

# SUR

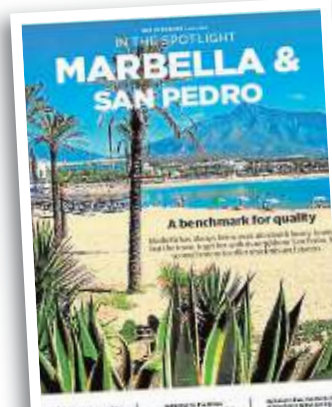
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March 26th to April 1st 2021  
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## MARBELLA-SAN PEDRO IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month's special supplement focuses on these Costa del Sol towns famous for luxury tourism and much more **INSIDE**

# Foreign tourist arrivals cause controversy amid national travel limitations

The Spanish authorities have followed the EU's lead and started administering AstraZeneca vaccines again this week, allowing its use on people up to 65 years old

The start of the popular Semana Santa period this weekend will be very different this year once again, with people in Spain confined to their regions under nationally agreed Covid-19 restrictions.

In Andalucía, the measure goes

even further, with non-essential travel banned between the region's eight provinces. The rules mean that national or regional journeys by land to the Costas will be out of question for those living in inland towns and cities.

However, at the same time, media reports of tourists from other EU countries arriving for Mediterranean holidays or fun city breaks are causing frustration and anger for many confined to their own part of Spain.

The average case rate has stopped dropping now nationally and has started to climb again for the first time in two months, leading the government to think about, but not yet dare, getting tougher once again. **P2-3, P4**



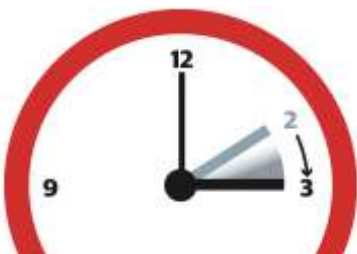
**'Save our souvenirs!'**

Tourist gift shops demand to be considered part of the holiday industry to access Covid aid. **P2**

**Junta approves over 700 million euros of aid for the small firms and 'autómonos' hardest hit by pandemic fallout** **P3**

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# Spain puzzled by rules that limit Easter travel but also let foreign tourists enter

The EU has said member states should be consistent with rules on national and European travel although Malaga's mayor doesn't see any contradiction

## SUR

MALAGA. It has been a top topic of conversation throughout Spain this week; how Easter travel rules mean people in Spain cannot leave their regions and travel to favourite coastal resorts for the holidays, while airports remain open to foreign tourists.

In many cases the tourists come from countries, such as Germany and France, with higher Covid-19 rates than Spain, although negative PCR tests are required to enter by air. Reports have focused on illegal parties in Madrid apartments and high numbers of French visitors to the city and the reopening of the Balearic Islands to Germans. The contradiction is more ex-

treme locally in Andalucía, where the regional government has ruled that locals cannot cross for leisure between Andalucía's eight provinces at least until 9 April, confining people to their home province over Semana Santa.

## Similar risk for cross-border

On Monday this week, the European Commission asked Spain for "consistency" in the travel restrictions that it applies within the country with respect to travel to and from other EU states, pointing out that the risks linked to coronavirus are similar for national or cross-border travel.

"Since transmission and risk is similar for domestic and cross-border travel, member states should ensure consistency between the measures applied to the two types of travel," said the Justice spokesperson, Christian Wigand.

## 'It looks like it is but it isn't'

Among the officials seeking to explain the contradiction to the public was Mayor of Malaga Francisco de la Torre.

On Tuesday, De la Torre said he didn't support the EU's warning to Spain over inconsistent travel restrictions. He went on, "We are sacrificing our mobility to guarantee a safer space for those that are coming from other countries who breathe life into the economy. It doesn't seem in-

coherent to me; it looks like it is, but it isn't."

The mayor continued, "We are receiving those who are with certificates that allow them to travel, that show they are safe, and they energise the economy. If restrictions are imposed within Spain by the health authorities, if they consider it appropriate, it is because the numbers in terms of cases point that way. We are offering a safer space to those countries."

**Mayor of Malaga: 'We are sacrificing our mobility to guarantee a safer space for those from other countries'**

**Comment:** Like a foreigner at home. Page 18.

**Most demand for the Costa del Sol is coming from Germany**

Germany is topping the table for the number of flight searches for travellers to the Costa del Sol this summer according to the latest research data.

The German market, usually the second most important for the Costa, is the most active at the moment and has overtaken the United Kingdom, which is normally the leader.

This is confirmed in a report by the Costa del Sol tourism authority which says that there have been more than 70,000 flight searches from Germany to Malaga in the last two weeks - representing 22.4 per cent of global searches.

## Spain lifts UK flight ban from 30 March, just as Britain starts fines for holidaymakers

## SUR

MALAGA. Spain will lift the restrictions imposed since the end of December on flights from the United Kingdom on 30 March, although it will maintain the restrictions for those arriving from Brazil and South Africa in order to prevent the entry of coronavirus variants from those countries.

"The extension of the flight re-

striction is maintained with South Africa and Brazil, but not with the United Kingdom," announced government spokesperson Maria Jesús Montero after a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

The new measure will come into effect from 6pm on 30 March (Spanish mainland time) until at least midnight on 13 April.

Now, in theory, with the lifting of the Spanish restrictions, UK tourists could also come to Spain, and not just residents.

However, the British Government has announced measures to fine people for trying to go on a foreign holiday or not travelling for one of a list of approved reasons. MPs in the UK were expected to pass the new measures on Thursday evening this week.



Souvenir shop workers in Malaga asked for more support this week. NITO SALAS

## Souvenir shops issue plea to save struggling sector from Covid fallout

As many of the shops are classified as hardware or home decor stores they cannot access aid for tourism businesses

## JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Around fifty souvenir shop workers from the Costa and the province protested in Malaga on Tuesday and demanded help to save the industry.

The group said that they have been forgotten during the coronavirus crisis. Central to their aims is being recognised as part of the tourist sector in order to receive government aid to cope with the ongoing situation.

During the event, sector representatives noted that the prob-

lems facing souvenir shops at the moment stem from confusion over how they have been officially classified. Until now, most have been registered as hardware stores or homeware shops.

Revenue in some shops has dropped by 95%, spokesperson Miguel Ángel Gómez explained.

Although no data is available at a provincial level, Gómez pointed out the size of the souvenir sector at a national level, revealing that there are 7,000 stores across Spain providing work for over 30,000 people. He added: "Souvenirs are a big thing for anyone who comes to Spain. These shops are the first thing they see when they arrive at our airports or train stations."

Julia Pérez is a typical example of a souvenir shop worker

struggling to make ends meet at the moment. Her shop, Souvenirs4You, is located in La Carihueta in Torremolinos - a tourist hotspot in normal times. However, some days she now sells nothing. She remarked: "I'm basically just opening the shop to get out of the house, as nobody is buying anything."

It's a similar story for Rafael Rojas, who runs Rondando Souvenirs based in Ronda. Before the pandemic, the company had five stores in Ronda and four in Seville. Now, two stores in Ronda are the only ones open. With revenue currently less than 50 euros a day in the remaining stores, he stressed: "We want to be recognised as part of the tourism sector, because we're a very important part of it."





# Andalucía approves 732m-euro spending on Covid hit business

Regional ministers have already signed off 372m of this with most of the money going on direct aid to smaller companies and the self-employed

J. L. PIEDRA / H. BARBOTTA

SEVILLE. The Andalusian government moved quickly this week to approve and roll out a direct aid package for small regional firms with up to 20 staff and the self-employed worst hit by the Covid-19 economic crisis.

On Monday regional ministers agreed with representatives of the business community and trade unions a package of measures worth 732 million euros regionally, and by Tuesday the regional cabinet had approved the spending of the first 372m euros of this. The money will come from a mixture of regional and European funds and the majority of the spending will be on direct aid. A further 100m of it will be signed off next week.

Of the eventual 732m euros there will be 585m allocated to help "maintain employment and



Regional ministers arrive to announce their measures on Tuesday. EP

economic activity". Another 107m is aimed at protecting the most vulnerable. A further 40.4 million will be set aside to hire 1,700 more staff "to respond to the flood of requests and procedures".

Regional ministers are asking

**Andalucía wants to avoid incompatibility with any Spain-wide aid that becomes available later**

Madrid to publish as soon as possible the requirements for its national-level direct aid package to avoid regional incompatibility with any future Spain-wide aid.

The Junta de Andalucía aid includes grants upwards of 3,000 euros for firms in worst-hit sectors plus subsidies of around 505 euros per month for up to four months per employee to stop their furloughing turning into redundancy. A 210-euro payment will also be made direct to those workers who were on full furlough in March and April.

# Semana Santa restrictions stay the same despite rising average case rate in Spain

The government did not push to close non-essential businesses at 8pm as first thought

SUR

MALAGA. People in Spain are going into their Easter breaks this weekend with the same national restrictions in place after all.

Faced with evidence of rising cases in Spain and new lockdowns in other European countries, the national Health ministry had wanted to tighten non-essential closing times to 8pm over Semana Santa. But in the end, Minister for Health Carolina Darias appeared to have side-stepped the issue and left it to the regions to still impose any restrictions of their own.

## No change in Andalucía

In Andalucía there is no change on what the regional government announced last week for Easter, until at least 9 April.

Non-essential services in the region are allowed to remain open until 10.30pm. Also con-

tinuing locally are measures which include the perimeter closure of provinces, a night curfew from 11pm to 6am and meetings limited to a maximum of six people outdoors and four indoors.

## Case rates slide upwards

Spain's case rate was rising again this week, reaching 134 per 100,000 in the last 14 days on Thursday, up on 128 a week earlier; the first rise in two months.

In Andalucía, the regional average was 121 on Thursday (25 March), the same as a week ago.

In Malaga, including the Costa del Sol, the 14-day rate was 85, down from 91 a week earlier.

Closure of non-essential business and town borders above a case rate of 1,000 and 500 respectively in a town still applies locally. Only Colmenar (1,144), Casabermeja (551) and Montecorto (1,024) fell into those categories on Thursday this week in Malaga province.

**i** Visit [www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com) for daily updates on Covid-19 figures and restrictions, including a handy interactive map.

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# AstraZeneca vaccination starts up again in Andalucía after last week's uncertainty

There is still concern among those foreign residents with no public health cover as to how they will get their Covid-19 jab when the time comes

**SUR**

**MALAGA.** The vaccination of essential workers with the AstraZeneca jab resumed in Malaga province on Wednesday this week after the authorities dispelled rumours about its safety.

At the end of last week, the autopsy on Marbella teacher Pilar González Bres, who died from a brain haemorrhage two weeks after her first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine was injected, concluded that the vaccine was not linked to the cause of death.

Sources told SUR that during the autopsy specialists detected that the 43-year-old had a predisposition to strokes.

The finding came a day after the European Medicines Agency said it did not see any conclusive evidence linking the unusual blood clots detected in some thirty EU citizens to the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Spain has since authorised this Oxford vaccine's use again for people up to the age of 65 - until this week it was 55 - although health authorities rejected calls from the regions of Madrid and



Vaccinations for key workers have started again this week. **SUR**

Catalonia to lift the age limit for the time being.

By Tuesday this week, the Junta de Andalucía's health service had administered 1,239,809 doses of Covid-19 vaccines in the region across all manufacturer types including Pfizer and Moderna. Some 445,365 people had received two doses.

In keeping with roll-out plans, vaccines were this week still being given to the over 80s and younger key workers.

For now, those refusing the As-

traZeneca vaccine will not be offered another one, the national government said this week, as officials continue to be worried about possible rejection levels after the unproven concerns in

**In keeping with roll-out plans, vaccines were this week still being given to the over 80s and younger key workers**

the UK-researched vaccine earlier this month.

Spain has committed to giving everyone a vaccine if they want one. But there is continued uncertainty among expatriate residents in Andalucía who have private healthcare and aren't registered on the databases of the public health service for when their time comes for the jab.

## Going round in circles

Anne Hernández of campaigning group Brexpat in Spain recently told SUR, "They are sending us round in circles. They tell us to ask our private insurers but they don't know anything about vaccines. And as time goes on there is huge uncertainty; we at least want an answer." The UK Embassy has recommended people make sure their municipal padrón contact details are up to date.

For the moment the Andalusian public health service has not said how it will tackle vaccinating holders of private policies, other than to ask those retirees using private care who are entitled to public cover as well to register at their public health centre for when the time comes.

The Junta de Andalucía has again called for fairness allocating vaccines to the regions. "We have 20 per cent of the Spanish population and we ask to receive the same percentage of vaccines that arrive in Spain," it said.

## Police union complains that Coín officials got a Covid jab ahead of frontline workers

**F. TORRES / A. JIMÉNEZ**

**COÍN.** A union representing police officers has claimed that council staff at Coín town hall received their coronavirus jabs ahead of essential workers such as police, firefighters and healthcare workers.

The Independent Union of Andalusian Police (Sip-An) made the claim in a formal complaint. The union filed it with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Malaga earlier this month before all its local members had been vaccinated.

The complaint said that officials in the Guadalquivir valley town had been vaccinated against Covid-19 without following the established procedure and claimed that the vaccination had been "arbitrary, without prioritising the people established in the population groups".

Coín council denied the claim from the police officers' union, saying that at all times "the protocols have been followed".

A town hall spokesperson commented to SUR, "At Coín council we regret that this union wants to undermine the great work that healthcare professionals are carrying out."

# UAE donates 12.5 tonnes of Covid-19 protection supplies to Marbella

**MARBELLA**

The town hall will be able to distribute almost one million free face masks to residents and vulnerable groups

**JOAQUINA DUEÑAS**

**MARBELLA.** The close relationship between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Marbella goes back a long way. This has grown stronger since the beginning of the coronavirus crisis.

In its latest gesture, the UAE government has made a large donation of more than 12.5 tonnes of Covid-19 personal protection equipment that will enable the town hall to distribute 900,000 masks among residents, vulnerable groups, schools and care homes.

Marbella's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, has seen the donated



Ángeles Muñoz, centre, during her visit to the supplies warehouse. **JOSELE**

items for herself in a warehouse and said that they "will once again be distributed free of charge to residents, vulnerable groups and those who continue to work on the front line to put a stop to this pandemic". There was a previous donation of 18 tonnes in May last year.

Muñoz explained that the first

delivery will be 350,000 free masks in packs of ten to all those over 60 years old registered as living in the municipality.

The donation also includes PPE gloves and aprons that, the mayor said, will be used by "the operational services of the town to ensure the safety of our own personnel".

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# UK Budget 2021: What are the implications for you?

By Kolwan Chambers, Partner, Blevins Franks

This year's UK Budget predictably focused on ongoing pandemic support, bringing very few changes to personal taxes. Chancellor Rishi Sunak did, however, introduce some longer-term measures to collect more tax by freezing the main allowances and exemptions for the next five years.

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), the overall impact of these measures will be that the UK's tax burden will rise to its highest level since the 1960s!

So what changes in April may affect UK nationals living in Spain, and what can you do to minimise any negative impact?

## Income tax

UK taxpayers (including non-UK residents) see a slight increase to the personal income tax allowance thresholds at each end: £12,570 at the basic 20% tax band and £50,270 at the higher 40% rate. However, these will be frozen until at least April 2026.

This is estimated to bring 1.3 million more people into income tax liability, with one million more paying the higher tax rate, altogether netting an

extra £8 billion in the 2025/6 tax year.

## Savings and investments

The band of UK savings income that can be earned tax-free stays at £5,000 and the annual ISA subscription limit at £20,000 (£9,000 for a Junior ISA).

The dividend allowance remains at £2,000.

Remember: investments like ISAs may become taxable in Spain once you are non-UK resident. Explore alternative arrangements that may be more tax efficient and better suit your circumstances, goals and risk appetite.

## Capital gains tax (CGT)

As with income tax, the annual allowance will be frozen for the next five years. Unlike income tax, the CGT allowance does not increase, staying at its current level of £12,300 for individuals (£6,150 for most trusts).

Despite expectations that CGT rates would be aligned with income tax rates, there is no change here, so rates remain between 10% and 28%.

Don't forget that, in recent years, non-UK residents became liable for capital gains tax on most UK property and land.

## Pensions

**Annual allowance:** This remains at £40,000 and starts reducing once 'adjusted income' reaches £240,000. **Lifetime allowance (LTA)** – This will not increase with inflation as planned so remains at £1,073,100, where it sticks until 2026.

If your combined UK pension benefits are near the LTA threshold, you need to consider the potential impact of future growth. If investment markets recover in line with the Chancellor's forecast that the economy will return to pre-pandemic levels by mid-2022, this could bring many more pension funds within the scope of the LTA's 25% or 55% penalties.

**QROPS** – There were no changes to Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes, with transfers to EU/EEA-based QROPS still tax-free for EU residents. The 25% 'overseas transfer charge' continues to only apply to transfers outside the EU/EEA. But now the UK has left the bloc, this could potentially be

extended to capture EU transfers in future.

Once in a QROPS, UK pension funds become immune to LTA penalties and future changes to UK pension rules while unlocking other benefits, so carefully consider your options here.

## Inheritance tax

Despite much anticipation that this year could see inheritance tax changes, again the only action was freezing the exemptions, allowances and reliefs for the next five years.

