockdown guests are more informed and respectful. They understand the need to limit access to Venice, which can truly be appreciated without the large groups of tourists."

#### Balancing act

As I explored the waterways of Venice, I imagined this must be how it was in the 70s and 80s, before the arrival of low-cost travel. Modern tourism creates challenges that need to be addressed; difficult choices need to be made. The cruise industry brings affluent visitors that often stay a few nights at the beginning or end of their voyages at luxury hotels in Venice, creating valuable employment and wealth. Meanwhile the day-trippers support a diverse restaurant scene and a myriad boutiques and gift shops. Their absence is causing closures, and significant unemployment. So how does Venice find the right balance?

#### Slow tourism

Monica Cesarato is a well-known Venetian food and travel blogger who is undeniably in love with Venice and its citizens. She hopes that post-pandemic, residents, hospitality professionals and the local tourism authorities can "work all together to see a different sort of tourism for the city: visitors who choose to stay longer than 48 hours, who are curious and want to discover not just the monuments, but the arts and

crafts of the city, and above all the people of Venice. We need to work together to share the message that Venice should be a destination for slow tourism".

Monica is so inspired to share the authentic Venice that she knows and loves, that she has launched a project to create Anima Veneziana (<https://animaveneziana.com/en/>) a short film currently attracting crowd funding. The idea is for a documentary entirely made in Venice, for Venice, with the support of those who love the city. The film is set to tell the story of Venice through the Venetians - how they live and know the city.

#### Death of Venice

As Monica explains, "The quote, 'Make your life a dream, and a dream a reality' from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, has been my motto during lockdown and it captures the motivation for the project Anima Veneziana. During the lockdown here in Venice we saw too many videos, usually by international media, who did not really know what was happening. They showed an empty city... almost depicting the Death of Venice - but this was not the reality in the city. On the contrary, during lockdown Venice people rediscovered the sense of community and helping each other. So, with a group of Venetians we wanted to show this new sense of belonging, we wanted to show a city made of people, not just of static monuments."

Initially for visitors, the more than 1,200 years of Venice history is epitomised by the renaissance art and architecture. Yet it is still a living city, not a theme park. For example, the lagoon's food and wine scene are a very contemporary expression of this vibrancy and creativity. From

the humble cicchetti snacks of fresh lagoon seafood to fine-dining, Venice is more than ever connected to its provenance as a lagoon city looking out to the Adriatic.

#### Beyond quarantine

Venice, as an ancient city, has faced huge challenges before. Its strategic position has of course shaped the course of this city's fortunes. It evolved into the epicentre of global trade in the Middle Ages, the rewards of which built the palazzos, basilicas and monasteries.

For Venice, this 2020 pandemic is not the city's first. In fact, the concept of quarantine originated here. At the peak of its international trading might 700 years ago, Venice was vulnerable to the black plague carried by the many merchant ships that would come

to the city. So, Venice instigated a 40-day isolation period 'quaranta giorni' for incoming vessels, an approach designed to protect Venice and the surrounding lagoon communities. This was the dawn of quarantine.

Lagoon islands were dedicated to containment and treatment of the bubonic plague. Those evocative Venetian masks with the almost grotesque 'beaks' that one sees in museums and in movies were the PPE of the time - the elongated nose cavity of the protective mask was filled with herbs to filter the contaminated air.

This resilient and innovative spirit is showing itself one again in Venice, an ancient city that is more than an open-air museum, but a living city of engaged residents looking to prepare the city for the new era of travel.

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## THE INSIDER GUIDE

## Venice



Il Palazzo Experimental.

ANDREW FORBES

## STAY:

## Palazzo Cristo Luxury Apartments

If you're looking for a private, chic Venetian hideaway for a romantic escape, then Palazzo Cristo should probably top the list. This collection of four gorgeous serviced apartments are found in a 16th-century building overlooking the square of Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo and its ornate Basilica (to the north of the island).

Created by husband and wife designers Frederic Tubau and Anna Covre, these sumptuous private boltholes are a refined oasis of calm in Venice. Expect a spacious living area, sleek high-end kitchen, luxe bathroom with travertine marble shower and deep, free standing Devon & Devon bath, and a bedroom with a four-poster dressed in Frette linens. Underfoot oak parquet and silk carpets contrast with striking white Venetian and black nero marquina marble floors. Each element, fixture and furnishing are bespoke.

This is exclusive self-catering accommodation (you can visit the local markets, delis and bakeries to create seasonal meals, accompanied by refreshing local Veneto white wines). A genuine alternative to the city's five-

star hotels. Prices from 450 euro per night.

<https://palazzocristo.com/>

## Il Palazzo Experimental Hotel

Il Palazzo Experimental is one of the new hotels in town; a uniquely styled four-star property in the iconic Adriatica building, looking out over a broad canal to the island of Guidecca. Il Palazzo Experimental, in the artsy Dorsoduro district of the city (where you can walk to some of the finest galleries, including

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, and Galleria dell'Accademia) has a delightful secret garden that runs down to a quiet canal where you can hop onto a water taxi or gondola; a magical place for evening cocktails and cicchetti, sharing company with not only with fellow guests but local Venetians too. I'd recommend dinner here. The cuisine, explains Food & Beverage manager Guillaume Pinault, showcases "local and slow food products, including seafood from the lagoon and Adriatic Sea, vegetables from Sant'Erasmo island, as well as cheese and meat from the Venetian mainland and nearby mountains.

French group Experimental made their name bringing the contemporary cocktail scene to Paris and have since branched out into stylish, design hotels with interiors by French de-

signer Dorothée Meilichzon. Expect an art deco feel with recurring Venetian motifs from arches to stripes; wall colours of blues and greens that reflect the lagoon, while the bold reds, pale pinks and buttery yellows mirror the neighbourhood houses.

Great value for stylish accommodation, with prices from 160 euros a night.

[palazzoexperimental.com](http://palazzoexperimental.com)

## EAT:

## San Clemente Palace Kempinski Venice

Spectacular setting for lunch or dinner, the Kempinski Venice hotel is found on its very own island of San Clemente, that offers outstanding views over the lagoon towards the renaissance towers and domes of Venice, with the striking Dolomites behind. There's a free shuttle boat that collects you from a private pier at San Marco, making it easy to experience a unique perspective of Venice. Start off your culinary experience with a classic spritz and enjoy fine seafood, risottos, pasta and fresh lagoon produce from fish to seasonal vegetarian dishes. Service is sophisticated and friendly.

The island's church that dates to 1131 stands beside the dining terrace so take a moment to see the ancient frescoes and paintings inside. If you decide to spend the night, the guest rooms have high ceilings, are filled with natural light and have the signature Kempinski style of classic elegance.

[www.kempinski.com/en/venice/san-clemente-palace-kempinski/](http://www.kempinski.com/en/venice/san-clemente-palace-kempinski/)

## Quadri

Gran Caffè Quadri on the northern side of Saint Mark's Square has a relaxed, fairly-priced bistro restaurant on the ground floor serving simple Venetian dishes bursting with summer flavours from the Michelin star kitchen of chef Max Alajmo (the posh, pricey restaurant is upstairs on the first floor with a dining room designed by Philippe Starck). Head waiter Roberto Pepe has plenty of charisma to spare, he's both entertaining and a very welcoming host. The cold tomato soup with pistachio and black olives was so refreshing - lighter than Andalusian gazpacho, and more intense and aromatic too.

Lagoon-to-table dining is a trend here so the seafood risotto 'primi' is a good choice. Home-spun Italian dishes like ravioli are transformed into gourmet surprises.

[www.alajmo.it](http://www.alajmo.it)

## Gritti Palace - Riva Lounge

Travelling to Venice at this time of year means seeing and being seen at the Riva Lounge, on the Grand Canal. This terrace deck,

resonant with 60s chic thanks to decking, tables and white leather seats evocative of Riva boats and yachts, is the epitome of Italian style.

Order a Classic Martini, and it will be prepared by your table, on the terrace, your glass chilled with dry ice and the Martini expertly mixed by head barman Andrea.

Signature cocktails include the Gritti Special (China Martini, Campari, Martini Dry), the Doggeressa (Absolut Currant, Chamboard, lime juice, pineapple juice) and Doge Gritti (Old Tom Gin, Carpano Antica Formula, Maraschino, Orange Bitter).

[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

## Ristorante Local

New Venetian cuisine by sister and brother team Benedetta and Luca Fullin. Look out for their good value pop-ups in Venice, including at Hotel Pensione Wildner on Saint Mark's Basin.

[ristorantelocal.com/en/](http://ristorantelocal.com/en/)

## DO:

## Edipo Re gastronomic yacht

Navigate the culinary and cultural delights of Venice's lagoon aboard Edipo Re (Oedipus Rex),

the yacht that saw romance blossom between Italian film director Pier Paolo Pasolini and singer Maria Callas. Enjoy a day exploring the lagoon islands and indulging in lagoon-to-table cuisine created by chefs from some of Venice's best kitchens.

[www.edipore.it](http://www.edipore.it)

## The Peggy Guggenheim Collection

Probably one of Venice's top cultural attractions, this collection of contemporary art, from Pollock to Kandinsky, was curated by Marguerite "Peggy" Guggenheim, niece of Solomon R. Guggenheim. It is housed in the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni - an 18th-century aristocratic property with striking 1930s waterside frontage and terrace that looks out onto the Grand Canal, which Peggy made her home for three decades until her death in 1979. Works are displayed in an intimate setting of the house, so it doesn't feel like an impersonal gallery space. There's a beautiful courtyard sculpture garden too. Advance booking highly recommended. Tickets 16.50 euros.