The tax-free 'nil rate band' allowance stays at £325,000 per person (unchanged since 2009!). The residential nil rate band – which provides extra tax relief when passing on a main home to direct descendants – remains at £175,000 per person.

The Treasury collected £5.2 billion in inheritance taxes in the 2019/20 tax year. With these latest freezes, they expect to generate an additional £15 million next year, increasing to £445 million by 2026.

**What can you do to minimise the impact?**

Although this new tax year brings relatively few changes, there are longer term implications. The Chancellor's strategy of freezing allowances, exemptions and reliefs is clearly designed to raise more tax revenue as people's income, capital gains, and asset values grow. Taxpayers may also feel the pinch as the cost of living increases over time.

Wherever possible, make full use of the available allowances each year to help minimise your tax bill. Make sure your overall financial arrangements are structured as tax efficiently as possible for Spain.

This is a good prompt to think ahead and review your tax planning to check you are making the most of all the available tax-efficient opportunities, in the UK and Spain. For the best results, take personalised advice from a cross-border specialist with understanding of both the UK and Spanish tax regimes.

*Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; individuals should seek personalised advice.*

# Retired to Spain? Still using your UK-based financial adviser?

UK-based advisers generally do not have the deep understanding of the Spanish regime necessary to provide the most tax-efficient wealth management solutions. And UK banks, advisers and other financial providers may no longer be able to legally service EU residents now that Brexit has dissolved automatic 'passporting' rights for UK financial services in the EU.

Your adviser needs to live here to be up to date and react fast to changes. Blevins Franks has been established in Spain for over 30 years and has unique insight into the needs of British expatriates. We are regulated to provide advice in Spain into 2021 and beyond.

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# Process to return territory lost in Fuengirola 'land grab' begins

## BENALMÁDENA

Residents of the historically contested land in El Higuero are now being informed that their properties lie within Benalmádena

IVÁN GELIBTER

Fuengirola has been the fourth most populated town in the province for the last year, but when the municipal census for 2021 is drawn up there will be a significant drop in the number of inhabitants. The reason for this is that for the last few weeks the Gerencia Territorial del Catastro has been advising residents in the El Higuero area affected by the historic municipal



The 72,000 square metres of land is in the El Higuero area. NITO SALAS

pal border dispute that they no longer reside in Fuengirola, but that their properties belong to the town of Benalmádena.

This territorial controversy

first began in the early 1980s when Fuengirola performed a land grab after, by error, Benalmádena failed to include the area in its urban develop-

ment plan, drawn up in 1981.

In 2006, this discrepancy was brought up by Benalmádena council but remained unresolved until nearly two years ago, when it demanded ownership of more than 74,000 square metres of Fuengirola land.

Last October, it was finally confirmed by the regional ministry for Local Administration that the 1874 document was still in force and referred to several Supreme Court rulings that established that the oldest demarcation had preference, thus rejecting Fuengirola's counterarguments (that Benalmádena hasn't looked after the area in dispute - sanitation, waste collection etc - for decades and that the Junta hasn't taken into account the reality of the current situation).

With Benalmádena getting back an area with urban development possibilities in an area that barely has any land for new developments, this would bring in substantial revenue from building permits and the IBI municipal tax. As a result, Fuengirola town hall said it was study-

ing the possibility of lodging an appeal with the High Court of Justice of Andalucía (TSJA) in an attempt to retain ownership of the land.

Now, though, in a document to which this newspaper has had access, the revised municipal demarcation in this area has already been retrospectively effective since 16 October 2020. In addition, about a third of notifications have already been sent to property owners and residents of the area, who have a period of one month to lodge an appeal.

The mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, was particularly pleased with these developments this week. "We are really satisfied," he told SUR. "After almost two decades of litigation, we've got back the 72,000 metres of land that rightfully belonged to our municipality."

In his opinion, this achievement comes as a result of the "political stability" that the town now enjoys, "allowing us to progress with the projects and improvements that the town needs".



## Mijas looking to use golf as a way of strengthening its appeal as a tourist destination

## MIJAS

Local businesses and the council are looking to implement Malaga's university's recently draw-up marketing plan

IVÁN GELIBTER

Business leaders and the town hall in Mijas have come together this week in order to work through the logistics of implementing the new 'Marketing Plan for Golf in Mijas', developed by the University of Malaga.

Councillor for Tourism José Carlos Martín explained that of the main objectives of this document the first that will be developed is the promotion of this sport among residents to help the

sector to recover from the pandemic and the perimeter closures.

As SUR has learnt, this goal is in addition to four others: public-private collaboration for the management of the sector in the municipality; the reinforcement of the image of the town as a golf destination with the creation of its own brand; the implementation of a joint marketing platform for the courses; and the reduction of the seasonal nature of the product.

"There are many jobs that depend on this sport and, above all, on the people who come to play it. Let's not forget that once they finish playing, they carry out all kinds of consumption throughout our municipality and that is also an essential part for the revival of the economy," said the local head of Tourism.



Muñoz, centre, announces the renewal of the programme. JOSELE

## Buses remain free for Marbella residents for another two years

## MARBELLA

**J. DUEÑAS.** Free bus travel within the municipality will continue to be a perk for registered Marbella residents for at least the next two years, the town's mayor Ángeles Muñoz has confirmed.

The programme, first launched in 2019, has been enjoyed by around 66,000 people

so far, taking some six million journeys.

The mayor stressed that this project demonstrates the council's "commitment to families and sustainable mobility".

She added: "Now we are taking another step forward with the automatic extension of the cards to avoid users having to apply for them physically."

## HERE AND THERE

## ESTEPONA

### Radiology department now in use at hospital

**J. M. M.** The staggered opening of the new hospital in Estepona took a further step forward this week with the opening of the Radiology department. The department is currently only dealing with outpatient care to reduce the strain currently experienced in the area.

## MARBELLA

### Aventura Amazonia reopens at weekends

**J. D.** The Aventura Amazonia adventure and zip-lining complex in Marbella has now reopened at weekends as the demand for outdoor leisure shows signs of returning. Prior booking is necessary as the complex has reduced capacity and has staggered entrance.



# Design for new beachside recreation complex is unveiled

## ESTEPONA

The project will strategically link the town and the sea and provide space for future events

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

Estepona town hall this week presented the preliminary project drawn up by Malaga architect Salvador Moreno Peralta for the construction of a new leisure and cultural facility, which will include a shopping and restaurant area, to be built on the former site of the Prasa building on Avenida de España, next to the town's lighthouse.

According to Moreno Peralta's

design, a large open pedestrian area will be created, with public squares and parks staggered between the avenue and the current promenade, with the aim of connecting the town with the sea across the slope.

On the roof of the building, which will be at the level of the avenue, a large open pedestrian area will be created, which will have a lookout tower as a reference point.

The building itself will become a multi-purpose space that will allow for different social and cultural uses and may house a space for a library, as well as an exhibition hall, conservatory or training classrooms.

The new facility will be one of the main initiatives to be pro-



Computer-generated image of the pedestrianised area. SUR

moted during the current legislature and forms part of the productive investment plan launched by the council last June, with the drafting of the project and the execution of the work involving a total investment

of 14.5 million euros.

The mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, explained that this strategic project will expand cultural and leisure services and provide a new tourist landmark for the town.

## Selwo to reopen its leisure parks on the Costa del Sol from today

### COSTA DEL SOL

**SUR.** The three Selwo leisure parks on the Costa del Sol are ready to reopen their doors to the public, a year after suspending all activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Selwo Aventura, in Estepona, will reopen today, Friday, followed tomorrow, Saturday, by the return of Selwo Marina and the cable car, both in Benalmádena. In all cases, capacity is reduced to 50 per cent so booking is advised (selwo.es).

"Being able to reopen to the public shows that things are slowly starting to return to normal," said the director of the three centres, Alberto Martín, who stressed that they are "an important economic engine in terms of job creation".

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Councillor Cristóbal Garre with spokesman Félix Romero. JOSELE

## More than 2,300 self-employed and SMEs apply for direct council subsidies

### MARBELLA

The council now has six months to distribute the financial packages but hopes to do so as quickly as possible

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. More than 2,300 self-

employed people and small and medium-sized businesses have applied for direct financial support, the council has confirmed, after the 15-day application period came to an end.

Councillor for Economic Development, Cristóbal Garre, explained that his department had received 2,389 applications for support as part of a programme

that has a budget of two million euros, with the possibility of it rising by a million and a half more.

"We had the handicap that this type of aid was not part of the municipal remit," said Garre, "but we have been able to find a way to support our shops and hospitality businesses." This was achieved, he explained, by stressing the social nature of this aid in the context of the health crisis.

### Six months

The council now has six months to distribute the financial packages, however Garre says that his intention is to be able to rubber stamp applications as soon as possible, with the added hope that the town's economic activity will have picked up before the six months are up.

Félix Romero supported this idea, explaining that four new four new business licences had been granted which, as he stated, "signify four new businesses that are starting up", as well as other urban planning permits, which represent "investments that are going ahead".

## ProDunas raises the alarm over potentially invasive algae

### MARBELLA

**J. D.** The ProDunas association in Marbella has expressed its "alarm and concern" at the rapid spread of the Rugulopterix okamurae algae which has already reached the Artola dunes in Cabopino.

According to the organisation, this algae, with invasive behaviour, has become "a great threat" and "a nightmare for the Strait of Gibraltar and the Costa del Sol". Of Asian origin, its rapid reproduction not only devastates the marine forests and prevents fishermen from fishing, but also "can spoil a walk or a swim on our beaches".

ProDunas is now calling on the regional government to declare this species as invasive to prevent its continued proliferation along the coast.

## New-look square is unveiled in Mijas Pueblo, ready to greet tourists

### MIJAS

**I. GELIBTER.** Mijas council is already preparing for the long-awaited return of tourists and this week reopened the newly refurbished square in front of the town's tourist office in Mijas Pueblo.

The works, which covered a 2,500-square-metre area, cost 470,000 euros of which the council paid 73 per cent (343,100 euros) and the Mancomunidad paid 27 per cent (126,900 euros).

"These reforms were carried out at the starting point for the majority of tourists who come here," said mayor Josele González. "It is now more than ever we must take care of our town so that we are one hundred per cent ready for the arrival of new tourists."



# Malaga brotherhood frees three prisoners in Holy Week tradition

One prisoner is normally released during the El Rico procession in Holy Week; this year three inmates will gain their freedom at a ceremony in the cathedral on Wednesday

A. M. ROMERO

MALAGA. Two people jailed for public health offences and one for robbery with force from an occupied house are to be freed by the Jesús El Rico brotherhood on Wednesday of Holy Week.

This will be a historic occasion because it is the first time in the 270 years of this tradition that three prisoners will be freed under the privilege granted to the religious brotherhood by King Carlos III in the 18th century, instead of one.

One of them, Manuel C. L., was sentenced by the Malaga Provincial Court on 27 May 2019 for drug trafficking. He was given three years and three months in prison and fined 25,000 euros for crimes committed in 2018.



This year, three prisoners will be freed instead of one. SUR

On 11 July 2017, the court sentenced Antonia L.R. for a public health offence. She was sent to prison for four years and fined 1,000 euros, for crimes committed in 2015. Now, she is to be freed.

The third prisoner to be released is Jorge M.R., who was sentenced on 3 October 2018 to two years and three months in jail for robbery with force in an occupied house, a crime he committed in 2018.

In these three cases, the reports

of the court and the prosecuting authority were taken into account, and it was considered that there were “reasons of justice and equity” to grant them a pardon.

This is on condition that they do not re-offend, for three years in the case of Jorge M.R., and four years for the other two.

The prisoners are normally released in a ceremony that forms part of the brotherhood’s procession. This year, with all processions cancelled, the event will take place in the city’s cathedral.

## 112 REPORTS

### MALAGA

#### Priest facing child porn charges after disturbing search of his home

Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO. A priest is facing a court in Malaga after police found more than 400,000 items of child pornography on his computer. During a search of the property, realistic-looking dolls of naked children were also found on his living room floor and, in an adjoining room, several used condoms and hundreds of items of children’s clothing and sweets.

The alleged crimes came to light after authorities in the US tipped off Spanish police that IP addresses from the Malaga area were accessing paedophile networks in the States. One of the leads finally led to the home of the man who had served as a religious education teacher in Madrid for 12 years after his ordination in May 2003. He moved to Malaga in October 2017 to take care of his elderly mother.

Prosecutors are calling for a nine-year prison sentence for the alleged crimes of the possession and distribution of child pornography.

### FUENGIROLA

#### Face mask refuser sees trains grind to a halt

SUR. A 59-year-old Finnish woman was arrested at Fuengirola train station on Tuesday after she refused to wear a mandatory face mask on public transport. When police arrived she produced a card saying, “Respect my right not to wear a mask”, refused to produce identification and ‘violently struggled’ with one officer. Trains at the station were stopped for 20 minutes until she was finally arrested.

### MARBELLA

#### Alleged hitman plot foiled by police

J. C. / H. B. Four people - two men and two women - have been arrested in connection with a plot to murder a person of Central American origin, and a resident in Marbella, for the sum of 15,000 euros. The arrests of the alleged hitman and a mediator in a coffee shop followed investigations that also saw other arrests in December last year.

Those arrested face conspiracy to murder charges.

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# Plans to expand Plaza Mayor again, at a cost of around 105 million euros

The council has reached an agreement with the owners of the shopping centre, and it also includes improvements to several roads in the Guadalmar area

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The Plaza Mayor shopping centre is to grow again. The companies that own it (Plaza Mayor Shopping, Doc Málaga Siteco and Doc Málaga Siteco Phase 2) are planning to extend both the shopping centre and

luxury outlet at a cost of 105 million euros. It will create about 500 direct jobs.

Malaga council has come to an agreement with these companies, which would involve modifying the Urban Plan to allow 14,000 square metres for the expansion of McArthur Glen Designer Outlet and another 7,500 for the shopping centre.

Under this agreement, the service roads around the Plaza Mayor centre will also be improved and the Camino de Guadalmar will be widened between the golf course and the roundabout giving access to the Guadalmar area.

## Up to three years to complete

This project is part of the owners' strategic plan for developing, extending and improving Plaza Mayor which was drawn up in 2015. This is the second agreement with the council under this plan. However, it is too early to be excited about the prospect of more shopping opportunities, as the expansion is not expected to be completed for about three years.

Once the local authority has given the green light for the plans to be put on public display, there will be a period during which people may express their opposition to it or make

suggestions. Once those have been considered and resolved, the project will be put to the council for approval and then the process for changing the Urban Plan can begin. This will make 60,573 square metres of land available for construction. The long-term plan is for the Plaza Mayor to cover an area of 263,218 square metres.

"When the shopping centre is complete, there will be 3,000 people working at Plaza Mayor," says Raúl López, the Councillor for Land Management. He also says this project to improve and expand the shopping centre again is "a very good sign for Malaga's future".

## The Aula del Mar will have to close down unless it can raise half a million euros urgently

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The Aula del Mar urgently needs a cash injection of 500,000 euros, or it will have to close down. The marine education centre in Malaga Port is in a critical financial situation after a year with barely any activity due to the pandemic.

The management is asking different institutions in Malaga to provide the funds between them. For example, if Malaga council, the provincial government and the Junta de Andalucía were to do so, it would cost them a little over 150,000 euros each.

In addition to the sum needed to keep going, the Aula del Mar also has a debt with the Junta de Andalucía because it has not been able to pay the 4,000 euros a month rent for the premises in El Palmeral de las Sorpresas.

The management say they don't just want money to tide them over for a year, but an agreement and a commitment from the authorities to collaborate in the long-term, to provide stability and enable them to dedicate themselves to the task of research and environmental education.

Despite the financial problems, they are hopeful that a solution can be found as their cause seems to have support from the public. Their petition to Save the Aula del Mar has been signed by nearly 200 institutions and companies and over 3,000 people in just a few days.



Services will start along the new line in the near future. SUR

## Trains will soon run again between Malaga and Seville, after a two-year delay

A dispute over ownership of the new stretch of line has been resolved, with the Junta ceding it to ADIF for 33 million euros

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The train service between the cities of Malaga and Seville will begin running again soon, after being suspended for two years due to bureaucratic problems regarding the diversion at Aguadulce.

This is good news for travellers

because it is the conventional service, not the high-speed one, and therefore fares are cheaper.

The problems began back in October 2018, when a railway bridge and the conventional Iberian-width lines were swept away by flooding. An alternative stretch of the route was built, taking advantage of the never-used AVE high-speed line, between November that year and March 2019 at a cost of 7.3 million euros.

However, there was then a dispute because the unused AVE

line belonged to the regional government, and ADIF, the State-owned railway management company, believed it should take it over.

That has now been resolved, as the Junta de Andalucía has agreed to cede it to ADIF for 33.5 million euros, which will be paid over two years.

All the time these negotiations have been continuing, passengers have had to travel between Osuna and Pedrera by bus.

If no further problems arise, trains will begin running again along these 9.3 kilometres of single-width track, stopping at several stations between Madrid and Seville.

The land below the railway line is much firmer than along the previous stretch, and another benefit of the project has been that seven level crossings have been eradicated.

## 'Stolpersteine' commemorates victims of Nazis from Cártama

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The Abindarráez cultural association has brought the German Stolpersteine project to Cártama. Meaning 'stumbling blocks' in English, and they commemorate those deported and killed by the Nazis.