[www.guggenheim-venice.it](http://www.guggenheim-venice.it)

## TRAVEL:

## Colombina - Private Water Taxi

This family water taxi business is run by Luca Vidale and his son, offering private airport transfers and lagoon tours aboard an immaculately maintained vintage 1950s wooden Riva boat. These iconic 'motoscafi' are the luxury limousines of the lagoon, and truly the most stylish way to get around.

Book directly via WhatsApp - English spoken - +39 320 6128921

## Alilaguna Blue Line

This public waterbus leaves the airport each hour, on the hour, providing an efficient (although long at 90 minutes) transfer service between Marco Polo Airport and Murano, Venice and Lido. The pier is about 10 minutes' walk from the airport arrivals terminal. Tickets from the office or onboard, 13 euros in cash.

[alilaguna.it/en/lines/linea-blu](http://alilaguna.it/en/lines/linea-blu)



Martinis at the Gritti Palace.

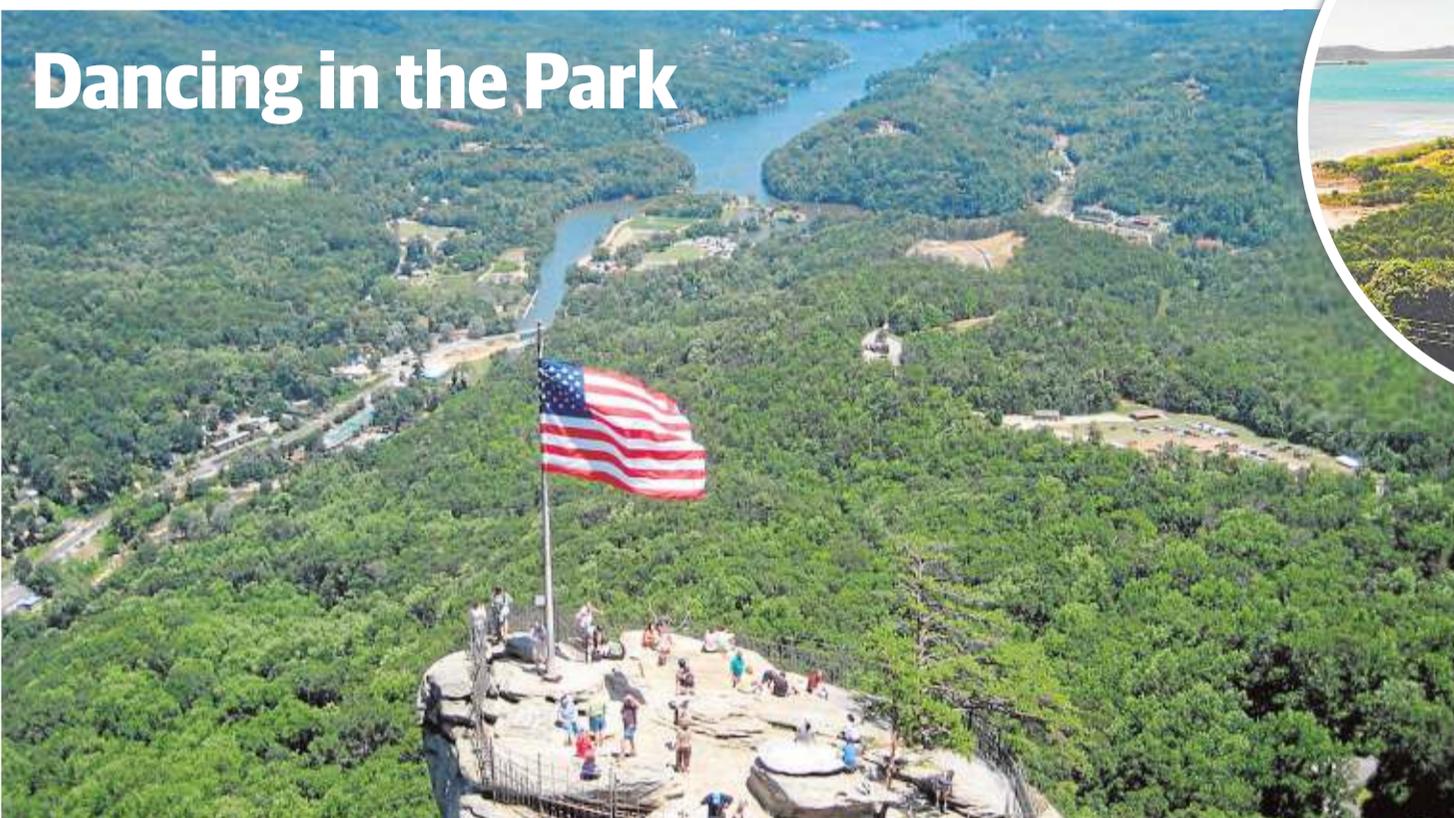


San Clemente Palace.



Palazzo Cristo.

## WHERE IN THE WORLD?



# Dancing in the Park



**T**his rocky outcrop gives it's name to the State Park in which it is situated. From the top (which has a state-of-the art lift for the weary) you have panoramic

views all around. The park is an area of outstanding natural beauty with waterfalls and walking trails as well as a bat cave. Clearly visible from the top

of the rock is a long ribbon lake which is the location for a fun festival which would ordinarily take place at this time of the year but has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

The festival celebrates the fact that the lake, and some of the nearby accommodation, was used to film a very popular romantic film and fans flock to the area every year to

re-live some of the most famous dance scenes.

If you know the name of this State Park and the festival that is held on and in the river every year, you could win a prize. Send the name of the Park and the festival to english@diariosur.es with your name, address and telephone number.

Congratulations to Russell Morris who correctly identified last month's photo. It was the Torres Strait Islands and the festival was National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

# — R-DMCS —

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

# The Veldt grape

Native to southern Asia, Malaysia and tropical Africa, this square-stemmed, trailing or climbing succulent makes an unusual pot plant. It is hard to believe that this plant, botanic name *Cissus quadrangularis*, is a member of the grape family (Vitaceae). It's common names include Veldt grape, bone setter and winged tree vine.

The long, segmented, square stems (which can reach up to 30cm long and 2.5cm wide in older specimens) climb by twining tendrils around other plants and supports. The greenish blue leaves are lobed, some deeply like vine leaves, others not

deeply; this is believed to be a result of regional variations in the species. This confusion is also caused by the similarity between the species *C. hamaderehensis*, *C. quinquangularis* (five-sided) and *C. cactiformis* (wavy edged margins to the segments).

The racemes of pale yellow or greenish flowers with maroon accents appear in late summer and are followed by small, inedible berries much like holly berries.

Propagation is by stem cuttings or layering as the berries are sterile.

The Veldt grape is very drought resistant when established and must not be over watered. It is a good choice for xeriscaping projects and is equally useful for creating a curtain of stems to drape over walls or as an attractive hanging basket plant.

An ideal situation would be somewhere with partial shade or with at least some protection from the hot afternoon sun.

Known as *Asthisamhari* in Indian Ayurvedic medicine, *Cissus quadrangularis* is used to treat a range of ailments such as bone fractures and injuries to tendons and ligaments.

The young shoots are often added to curries and a chutney is also made by combining it with tamarind. In Africa it is used in a traditional treatment for malaria.



*Cissus quadrangularis* and the berries (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



ROSALIND CAPLAN

## Ipomoea 'Split Second'

Roz Caplan saved seeds last year from an *Ipomoea 'Split Second'*, a double variety of morning glory, and planted just two of them in a pot. "They just flower on and on," she says.



MARIA HILLEN

## Free harvest of tomatoes

Maria Hillen recycles the water when she has washed up and waters her plants. This tomato plant grew from what must have been a pip in the water, giving her a free supply.

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

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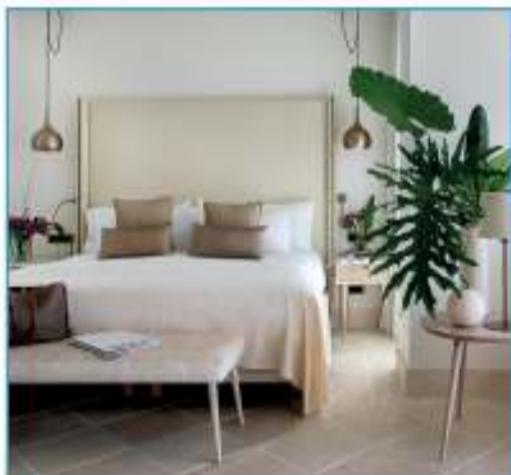
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## EXHIBITIONS

## Women

**NERJA.** Until 5 September. Sala Municipal, Calle Cristo. Open daily 11.30am to 2.30pm and 7.30pm to 10pm.

"Mujeres " or "Women" is the title of Coby Bloemsmas latest exhibition. Female figures and portraits in different shapes, sizes and mediums and sculptures from recycled materials. Two years ago Coby had a successful exhibition in the same Sala in Nerja but this year she presents a completely new and a totally different range of work.

## Julio Anaya

**MARBELLA.** Until 10 September. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9.

Before 1881 is an exhibition by Julio Anaya Cabanding. Open in August

only by previous appointment. Email: galeria@yusto-giner.com Call: 951507053

## Diego Ruiz Cortés

**FUENGIROLA.** Until 25 September.

Casa de la Cultura, Avda Juan Gómez 'Juanito', 12. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm (also 5pm to 10pm from 16 September).

The exhibition 60 Years of Painting explores the evolution of the work of Diego Ruiz Cortés (Seville, 1930-2009).

## The Russian Museum

**MALAGA.** Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

**Temporary exhibitions.** The two temporary exhibitions currently held at the museum are Rompiendo el Silencio. El cine Mudo en Rusia (Breaking the Silence. Silent Film in Russia) and Andréi Tarkovsky. Maestro del Espacio

(Mast of Space). Andréi Tarkovsky was one of the most influential Russian artists of the 20th century and forerunner of innovative techniques in the cinema of the time. In conjunction with this exhibition is a series of silent movies, with some of the most iconic Russian, Italian and American films available until 4 April 2021.

**Annual exhibition.** The current annual exhibition at the Russian museum features true-to-life works from the past three centuries. From still lifes of the 18th century to everyday scenes painted only a few months ago, the museum has created a tour consisting of 163 works in a succession of rooms. Until April 2021.

## Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

**MALAGA.** C/Alemania.

**Juan Lacomba.** Until 30 August. The CAC has an exhibition by Seville artist Juan Lacomba entitled A Qui A Lo Lejos consisting of 175 works on display.

**Nan Goldin.** Until 25 October. American artist Nan Goldin is the author of a sequence of video clips entitled Siren in Espacio 5 of the gallery.

**Bosco Sodi.** From 4 September to 6 December. Ergo Sum is the first solo exhibition by Bosco Sodi in Spain. It consists of 30, large, black, monochromatic paintings and several golden sculptures.

## Sala Coracha

**MALAGA.** Behind the Museo del Patrimonio Municipal.

Around sixty works created over the last fifteen years by Fernando Clemente entitled I Love Pintura.



Ángeles Caídas, Málaga

## Carmen Thyssen Museum

**MALAGA.** C/ Compañía, 10. 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday.

**Toulouse-Lautrec.** During a brief stay in a sanatorium, Henri Toulouse-Lautrec created 39 drawings in crayon about the circus. These works were conserved after his death by his friend Maurice Joyant and reproduced in two stages using a photographic technique in 1905 and 1931. The reproductions were bound in two folders entitled Au Cirque. Thirty-nine prints of these drawings are on display in the museum until 13 September.

**Masks. Metamorphosis of Modern Identity.** The new season's exhibition running until 10 January 2021 consists of over 100 works by national and international artists.



Helga Dietrich, La Herradura.

## Lola Guerrero

**MALAGA.** Until 8 September. Sala Alfajar, C/Cister.

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.

## Pepa Caballero

**MALAGA.** Until 12 September. Ignacio del Río Studio, C/Lorenzo 29.

The exhibition consists of colourful paintings by the late Granada artist Pepa Caballero.

## Sueños Etiopes

**MALAGA.** Until 4 September, Cultural Exhibition Space, Malaga City Hall.

Twenty photographs taken by Cristina Muñoz Gaspar, volunteer with the Fundación Harena, capture the youth of a Muketuri, small town in Ethiopia.

## Ángeles Caídas

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

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

## Enrique Brinkmann

**CHURRIANA.** 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.

## 18X2. Coleccionismo Institucional de Málaga

**ANTEQUERA.** Until 30 September.

Tues - Sun 10am - 2pm and 7pm - 9.30pm. MAD, C/Diego Ponce 12. The exhibition unites 36 works from the Diputación de Málaga and the Fundación Unicaja collections.

## Helga Dietrich

**LA HERRADURA.** Until 30 August, 6-9pm. Castillo de La Herradura.

A posthumous exhibition of this artist's works which includes paintings, drawings and sculptures completed between 1990 and 2012.

## LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

## Al Fresco

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** Plaza del Bulevar. Free.

**29 August, 9.30pm.** Adriana 'La Pimienta', flamenco fusion.

## Miguel Ángel Gil Electric Band

**FUENGIROLA.** Paseo Marítimo and Plaza de la Constitución.

The jazz fusion band headed by Malaga bass guitarist Miguel Ángel Gil live in Fuengirola.

**28 August, 9pm.** Plaza de la Constitución.

## Moraga Sound

**MALAGA.** 29, 30 August. Auditorio Eduardo Ocón (Parque de Málaga), from 8pm.

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/>

## Municipal band

**ESTEPONA.** Every Sunday in August, 9pm. Plaza del Reloj.

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Banda Municipal de Música de Estepona there will be a concert every Sunday in the square.

## Starlite Festival

**MARBELLA.** Until 29 August. Nagüles quarry.

A shortened version of the festival this year with many of the original stars booked such as Tom Jones, Lionel Richie and Bonnie Tyler rescheduled for 2021. Doors open at 8pm, concerts start at 10pm. Tickets and information: Ticketmaster and El Corte Inglés.

**28 August.** Morat. Spanish pop group.

**29 August.** Aitana. Nominated for Best New Artist at the Latin Grammy Awards 2019.

## Marenostrum

**FUENGIROLA.** Until 5 September. Castillo Sohail.

The Marenostrum 'Edición Limitada' festival offers more than 35 musical, cabaret and comedy performances including:

**28 August.** José Manuel Soto. One of the most popular singers in Andalucía.

**29 August.** Vive Suecia with pre and



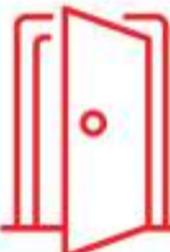
Brinkmann, Casa Gerald Brenan.

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after show with DJ Colapso. Find more information at <https://marenostrumfuengirola.com/>

### Ana Cisneros Quintet

**BENALMÁDENA.** 28 August, 9pm. Auditorio Municipal Parque de La Paloma.

A night of jazz with the Ana Cisneros Quintet. Free. Places limited to 300. Arrive half an hour in advance.

### Festival of Legends

**BENALMÁDENA.** 29 August, 6pm. Municipal Auditorium Parque de la Paloma. 20€.

This five-hour Festival of Legends concert to raise funds for the Cruz Roja (Red Cross) will feature tributes to Bon Jovi, Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Neil Diamond, Queen, The Bee Gees, Elvis and Tina Turner. There will be a bar and food. Limited seating. Tickets: El Corte Inglés and Eventbrite or call 609488572. [www.thefestivaloflegends.com](http://www.thefestivaloflegends.com)

### Estepona municipal band

**ESTEPONA.** 30 August, 9pm. Plaza del Reloj.

Estepona's municipal band is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year.

### Tango Malaga 2020

**MALAGA.** 18, 19 September. Teatro Echegaray. 15€. Osvaldo Jiménez and Proyecto Tamgú perform classic tango music and dance. [www.teatroechegaray.es](http://www.teatroechegaray.es) or [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es) Call: 952 076262.

### La Costa de la Música

**MARBELLA.** 29 August. Auditorio del Parque de la Constitución. 5€. Tin Fernández Quintet. Tickets: [www.entradas.com/](http://www.entradas.com/), at the box office (Tues-Sat 7-10pm) or call: 902646289

### Alhator Festival

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** 11 September. Finca El Portón.

A total of eight concerts by well-known Spanish musicians including El Kanka, Arco and Annie B will take place during the summer. Places are limited. Tickets on the webpages Oh Salvaje and King Ocio as well as from post offices. <https://ohsalvaje.com/conciertos/>

### Terral de Málaga

**MALAGA.** From 8 September. Teatro Cervantes.

A total of 16 concerts will take place including jazz, R&B, hip hop, rock, pop and flamenco. Tickets are on sale



Beatles Songbook, Terral Malaga.

now and cost 12€ per concert.  
**9 September, 8pm.** Ana Cisneros Jazz Quartet.  
**14 September, 8pm.** Alicia Tamariz Sextet.  
**15 September, 8pm.** The Beatles Songbook.  
**19 September, 8pm.** Julia Martín.  
**21 September, 8pm.** Anachronic.  
**25 September, 8pm.** Dry Martina.  
**29 September, 8pm.** Ernesto Aurignac and Moises P Sánchez.

### Movie Score Málaga (MOSMA)

**MALAGA.** From 10 September. Teatro Cervantes.

**10 September, 8.30pm.** The Malaga Symphonic Orchestra pay a tribute to Ennio Morricone, composer and trumpet player famous for his atmospheric scores of spaghetti westerns.

### International Chamber Music Festival

**MALAGA.** 23 - 27 September.

The Echegaray Theatre, Museo Pompidou and Museo Ruso de San Petersburgo will be the venues for a series of concerts and recitals. The five concerts themed on 'Málaga Clasica' will take place in the theatre while the recitals, showcasing young talent, will take place in the Pompidou and Russian museums. More information and tickets: [www.teatrocervantes.es](http://www.teatrocervantes.es), [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es).

### FLAMENCO

#### Rocío Bazán

**ESTEPONA.** 5 September, Plaza Diario ABC, 10pm  
Flamenco singer Rocío Bazán performs her show Intrépida.

### THEATRE AND DANCE

#### Lorca y Granada

**LOS JARDINES DEL GENERALIFE.**  
Until 29 August.

With the Manuel Liñán dance company. For more information, tickets etc: <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/lorcaygranada/>

### Cervantes outdoors

**MALAGA.** September. Open air events to accompany the Max theatre awards.

**4 September, 8pm.** Plaza de la Merced. El Espejo Negro is a show with singing, dancing and acrobatics.

**5 September, 10pm.** Facade of the theatre. Æthêr. De la oscuridad a la luz is performed by the REA Dance company high off the ground against the facade of the theatre.