This is the first time the monuments, which have been created by Gunter Demnig, have been installed anywhere in Andalucía, although they first arrived in Spain in 2015.

The Stolpersteine are cement cubes bearing a plaque showing the names of the people they are commemorating. There will be three in Cártama: Francisco Gómez Cañete (1912-1941), Juan Gómez Mancilla (1918-1942) and Manuel Carvajal Vázquez (1910-1941), all of whom were born in the municipality and were imprisoned in the Mauthausen concentration camp.



The cement cubes

## Alhaurín el Grande introduces QR codes for its places of interest

A. JIMENEZ

MALAGA. Tourists visiting Alhaurín el Grande will be able to obtain information about its places of interest via QR codes, as part of the 'Presume de pueblo' project. In total, there will be 25 of these codes for smartphones and the information will be available in Spanish and English.

The councillor for Culture, Francisco José Burgos, says this is one of several initiatives with tourism in mind.

A mural is also to be painted in Calle Cruz, and glazed flowerpots in the colour blue will be placed on houses and other buildings in the historic town centre.



Reading a QR code. SUR



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## OFFERS OF THE WEEK

## FROM THE VEGETABLE FARMS TO THE TABLE



The Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have a wide range of seasonal fruit and vegetables from local producers

Eating vegetables and greens is an essential part of a balanced diet, so the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce place a wide selection of fresh and seasonal fruit, vegetables and greens at the disposal of their clients.

To guarantee freshness, quality and flavour, these hypermarkets have agreements with vegetable farms and local suppliers so clients can enjoy the taste of freshly harvested produce at the best prices.

That's why the entire fruit and vegetable section occupies a prime place in the

area known as La Plaza (The Square). This allows clients to see, in a glimpse, where each item on sale is displayed. A global vision that facilitates shopping and improves time optimization.

As well as local producers, Costasol has a wide range of Sabor a Málaga (Málaga Flavour) brand products and agreements with suppliers from the Axarquía and other places in the region. In addition, there is a selection of Bio and organic products for the more conscientious consumers. All of this makes their fruit and vegetables a benchmark for quality.

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4 kilo net  
Origin: Valencia and Andalusia  
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Category: I  
Calibre: 7/8



2.36€ net  
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**0.59€**  
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**Sunday 28 March,**  
**Thursday 1 April and**  
**Friday 2 April**  
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**PINEAPPLE**  
Variety: Extra Sweet  
Calibre: 5/7  
Category: I



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Calibre: 27/30. Category: I

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**CARREFOUR RED PEPPER**  
Origin: Murcia and Almería  
Variety: Lamuyo. Calibre: GG. Category: II

**2.19€**  
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**APPLES**  
Variety: Pink Lady  
Origin: Aragón and Catalonia  
Calibre: 75 and +.  
Category: I



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**SALAD TOMATOES**  
Origin: Spain. Variety: Salad  
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**Carrefour Valle del Guadalhorce**  
C.C. La Trocha,  
Ctra. Coin-Cártama, Km 1. Coin



# Central government withdraws seven-million-euro water charge

Officials met on Monday to negotiate the removal of a clause from a draft agreement for the handover of Nerja's new treatment plant

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Spain's central government has agreed to lift the seven-million-euro charge it had initially included in a draft agreement for Nerja's new sewage treatment plant, according to mayor José Alberto Armijo.

Armijo met representatives from the Environment ministry on Monday, where he requested that the clause, known as Clause Seven, be removed before the plant is officially handed over to Nerja town hall.



Nerja's sewage plant. **SUR**

The draft agreement detailed that the town hall would be expected to pay the charge over a period of 25 years. "The ministry had never talked to us about this tariff, which if applied would

have a seriously negative impact on the pockets of Nerja and Maro residents," Armijo said after Monday's meeting.

The Environment ministry has committed to reworking the draft agreement before sending it back to Nerja town hall for councillors' approval.

Work to the plant began in January 2014, with an initial 30-month completion date. However, a series of problems has led to a five-year delay to the project being finished.

The plant is currently going through a testing phase, which is due to finish at the end of April.

It is able to treat 25,000 cubic metres of waste water per day; enough for a population of 125,000. Nerja currently has just 21,000 residents registered on the town hall 'padrón'.

## HERE AND THERE

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

#### Vélez-Málaga beach squares back for second year running in time for Easter holiday

**E. C.** The main beaches in Vélez-Málaga will, from today, again be marked out by two metre by two metre squares to ensure social distancing.

Like last summer, a tractor will mark out the squares on Torre del Mar, Caleta and Benajárfabe beaches.

Councillor for Beaches Jesús Pérez Atencia said last week that he is calling on everyone to be responsible "as the virus is still here".

Lifeguards will be in operation from Wednesday 31 March until Sunday 4 April, from 12 to 7pm and a megaphone will be used to remind beachgoers of



Squares on Torre beach. **SUR**

safety and hygiene rules. The adapted swimming service for people with reduced mobility will also be in operation on request.

Playgrounds, outdoor gyms, toilets and rest areas will be open and cleaned daily.

### EL BORGE

#### Injection of funds to encourage tourism

**E. CABEZAS.** The regional government's tourism representative in Malaga, Nuria Rodríguez, visited El Borge on Tuesday to see for herself the work done to improve two hiking routes that run through the Axarquía village.

The Junta de Andalucía has invested 6,000 euros into improving the paths, tidying up borders and putting in place new signposts that comply with the Spanish mountaineering and climbing federation's rules. The information is adapted for people with visual impairments.

Rodríguez said that the work "would help to encourage sustainable tourism in El Borge when the situation allows".

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

#### New bylaw to protect town's feral cats

**E. C.** Vélez-Málaga town hall approved on Monday a new bylaw to deal with the town's feral cat colonies.

The new law includes a programme of capturing, sterilising and releasing cats, on which it will work with local animal charities and volunteers to carry out.

The town hall added that street cats don't have the same level of protection as domestic cats. However, according to the new bylaw, poisoning, killing or mistreating the animals could lead to a prison sentence.

Environment councilor, Antonio Ariza, said, "Without doubt Vélez-Málaga needs to advance in terms of animal protection."



**E. C.**

#### Hail covers Benajárfabe beach

Benajárfabe residents woke up to a white blanket of hailstones covering the beach on Saturday morning. Many families, like Paola and José, along with their children Marco and Eva, went to take a closer look.

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# Two large business parks planned for the logistics sector

Andalusian investors are developing an area close to the Airport and another next to the access to the Technology Park from the Guadalhorce motorway

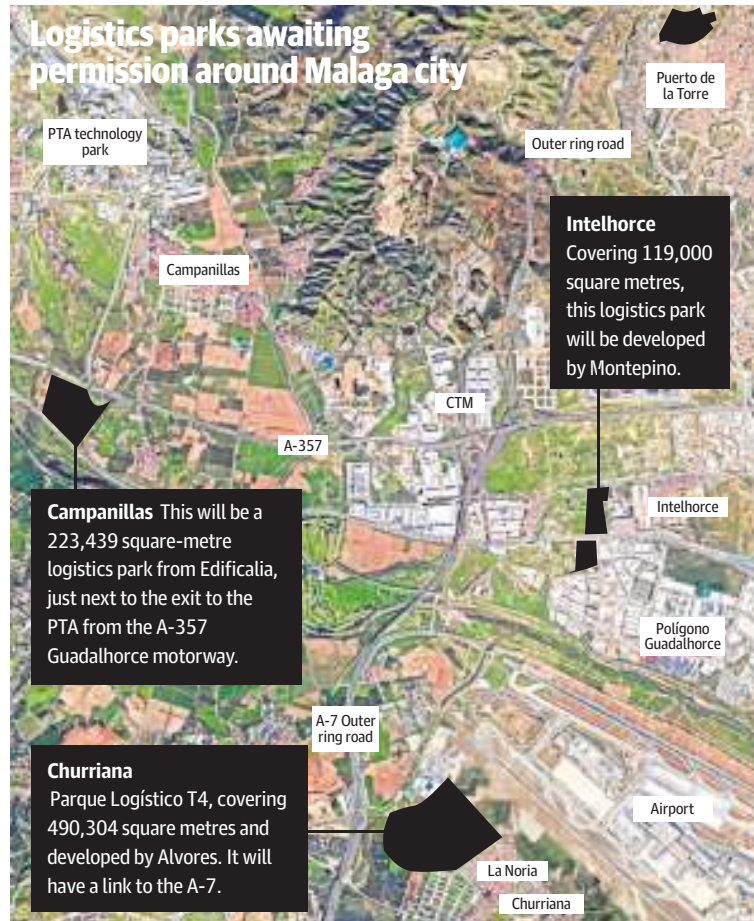
JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. Over the next few years the amount of land for logistics use in Malaga will increase exponentially as there are plans for two large business parks. A recent report from the CBRE real estate consultancy highlighted the city's need for a further 300,000 square metres to meet the demand for storage and

warehousing created by the increase in online shopping, especially as a result of the pandemic.

The new logistics parks will cover more than 700,000 square metres in total. The largest is to be north of Churriana, close to Malaga Airport. It will be 490,304 square metres in size and the developers, the Alvares group from Almería, are calling it Parque Logístico T4.

More than 280,000 square metres will be exclusively used for logistics activity, with other plots for industrial, business and commercial use. "Situated next to the airport and with direct access from the A7, over the next few years it will become a connection



between east and west Andalucía, a centre of operations for supply chains in southern Spain and a connection point with north Africa," says Alvares.

The other logistics park which is being planned will be developed by Seville-based Edificalia. It will occupy 223,439 square metres south of the access to the PTA technology park from the Guadalhorce motorway, in Campanillas. This location, and its connection to the fast road, will make it ideal for distribution companies.

This project, designed by the Ángel Asenjo architectural studio, will need an environmental impact report from the Junta de Andalucía before going ahead, and the developers have asked Malaga city council's planning department to organise that.

The plans for this park concentrate the logistics activity in the centre of the site. There will be green zones on the side facing the motorway, with which it will also have a connection.

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## Unity and Uptodown team up to revolutionise mobile games market

The backing of the principal videogame development platform consolidates this local firm as an alternative to Google Play

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The booming mobile games market was rocked this week by news with a worldwide impact: the alliance between Unity, the biggest mobile videogame development platform, and the Malaga company Uptodown, to facilitate the publication of Android games in its downloads platform, thereby consolidating it as the principal independent alternative to Google Play.

There is an important aspect to this agreement: the possibility of making in-app purchases, (those



Co-founders Domínguez and Hernández. **SUR**

made inside an application, for example when a player pays to obtain extra lives), outside the Google market, which until now has practically monopolised this type

of transaction on Android.

The players will not have to register or install the Uptodown app. "They won't even have to leave the game, because the payment method is integrated inside with web technology," said Luis Hernández, the co-founder and CEO of Uptodown.

There are also advantages for games developers, as this presents a new opportunity to publish their games and a new way of channeling payments. Uptodown will increase the visibility of games in influential countries such as Brazil, Mexico, the Middle East, Indonesia, Russia and India.

It is available in 15 languages, and once registered on the Unity Distribution Portal, the developers can select Uptodown App Store to distribute their software easily and in an automated way in this marketplace, said a statement.

## Carrefour begins the revamp of its Supersol stores in Spain

The French supermarket chain has started the transformation of more than 170 stores that it acquired last year

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The French supermarket giant Carrefour continues its expansion in Spain.

In August of last year, the chain announced the purchase of more than 170 Supersol stores in Spain. And now, after the approval of the deal by market regulators, Carrefour has begun the transformation of the retail premises which will allow it to strengthen its position in the sector.

The 172 locations will be transformed into Carrefour Express, Market or Supeco stores.

Currently, the company manages 205 hypermarkets in Spain,

112 Carrefour Market supermarkets, 912 Carrefour Express and 27 Supeco stores, in addition to its online retail business. The 172 stores acquired from Supersol will be added to this total.

Malaga and the Costa del Sol is the area with the most Supersol stores on the Spanish mainland; 58 in total.

This will be one of the areas, therefore, to see the biggest changes for local shoppers as the well-known Supersol name disappears for ever.

Carrefour is aiming to position itself closer to the market leader in supermarket retail, Mercadona. This firm currently accounts for 25 per cent of the retail space in Malaga province but when the Carrefour chain adds the almost 50,000 square metres that Supersol has in the area it will give the French-owned brand a 22.7 per cent share.





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First-hand accounts - a file image of Aznar and Rajoy together in 2011. AFP

## Two former PMs appear as witnesses in corruption trial

### MADRID

**MATEO BALÍN.** Former top names of the Partido Popular party, including ex-ministers, have been appearing as witnesses this week in the ongoing trial of their party's former treasurer and amid allegations of illegal party funding.

Among those taking the stand via videolink were two former prime ministers; Mariano Rajoy and José María Aznar. Both denied any knowledge of hidden accounts and cash payments at the Partido Popular from 1989.

Ex-treasurer Luis Bárcenas is

on trial and handwritten notes from his time in the job are being used as evidence.

Mariano Rajoy told judges, "Never in my 40 years in the party has anybody told me about that mechanism or way of working." He said recent claims by Bárcenas that the ex-PM was fully aware were "demented or delirious".

For his part, José María Aznar said, "I don't know about any parallel accounts. I wasn't inspector of safety deposit boxes nor did I pay visits to other people's offices. The 'J.M.' [written by Bárcenas] in the papers isn't me," Aznar said.

## First solo engagement for Princess Leonor

The heir to the Spanish throne, Princess Leonor, was greeted by a lively and patriotic crowd as she arrived to take part in her first solo public engagement on Wednesday. The 15-year-old royal was attending a ceremony in Madrid to mark the 30th anniversary of the Instituto Cervantes, the government-funded international agency of Spanish culture and language.



## Pablo Iglesias resigns as MP as fight for Madrid heats up

### SUR

**MADRID.** Pablo Iglesias, leader of Unidas Podemos (UP), gave up his seat in the national parliament

this week and will step down as deputy prime minister by the end of the month. It follows his announcement last week that he will head the UP electoral list in Ma-

drid regional elections on 4 May.

All the parties have been finalising their electoral lists this week in what promises to be a high-profile campaign fought on clear ideological lines.

Former spokesperson in Valencia for Ciudadanos, Toni Canto, made headlines this week when he signed up to the PP's Madrid candidate list under Isabel Ayuso.

### THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

## In denial



**T**his week, former Conservative prime ministers José María Aznar and Mariano Rajoy reminded everyone of how unencumbered by principles their party once was (or "is"?), by appearing as witnesses in another trial concerning kickbacks and bribes. Testifying for the second time, an uncharacteristically animated Rajoy even claimed that there was "never a slush fund in the Popular

Party (PP)", something which there are excellent reasons to disbelieve.

If there has never, ever been any dodgy financing within the Conservatives' upper ranks, then Spain's National Court owes them an apology. In 2017, as part of the sprawling Gürtel case, several judges ruled that a slush fund HAD existed during Rajoy's premiership, functioning as part of a "system of institutional

corruption". "Caja B", as the judges dubbed it, was an "accounting and finance structure that ran in parallel to the official one and which had been in use since at least 1989" - in other words, since the very year in which the PP was formed, with a fusion of the Francoist People's Alliance and several smaller parties.

The PP as a whole was fined 240,000 euros for running this alternative accounting system - small change when compared to the multi-million-euro fines handed to Gürtel's ringleaders, many of whom also received lengthy prison sentences. Yet despite having effectively been found guilty of fraud as an entity, the PP responded by saying that it remained committed to the

"fight against corruption" (the fight against its own corruption?), and that the fact that Rajoy had testified showed that he'd had nothing to do with the slush fund.

It remains unclear whether Rajoy or Aznar knew about widespread corruption during their stints as party leaders or prime ministers (Aznar also denied this week that he'd taken illegal bonuses during his premiership). What does seem beyond doubt, though, is that kickbacks, bribery and parallel accounting were part of life at PP HQ from the moment it was created in 1989. Given that the Conservatives are facing a tough election to retain control of Madrid early May, this week's high-profile testimony couldn't have come

at a worse time.

The party's current leader, Pablo Casado, wants everyone to believe that these underhand practices and their shady practitioners belong to a by-gone age. He's declared his intention to sell the party's current Madrid HQ building (allegedly refurbished with money from the slush fund), in an attempt to show that things have changed since the old days, when black cash and favours counted more than policies.

This would have considerable symbolic impact, much as the relocation of Franco's remains did in October 2019, but it wouldn't change anything by itself. After all, it wasn't the building that was corrupt - it was the culture that prevailed within it.





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Kim Pérez, pictured in Granada before the municipal elections in 2019. R. L. PÉREZ

# London, a colourful lesson in sexual freedom

**International Transgender Day of Visibility. Granada-born activist Kim Pérez, who is 80 this year, talks to SUR in English about how her time in seventies London opened her eyes to her own reality**



▲ A photograph from around the time of Kim's trip to London, in 1971.

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



The first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on 31 March 2009 in order to celebrate transgender people and raise awareness of discrimination. Granada-born Kim Pérez is one of the most recognised activists for the rights of transgender people in Spain. She was the first transgender person to stand for election in this country.

This year, 2021, is significant for this prominent LGBTQ activist in Andalucía for three reasons: she celebrates her 80th birthday; it is 30 years since she came out as a transsexual; and 50 years since she went to England, a place that gave her a new hope and joy of life.