**6 September, 8pm.** Plaza de la Marina. The Rolabola Circus Company combines circus characters, acrobatics, theatre and rock. [www.teatrocervantes.es](http://www.teatrocervantes.es)



Ernesto Aurignac, Terral Malaga.



Luisa Chicano will perform at the competition on Saturday. sur

## In search of Andalucía's most authentic flamenco

### TONY BRYANT

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** The four finalists of the fortieth edition of the Concurso de Cante Flamenco Mirando a la Torre will come together to participate in the coveted flamenco singing competition in Alhaurín de la Torre on Saturday (tomorrow).

The event, which will take place in the Municipal Finca El Portón, is held each year to discover the most authentic flamenco singers in Andalucía. This year's finalists are Francisco Heredia (Jaén); Rocío Fantova (Cadiz); and Antonio Hayas El Jaro and Raúl Alcántara 'El Troya', who are both from

Cordoba. The singers will be accompanied by established guitarist Ismael Rueda while a spectacular dance show will be supplied by the dance troupe of Luisa Chicano, one of Málaga's most innovative flamenco dancers.

This year's event will include a special flamenco fashion show, with dresses and accessories by local designers Verónica Núñez and Ada Gutiérrez.

Tickets for the event, which is organised by the flamenco peña El Torre del Cante, cost six euros and can be reserved on 609592994.

Organisers have advised early reservation due to crowd capacity restriction.

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# Local Dutch artist showcases women at Nerja's Sala Municipal

Torrox-based artist Coby Bloemsma had a creative lockdown making sculptures out of anything she could find

JENNIE RHODES



NERJA. Women are the theme of local Dutch artist Coby Bloemsma's exhibition 'Mujeres' at Nerja's Sala Municipal in Calle Cristo. Thirty-five paintings and eight sculptures are included in the exhibition which runs until 5 September.

Coby, 71, explained to SUR in English that the collection comes from a series of paintings she has created during her weekly art classes. "We have live models at the classes who are normally women. I start the painting during the class and then do something different with it at home, so I might change the canvas, or turn it into a collage."

## A creative lockdown

Coby used her time during



Coby Bloemsma with one of her sculptures. C. BLOEMSMA

## MUJERES / WOMEN

► **What.** An exhibition of 35 paintings and eight sculptures by local Dutch artist Coby Bloemsma.

► **Where.** Sala Municipal, C/ Cristo, Nerja. Every day from 11.30am to 2pm and 7.30 to 10pm. Until 5 September.

► **Further information.** [www.cobybloemsma.com](http://www.cobybloemsma.com) / [cobyinspain@gmail.com](mailto:cobyinspain@gmail.com)

lockdown to develop her sculpting talents. She made the eight pieces that appear in the exhibition using materials she either had lying around or that she found.

"I couldn't buy paint during the lockdown, so I started doing sculptures with anything I could find around the house or in the neighbourhood."

Coby has lived in Torrox Costa for 11 years with her English husband and their dog. She explained that the couple fell in love with Torrox during a two-year European road trip.

"We spent a lot of time in Portugal and here in Andalucía and decided to settle in Torrox," she said. Since then, Coby has dedicated her time to painting "every day".

She is not new to the world of art, having wanted to be a fashion designer at a young age. Although she didn't pursue a career in fashion design, Coby said she has always either attended evening classes or "done something creative", even while she was working as a receptionist and then a PR officer in the Netherlands.

She has also spent time living in Australia and the UK.

## CHARITY

### ACE Charity Golf Tournament

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** 13 September, Miraflores Golf Club.

The popular Texas Scramble format has been chosen for the event, with the first team of four players teeing-off at 8.27am. The Tournament will be followed by a two-course lunch (with choice of menu) accompanied by live entertainment, as well as the Awards Ceremony and a Charity Raffle. Fees are 80€ per player which includes green fee, shared buggy and lunch. Non players pay 25€ each for lunch. Reservations: [pr.spain@ace-charity.org](mailto:pr.spain@ace-charity.org) or call: 606145359 / 647 647671.

### Lux Mundi

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Fridays, 11am - 1pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

Coffee mornings, a boutique with a range of new and nearly new clothing and accessories and also second hand English books. Lux Mundi is unable to accept donations of clothing or books etc at the moment.

**18 September, 8.15pm.** Taizé Prayer at the San Andrés, Parish Church.

Tel. 952 543 334 or email: [lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org](mailto:lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org)

### Lux Mundi Grand Sale

**FUENGIROLA.** 16 - 19 September, 10am - 3pm. Calle Nueva 3.

Everything must go: kitchenware, furniture, electric heaters and fans, other electrical goods, toys, books, CDs and DVDs, golf clubs and Christmas decorations. The boutique will also be open.

### Lux Mundi Prayer Meetings

**FUENGIROLA.** 16 - 19 September, 10am - 3pm. Calle Nueva 3.

**16 September, 7.45pm.** Taizé Prayer at the Parish Church Nuestra Señora

del Carmen.

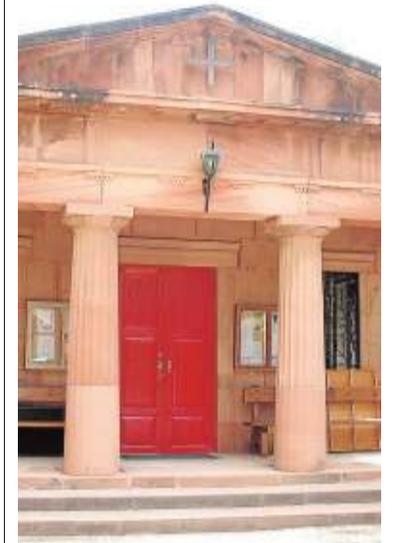
**25 September, 8pm.** Special ecumenical prayer in Malaga Cathedral for the victims of the pandemic.

## VISITS / ATTRACTIONS

### Guided tour of the Cemetery

**MALAGA.** 4 September, 5pm. The English Cemetery. 6€.

Visit the first Protestant cemetery on mainland Spain in a unique tour and discover what stories are hidden behind the gate of Avenida de Pries, 1. <https://cementerioinglesmalaga>



English Cemetery, Malaga.

## O. V. FILMS

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

### Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

**MALAGA.** Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**The Secret Garden:** 18.00 (Tues).  
**Tenet:** 18.45, 22.00 (Fri-Tues).  
**A Beautiful Day In The Neighbourhood:** 22.15 (Tues).

### Yelmo Cines, Rincón

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Tenet:** 18.45 (Fri-Tues).  
**A Beautiful Day In The Neighbourhood:** 22.25 (Tues).

### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

**MALAGA.** Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

**Tenet:** 17.20, 20.35 (Fri-Tues).  
**Irresistible:** 17.35 (Tues).

### Cine Albéniz

**MALAGA.** C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com)

**Babyteeth:** 17.00, 19.30, 21.50 (Mon-Thurs).  
**Military Wives:** 17.45 (Mon-Thurs).

### Cinesur Miramar

**FUENGIROLA.** Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.

**Tenet:** 18.50, 21.30 (Fri-Tues).  
**Opera - Orphée et Eurydice:** 9pm (Tues).

### Cinesur Ingenio

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.

**Tenet:** 20.30 (Mon, Tues).

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# What is meant by 'selfish' face masks and why are we being told not to wear them?

Regions of Spain such as Madrid and Galicia have banned people from using masks with valves, although in the case of Madrid a judge recently annulled the latest restrictions imposed to combat coronavirus

RAQUEL MERINO



MALAGA. The most recent restrictions applied in Spanish regions to fight against coronavirus include, among others, a ban on smoking if two metres social distance cannot be maintained, and the closure of nightclubs.

However some areas, such as Madrid and Galicia, have also limited the use of masks which are considered "selfish" by the government's head of pandemic advice, Fernando Simón. These are none other than the versions of the FFP2 and FFP3 masks with a valve.

In the case of Madrid, a judge has decided that the latest restrictions imposed by the regional government are invalid because they were not issued during a state of alarm and a national government order was not published in the Official State Bulletin. And with this decision, the restriction on the use of the so-called "selfish" masks was also overturned. But what exactly are these "selfish" masks?

Firstly, we need to bear in mind



Masks with valves (top left) make it easier for breath to be exhaled and potentially spread the virus. EFE

that the reason given by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Spanish Ministry of Health for wearing masks is to protect others from a possible Covid-19 infection, because someone can have the illness but experience no symptoms, or be infected and contagious for several days before any symptoms occur.

### 'I protect you, you protect me'

The message "I protect you and you protect me", which became a popular video in the Czech Republic, serves as an example of this premise.

That is the reason the use of the FFP2 and FFP3 masks with a plastic valve device is not recom-

mended, because they only protect the people who are wearing them and nobody else.

In fact, what the valve does is make it easier for the breath to be exhaled without any type of filter and, as a result, "they can contribute to the spread of coronavirus," says the WHO. The FFP2 with a plastic add-on filter impedes the inhalation of toxic dust, fluids, aerosols and smoke, and the FFP3 is also effective against bacteria, viruses and fungal spores.

That is why, for general use in cases where someone could be infected without realising it, hygienic masks (reusable or not) should be used, or surgical ones (for which the government has

capped the price at 0.96 euros). Both act as a barrier to protect others from possible contagion by reducing the release of respiratory droplets.

The difference between hygienic and surgical masks is that the first are a type of non-medical mask, in other words they are not designed to be used by health professionals, but they are manufactured to certain technical specifications.

In the case of FFP2 and FFP3 masks without a valve, these serve to protect the wearer and also other people, because they filter the entry and exit of air. They are more expensive and are also difficult to find. That is why, as the

### HOW TO USE MASKS

► **Hygiene.** Wash your hands with soap and water before putting the mask on and take it off carefully, holding the side straps.

► **Be careful where you put it.** Don't hang the mask round your neck, put in your pocket or in a handbag when you are not wearing it. Keep it clean.

► **Correct position.** The mask has to cover your mouth and nose, otherwise it will not be effective.

► **Don't touch.** Avoid touching the mask with your hands when you are wearing it, and if you do then wash your hands well or use an alcohol-based hand gel.

► **Single use.** Don't reuse single use masks, and put a new mask on if the one you're wearing gets damp.

► **Time.** Don't wear the same mask for more than four hours.

Consumers and Users Union (UCO) says, "apart from health workers, their use should be a priority for those at risk, such as people with chronic illnesses, the immunocompromised and those looking after infected patients."

If you don't have certified masks (whether they are hygienic, surgical or FFP2 and FFP3 without a valve), you can wear a home-made mask or a PM2.5 anti-dust mask. "They may not be as effective as the others, but it is better than no mask at all," says the OCU.



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# "I hope yoga stays as part of people's daily routine and not just something for the pandemic"

## Xuan Lan Yoga teacher

This teacher's online sessions brought yoga into the homes of many during the most difficult periods of the lockdown

### RAQUEL MERINO

The 'Om' and the three 'shanti' with which she ends her classes have become the mantra of the lockdown. Xuan Lan, born in Paris to Vietnamese parents and living in Barcelona, left her office job in the banking sector to dedicate herself to teaching yoga.

She is already well-known in Spain and has demonstrated that this discipline can be practised online. Throughout the quarantine her classes have served as a balm for thousands of people who not only found yoga asanas a way to exercise but also as a way to alleviate the stress caused by the unusual situation.

Her tone of voice, her humility, her closeness - "I am not searching, it's just the way I am" - and her way of transmitting this philosophy of life has passed through the doors of thousands of homes across the world closed by the pandemic, among them Malaga residents who have started or become more involved in yoga through Xuan Lan.

-Are you aware that thousands of people have become hooked on yoga during lockdown thanks to your social networking sites?

-It was an initiative that I started just a few days before lockdown started. At first, I didn't intend to do live classes every day, but given the response of the people and the messages I received, I decided to do so. In the front line of fire were health workers, but I thought that as a yoga teacher I could also help from home in another way. When I realised that the online classes were starting to get such a large audience I said: I'm not going to stop until we come out of lockdown, and so I did so for ten weeks. I have entered the lives of many people and their families, for me it was so nice to be able to do it, so important to be able to help.

-It must have been a challenge at a professional level.

-Yes, it has. To create classes every day, to be prepared and punctual, with what it entails at a technological level, and to put oneself in front of a camera. Although I was used to it, I hadn't done so many live classes before... more recorded tutorials. I hope that yoga is not just an anti-Covid pill, and that with the return to a certain normality people will continue to practise and enjoy it.

-On YouTube it brought to-

gether 12,000 people in one class and on Instagram 7,000. What did you think when you saw those figures on the screen?

-I was impressed, but it also gives you a boost of energy to know that what you're doing is helping, is interesting and serves people. You're so excited, it's like receiving a gift. It was my intention to create a healthy-living routine every day at six-thirty in the evening and I succeeded. -How do you think yoga helps in a situation like the one we are currently going through?

-We are facing a very hard emotional time and thanks to yoga we have the tools to calm down, to return to a state of balance, of harmony, so that we do not let ourselves be carried away by fear, stress or anguish. Yoga is a discipline of prevention, of maintaining good mental and physical health, and I advise those who have noticed some benefit, a sense of wellbeing with yoga during confinement, to integrate it into their daily lives and not wait for the next crisis to come along. This way you will be prepared.

-Could it be said then that this period of quarantine has confirmed that it is possible to teach yoga online?

-In my case, I have a lot of experience teaching students yoga, face to face - I don't just do online classes. I don't just talk to the camera but to the people that are there at the moment or are going to watch the videos later. I know what common mistakes

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Xuan Lan in the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Barcelona. **RUBÉN SOLER**

students make, the doubts they may have, and I understand that it is even more difficult when they are alone and at home, without the teacher there to watch and correct them. I think

that there is a big difference between an online yoga teacher and someone who postures on social networks. The methodology is very important, the rhythm, the way of connecting

with people so that they understand the instructions and that they also understand that they have to listen to their bodies. I'm not here to give orders; I don't want people at home try to do too much and hurt themselves. Bodies are sometimes not ready for certain things.

**–Your passion for yoga led you to launch an ambitious project just as lockdown was coming to an end.**

–It has been five months of hard work, remotely because of the quarantine, but I am very proud because it has gone very well. Studio Online is a tool that helps people to maintain a relationship with yoga in an easy way through a platform and a mobile application. For me, it's like the Netflix of yoga in which you have different themes, you can store favourites, use filters... and through the app you have the option of offline downloads to practise yoga wherever you want without having to connect to the internet. It's a project that offers people new tools and quality content, in which I add three new videos every week, as well as workshops, webinars, live shows, series like Ashtanga Yoga... Now I'm preparing new projects for the Online Studio after the holidays focused on people discovering new facets of yoga. And I keep publishing on Youtube every week.

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## Dani García's 'Last Supper', as the chef embarks on a new future

At the premiere of the movie of the same name at the Malaga Film Festival, the Marbella chef said his final good-byes to haute cuisine

**CRISTINA PINTO**

MALAGA. Dani García had been plotting his goodbye to haute cuisine for a long time, even before his restaurant earned its third Michelin star in 2018. Last Saturday, at the Festival de Málaga presentation of the film *The Last Supper* at the Albéniz cinema, Dani García drew a line under 25 years at the very top.

"I spent a lot of time before reaching the decision. There came a time when I got bored with the world of haute cuisine. I thought



Dani García. **SUR**

that when I got the third star, I would leave," he explained. And so, brought the curtain down on that phase of his life with a special dinner. "It was the most important

night of my life, I'm not going to have another night like that," he confessed.

Cine Albéniz showed the film with García and around 80 guests, family and friends in the audience. The guests included chefs such as Joan Roca, Ángel León and Dani Carnero, but two people were very special guests: his mother and Ferran Adrià. "They are two fundamental people in my life," he said.

The decision to quit haute cuisine was not respected by everyone at first. Although some knew in advance, the culinary world could not believe that Dani García was going to leave the gastronomic firmament. "Some people I talked to ... they didn't believe it. The day I told my mother, she didn't understand, it was very hard. As time went by, everyone understood why," he remembers.

However García has a very clear plan for the future. In June, in place of Dani García Restaurante arrived Leña. "Now I feel free. You have to believe in destiny, you have to believe in what we are building, in your team and, above all, in yourself." Even though the hotel industry is going through a difficult time with Covid-19, the chef says, "everything is going better than I would have dreamed." On a personal note, his life has taken a 360-degree turn: "I've been arriving at my house at two in the morning for 25 years. Now I have time to spend with my family," he says.

## Listmania

**ANDREW J. LINN**



**T**his passion for making lists of everything from worst-dressed women to dog breeds suitable for caravan living has got out of hand. It seems that everything must be rated, from pork sausages to magnifying glasses. Wines of course have been graded for decades, as have marzipan and electric shavers, but do we really need to be insulted by media giant CNN's latest suggestions? Its World Best Foods list is practically an insult to any self-respecting foodie, let alone serious gourmet. Are we really to accept that British potato crisps have any worthwhile merit that crisps from other countries do not have, or that buttered toast with Marmite can be referred to as food on the same level as Chinese roast duck or Spain's seafood paella, both on the list? Apparently, we are. And can a corn cob, usually fed to livestock, produce the same enthusiasm in the consumer as Japanese sushi?

There is no indication of what yardstick CNN has used to rate food as worthy of inclusion, and no clues are given. Nor even whether any of the

dishes were tasted for the purpose of drawing up the list. In fact, with the exception of a few classic national dishes, such as Singapore's Cangrejo de Chilli (chili crab) or Lechón (roast suckling pig) from the Philippines, there is nothing of note. Do we really need to be told that toast and Marmite (UK) or croissants (France) must be nominated as a 'best food'? Looked at coldly the majority of items would qualify for a list of junk food, including Canada's Poutine, 'an iconic Quebec dish mixes French fries, Cheddar cheese and gravy.' Ugh!

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Viore Verdejo 2019

We shall be seeing many more vegan wines, for better or worse, and this new example from Spain's centenarian Bodegas Riojanas, is worth having a look at. Fresh and fruity with almost no bottle age, it is a snip at around 6 euros at most outlets.