At the age of 28, Kim was already a non-tenured lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Granada. Everything seemed to be going well for the young person, except the secret that no one could know.

A lot changed during a holiday in England, a place she had regarded as the most cosmopolitan and liberal country in Europe.

"I finished my thesis in 1971, and that Christmas I decided to go on vacation to London. At that time I had a lot of inner tensions. One of them was the realisation that my height, 1.85cm, would prevent me from living and dressing as a woman. But, as soon as I got off the plane, I saw two young women in front of me,

who were my height. In less than a second, I decided that I would stay in London."

Crossing the bridge over the Thames, Kim decided to burn her bridges with Spain to be herself at last. She called the head professor of her department at the University in Granada and said goodbye to him.

"In London I immediately found a job through an association that helped foreign students with work. I was already a teacher, but young, hence flexible, and I could integrate well. My first job was as a kitchen assistant. My first home in England was a good, old but comfortable room with excellent heating," she told SUR in English.

The cold atmosphere in England needed the warmth of friendship. Kim had realised it would be difficult to make friends with only her Spanish and perfect French, but she found more understanding in an Anglican parish that gave a place to transvestites. In the Catholic church during the Franco dictatorship, such freedom was unimaginable.

"I remember my first visit to the parish. That night I saw a very beautiful Asian; someone who came dressed in a suit and tie and brought a suitcase to change clothes; and the person running the meeting - very tall and thin like me - wore a long purple robe and had a short black bob. She gave explanations that I could not understand or answer and I couldn't say a word.

"The following week I went back and met someone who was anxiously staggering in unusually high heels and dressed in an inappropriate miniskirt, the typical signs of a first outing. But then no one opened the door," she explains.

Kim walked around London a lot to observe the life of the British capital with its open-mindedness that was more expressive at that moment - two years after the Stonewall riots in the streets of New York. The streets of London helped the Andalusian guest discover more of the spectrum of transsexuality. Kim remembers noticing a bearded person in a woman's dress. They seemed not to care at all about the definition of being male or female.

However these strides in sexual liberty, she said, showed to what extent this country was the right place for her and made her wonder whether she was prepared for it.

For a long time, in Great Britain sex had been something not talked about, but at the beginning of the 70s that started to change. When Kim was in London it appeared the capital was in an explosion of sexual imagery though, for her, transsexuality was more about identity than about sex.

Kim explains how when she had been in London for a month, a sexual slogan on a plastic apron outside a souvenir shop in Carnaby Street made her stop and think. "It hit me like lightning... I was convinced that my current persona was the best I could hope for. I understood that I was obsessed with myself and that in the real world there were continual misfortunes to which I was oblivious.

"A week later, while on board HMS Belfast, a cruiser from the World War II anchored in Thames, I was reminded of my father's military heroism, and I

**After experiencing the explosion of sexual imagery in London, Kim felt ashamed and returned to Spain and 20 years of self-repression**

was ashamed. So, looking at the cold, black waters of the river, I determined from that moment on, to renounce my feelings, to live as if they did not exist," she added.

Looking back she knows she was making a mistake, but then she didn't realise that those feelings could be channelled, but not repressed.

Kim interrupted her stay in the English capital and went back to her life in Spain, working as a teacher at a secondary school, a job she did as a man for two decades.

"I started twenty years of self-repression, so prevalent among trans women. It was an emotionally empty life," she recalls. But those feelings from the London experience returned, and became distressing again. "I had only let them live in my fantasies."

In 1991, Kim turned 50 and understood that "only reality could save me, even if the world caves in". By that time the situation in Spain was different. "I knew how to act prudently. The world indeed did not cave in. Little by little, I started my transition. I felt happier, safe and calm," she adds.

She was able to keep her job as a teacher of Ethics and Philosophy, and retired in 2006.

Kim Pérez was not petrified anymore. Gaining personal strength helped her appear on different Spanish TV channels, and face people with possible misunderstanding and inconvenient questions.

After coming out in 1991, she involved herself in the issue of transsexuality. She founded the Association of Gender Identity in Andalucía.

Thanks to her activity, in 1999, Andalucía became the first autonomous community in Spain to include treatment and gender reassignment surgeries in its catalogue of health benefits.

In 2007, Kim stood in municipal elections for the city of Granada on the list of the Izquierda Unida party.

Now she continues her activity in raising awareness and increase visibility of transgender people.

In 2017, Granada city council recognised her contribution in the struggle for respect and equality of gender identity with the Gold Medal for Merit.





Volotea will be operating a twice-weekly service. **VOLOTEA**

## Flights between Gibraltar and Bilbao scheduled to begin this summer

### GIBRALTAR

**D. BARTLETT.** The Volotea airline will be operating flights between Bilbao and Gibraltar on Tuesdays and Fridays this summer, starting on 2 July. This is exciting news as it will be the only service between Gibraltar and a Spanish destination for many years.

Volotea was founded in 2011 by Carlos Muñoz and Lázaro Ros, previously founders of Vueling, and is one of the fastest-growing

independent airlines in Europe, increasing year-on-year its fleet, routes served, and seats offered. Since its start, Volotea has carried more than 30 million passengers across Europe.

Gibraltar's Minister for Tourism, Vijay Daryanani, says he is delighted at this new route, and is sure it will be welcomed by the local tourism and business community, as well as people living in and near Gibraltar who now have the opportunity to visit Bilbao and its nearby areas.

## Further easing of Covid restrictions on the Rock as the incidence continues to fall

### GIBRALTAR

**D. B.** With few active Covid-19 cases, no new infections, nobody in hospital or Elderly Residential Services with the virus, and a successful vaccination campaign, the Gibraltar government lifted several of its social restrictions last night. The curfew has been abolished, and bars and restaurants may remain open until 2am.

From Sunday, masks will no longer have to be worn outdoors in Main Street and nearby streets, although they will still be obligatory in enclosed public places, shops and on public transport.

Announcing these changes, chief minister Fabian Picardo said: "We are at last leaving behind us our deadliest winter and entering our most hopeful spring. The global pandemic isn't entirely behind us and we must all move forward carefully to safeguard this incredible progress in the weeks and months ahead."

### IN BRIEF



LNG is a cleaner fuel. **SUR**

### ENERGY

## First LNG bunkering completed

**D. B.** The first LNG bunkering in Gibraltar took place recently, when the Shell-chartered LNG bunker vessel Coral Methane supplied the fuel to Lomonosov Prospect, an Aframax tanker operated by Sovcomflot. The government says this is the first of many supplies of this cleaner fuel, as Gibraltar is set to continue serving the needs of the maritime industry in a sustainable manner well into the future, and it marks a further step towards a greener Gibraltar.

### TOURISM

## New Street Art Walk now in Gibraltar

**D. B.** Visitors to Gibraltar can now enjoy a Street Art Walk to enjoy the murals which form part of the urban renewal programme.


There are 12 street paintings to visit so far, some of which are site-specific, depicting local history. This is in addition to the existing Art Walk Tours that promote Gibraltar's art galleries.

Details can be seen online at [www.culture.gi/forms](http://www.culture.gi/forms).

### IMMIGRATION

## Asylum-seeker claims were fake news

**D. B.** The UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel, has confirmed in writing to the Gibraltar government that there are no plans to ask Gibraltar to process asylum-seekers, contrary to reports in the UK media. Chief minister Fabian Picardo said last week that Gibraltar handles its own immigration by law and that he had received no such request. He stressed that his government could not and would not countenance such a suggestion.



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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITORQuality and health of  
our Costa del Sol

As more-than-happy residents living in Vélez-Málaga, Costa del Sol, for over a few years, we are actually surprised how certain matters are handled with respect to the discharge of wastewater with impact on the environment, health of residents and tourists and the image of a tourist destination, living in a civilised country as Spain.

What is the problem?

The beaches and sea along the coastal area are littered with disposable tissues, tampons, toilet paper and faeces.

Not only is it disgusting to put your towel on the beach, it's a direct health issue as well. As we have read, Covid is found in human faeces. The mountains and kilometres of litter of disposable tissue - which is not that disposable - can be found along almost any beach on the Costa del Sol at least around Vélez-Málaga, Valle Niza, Benajárfate.

Spain should have its sewerage treatment plants with

filters according to the EU law, for which Spain has received subsidies in the past and still subsidies are possible.

Spain has agreed to the Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment, adopted on 21 May 1991. Its objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors.

However nothing seems to have been done for years. Especially now we are in the midst of a pandemic, it should not be hard to tackle the problem.

As we know, Spain needs the influx of tourists, with its beaches and sea one of the main attractions.

Now more than ever Spain needs its tourism to recover; more than ever the residents need to feel safe and stay healthy.

We don't want to become a third-world country.

Just a concerned citizen,

Y. L. DE ZWART

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## Quarking back to happiness

When scientists claimed this week that they may have discovered a new force of nature, I was hoping that they'd found some old footage of a live concert of mine. Alas, this was not to be; in reality, their excitement was provoked by the magnificently named 'beauty quark' and its mysterious antics. One of the boffins involved in the investigations was clearly beside himself with glee as he spoke to someone from BBC News: "We were actually shaking when we first looked at the results, we were that excited. Our hearts did beat a bit faster." It's unclear whether or not he has a girlfriend.

I did read up on events on the French Swiss border where the Hadron Collider is sited and where all of the excitement has been taking place but, what with my capacity to grasp scientific concepts being pitiful at best, once smoke began to billow

freely from my ears, I pretty much gave up trying to understand. Fear not though, I think I got the gist before my head exploded. Here goes.

First, scientists, by their own admission, don't know what ninety-five per cent of the universe is made from while something known as The Standard Model is their best effort thus far at attempting to explain it all. If my maths is correct, then, The Standard Model covers about five per cent of stuff, but not dark matter, the nature of gravity or how Bjork managed to sell so many records.

According to The Standard Model, the beauty quark, when it decays, should break down into equal numbers of electron and muon (don't ask) particles but - tachaan!! - it doesn't. The process actually produces more electrons than muons which is mind blowing, apparently. According to a man in wire-rimmed spectacles rubbing his

chin while standing next to a Bunsen burner, one possible explanation for this is that a leptoquark (no, really) might be involved in all this decay shenanigans and that possibility is really significant because the leptoquark hasn't been discovered yet but if it is, it will increase our understanding of absolutely everything, except why so many people like eating sushi.

Depending on your perspective, then, the human race has either come a mighty long way in a relatively short space of time, or we continue to have little clue about anything. To tell the truth, it sometimes feels to me like we don't understand much more than we did when Shakespeare gave one of his best lines to Hamlet over four hundred years ago: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

And Bjork hadn't even made a record back then.

## IDÍGORAS



**SUR** in English

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

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MANUEL CASTILLO  
Publications Director  
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THE BOTTOM LINE  
IGNACIO LILLO

## Like a foreigner at home

Anyone who remembers Spanish pop of the 80s might recall a song by the group Mecano entitled No Hay Marcha en Nueva York (which could roughly be translated as 'there's no fun in New York'). One line is: "Que si eres 'espanis' ni un vaso con soda" ("if you're Spanish they won't even give you a glass of soda"), and I found that amusing. Well now the same thing is happening to us, but the other way round, and it's not funny.

As you will have heard, in this giant fi-

asco of restrictions on movement in Spain in times of Covid, if you live in Malaga, you have to stay in the province over Easter. Yes, I know it's a lovely place, but we've seen it.

On the other hand, if your cousin who lives in Berlin wants to come to warmer climes and swap his 'currywurst' for an 'espeto' of sardines, he can jump on a plane and land on the Costa del Sol, and let's hope he does because we need him; but he could also go to Mallorca, or Barcelona,

or the Canaries. Basically he can go where he likes in Spain.

So, if you were planning a short break to Tarifa or Cabo de Gata, to visit friends in Madrid or take a stroll beneath the orange blossom in Seville, well tough luck; we're in a semi-lockdown and we have to curb the fourth wave and save the summer and I don't know how many other mantras that no one believes.

But the foreign tourist can do whatever he or she wants, even what the local population isn't allowed to do. Not only is it unfair, but I'm sure that in time they will prove that it is totally discriminatory and illegal.

For now the European Commission has asked Spain to be coherent with its restrictions on movement that it is imposing inside and outside its borders, and warned that the risks of catching Covid are similar in terms of domestic or foreign travel.

In other words, even though tourists come with their recent PCR tests, nothing or no one is going to stop them from taking a poisoned souvenir home in their suitcases.

Really, I think it's great that all the tourists in the world come on holiday to the Costa del Sol, as they always have done, as long as they comply with the same rules as the local residents.

I don't believe that their presence involves more risk than the gangs of youngsters who go to massive drinking parties every weekend in Malaga city centre, Pedregalejo and other places.

All I want is to have the same right to move around my country, no more no less, even with the same test requirements as the foreign visitors.

I refuse to be treated as a second-class citizen in my home country.



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# More than 50 years dancing in Estepona

**Deloris Perlmutter.** The American dancer, choreographer and model talks about how she became one of the Costa del Sol's best-loved dance teachers

ASH BOLTON



## IN THE FRAME



Deloris, as a young traveller, a dance teacher and, left, in a recent photo. **SUR**

With the mayor at the unveiling of the square named in her honour. **SUR**



If you ever take a stroll through Estepona's Plaza Deloris Perlmutter and wondered what the story was behind the name - well read on.

Deloris was born in Washington DC in 1940 and grew up with two brothers, a truck-driver dad and a stay-at-home mum.

At nine years old she found a passion for dancing and started classical ballet classes - something which she continued until the age of 20.

But the United States was racially segregated at the time, meaning it was difficult for a black woman to become a ballerina. So in 1957, at the age of 17, Deloris moved to New York City, where, thanks to her talent, she won two scholarships, one for the New York City Ballet and one for the Katherine Dunham School, where African Americans were accepted at the time.

Deloris, 81, told SUR in English: "So the talent was there, it was just the racial factor."

"Back then if you were black and wanted to join a ballet company, it was literally impossible."

After realising that her skin colour could prevent her following her dreams, she began to learn modern dance, and fo-

cussed on Afro-Cuban rhythms.

At the time the 18-year-old was performing in a theatre and two Cuban boys, who were in the audience, liked her style. They ended up forming a dance act called The Wattusi Trio.

The act proved quite successful and in 1959 they got a contract to perform in Mexico and South America.

Over the course of four years, they were opening acts for famous singers such as Louis Armstrong, Sammy Davis Jr and Nat King Cole.

"That's the first time I left the States, and we just never went back again," she added.

In 1963 the trio went to Spain, where their fame grew after touring Barcelona, Bilbao and Madrid.

Deloris, who by now had got married to a Dane and had a two-year-old daughter in tow, said: "We were really successful in Spain, the country only had one television channel, so if you were on the TV, everyone knew about you. So our name quickly spread throughout Europe and the Middle East."

"We visited Paris, Stockholm, Iran, Israel, Italy, Germany, but Spain was always our base and

we kept an apartment in Madrid."

One of the most memorable moments of her career was in Jordan, when she ended up giving an impromptu performance to the king in 1967.

She explained: "We were about to go on stage in the theatre, and all these cops came in backstage and said we had to go and perform for the king right then and there. So they had a lovely big limousine for us, they took us over to the castle, we performed, they took us back, and we went on stage at the theatre like nothing had happened."

"But I was like 'wow, do you realise what just happened?' That was incredible."

Then in 1968, the family moved to Estepona - where Deloris has been for the past 53 years.

Deloris recalls: "I really liked the ambience on the coast. I was just accepted so well, and it was

wonderful that I was able to continue my career and people were so interested."

In 1971 Deloris opened up the Jazz Ballet School in Estepona, where she taught hundreds of youngsters until it closed in 1978.

It was the first school dedicated to dance in the town and specialised in the fusion of African rhythms such as Afro-Cuban, funk, gospel and ethnic-jazz, where she taught, among others, the Spanish actress Silvia Espigado.

She explained: "After 1978 I continued teaching privately along the coast. I wanted to see if I could get how I felt about dance over to people, and it worked, it was very successful."

Around the same time she started modelling for designers such as Elio Berhanyer, a big name in the Spanish fashion world, and was working as a choreographer on several television programmes.

The family briefly moved to London from 1979 to 1981, as

they wanted their daughter to experience what it was like to live in a city, before returning to Estepona.

### Popular petition

Last October, Deloris hit the headlines again after local residents voted to name a square in her honour. Some 200 people turned up for the event in the old town, after a petition was signed by hundreds of locals who wanted to thank her for more than four decades of teaching dance in Estepona.

She recalled: "I could barely talk when the town hall told me that people had voted to name the square after me."

"It felt quite amazing to have recognition for all the work I've done over the years. It really is wonderful and an honour."

As for what the future holds, Deloris has no plans to retire just yet.

She added: "I'm still teaching dance to adults - I like it better as they already come to you with a style. I will continue this as long as I can and maybe even do some more workshops."

"But I also want to visit my daughter and grandson more in San Francisco."

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READERS' PHOTOS



ANTOINETTE THUNNISSON

Tropaeolum gold

Tropaeolums are better known as nasturtiums and have bright, showy flowers in shades of yellow, orange and red and, if you can find it, blue (T. azureum). They have the added benefit of being delicious, being related to watercress (Nasturtium officinale). The photo above was sent in by Antoinette Thunniison.



HANS SCHMID

Fragrant freesias

Exotic looking and gorgeously perfumed freesias are probably one of the world's most popular cut flowers. This brightly coloured bunch was photographed by reader Hans Schmid.

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@diariosures 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) or Twitter (@SUR\_English).

GARDENING

Hearts-on-a-string

The genus Ceropegia was named by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus who described the unusual flowers of this pretty vine as looking like a wax fountain (keros - wax, pege - spring). Ceropegia is a genus of 160 species with some of the most unusual looking flowers in the plant kingdom. The long tubes with bulbous bases have evolved to act as water reservoirs and the backward facing hairs in-

side the tube effectively stop pollinating insects from climbing back out until the flower wilts. Flowering may occur all-year-round in mild climates. A member of the milkweed family (Apocynaceae), the Ceropegia genus consists of dwarf or vine-like perennial succulents and is native to the Canary islands, Africa, Asia and eastern Australia. Some have succulent stems while others, such as popular C. woodii, have long thin stems which it uses to climb through and twine around other plants for support. Ceropegia are very susceptible to being overwatered, they are not drought resistant but should only be watered when the soil has completely dried out. The compost should ideally be especially for succulents as it is free-draining and contains little nitrogen. It is not cold resistant and will need protection during the winter. An ideal location would be where it can receive plenty of light but not full sun. Ceropegia woodii, commonly called hearts-on-a-string, the rosary plant and the sweetheart vine, has pretty silver and green heart-shaped leaves and tough wiry stems. In its natural environment the stems can reach up to four metres long but around a metre is more usual. The long growth habit can make the plant look spindly but by planting the tiny bead-like tubers that form at intervals along the stems back into the pot, it can be made to look bushier. Ceropegia is easy to propagate, either by planting the little tubers or pushing cuttings into the soil. It is fast growing and can be pruned back hard if necessary with the cuttings used to create new plants. Fertiliser can be added during the spring and summer but choose one with low nitrogen and high phosphorous and potassium; one that is produced for cacti is ideal.



Ceropegia woodii and flower. (inset). FLICKR / WIKIMEDIA



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The cultural and entertainment business in the province of Malaga, as with the rest of the world, has suffered severely since the coronavirus pandemic struck in March 2020. The lack of tourists over the past 12 months has added further devastation to the entertainment industry, and its effects will prevent many of the venues and clubs from ever reopening again. Some however, like the Kelipé Centro de Arte Flamenco in Malaga, have managed to ride the pandemic, even though the flamenco sector has been one of the most affected. The establishment offers flamenco classes in several languages and it also presents an orthodox Gypsy-style flamenco show at the weekends.

The centre was founded in the Cruz Verde district of Malaga in 2002 and it was the city's first centre dedicated solely to flamenco.

Kelipé was the brain child of Susana Manzano, La Yedra, a Gypsy dancer and singer from Jerez de la Frontera. The name Kelipé comes from the Romany language and signifies fiesta or happiness, but, as Susana points out, "it has a deeper significance



The quality of the show and the expertise of the teachers has kept the club afloat during the pandemic. SUR

## Art of flamenco resilience

**Kelipé. The centre was founded in Malaga in 2002 and the Romany name signifies fiesta or happiness**

TONY BRYANT

than the English translation".

Susana was born in the Gypsy district of Santiago in Jerez de la Frontera, an area that many specialists believe was where the seeds of flamenco singing were first planted in the 18th century. She began dancing as a child during family fiestas and private gatherings. The show she presents at Kelipé, which received rave reviews in the Sunday Times, is based on the traditional family flamenco she experienced as a child. For the past twelve months, the clientele has been mainly Spanish and local residents, but it has been enough to keep the doors open. This is due, accord-

ing to Susana, to the "quality of the show" and the "expertise of the tutors".

"We have obviously suffered from the restrictions, but in general, we have come out quite well.

"Our show presents the purest styles of song and dance performed by established artistes from Jerez de la Frontera, Malaga, Granada and Extremadura. It is a true reflection of our people and our culture," Susana explains to SUR English.

The centre offers dance, guitar and percussion classes in Spanish, English and French. Obviously, as Susana explains, the most popular courses are for the dance, which attract both male and female students.

"We offer lessons and workshops in several languages. Our guitarist speaks English, and I speak English and French. The problem has been the pandemic, because we are not getting any tourists or foreign students. We are hoping to get back to normal in the summer once the regulations are relaxed," Susana says.

Kelipé presents Flamenco de Ley at 7pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.  
[www.kelipe.net](http://www.kelipe.net)

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# Destination weddings

**Andalucía and Gibraltar.** From small eco-conscious ceremonies, romantic elopements, to exclusive, intimate rural celebrations, there are plenty of post-pandemic ways to say "I do"

ANDREW FORBES



**B**efore the Covid-19 crisis, around 3.5 billion euros was spent each year on weddings in the south of Spain alone. Destination weddings support significant tourism, created by the guests attending weddings here," explains Laura Charles.

Nicknamed the 'Fairy Godmother' of the Costa del Sol wedding scene, Laura is the founder of Reviva Weddings, the creative force behind some of the coast's most iconic parties and events. As the creator of over 500 weddings, she offers a unique insight into the destination weddings here in Andalucía, the impact of the pandemic, as well as the emerging trends for couples looking to tie the knot in the sun.

Since studying Display Design in London, Laura's career has always been in the creative industries, waving her magic wand as an interior designer and stylist and ultimately leading her to starting her own Marbella company, Reviva Weddings, in 2007.

"I have a huge love affair with creating magical atmospheres and transforming spaces," she tells me. Yet, "the pandemic, quite frankly, has been devastating for the wedding industry

which is now potentially facing a second season with little work".

Leisure travel has been an obvious victim of Covid-19, but destination weddings have suffered the double whammy of tourism restrictions and limits for socially-distanced gatherings.

## An 80 per cent fall

According to the recently formed Unión de Profesionales de Bodas de Málaga, an association of Malaga wedding professionals, the region has seen a decline of over eighty per cent in weddings during the pandemic, and the celebrations that have gone ahead have been considerably smaller and less extravagant.

Laura Charles explains that it's not just the direct wedding sector that is affected, but also all the associated businesses that are supported by destination weddings in Andalucía.

The impact of the pandemic has been exacerbated by the limited support offered to the many businesses affected. "Some smaller self-employed suppliers typically take a break from the expensive Spanish social security system in the winter and re-register for the wedding season. So, these business owners have received no help whatsoever from

the government."

Laura continues, "Wedding planners, hotels, venues, entertainers, musicians, caterers, florists, photographers, stationers, jewellers, dress suppliers and even transport companies have been significantly affected; the list of small businesses in the wedding industry is almost endless."

During the last year, with many weddings cancelled, Laura has focused increasingly on her coaching company, The Business of Weddings. It's a platform that enables her to share expertise and to support and motivate business owners in the destination wedding industry, encouraging and facilitating wedding planners, venues and other suppliers to develop new skills, so they are ready to meet the evolving needs of couples, post-pandemic.

## Small and beautiful

"Understandably at the moment couples and guests are nervous

about gathering in larger crowds, so naturally we're seeing a trend for smaller, more intimate celebrations," Laura confirms.



Laura Charles

"Many couples still have their wedding budgets set aside so instead they will be spending more per head on their weddings, looking for beautiful private venues where they

can host their wedding safely and in style."

Tara Chapman, planner at We Do Unique Weddings sees a demand for more exclusive private venues, off the beaten track. She believes privacy will become much more important for couples looking to host their weddings.

Anthony Reid, owner of Hacienda San Rafael in Seville province, concurs. His 18th-century family home is a favourite for couples for its "space, nature, heritage and the romantic setting in the Andalusian countryside," explains Anthony, whose family have cherished the estate

for over three generations. "We all need to feel the comfort and warm hospitality of somewhere safe and isolated post-Covid. More than ever, to celebrate with loved ones is a gift. We want to keep it simple and beautiful."

This feeling of gratitude that Anthony refers to is echoed by Laura, who sees that blessings, weddings and celebrations are becoming more meaningful. Celebrations will be not just about a couple's commitment but about the joy of being reunited with friends and family after months of confinement and restrictions.

Lizzie Marriage is a spiritual minister offering ceremonies and blessings for renewal of vows, straight and same-sex weddings. Although parties have had to be cancelled during the pandemic, she has seen that many ceremonies are still going ahead. Lizzie has been an officiant here in Spain since 2014 and she's optimistic for the coming bounce-back and certainly doesn't believe southern Spain will lose its romantic appeal.



The 18-century Hacienda San Rafael is a favourite for couples looking for country isolation. [HACIENDASANRAFAEL.COM](http://HACIENDASANRAFAEL.COM)



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A natural extension of this trend of small, meaningful ceremonies and celebrations is of course 'elopements'. Instead of obliging family and friends to endure the potential complications and cost of travel during the coming weeks or months, couples are still going ahead with 'micro' weddings, in original and creative ways.

### Gibraltar elopements

Many have been following in the footsteps of John Lennon and Yoko Ono and heading for Gibraltar. Sheila Roberts, a wedding photographer, has been busy shooting weddings on the Rock. Gib has become an increasingly popular choice for 'long-distance' couples who were separated by travel bans and visa issues yet were still able to travel to Gibraltar during the pandemic.

Recent clients included Bryant who lives on the west coast of the US and his partner Matt based in Madrid. During the pandemic they had spent long periods apart. When they realised they could 'elope' to Gibraltar to get married they didn't give it a second thought.

Gibraltar offers internationally recognised legal services, attractive locations for the ceremony (including the Botanical Gardens) and cool places to stay such as the Sunborn Gibraltar Yacht Hotel. What's more with an elopement, couples feel they can break with conventions, design the day as they wish, make it as informal as they desire and wear whatever they want, letting their personalities shine, creating profoundly meaningful moments.

Traditional white gowns for brides are increasingly being replaced with more colour, more vibrancy, reflecting other cultural influences. Dyana Dessar of Optimum Weddings has a wealth of experience of working with multicultural weddings. For example, her destination weddings for Indian couples have in the past been noted for their size and extravagance. Yet Dyana sees couples now being more selective over guestlists, possibly having more than one celebration, each with smaller, different groups of people.

### Green weddings

Celebrations are also becoming more environmentally conscious. Excess and potential over-indulgence are being replaced with exclusivity, creativity and above all respect for the planet.

Eszteella, originally from Hungary, has been in Spain for over 14 years, and her business Hojas D'Amour specialises in 'green' weddings. Throughout

her planning and creative process Eszteella considers the impact of the celebration, helping couples have the magical day they've dreamed of, while also leaving a positive legacy. This means choosing venues, menus and suppliers that minimise waste, avoid plastics and even give back through ideas such as tree-planting ceremonies.

### Dream and plan

Andalusian destination weddings may not return in numbers this year, but the local foreign resident and national market is still



Many choose to follow in the footsteps on John and Yoko and go for a Gibraltar elopement. **SHEILA ROBERTS**

booking intimate weddings in 2021. Tara Chapman of We do Unique Weddings, sees this summer marked by events that are outdoors and with all right protocols in place, including rapid Covid testing etc.

So, with many international couples still waiting to get hitched, 2022 is set to be the bumper year, when the bigger weddings will return to southern Spain and Gibraltar. So, if you're a couple looking to take the plunge, you need to plan now to secure the venues and planners of their choice.

An advertisement for Sierra de las Nieves. It features a large background image of a person's silhouette standing on a rocky outcrop, looking out over a vast landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the top left corner, there is a QR code. Below it, the text "Discover Sierra de las Nieves" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the website "visitcostadelsol.com" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, there are two logos: on the left, the "COSTA DEL SOL MÁLAGA" logo with a stylized orange and yellow sun icon, and on the right, the "M diputación de Málaga" logo with a large blue 'M' and the text "diputación de Málaga" below it.



## THE DIRECTORY

## Destination weddings



La Esperanza Granada.

ANDREW FORBES

## Officials

## Lizzie Marriage

As a spiritual minister, Lizzie is an officiant for both religious and civil ceremonies including baptisms, weddings (including same-sex) and renewal of vows. Wedding ceremonies (all blessings) can be spiritual or part religious and can include readings, music or singing from all beliefs. [marriageweddingservices.com](http://marriageweddingservices.com)

## Planners

## We Do Unique Weddings

Tara Chapman, who grew up on the Costa, provides destination wedding planning as well as a styling hub that can matchmake couples with the right suppliers for their perfect wedding.

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

## Reviva weddings

Established in 2007, Reviva Weddings has created over 500 destination weddings in Spain, establishing a reputation for timeless, elegant, bespoke events, as well as surprise proposals and intimate elopements.

Reviva Weddings is defined by creativity and a unique style created especially for the couple. [reviva-weddings.com](http://reviva-weddings.com)

## Ocean Weddings

Lali Prada López, originally from Madrid, moved to Andalucía 15 years ago and has since established Ocean Weddings, creating elegant, charming and bespoke celebrations.

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

## Optimum Weddings

Serving Spain and other international destinations, Dyana Deszar offers multi-cultural celebrations, with international experience of multi-faith and symbolic weddings and ceremonies.

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

## The Business of Weddings

Following the success of Reviva Weddings, in 2019 Laura Charles established The Business of Weddings, offering professional coaching and transformation services to wedding planners, venues and sector suppliers. [thebusinessofweddings.co](http://thebusinessofweddings.co)

## UBM - Association of Malaga Wedding Professionals

This recently established association (Unión de Profesionales de Bodas de Málaga) brings together regional wedding professionals with the objectives of supporting the sector and providing resources for planners, suppliers and couples.

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

## Venues

## La Esperanza - Granada

New for 2021, La Esperanza Granada is a spectacular Hacienda overlooking the Lecrin valley. Beautiful architecture, with romantic courtyards, gardens and stunning viewpoints combine to create a unique location.

Close to the Costa Tropical and Granada city, this special property is suited to couples looking to create a memorable wedding that also includes the best that Andalucía has to offer, whether

the mountains of Sierra Nevada, the beauty of the coast, or the cultural riches of Granada. [la-esperanzahotel.com](http://la-esperanzahotel.com)

## Casa La Siesta - Cadiz

Charming cortijo country house on the stunning Costa de la Luz, close to the mountain village of Vejer de la Frontera. This is the place for a classic rustic luxe Andalusian wedding. [casalasiesta.com](http://casalasiesta.com)

Casa La Siesta. [KEISYANDROCKY.COM](http://KEISYANDROCKY.COM)

Cortijo LA Organic.



Lizzie Marriage.

We Do Unique Weddings. [K.MARCUM](http://K.MARCUM)

## Hacienda San Rafael - Seville

One of the all-time favourite wedding venues in southern Spain, the family-owned and run Hacienda San Rafael offers the romance of a remote, 18th-century hacienda, with upscale, beautifully decorated accommodation, all surrounded by mature gardens with three swimming pools, multiple patios, courtyards, fruit orchards and olive groves. [haciendadesanrafael.com](http://haciendadesanrafael.com)

## Cortijo LA Organic - Malaga

Cortijo LA Organic provides an intimate country house hotel setting that is perfect for exclusive use. The five-room property is surrounded by a landscaped estate and olive groves, with views across to the picture-perfect Seranía de Ronda.

[laorganic.es/en/cortijo/](http://laorganic.es/en/cortijo/)

## Photographers

## Sheila Roberts

With a background in television and film, and over 14 years' experience, Sheila serves both Spain and Gibraltar.

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

## Kat Marcum

Kat believes photography is at its best when it can communicate a rich, personal story. As a wedding photographer, she considers it a great joy and honour to capture these special moments that will tell their story for years.

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

## Florists

## Lemonface Deco

Marbella-based floral design firm that also offers personalised rented decorations for events.

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

## WHERE IN THE WORLD?

A group of four islands sit in the Pacific Ocean but only one of them is inhabited. It is about the size of Manhattan's Central Park and the archipelago is regarded as the least populated territory in the world. The majority of the fifty people that live there are descendants of a group of mutinous sailors that landed there in 1789.

The islands are a British territory and are located more than 3,000 miles from any continent however the main island depends on tourism (although they don't get many visitors) to help boost the economy which is kept afloat by exporting honey.

The landscape is very rocky with steep cliffs and there is only one sandy beach. There is no hospital and the islanders rely on supplies shipped



## Descendants of mutineers

quarterly from Tahiti.

If you can name the four islands that make up the archi-

pelago and name the leader of the mutineers, you could win a prize. Send the answers with

your name, address and telephone number to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es).



FEBRUARY'S PHOTO

Congratulations to Alison Waller, the winner of February's competition who correctly identified the photo as being Down Cathedral in Downpatrick and St Patrick as the saint.

Send your answer to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es)





WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

26 MARCH 1995

Spain implements Schengen for the first time

It took a long time to put into effect, but a decade after the Schengen Agreement was signed the first seven countries abolished border controls between them

It took ten years for the Schengen Agreement which was signed in Luxembourg on 14 June 1985 to be finally put into effect, but on 26 March 1995 Spain (which had not been a signatory to that original agreement), France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal abolished their internal border checks. It was a landmark achievement.

It had been France and Germany who took the idea of an area with no internal borders between countries to the meeting of the European Council on 17 June 1984 and it was a year

later that five countries signed the agreement in the small village of Schengen in southern Luxembourg on the Moselle river. France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands were the signatories on that occasion.