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# Malaga CF looking to let go of almost every player as part of redundancy plan

High earners such as Juanpi, Adrián, Munir, Luis Hernández and Dani Pacheco are among those included in the ERE scheme put forward by the club on Monday

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ



MALAGA. With a 15-million-euro overspend on the club's wage bill, Malaga's judicial administrator, José María Muñoz, took drastic action on Monday, informing 11 players that they would be let go as part of an ERE (collective redundancy plan) filed to urgently reduce the club's expenses and comply with La Liga regulations.

Though all players on professional contracts have been officially listed on the ERE (even including new signings Orlando Sá and Cristian Rodríguez), the players that will be affected, as confirmed by SUR, are goalkeeper Munir; defenders Cifu, Luis Hernández, David Lombán and Juankar; and midfielders Juanpi, Adrián, Renato Santos, Esteban Rolón, Dani Pacheco and Badr Boulahroud. They were told on Monday morning, a day after the majority of them featured in the side's 1-0 friendly victory over Valladolid in Marbella.

"Malaga CF is obliged to take this step for the good of the entity and hopes that season ticket holders and fans understand and support this new effort, the sole objective of which is to create an acceptable and competitive structure," read a statement published by the club.

Exempted from the ERE, it must be noted, are defender Diego González and midfielder Keidi Bare. It is understood that in these cases the players have attracted some interest in the transfer market and the club is confident of seal-



Coach Pellicer talks to the affected players ahead of training on Tuesday. NITO SALAS

ing a transfer away. Midfielder Alex Mula, meanwhile, has completed a transfer to Fuenlabrada.

## Fruitless negotiations

Until now, sporting director Manoló Gaspar had been urgently trying to find buyers for these players since taking over the role last year. However, with their inflated wages there have been no takers. Gaspar also tried to negotiate new contracts on reduced terms but agreements over what would be significant wage cuts have not been forthcoming.

However, this view is contested by the Spanish Footballers' Association (AFE) which calls the measure "disproportionate" and "unjustified". "Many of these players have been in talks over reducing their terms or spreading out their earnings over a longer period. Some even came to an agreement just a few days ago and now they are being made to go through this process," the statement read.

It continued: "Malaga is not unique in the situation it finds itself. The mismanagement of the club

and its perilous financial situation are not the players' fault."

The AFE concluded by saying that if the redundancy plan isn't withdrawn, the players would make an official complaint against the club for the non-payment of wages.

## A long process

This, of course, is not the first time the administrator has resorted to filing an ERE. Earlier in the summer 50 backroom and administrative staff were included in an ERE which, after negotiations, resulted in 36 dismissals.

That same process must happen now with the playing staff. First, a representative must be appointed to head the group and lead negotiations which typically last anywhere between 15 and 30 days. As a result of these negotiations, some players, with limited appeal in the rapidly closing transfer market, could well end up staying if they agree to an 11th-hour renegotiation of terms.

## A delicate balancing act

All this means that coach Sergio

Pellicer must perform a delicate balancing act. Until their departures are actually secured, the 11 players will continue training under Pellicer's orders.

The coach spoke with the affected players for around 20 minutes when they arrived for training on Tuesday but his words are unlikely to lift the mood around the camp.

A much-changed side took to the field for Wednesday's 2-1 friendly defeat to Cadiz, with the majority of the 11 absent. Munir, Luis Hernández, Esteban Rolón and David Lombán, however, did make an appearance as substitutes in the second half.

## A whole new squad

With around a dozen departures expected overall (between the ERE and sales), the Malaga squad must be completely overhauled in time for the new season which will begin in little under three weeks.

The sole survivor from last season will be Tete Morente. The winger, alongside promoted academy player Juande, midfielder

## Judge threatens Al-Thani with arrest warrant if they don't appear

B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. The judge investigating the case against the Al-Thani family for their alleged mismanagement of the club on Thursday gave the Qataris three days to arrange an appearance by videoconference.

An agreement with regard to them depositing 5.4m euros still hasn't been reached and the Al-Thanis have until now ignored all requests to appear.

On this occasion, however, the judge has said that she would issue an international arrest warrant should arrangements for a videoconference not be made.

Ousted club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani this week broke his silence on the matter, tweeting: "What the administrator is doing with the first team, our biggest assets, is a crime. Him and his masters do not care about saving MCF only about trying to make it bankrupt to try to steal it away. I hope everyone finally sees what these people are really up to... they will destroy MCF just to put money in their pockets!!!"

José Rodríguez (loaned out last year to Fuenlabrada) and new signings Orlando Sá and Cristian Rodríguez, are currently set to be the only professionals on the books.

However, this latest manoeuvre should open the doors for a host of new recruits with midfielder Alberto Escassi, goalkeeper Dani Barrio and right-back Iván Calero all set to join from Numancia.

A further obstacle, however, will be the delay before new recruits can join up with the rest of the group because of the two negative PCR tests required. This could see Malaga fielding mostly youth sides in the opening fixtures of the new season.



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## A Messi situation

Does the Barcelona superstar really want to leave the Camp Nou? Or is he just flexing his muscles? Besides, who could afford him anyway?



**A** seasoned manager once told me that the first thing he does when taking on a new job is seek out the most disruptive and influential character in the changing room, make an example of him in week one and bring him back into the fold the following week.

I suspect Ronald Koeman had a cup of tea with this fellow and thought "I will use that one when I get my next club job". Cue his meeting with Lionel Messi.

When the new Barcelona coach told the club captain that his previous privileges were about to be curtailed, the Argentinian's agent was straight onto the fax machine.

Messi's "people" quickly informed the Camp Nou hierarchy that the famous number 10 shirt can have a new occupant in the future.

The epicentre of this footballing earthquake is in Barcelona - but the aftershocks are felt everywhere, and this promises to be just the beginning.

It's well-publicised that there's a clause in Messi's contract allowing him to leave on a free transfer at the end of every season. While Barcelona point to 31 May which is written in black and white, Messi's management say that nothing is black and white in this world of Covid.

Whether he departs or not depends on the legality of that clause. It's the difference between a free transfer or buy-out of 700 million euros. Oh, plus his one-million-per-week wages, agents fees and any signing-on fee.

There's a finite number of clubs who could afford the wages, if not the fee. Pep Guardiola was a mentor in Messi's development and English fans would love to see if he can do it on a wet Wednesday in Stoke.

Inter Milan is another club linked, mainly because Messi Sr has recently invested in property in the city. Maybe Juventus will make an audacious bid to pair him with Cristiano Ronaldo?



Could a reunion with Pep Guardiola be on the cards? AFP

Another option is Paris Saint Germain. They caused a stir by exercising the 222-million-euro clause in Neymar's contract and do love a superstar. It's not inconceivable that a straight swap could be done; that way, nobody misses out financially.

But does Messi really want to leave or is he just flexing his muscles? He's quit the Argentinian national team on several occasions but always turns up for the next major tournament.

In recent years, Sergio Ramos threatened to leave for Manchester United, Luis Suárez was insistent he was leaving Liverpool for Arsenal and Steven Gerrard was all set for Chelsea. None of those moves happened as the clubs negotiated.

It's a little like the time Wayne Rooney sounded off about the lack of quality signings at Manchester United. There's more to this.

Messi, and the global fan base, can't wait for the spring elections to bring a new president and coach. He wants action now. It may mean a constitutional change but that's a small price to keep the club's greatest ever player.

The club could reach a compromise and sell him. It would shift the problem and clear the estimated 300-million-euro debt in one go but the board would be chased out of town.

Maybe the only solution is to make Messi the first ever player-president?

### IN BRIEF



Henderson, in a file photo. JOSELE

#### CHESS

### Marbella youngster Lance Henderson shines in online Chess Olympiad

**P. L. ALONSO / D. FINCH.** Marbella youngster Lance Henderson this week participated in the online version of the Chess Olympiad, one of the oldest competitions in the world, dating back to 1927.

Henderson formed part of the six-player Spain team (average 2,416 ELO points) which made it through the qualifying rounds to play in the Top Division (only 40 of the initial 163 nations could progress).

Alongside Paco Vallejo, David Antón, Ana Matnadze, Sabrina Vega and Marta García Martín, Spain ultimately finished fifth in Group B, missing out on a spot in the play-offs.

#### GYMNASTICS

### 14-year-old from Malaga called up by Spain

**M. RIVAS.** Yulia Vysotska, a 14-year-old of Ukrainian heritage but brought up in Malaga, has been called up to represent Spain again in rhythmic gymnastics, renewing her scholarship at the High-Performance Centre in León.

She will represent the country in the highest category at junior level, this year in group modality, rather than individual.

#### MOTOGP

### Márquez ruled out for at least two months

**COLPISA.** Reigning MotoGP champion Marc Márquez has been ruled out of action for "between two to three months" as he steps up his recovery from injury, according to his team, Honda.

Márquez must wait for his broken arm, suffered during a fall during the Spanish Grand Prix last month, "to completely heal" following further surgery.



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**THE STARS**

- 

**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Thinking big brings something special out this week. Indeed, you can be an inspiration to others who may be feeling rather dull.
- 

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
You are unlikely to believe some of the compliments coming your way. We all have our negative moments. By midweek, however, a chance remark from a friend changes the outlook.
- 

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Something that has been a bit of a thorn in your side has finally gone. Although cash flow may be erratic at times, a bit of careful planning comes to the rescue.
- 

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
A change of pace at work keeps your body occupied which gives your mind a chance to make the most of that very active imagination.
- 

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Someone who has been very helpful to you of late may need a break. With that in mind, look to the wellbeing of those close as well as doing the best for your own health.
- 

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Having realised how very strong you can be, build on that to make life easier in the future, not a simple matter sometimes but after the effort has paid off, well worth the extra push.
- 

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
A pet ambition will keep you going in one direction although others may see you as being on the wrong track. Trust your instincts as what you do not try now you could well regret in the future.
- 

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Small moments of closeness are great for building good relationships for the future. Keeping finances tight does not mean denying yourself everything that makes you smile.
- 

**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
A decision that has to be made needs some diplomatic approaches. Not every word of advice given seems to make sense. Be prepared to look into things that you do not understand.
- 

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Someone in authority is looking for help and if you show promise you could be the ideal candidate. Be in the right place at the right time.
- 

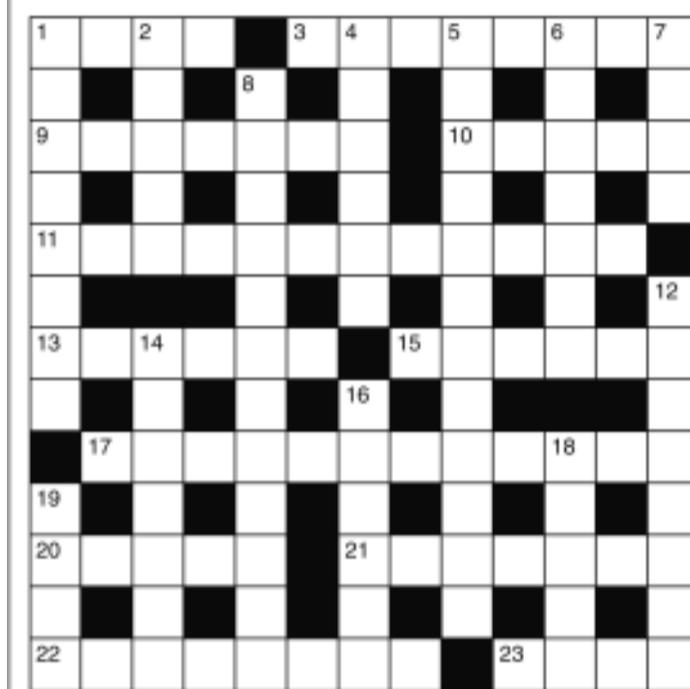
**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Feeling a bit edgy and energetic? Try to channel this into your love life, especially at the weekend. This is not a time for long-term decisions to be made in this area of your life.
- 

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Being a part of something bigger has given you a taste and a talent that you never realised you had. No, this need not go to waste now!

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11424**



**Across**

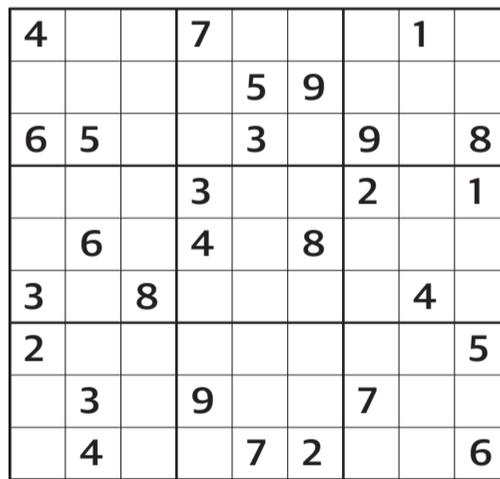
- 1 Sounds like neckwear for the natty dresser (4)
- 3 Stops wet mixture being made in these utensils (8)
- 9 Make things more difficult, as corpses do (7)
- 10 Name for Spanish bird returning (5)
- 11 From which light projectiles are discharged (12)
- 13 Go round to put back in charge (8)
- 15 Unusual praise for the state of Xerxes (6)
- 17 They make sure the wrong types don't go undetected (12)
- 20 Taking off from an ice cap in Greenland (5)
- 21 Duck in the water (7)
- 22 Stay on the beat (4,4)
- 23 Disorder in the canteen (4)

**Down**

- 1 Disaster in the outback witnessed by Moses (4,4)
- 2 Tania has changed her name (5)
- 4 Parts of the decimal system (6)
- 5 How the guest is welcomed - having weapons at the ready! (4,4,4)
- 6 Being away from home allows means of escape (7)
- 7 It's planted to yield, we hear (4)
- 8 No prime consideration (12)
- 12 More than one local employee sets trap deviously (8)
- 14 Casserole has first bit of ragout in entire hash (7)
- 16 It's rum cocktail - that can't be gainsaid (8)
- 18 Weird lake, by the sound of it (5)
- 19 You need four suits to get ready to travel (4)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

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



**THE WORDPUZZLER**

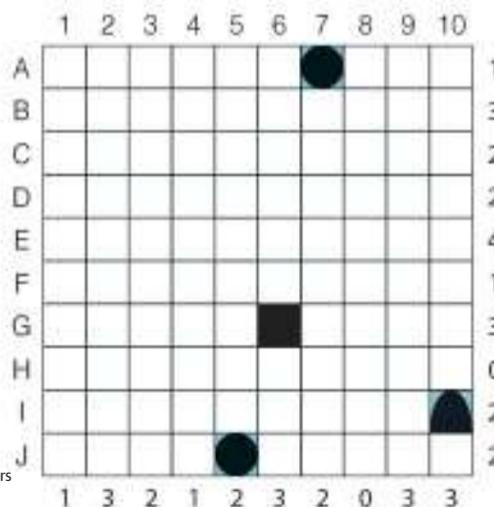
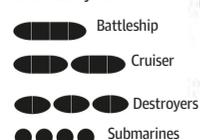


Can you identify the words connected to parliament from the anagrams listed below?

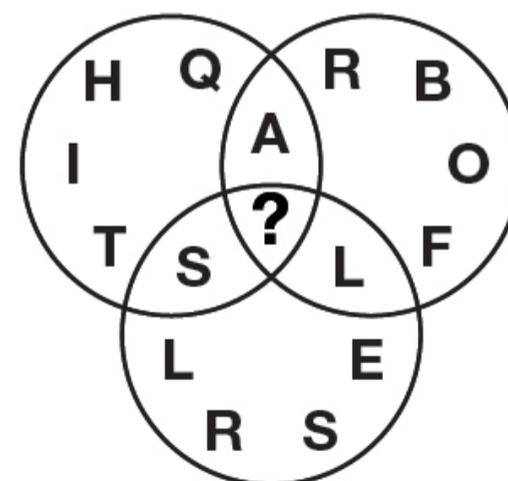
- 1. Vote
- 2. Libl
- 3. Bybol
- 4. East
- 5. Talibo
- 6. Phiw
- 7. Intoom
- 8. Secula
- 9. Sohue
- 10. Cited