Five years later, on 19 June 1990, a Convention was signed for the concrete implementation of the Schengen Agreement, covering issues such as the abolition of internal border controls, the definition of procedures for issuing a uniform visa, operation of a single database for all members (the SIS, or Schengen Information System) and the establishment of a cooperating structure between internal and immigration officers.

Things began to move more quickly then. Italy joined on 27 November the same year, Spain and Portugal on 25 June 1991. Others followed suit, and some countries, such as Romania and



A car passes through an unmanned border control in Irun on the Spanish-French border after the Schengen agreement in 1995. **SUR**

Bulgaria applied but were rejected by the Council of Ministers after complaints by the Dutch and Finnish governments regarding concerns about short-

comings in anti-corruption measures and in the fight against organised crime.

At present 26 countries are in the Schengen Area. These

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Acuerdo	Agreement
Tratado	Treaty
Firmar	To sign
Países	Countries
Europeo	European
Fronteras	Borders
Espacio	Space
Ciudadanos	Citizens
Visado	Visa
Base de datos	Database
Miembros	Members
Estados	States
Immigración	Immigration
Cooperación	Cooperation
Seguridad	Security
Consejo	Council
Estructura	Structure
Implementar	To implement
Intercambiar	To exchange

are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

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## EXHIBITIONS

## Silvana Orcese

**ESTEPONA.** From 26 March until 11 April. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.

Resiliencia is the title of this exhibition which includes 15 works completed using various techniques.

## Imon Boy

**MARBELLA.** Until 16 May. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9.

Cute But Cop is Imon Boy's first solo exhibition at the gallery. Imon Boy has spent years in the world of graffiti, alternating between street art and other studio projects. He uses graffiti, videogames, internet, cinema, music, and travel to create stories. Email: galeria@yusto-giner.com or call: 951507053

## Semana Santa photos

**MIJAS.** Until 5 April. Casa Museo de Mijas.

The exhibition of photographs covers the traditions and splendour of the Semana Santa processions in Mijas in previous years.

## Entre Mujeres

**TORREMOLINOS.** Until 11 April. Casa de Los Navajas.

An exhibition of photographs including 93 images taken all over Spain to reflect femininity from a woman's point of view.

## Semana Santa

**TORREMOLINOS.** Online.

At various points on the route that the Semana Santa procession has taken in previous years there is a post with information on the brotherhoods and a QR code that when scanned will show a video of the procession passing through. The information is given in Spanish and English. Find the posts



Picasso sculpture, Malaga.

near the Buen Consejo church, the Costa del Sol Unión Europea plazas, in the borough of El Calvario in C/Rafael Quintana Rosado, the Cristo Resucitado church and the Blas Infante and Chiriva plazas.

## El Paso

**BENALMÁDENA PUEBLO.** Until 22 April. C/Real.

The town hall has organised a special exhibition of photographs of the Semana Santa processions taken in previous years. There are 24 panels as well as every poster announcing the Semana Santa celebrations since 2007.

## Centro de Arte Contemporáneo - CAC Málaga

**MÁLAGA.** C/Alemania.

**Aaron.** Until 4 April. In the Sala Coracha. The CAC presents the most important exhibition to date by Santiago Navarro, known under the pseudonym Aaron. The exhibition Soy Mi Jardín is composed of several pieces, a video projection and sixty pictorial works, most of them created during the periods of confinement last year.

**Rafa Macarrón.** Until 6 June. The

exhibition Quince consists of canvases, drawings and four large bronze sculptures.

**Jules de Balincourt.** Until 30 May. After The Gold Rush is a series of 40 paintings by Jules de Balincourt.

## Melancolía Papel y Tinta

**MÁLAGA.** Until 30 April. Ateneo de Málaga, C/Compañía, 2. Free.

The museum is exhibiting a selection of prints by artists such as Matisse, Dalí, Miró, Tàpies and Goya.

## Galería JM

**MÁLAGA.** C/ Duquesa de Parcent, 12.

Selva de Tiempo is the title of the current exhibition at the gallery. It consists of works created by artist José Luís Valverde.

## Malaga Picasso Museum

**MÁLAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

**Picasso exchange.** Until February 2022. The MPM has made an



Rafa Macarrón, Malaga.

exchange with the Musée National Picasso-Paris and will be exhibiting the wood and oil paint sculpture Copa, Periódico y Dado that Pablo Picasso created in 1914. [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org).

## The Beatles versus The Rolling Stones

**MÁLAGA.** Until 31 March. Centro Cultural La Malagueta, C/ de Cervantes.

The exhibition consists of a collection of photographs taken by Terry O'Neill and Gered Mankowitz of the two legendary bands from the start of their careers.

## Virtual Art Gallery

**ONLINE.** Online.

Art Tazgona is the brain child of Ignacio Maldonado and Paula Cuesta. It is an online web page where all forms of art are represented including performing and literary arts. <http://ruraltazgona.es/>

## LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

## OFM Chamber Music concerts

**MÁLAGA.** Auditorio del Museo Picasso de Málaga.

**28 March, 12pm.** Harmoniemusik play music by Mozart and Soler.

Tickets: [www.museopicasso-malaga.org](http://www.museopicasso-malaga.org)

## Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**MÁLAGA.** Auditorio Edgar Neville, Teatro Echegaray or Cervantes.

**26 March, 7pm.** The Armed man: a mass for peace by Karl Jenkins. Teatro Cervantes. Tickets: [entradas.mientrada.net](http://entradas.mientrada.net)

## Yin Yazz

**ALMUÑECAR.** 27 March, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.

Yin Yazz is formed by Jesús Mata (sax, flute and guitar), Roberto Joyas (drums), Pedro Aurosa (bass) and Lino Díaz (keyboard). In their first concert this year, the band, along with various special guests, will pay tribute to Chick Corea. Tickets from the venue.

## The Hall

**MÁLAGA.** 27 March, 7pm. Calle Heroe de Sostoa, 65. 10€.

The Ana Cisneros Quartet will be in concert.

## Alice Wonder

**MÁLAGA.** 27 March, 4pm. La Cochera cabaret, Avda de los Guindos.

Young singer Alice Wonder is continuing her Firekid Tour which she started in 2018.

## The Gurdjieff Experience

**ONLINE.** 27 March, 7pm. Via Zoom. 15€.

A presentation and recital of the work of mystic, spiritual teacher and composer George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff (1866 - 1949) and his disciple Thomas de Hartmann. Recital by María Testa. Information: 654013232, [reservas@musicaconcanto.org](mailto:reservas@musicaconcanto.org)

## La Voz de Espíritu

**MÁLAGA.** 27, 28 March 12pm. Sala Joaquín Eléjar, C/San Juan Bosco, 79.

Spiritual compositions by Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Hadyn etc. by the El Último Trovador lyrical company. Tickets 10€. [www.mientrada.net](http://www.mientrada.net)

## Experience Vélez-Málaga's Holy Week with tours in English

A professional guide and native English interpreter will explain the history and traditions behind the town's most important religious festival

## JENNIE RHODES

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** La Casa de las Titas in Vélez-Málaga is offering three Holy Week guided tours in English next week.

Even though there will be no processions in Vélez-Málaga this year, English-speaking residents and visitors may still have the opportunity to learn about the history and traditions of one of Malaga province's most important Holy Week festivals.

The tours will leave from outside Vélez-Málaga town hall on Plaza de las Carmelitas at 10.30am on Monday 29 March, Wednesday 31 March and Friday 2 April.

A professional guide and



A guide explains the image of Jesus on a previous tour. SUR

native English speaker will take visitors to see the town's monuments, churches, altars and the images of Jesus Christ and Our Lady in the Holy Week museum.

The walking tours will last approximately two hours and finish in the patio of La Casa de las Titas with a tasting of typical local food, which is eaten during the religious festival.

Spaces are limited to 20 people per group. Face masks and social distancing are obligatory at all times. Reservations mandatory. Price: 10 euros.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.lacasadelastitas.com](http://www.lacasadelastitas.com)  
Tel (Spanish): 952 50 20 61  
Email (English): [holyweek-toursinenglish@gmail.com](mailto:holyweek-toursinenglish@gmail.com)



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**Covid-19 Regular Updates**



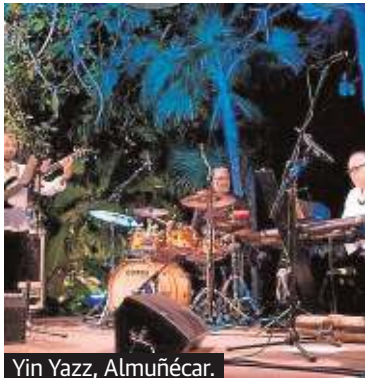
## FLAMENCO

### El Turry y Familia

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 3 April, from 7pm. Casa de la Cultura. 10€. A flamenco show that unites various generations of two gypsy families.

### Pepe Bao and Tomasito

**MALAGA.** 28 March, 4pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. Tomasito is known for his flamenco fusion with rock, funk and hip-hop. He is accompanied by Pepe Bao, considered one of the best electric bass guitarists in Spain.



Yin Yazz, Almuñécar.

## MORE IDEAS

### English Cemetery Tour

**MALAGA.** Holy Week, 10.30am - 3pm. Avenida de Pries, 1. The English Cemetery in Malaga will be open to visitors every morning in Holy Week, entrance fee 5 euros (concessions 4 euros). New and second-hand books also on sale.

### Women's Make It Happen Summit

**ONLINE.** 30 March, 3 - 5.30pm. Since 2012, 1230 The Women's Company and Costa Women have been hosting learning and networking events with the aim of increasing connections and knowledge to develop you and your business. Bookings: 'hopin, IWD Make It Happen Summit 2021'.

### Castle museum open days

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 28 March,

9.30am - 1.30pm. Castillo de la Heradura. Free.

The museum is opening its doors in order to make the extensive resources within its rooms more widely known.

### Botanical Garden Tours

**MALAGA.** Jardín Botánico Histórico, La Concepción.

See the famous wisteria clad dining room in full flower. Reservations: 951926180

**26 March, 7.30pm.** Guided nocturnal tour.

**27 March, 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm.** Guided historical and artistic tour, nocturnal tour.

**28 March, 12.30pm, 4pm.** Guided historical and artistic tour.

### Symphony. Virtual Reality tour

**MALAGA.** Until 5 April. Mon-Fri, 11.45am - 3.45pm and 4.30-8.15pm. Saturdays and Sundays 9.45am - 8.15pm. Plaza de la Marina. Free. The initiative 'Symphony' gives the public the opportunity to see the Mahler Chamber Orchestra in two unique experiences, one audio and the other visual. The short film is accompanied by music by Beethoven, Mahler and Leonard Bernstein. For a guided visit call: 900801137.

### Lux Mundi

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

**Taizé Prayer.** 26 March, 7pm. Nuestra Señora del Carmen church. San Andrés church. Send an email to be included in the prayers.

**Anglican Evangelical service.** 2 April. The centre opens from 2-3pm for the service 'The Hour Before The Cross'.

## 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 Father:** 20.25 (Tues)

# Seeking calm and solitude within artistic chaos

Piggy draws on his own life experiences to create his figurative and hyper gestural works of art

## TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** La Casa Amarilla art gallery in Malaga is hosting a new exhibition by Irish artist Ciaran McCoy from tomorrow, Saturday, until Tuesday 6 April. Born in Dublin in 1972, the established architect and artist, who paints under the alter-ego Piggy, will unveil his latest collection of work under the title of I Went to Mass.

The exhibition consists of a body of work created during the last twelve months with which the artist explores themes about seeking calm and solitude in the chaos of what is being presented to society today.

The works are based around a poem penned by Piggy in which he states that he went to mass in order to "pray my way and condemn the chaos and transcend into a peaceful mind".



A Piggy painting. SUR

The central piece of the exhibition is titled I've Given Enough, a painting that questions the art of bullfighting. The piece shows a bull armed with a gun, which the artist says "levels out an unequal scenario and allows the bull to have enough force to exert a win in this unfair fight".

Piggy, who has lived with dyslexia for all of his life, draws on his architectural knowledge and other life experiences to create his diverse expressionist artworks, which he de-

scribes as "figurative and hyper gestural". He uses a mixture of chalk, charcoal, acrylic and spray paint to produce his works, many of which are semi-biographical and portray spontaneity, frustration, simplicity and emotion.

Curated by David Burbano, this is the artist's first solo exhibition in Malaga.

The exhibition is free and masks must be worn inside the gallery ([www.lacasa-amarilla.es](http://www.lacasa-amarilla.es)).

**Godzilla vs Kong:** 13.20 (Sun), 17.10 (Tues)

**Minari:** 13.15 (Sun)

**Relic:** 19.30 (Tues)

**Nomadland:** 12.20 (Sun); 19.55 (Tues)

### Yelmo Cines, Rincón

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922.

[www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**The Father:** 19.20 (Tues).

**Minari:** 20.10 (Tues).

**Nomadland:** 20.15 (Tues)

### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

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

**The Father:** 16.10 (Tues).

**Godzilla vs Kong:** 20.05 (Tues)

**Minari:** 19.45 (Tues)

**Nomadland:** 20.20 (Tues)

**Relic:** 20.30 (Tues)

### Cine Albéniz

**MALAGA.** C/Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com)  
**Nomadland:** 11.45 (Sat, Sun), 17.00, 19.45 (Fri-Mon)

### Cinesur Miramar

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

**Kong vs Godzilla:** 12.10, 20.00 (Fri-Tues)

**Monster Hunter:** 12.15, 17.00 (Fri-Tues)

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# The art of breathing

**We don't breathe properly. It can cause health problems and even the way we look. It is partly evolutionary, but we can correct it**

SOLANGE VÁZQUEZ

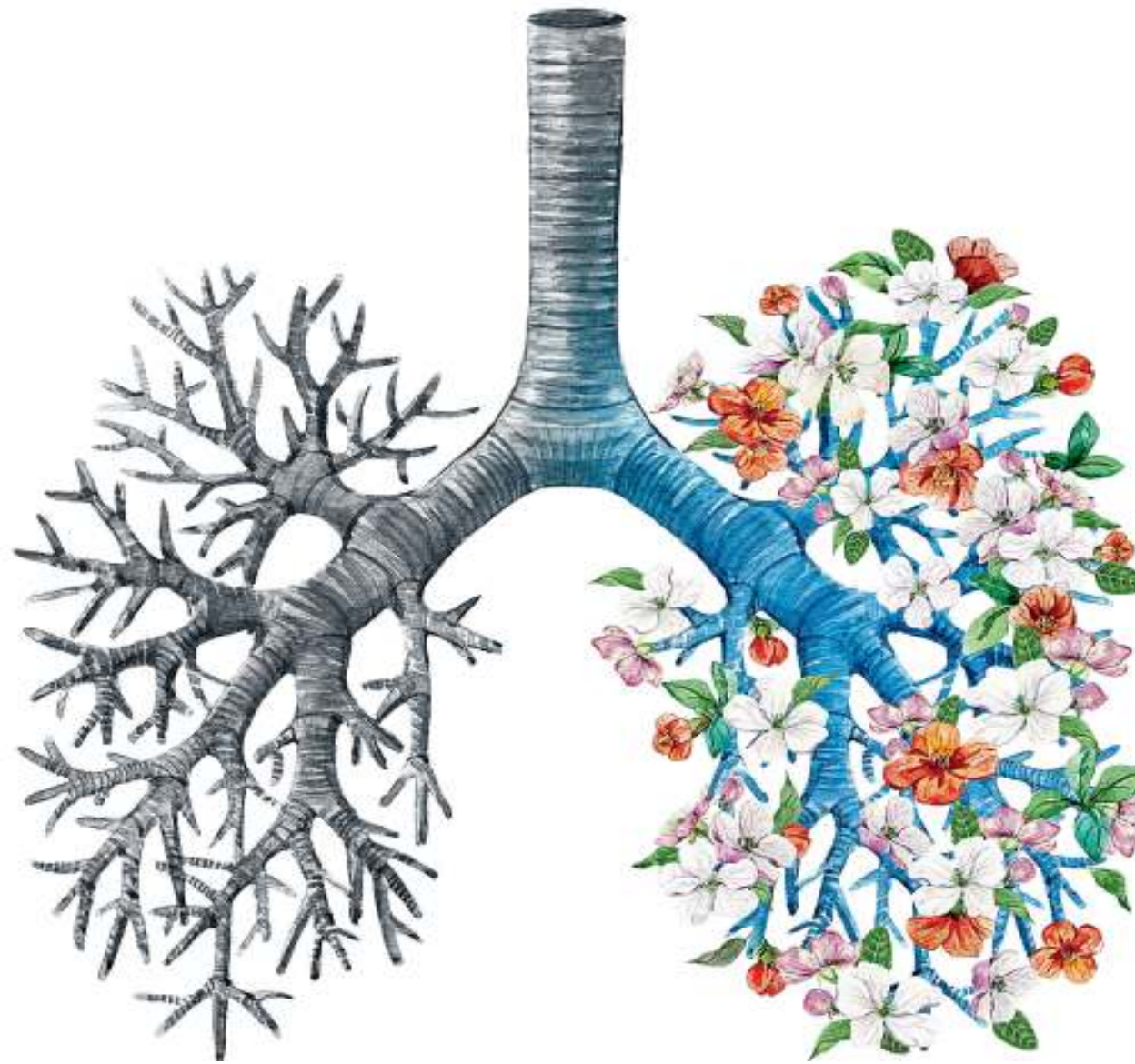


How can anyone say we don't know how to breathe properly, when we have been doing it since we first came into the world? There isn't exactly much to it, is there?