**BATTLESHIPS**

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



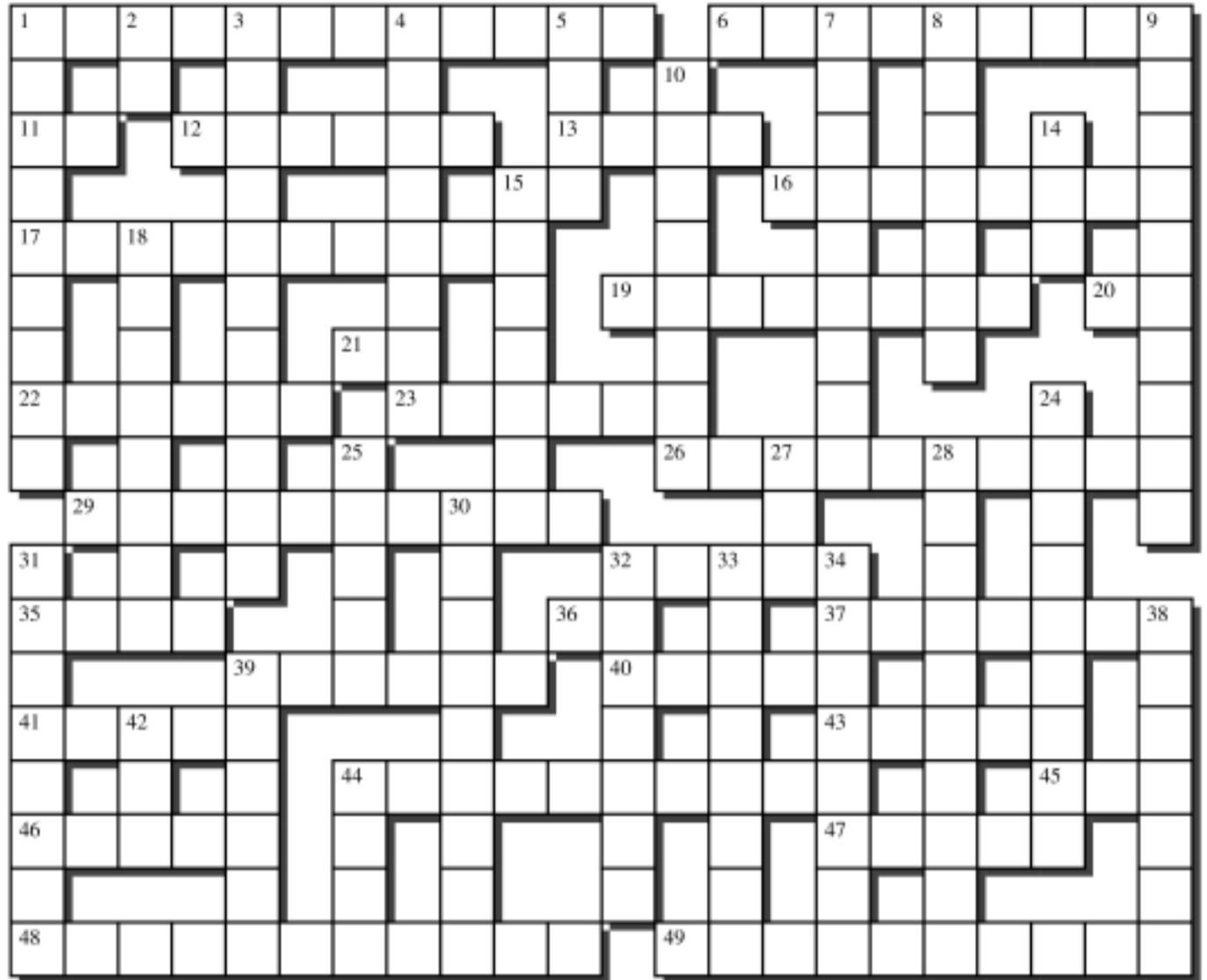
**CIRCLEGRAM**



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

**LANGUAGE CROSSWORD** FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Across</b>           | <b>Down</b>                |
| 1) Settlement (12)      | 1) Admiral (9)             |
| 6) To convert (9)       | 2) It's (2)                |
| 11) My (2)              | 3) They would triumph (11) |
| 12) City (6)            | 4) To imagine (8)          |
| 13) Ten (4)             | 5) Everything (4)          |
| 15) No (2)              | 7) Navigator (9)           |
| 16) To give back (8)    | 8) Spouses (7)             |
| 17) Recognised (m) (10) | 9) Reenactment (10)        |
| 19) Founder (8)         | 10) He discovers (8)       |
| 20) Already (2)         | 14) Bird (3)               |
| 21) The (f) (2)         | 15) Northeast (7)          |
| 22) Teapot (6)          | 18) Courtesy (8)           |
| 23) To subtract (6)     | 24) Night heron (9)        |
| 26) Poisoned (m) (10)   | 25) Fleet (5)              |
| 29) To establish (10)   | 27) Road (3)               |
| 32) To smoke (5)        | 28) Expedition (10)        |
| 35) Waves (4)           | 30) Driver (9)             |
| 36) Faith (2)           | 31) Appointed (m) (8)      |
| 37) Chosen (f) (7)      | 32) Feast day (7)          |
| 39) Big (6)             | 33) Sailor (8)             |
| 40) Beings (5)          | 34) She replies (8)        |
| 41) Breeze (5)          | 38) To sight (7)           |
| 43) Comb (5)            | 39) Galleon (6)            |
| 44) Birth (10)          | 42) One way (3)            |
| 45) Cough (3)           | 44) Wahut (4)              |
| 46) He adds (5)         |                            |
| 47) Playing card (5)    |                            |
| 48) They organised (11) |                            |
| 49) Governor (10)       |                            |



**ANSWERS**

**Quiz answers**

**Answer:** The Circus  
**Of interest:** The Circus is a historic street of large townhouses in the city of Bath in Somerset forming a circle. Designed by the prominent architect John Wood, the Elder, it was built between 1754 and 1768, and is regarded as a pre-eminent example of Georgian architecture.  
**Answer:** Boulder Dam  
**Of interest:** Originally known as Boulder Dam from 1933, it was officially renamed Hoover Dam for President Herbert Hoover by a joint resolution of Congress in 1947.

**Language Crossword**



**Cryptic Crossword**

**Solution:** Across: 1. Beau; 3. Swaps; 9. Sift; 10. Top; 11. Flamingo; 13. Rotate; 15. Parole; 17. Proclaim; 20. Apathy; 21. Inverse; 22. Keep; 23. Mass; Down: 1. Bush; 2. Ant; 4. Tenth; 5. With open arms; 6. Out; 7. Sand; 8. Adventure; 12. Together; 14. Tenth; 16. Thrill; 18. Bark; 19. Pack.

**Wordpuzzler solution**

1. Veto  
 2. Bill  
 3. Lobby  
 4. Seat  
 5. Ballot  
 6. Whip  
 7. Motion  
 8. Clause  
 9. House  
 10. Edit

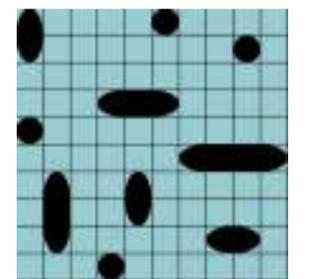
**Sudoku solution**

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

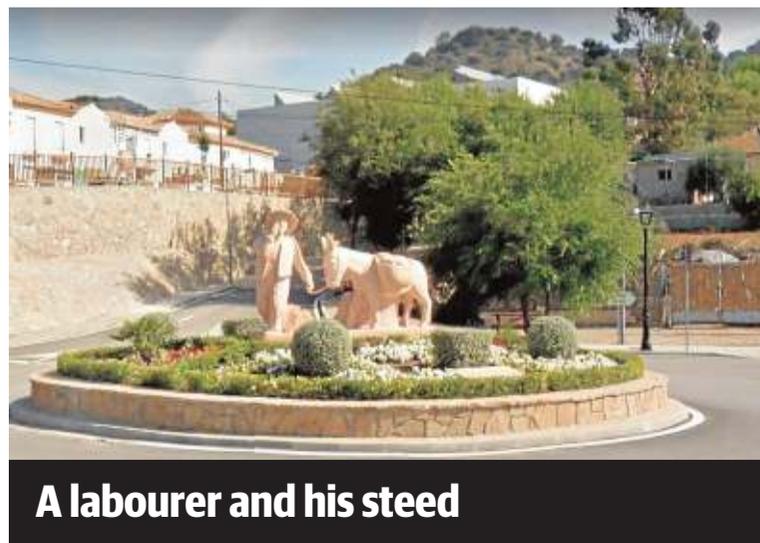
**Circlegram**

The letter represented by the question mark is U. Asquith, Balfour, Russell, all former British prime ministers.

**Battleships**



**WHERE IS THIS?**



**A labourer and his steed**

**Last week: Alcalá La Real**

In the dictionary an esplanade is an open, level space separating a fortress from a town and Alcalá is famous for its imposing castle. This beautiful park area is a truly splendid esplanade.



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**To notify symptoms of coronavirus**

With symptoms and/or contact with persons with coronavirus or who come from an area of risk



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**Coronavirus information**

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▲ **Louis Vuitton.** Prices range from 80 to 100 euros each. **L. VUITTON**



▲ **Mango.** The Spanish firm sells packs of two fabric masks for 9.99 euros. **MANGO**

▼ **Javier Calleja.** The artist has created a special collection based on the Malaga Film Festival. **FESTIVAL DE MÁLAGA**



► **Fendi.** The masks from this Italian firm cost 200 euros each. **FENDI**



▼ **Thyssen Museum.** Mask inspired by 'Woman with a Parasol', a work by Robert Delaunay. Price: 12 euros. **M. T. B.**



design, with the company logo, have completely sold out despite the 200-euro price tag.

Another luxury firm, Louis Vuitton, has produced a black mask with its traditional logo, after adapting some of its 'ateliers' during the pandemic to produce hospital gowns and masks. In this case, the prices for masks range from 80 to 100 euros each.

#### Sports brands

The best-known sporting firms, such as Reebok, Adidas and Puma, have also succumbed to the new trend with simple models. The Adidas mask is blue with the logo on one side. A pack of three costs 14.95 euros.

Reebok is charging a similar price, but for every pack of masks sold it donates two euros to Save The Children. Meanwhile Puma offers reusable masks in black with adjustable rubber straps for 9.95 euros.

There are also some more original options in masks which have been inspired by the world of art. Once of the widest ranges is that of the Thyssen-Bornemisza museum, which has produced different designs based on works which form part of its own Madrid collection, by famous artists such as Renoir, Delaunay and Rothko. They even have a small cloth bag for carrying and protecting them. They can be bought from the museum's online shop for 12 euros.

A touch of Malaga is provided by artist Javier Calleja, who has designed some exclusive masks for the Malaga Film Festival. There are different designs for adults and children, all costing 15 euros. There will also be a limited edition design, signed by the artist, which will go on sale for 150 euros.

## Designer masks, a growing trend for our 'new normal'

There is a wide variety of models and prices out there: from 200 euros at Fendi to Mango's two for 10 euros

#### ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

The 'new normal' has brought with it different habits which have become part of our everyday life, and one of those is having to wear a mask outside our homes. To get away from the traditional blue, medical type, many brands set about design-

ing new models, and these are becoming very popular with followers of fashion. What's more, as they are made of fabric, they can be washed and reused.

Luxury names as well as low-cost firms have made these masks the must-have items of 2020. There is a wide range of models and prices, from 200 euros for

the Fendi mask to 9.99 for a pack of two designed by Mango.

In the case of the Spanish firm, there are several designs and colours to choose from. The pack consists of two officially approved masks which can be washed up to five times. The designs include flower patterns, animal print, tie die and vichy squares. Another brand is Parfois, with similar patterns and prices: 9.99 euros each, and theirs are also reusable.

The luxury brands have also produced some personalised and exclusive designs, and the Italian firm Fendi tops the range in terms of prices. Stocks of its monogram

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