Well, actually, yes. It's one thing to spend our lives inhaling and exhaling automatically and another thing altogether to do it correctly. Only elite ath-

letes, divers, yogis, Buddhist monks, opera singers and a few other minority groups know how important breathing is and that it takes work to obtain physical or mental objectives.

This is what journalist James Nestor says. He writes for media such as The New York Times and specialises in scientific matters. In his book *Respira*, published



by Planeta, he explains how he was very sceptical at first, but as he was suffering from stress and recurrent lung problems, he decided to try breathing in different ways to see if it had any effect. It was a type of scientific pilgrimage which revealed some little-known aspects of 'bad' breathing, ranging from effects on health problems to changes in physique.

## 1. Evolution is to blame

OK, so we breathe badly. Is it our own fault? Not completely. In

the past 20 years, the evolution of the species has affected our cranial structure, and this makes us breathe more badly.

"We don't know how our ancestors used to breathe, but by analysing skulls and jaws we see that their noses were more open, the jaw was much bigger and the respiratory tracts much wider, which permits us to conclude that they suffered fewer chronic respiratory illnesses," says Nestor.

The steady decrease in the front of our skull is mainly due

to the fact that we eat foods which are softer nowadays, and as we don't chew so much the jaws become narrower and we start to breathe through our mouth more, which is the basis of the problem.

A cruel experiment carried out by Egil P. Harvold with Rhesus monkeys involved sealing their nostrils with silicone, and this revealed that in just a few months their faces had got longer, their mouths were always half open and their eyes lacked expression. Take note of that.

Also, "of the 5,400 species of mammal, we are the only one with crooked teeth," says Nestor. Is that more inconvenient? Yes, it is. There is a long list of consequences, including bad breath, periodontitis and caries.

## 2. The 'prescription'

Basically, we need to breathe through the nose and more slowly. We can learn to do this, although it might seem difficult at first. Nearly half of the world population breathes through the mouth and around 40 per cent suffer from chronic nasal obstruction. However, in some cultures where it is considered impolite to breathe with your mouth open, children are taught to breathe through their nose.

"It takes more time to breathe through the nose, but the structures we have inside it cleans the air. That is our first line of defence," explains Nestor, who spent ten days with his nostrils covered



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### To increase respiratory efficiency Count from 1 to 10

To increase respiratory efficiency and generate more movement in the diaphragm, try this exercise. It should be gentle, and not forced. Sit with a straight back and with the chin perpendicular to the body. Breathe in deeply through the nose, as far as you can. Then, in a loud voice, count from one to ten, as many times as possible (without speeding up) until your voice becomes a whisper and your lips are moving but no sound is coming out. That is the moment when your lungs will be completely empty. You can repeat it from ten to 30 times. Gradually, you will notice how this type of training makes you breathe much better.

### To improve concentration Alternate nostrils

This type of exercise produces benefits in just a few minutes. It's ideal just before going to bed or before a meeting. It is done in yoga and is called Nadi Shodhana. Start by covering your right nostril with your right thumb and the left nostril with your right-hand ring finger (you can place your index and middle fingers in the centre of your forehead). First, breathe in through the left nostril, slowly. When you get as far as you can, pause and then exhale through your right nostril. Do this first on one side, and then on the other. Do five or ten rounds, alternating. This improves lung function and lowers heart rate, blood pressure and sympathetic stress.

### Perfect respiration

**The law of 5.5, for everything**  
Nestor realised that experts are quite unanimous that perfect respiration is when the amount of air ingested at rest is 5.5 litres, with a frequency of respiration of 5.5 breaths per minute. This means inhaling for 5.5 seconds and exhaling for 5.5 seconds. It is rather far from reality: on average we only take 3.3 seconds to breathe in and the same to let the air out.

### Self-control at moments of tension

**Squared breathing**  
The Navy SEALs do this to maintain control at moments of maximum tension. It is very simple. Inhale, counting to four, stop for the count of four, and exhale, counting to four. And then start again.

### To prevent asthma attacks Mini-apneas

Practising mini-apneas helps asthmatics to prevent attacks, but be careful when doing this. First, you need to know how long you can stop breathing for. To ascertain that, while relaxing, see how long you can go without breathing, with empty lungs and without forcing. OK, so half of that time will be as long as your mini-apneas last. At least, 100 times a day.

## "Breathing properly is as effective for sex as viagra is for erectile dysfunction"

MIGUEL LORENCI

We breathe between 20,000 and 25,000 times a day and James Nestor says that this means that most humans make between 20,000 and 25,000 mistakes a day. "We breathe badly, very badly, and that has fatal consequences for our health and our mood," he says. Even in ways we could not have imagined.

### – For example?

– Good respiration is as effective for our sexuality as viagra is for erectile dysfunction. In our nose, we have the same type of tissue as in our genitals. Some people, when they get aroused, have a sneezing fit, a phenomenon called honeymoon rhinitis. Our nose produces nitric oxide, which facilitates the circulation of oxygen all round the body, and it does it six times more when we breathe through the mouth. It's something that has an effect comparable to viagra, because what it does is stimulate the production of nitric oxide in our body.

### – What else do we not know about respiration?

– For example, it has been shown

that in some cultures and religions prayers have a cadence similar to the respiratory rhythm. Some Italian researchers analysed the Ave Maria and the rosary, compared them with other prayers and mantras and found that the respiratory frequency was exactly the same: six seconds to inhale and another six to exhale, the perfect rhythm for better oxygenation.

### – What can be done to stop our breathing getting worse still?

– They should teach proper breathing in schools, just like they teach eating healthily or taking exercise, but it doesn't seem very likely that that will happen. But we can improve our breathing with three very simple things: be aware of how we are breathing, breathe through the nose, and slowly.

### – It's a bit complicated now, with the coronavirus and masks...

– It's more important than ever! We can reduce anxiety by taking in air with a more marked rhythm and producing nitric oxide, a substance which is essential to fight against all viruses.

as an experiment. He says it was a horrible experience and left him exhausted.

"If we were all to breathe properly, there would be no more sleep apnea or snoring, or many back problems. We would reduce stress, increase sexual enjoyment and it would delay ageing," he says.

He also maintains that breathing correctly might not work miracles, but it is just as important as eating a healthy diet and taking exercise.

## Types of breathing

In the early part of the decade Nestor spent researching this whole issue, he learned that there is no such thing as a single breath. A diving instructor explained it to him: "There are as many types of breathing as there are foods to eat". So, in addition to the basic one, there are others whose benefits are targeted to specific objectives. These are some of the techniques.

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# Anyone for a tinny?

ANDREW J. LINN



Where does the average wine drinker stand on the question of wine in cans? It's basically an age thing. The trade's objective is to get young people drinking wine regularly, and in order to achieve this, all the fuddy-duddy stuff about wine racks, cellars and corks has to go.

Cans were first used by the Ford Coppola winery in California in 2003, and sales have grown steadily. Lockdown has helped too. Rather like boxed wine, the advantages do not need spelling out: for outdoor drinking and fast chilling, an aluminium container beats glass and recycles more efficiently. Nor is any taste charac-

teristic lost. For those traditionalists who won't even look at a can, it is worth remembering that without progress we would still be drinking out of goat-skins lined with pine resin, as in the 1950s.

Finally Spain has its own canned wine, introduced remarkably enough by a young Berber lady of 33 with a US business school training. Sana

Cans for wine were first used in California in 2003 and sales have grown steadily

Khouja worked for four years in a Priorato bodega and has selected a garnacha red and white from Cataluña to launch the range. Crowdfunding did the rest, and the products are in the stores.

As anyone who puts wine into cans rather than bottles will explain, there is no conflict between the two formats. It is a question of presenting a different method of packaging wine, often in situations where a bottled variety would not be appropriate. It is more a question of attitude than product, and no-one pretends that any wine other than young, fresh whites and rosados will be the most popular lines.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

### Quinto de Couselo Albariño

This is another white wine from Rías Baixas that delights the palate. From a small (8 Ha) vineyard, and made with mainly Albariño grapes, it is matured on lees for six months and has a lovely fruity, lemony taste. Excellent price at around 10.50€ (El Corte Inglés).



# The growing popularity of spreadable creams

Sweet spreads have come a long way and now there are many options to the standard chocolate and hazelnut

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MALAGA. What has happened to spreads? If a few years ago the world was divided between Nutella fans and Nocilla supporters (the Spanish version), today we would need a whole year to try all the varieties that the market now has to offer. And we're not just talking about chocolate and hazelnut spreads; for those nostalgic for the flavours of childhood, there are also Kinder, Pink Panther, Oreo and Milka spreads.

For fans of nutty flavours there's nut creams, pistachio spreads and, of course, the very-American peanut butter, smooth or crunchy; healthy but high in calories.

Nowadays there's spreads with

biscuit bits and flakes of salt and ones made for the lactose intolerant, those on the paleo diet plan or for Real Food militants. If you come into any of those categories then there's no problem because there are dozens of totally vegan formulas, made with olive oil instead of hydrogenated fats, and sweetened with dates instead of refined sugars. Companies such as La Chinata, already have lines with suggestive references such as milk chocolate, hazelnuts and olive oil, and white chocolate, walnuts and oil.

Even Jordi Roca himself has created his own version of milk chocolate cream for Casa Cacao and Turrone Artesanos Vicens. He has Albert Adrià onboard as gastronomic creator, and produces a lavish spreadable cream of soft nougat. A very worthy patriotic contribution.

### Childhood flavours

If you have a penchant for child-

hood flavours but are careful of what you eat, then the WTF brand will become your not-so-guilty pleasure. They produce flavours such as Kinder, Oreo, Pink Panther, coconut and white chocolate, with 17% protein, gluten-free and palm oil-free. Filled with calories, of course. At <https://www.nutricion24.com/>. Another 'healthy' top seller is Ambrosia, from Paleobull; chocolate cream, dates, hazelnuts and extra virgin olive oil



A top seller, Paleobull Ambrosia contains cocoa, dates, hazelnuts and extra virgin olive oil. **SUR**

(<https://www.planeta-huerto.es/>).

### A touch of luxury

Made with cocoa from Venezuela, milk, hazelnuts and sugar and by the hand of Jordi Roca is Rocacac cream, a luxury for sybarites. The 200g jar costs 15 euros (<https://casacacagirona.com/>). More affordable but equally stratospheric, Torrons Vicens artisan nougat cream. The 400g jar costs 6.15 euros.

They have a store in Malaga at C/ Cister, 9. La Chinata has a great assortment of chocolate creams with extra virgin olive oil. Places to buy them are listed on [www.lachinata.es](http://www.lachinata.es).

### Pistachio spreads

There is a great variety and quality of pistachio spreads on the market. Some Italian ones claim to be made with pistachios from Bronte (Sicily). If so, a 200g jar will cost at least 20 euros.





# Controversial refereeing decision denies Malaga victory against Tenerife

# 1-1

## MALAGA-TENERIFE

**Malaga:** Soriano; Alexander, Mejías, Juande, Matos; Escassi; Jairo (Joaquín, 70'), Jozabed (Benkhemassa, 70'), Luis Muñoz (Cristian, 86'), Rahmani, Caye Quintana (Scepovic, 80'). Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Benítez, Quintana, Andrés, Cristo, Larrubia, Julio, Loren.

**Tenerife:** Dani Hernández; Kakabadze, Sipic, Bruno Wilson, Alex Muñoz; Nono (Alberto, 75'), Folch, Sergio González Suso Santana, 75'), Valera (Shashoua, 64'); Fran Sol (Joselu, 88'), Zarfino (Manu Apeh, 75'). Unused substitutes: Serante, Víctor, Carlos Ruiz, Pomares, Aitor Sanz, Javi Alonso y Jorge.

**Goals:** 1-0 Luis Muñoz (23'); 1-1 Folch (79').

**Referee:** Ocón Arraiz. Yellow cards for Joaquín and Dani Barrio.

**Venue:** Estadio La Rosaleda.

The hosts believed goalkeeper Juan Soriano was fouled in the build-up to the Canary Islanders' second-half goal

**SERGIO CORTÉS / DAVID BALMER**

MALAGA. A controversial refereeing decision proved to be the main talking point as Malaga drew 1-1 at home to Tenerife on Sunday afternoon. The Blue and Whites were on their way to a victory that would have boosted their faint playoff hopes before a controversial equaliser from Ramón Folch in which he appeared to impede Malaga goalkeeper Juan Soriano.

In a fast-paced game, Malaga capitalised upon their first clear-cut opportunity in the 23rd minute when Jairo Samperio played a ball into the box from the right-hand side. He found Luis Muñoz, whose run had been left unmarked, and the captain rifled home into the bottom left-hand



The Malaga players pursue the referee after Folch's goal was allowed to stand. **SALVADOR SALAS**



## Dugout named in honour of former coach Peiró

Sunday's game at La Rosaleda was a debut for the newly named dugout in honour of former coach Joaquín Peiró. His son Quini was present at an intimate ceremony on Saturday during which the tribute to one of the club's most-loved figures was unveiled. The text remembers Peiró's leadership of the team from Segunda into Primera and on to Europe.

corner.

Although Malaga appeared in control as the half wore on, it was the Canarians who had the best chance to score when Otar Kakabadze cut inside and played a deft ball over the defence to Giovanni Zarfino. Just about on-side, the Uruguayan could only clip the bar but certainly had Soriano beaten.

Into the second half, the visitors' overall play markedly improved. A decent header from Jorge Padilla forced a good save out of Soriano, who managed to tip his effort over the bar. Later on, English midfielder Samuel Shashoua made a good run forward but was then let down by a tame shot.

Wary of Tenerife's improved play, Sergio Pellicer replaced Jozabed with Mohamed Benkhemassa in an attempt to shore up the midfield. However, in the 79th minute, Tenerife won a corner that eventually fell into the path of Ramón Folch. Marginally on-side, he challenged Soriano for the ball, knocking it out of his grasp and bringing himself and the keeper down in the process. On the floor, he touched the ball into the empty net to give Tenerife that elusive equaliser. The VAR judged that no foul had been committed by Folch, and the goal stood. Understandably aggrieved, Malaga brought on Cristian Rodríguez and new signing Stefan Scepovic in search of a goal, but it was too late.

In his post-match interview, Pellicer made his displeasure at the late decision known, but was careful to moderate his language in order to avoid punishment. He said: "I'd prefer to go home and re-watch the incident before making my mind up on it. We know that, in these cases, different interpretations are possible." However, he was quick to add that: "Juan Soriano told me it was a foul."

Regarding the game as a whole, he said: "It's not a case of two points lost or one point gained. Of course, we would've liked all three but that's not always possible. We have to analyse the performance separately from the result."

Next up for Malaga is a trip to struggling Cartagena at 8.30pm on Saturday.

**Covid restrictions...  
Bad weather...  
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# Marbella sack coach Aira ahead of the relegation play-offs

The Costa side finished the normal season with another defeat after which the fans were waving their white handkerchiefs

**MARBELLA** 1  
**LINENSE** 2

**JULIO RODRÍGUEZ**

**MARBELLA.** Marbella coach José Manuel Aira was relieved of his duties on Monday after a poor campaign, the worst the club has had since their return to Segunda B, came to an end on Sunday when a second-half capitulation saw them surrender an early lead and lose to Linense.

The hosts took the lead as early as the third minute when star signing Esteban Granero collected the ball on the edge of the area following a corner and fired it into the top corner.

The opening half hour was characterised by dominance from the home team, who scarcely surrendered any possession at all.

The second half started in much the same way and there was no inkling that a comeback was on the cards. However, for Linense, who needed a victory to stand any chance of finishing in the top three to fight for promotion, a switch suddenly flicked and it was their turn to completely dominate the game.

Marbella were camped in their own half for the remaining half hour and the pressure eventually told eight minutes from the end when Pito Camacho equal-



José Manuel Aira. **JULIO RODRÍGUEZ**

ised at the near post.

Into stoppage time and with virtually the final touch of the game, Coulibaly scored to put his side in the lead and secure their first ever win at the Antonio Lorenzo stadium - but not the top-three finish they craved.

Chants of "¡Aira vete ya!" (Aira out!) and the waving of white handkerchiefs immediately followed but the now managerless side must regroup as they wait to discover the fixture list for the relegation play-off where they must finish in the top three (out of eight) in the next round to only be relegated one tier to the newly formed Segunda RFEF. Failing that, they will suffer a double relegation to the fifth tier (Tercera RFEF), less than a year after missing out on promotion to Segunda.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports

## Peaking at the climax

With the old guard now finding form, the end to the league season is set to be an exciting one



It's a week when Diego Simeone, Ronald Koeman and Zinedine Zidane will be having a lie in, putting their feet up, catching a little sunshine, and preparing for the grand finale to this exhausting season.

With their players trotting the globe, the coaches of Atlético, Barcelona and Real Madrid will be drawing up game plans for the last surge.

It's now tighter at the top of La Liga. Atlético have led the race for most of the season as Barcelona rebuilt and Real Madrid struggled to find consistency. But as the big two have found form, Atleti have proven fallible in recent weeks so there is a theory that the league has plenty of life left in it.

Here's my spoiler: Atleti will win the league, Barcelona lift the Copa del Rey and there's a strong chance Real will become champions of Europe again. All bold predictions.

Let's take Atlético first. There's a reason Simeone wears the same all black outfit for every game. With him there are no shades of grey, no splashes of colour. This reflects in his team. You know exactly what you are going to get.

For me, he has the best goalkeeper in the world. But Jan Oblak apart, I doubt that any of his outfield players would interest Real or Barça. They are a team, not a collection of indi-



Simeone, always in black. **EFE**

viduals. Simeone leads them pragmatically. When the media launched an inquest following the Champions League defeat to Chelsea, the Argentinian responded with honesty.

"We are not looking for excuses," he said. "We were beaten by a better team."

Simeone's side is built for endurance and that is why they are four points clear at the top of the table.

Their nearest rivals, Barcelona, are surging with 15 wins in an unbeaten run of 18 Liga matches. They've hit ten goals in the last two. Messi has weighed in with an incredible 16 goals in 11 league matches. Just digest those numbers.

Ronald Koeman has found a system to harness the talents of

the younger players at his disposal which has broken with the traditional formation. In doing so he has brought the best out of Messi.

At a club which has been under a cloud, there is sunshine. I expect the run will continue and they will edge the cup final against Athletic but Atlético's durability will rightly win them the Spanish championship.

So where does that leave Real? When club football reconvenes, they have three mega games in eight days. The Champions League quarter-finals are wrapped around the Clásico.

It's been three years since they met Liverpool in the final. The 2021 team looks just like the 2018 team. Only Cristiano Ronaldo and Keylor Navas have departed. Only Vinicius, Fede Valverde and Ferland Mendy have been accepted into the old boys' club.

There's a simple reason Zidane has stuck with the old guard; they are simply superior to the players signed to replace them. In world football there are few better centre backs than Sergio Ramos; more balanced midfielders than Luka Modric, Toni Kroos and Casemiro; and Karim Benzema is in the form of his illustrious career.

So there we go, draw breath, sit back and enjoy the three major Spanish teams peaking at the climax of the campaign.

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## IN BRIEF

## CYCLING

**Vuelta a Andalucía to take place in May**

**SUR.** New dates have been set for the 67th edition of the Vuelta a Andalucía after the cycling event originally set to take place in February was postponed owing to coronavirus restrictions. It will now begin in Mijas on Tuesday 18 May and finish in Pulpí (Almería) four days later. The original event had been intended to begin in Pulpí and finish in Zahara de la Sierra in Cadiz province.

## GOLF

**Peláez, the highest-ranked Spanish amateur**

**M. RIVAS.** Malaga golfer Ana Peláez will go into the Augusta National Women's Amateur tournament as number 17 in the world amateur rankings thanks to another resounding victory with her university team, the University of South Carolina, at the Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic. Peláez is now the highest-ranked Spanish amateur.

## MOTOGP

**Márquez to miss first two races of the season**

**COLPISA.** Eight-time world champion Marc Márquez and his team announced this week that he would not be taking part in either of the two rounds of the 2021 World Championship to be held at Losail as he continues his recovery from a fractured arm. His place will be taken by German Stefan Bradl this Sunday and in the second race a week later.



Manolo Santana (centre) and Ángeles Muñoz (with the trophy) at the tournament's presentation. **JOSELE**

## Up to 500 spectators allowed for the upcoming Challenger and ATP 250 events in Marbella

Both tournaments will be broadcast on TV, from the quarter-final stage in the first of the two which begins on Monday

**PEDRO LUIS ALONSO**

**MALAGA.** Up to 500 spectators will be permitted at matches played at the main court at Puente Romano tennis club for both ATP events taking place at the venue next month. The court will open on 2 April to coincide with the quarter-finals of the ATP Challenger 80 event that takes place from 29 March to 4 April and it will remain open for the entirety of the ATP 250 AnyTech365 Andalucía Open from 5 to 11 April.

The announcement was made by the tournaments' organisers, who also stated that matches being played at other courts will not

feature spectators. The 500 fans at centre court, named after tennis great Manolo Santana, will represent 20 per cent of its total capacity of 2,500.

This will be the first time any fans will attend an ATP event in Europe since the start of the pandemic, as all matches at recent tournaments in Rotterdam, Marseille and Montpellier were played behind closed doors. This was also the case for the Dubai Tennis Championships, although spectators were permitted at events in Doha and Acapulco.

On top of this, both Marbella tournaments will be available to watch on Teledeporte, although the Challenger event will only be broadcast from the quarter-finals onwards. As for the Andalucía Open, three matches will be shown daily from 12pm, with the top encounter taking place after 5pm each day.

The Andalucía Open has already secured a luxury guestlist outrivalling the other ATP 250 event taking place in Sardinia the same week. Even before the three wildcards are announced, big names such as Andrey Rublev, former Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka and home-grown star Alejandro Davidovich have already confirmed their participation. At the Challenger event, the previous two winners Pablo Andújar and Pedro Martínez will both be taking part, as will highly-rated fellow Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz. Manolo Santana himself will be on hand for the trophy presentations, as will all-time great Björn Borg.

Marbella's mayor Ángeles Muñoz spoke of her excitement ahead of the events, saying: "Marbella lives and breathes tennis. I want to say thank you to Ronnie [Leitgeb, the tournaments' director] for his patience and for believing in us."

## Spain's women's handball team secure a spot at the Tokyo Olympics

**JOSÉ MANUEL ANDRÉS**

**VALENCIA.** The Spanish women's handball team booked their place at this summer's Tokyo Olympics with an emphatic 31-16 win over Argentina on Sunday. The result, part of the qualifying tournament in Llíria (Valencia), means that the team has now qualified for the last three editions of the Games.

Following a 28-28 draw with Sweden on Friday, a draw against the South Americans would have been enough to secure Spain second place and therefore an Olympic berth. However, they went one better and bagged top spot on goal difference with a comfortable win, despite going 10-0 down.

When Spain eventually got on the scoreboard midway into the first half, the nerves melted away and they began to dominate, taking a 19-10 lead into the break. In the second half, this pattern of play largely continued, and Argentina found it difficult to get back into the game largely thanks to the performance of Spanish goalkeeper Darly Zoqbi. At the other end, Marta López was the highest scorer with seven goals, followed by captain Carmen Martín with six and Nerea Pena with five.



The players celebrate. **EFE**

## Haaland and Co make themselves at home on the Costa

The Norwegian national football team has been based in Marbella this week for their World Cup qualifiers in Gibraltar and Malaga city

**BORJA GUTIÉRREZ**

**MALAGA.** The Norwegian national football team have made Malaga their home this week as Covid restrictions in their own coun-

try forced the squad to rethink plans for their World Cup qualifiers this week.

With the side, spearheaded by man of the moment Erling Braut Haaland, facing Gibraltar on Wednesday night (a 3-0 win), the side have been based at the Marbella Football Center, with the second of their games (against Turkey on Saturday at 6pm) to be played at La Rosaleda stadium in Malaga.

The local authorities seized

the opportunity to offer the stadium which this weekend is free as Malaga are playing away in Cartagena.

### A global superstar

It was Haaland's name which was on everyone's lips at the Palacio de Villalón, home to the Carmen Thyssen Museum in Malaga, on Monday. This stage was used to welcome the Norwegian federation, which was represented by former international referee Rune Pedersen. With such widespread interest, it served to demonstrate the value of holding such events locally, even if it will be behind closed doors.

### A showcase for the city

"This event has a lot of value for Malaga, beyond the visibility it will have among the millions of



Haaland and Odegaard in Marbella on Monday. **NFF**

inhabitants of Norway and Turkey. It shows the way we do things here and that we are capable," said the regional minister for

Sport, José María Arrabal.

The match will be broadcast in 15 different countries, the minister stressed.



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THE STARS




**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
A creative idea may be worth its weight in gold, and soon you could appreciate how much you stand to gain if you go through with it.




**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Is money burning a hole in your pocket? A Sun-Venus combination could find you eager to enjoy a treat, especially if you haven't had much of a chance lately.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Want to make the most of the week ahead? Have a clear sense of what you hope to accomplish. If you are vague in any way you could miss out.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
No matter how difficult it is to face up to certain things, the cosmos urges you to have a go. Once you begin to sort it out you'll experience relief, and new springs of energy will revitalize you.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Whatever predicament you're in, try to keep things simple for the best outcome. Make time to unwind and recharge as resting your mind is key.




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
If you have some resistance to a challenge or opportunity, then it may be old beliefs that are holding you back. Tackle these first by replacing them with a more dynamic outlook.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
You may feel an emotional urge to get in touch with someone, and doing so could be very rewarding. A project might reach a successful conclusion and can be a reason to celebrate.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
As the Sun and Venus combine in an emotional zone, this could be when a bond crosses the line between platonic and intimate. A temptation to splurge some money may emerge.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
A new romance looks promising. Wondering about a key bond? A potent lunar phase could inspire you to clear the air.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
With Venus in the mix and a sensational Full Moon next weekend, things can go faster if you rally others to your cause. It will mean less hours for you, and a chance to chill and unwind.

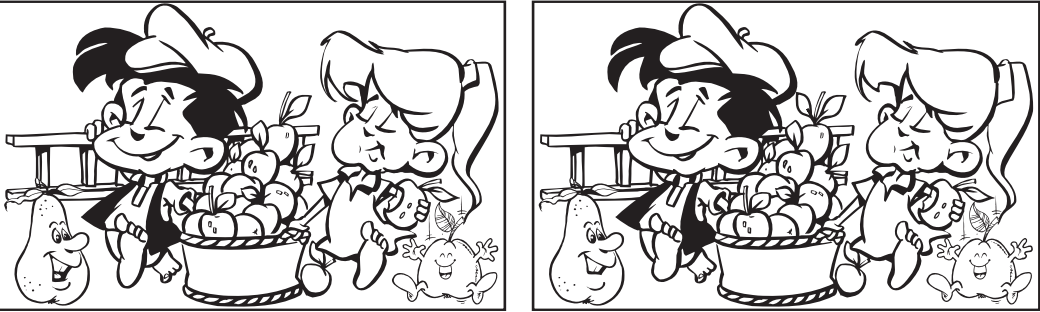


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
The current set-up has a spicy edge that might incline you to take on a challenge. This could involve a hike, jogging or adventure sports, and a chance to get the most out of life.

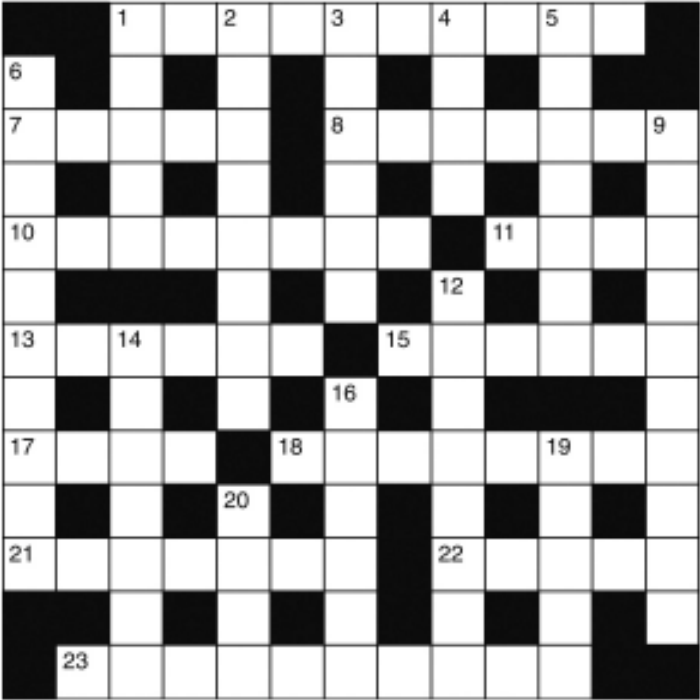


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Your curiosity may lead the way regarding a financial decision. With Mars in Gemini you stand to get an excellent deal if you bargain.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11454



- Across
- 1 It may come to the viewer in a flash (4,6)
  - 7 Risked returning among the bolder adventurers (5)
  - 8 Can vote for small change in South America (7)
  - 10 Pass over reactionary art and poetry (8)
  - 11 Group of squadrons providing capital cover round the north (4)
  - 13 An unpleasant noise from a bat (6)
  - 15 Hit hard with an apt catchphrase (6)
  - 17 These members provide charitable contributions, one hears (4)
  - 18 Can't be found - is the man hiding in freight transport? (8)
  - 21 Remove some of the bitterness (7)
  - 22 Poet producing "A Versatile Nude" (5)
  - 23 Finishes the school session in different seat (10)

- Down
- 1 Name the woman or man disorientated (5)
  - 2 Showing surprise, but taking no narrow view presumably (4-4)
  - 3 About a group of actors given a new style (6)
  - 4 Measure of liquid nitrogen in a hole (4)
  - 5 Making a fierce noise and bringing a blade into the arena (7)
  - 6 I also tried to reform press leaders (10)
  - 9 Making arrangements for an instrument before I give voice (10)
  - 12 Voluble about one who demands his rights (8)
  - 14 Enter the race and arrive when the favourite gets in (7)
  - 16 The cleric, we hear, could well get fired (6)
  - 19 Doesn't reveal they get tanned (5)
  - 20 Check a part in Shakespeare's "Tempest" (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

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

F	L	I	C	T	O	N	E	T	T
I	N	T	I	F	L	E	C	R	I
N	O	I	N	E	N	C	O	E	F
C	R	E	N	T	I	C	L	E	F
O	E	L	O	F	C	E	L	T	O
I	F	O	F	T	I	N	E	O	I
R	I	L	L	E	F	T	O	I	L
O	N	C	E	L	E	I	F	N	O
R	E	N	E	L	E	C	T	E	T
I	T	O	T	E	L	E	C	R	O

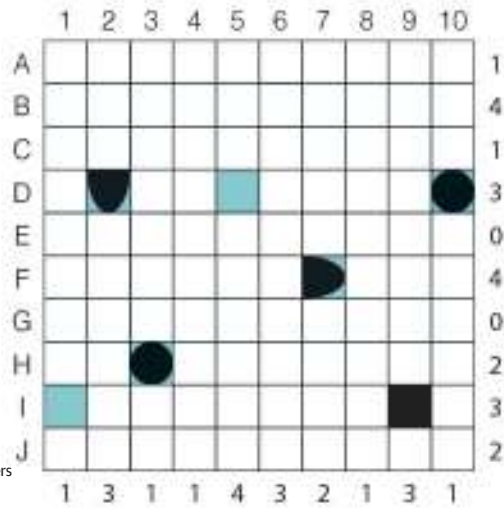
Can you identify the words that may be made from the letters of REFLECTION from the clues listed below?

- 1. US coin
- 2. Formerly
- 3. Remaining
- 4. Fencing sword
- 5. Sense
- 6. Large shrub
- 7. Choose
- 8. Key
- 9. Penalty
- 10. Armada

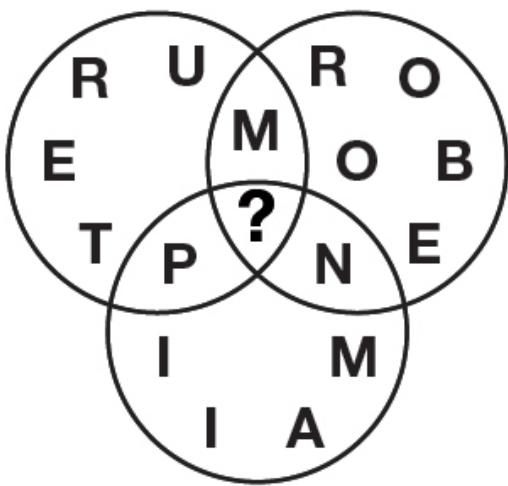
BATTLESHIPS

**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.

- Battleship
- Cruiser
- Destroyers
- Submarines



CIRCLEGRAM



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



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Citizens (10)

6) Cooperation (11)

10) One (3)

11) Surplus (9)

13) Procedure (13)

14) Car (5)

15) Houses (5)

17) Gold (3)

18) Serious (f) (5)

20) Such (3)

23) Freely (10)

24) Tank (6)

25) Frog (4)

26) Customs (7)

27) Strawberry (5)

28) Appointment (4)

29) Foot (3)

31) I resent (7)

33) To exchange (12)

35) Tariff/Duty (7)

37) Access (6)

39) Boyfriend (5)

42) They are (3)

43) Esteemed (f) (8)

44) Security (9)

47) Organised (m) (10)

48) Information (11)
- 1) To share (9)

2) Union (5)

3) Athlete (6)

4) Rules (6)

5) Southerner (m) (6)

6) Controls (9)

7) Space (7)

8) She risks (8)

9) Nature (10)

12) He sees (2)

14) Scrap merchant (m) (10)

16) They greet (7)

19) Requirements (10)

21) Torch (8)

22) Borders (9)

24) Treaty (7)

29) Passenger (8)

30) In (2)

32) Validity (7)

33) Aside/Digression (6)

34) Meeting (7)

36) Common (5)

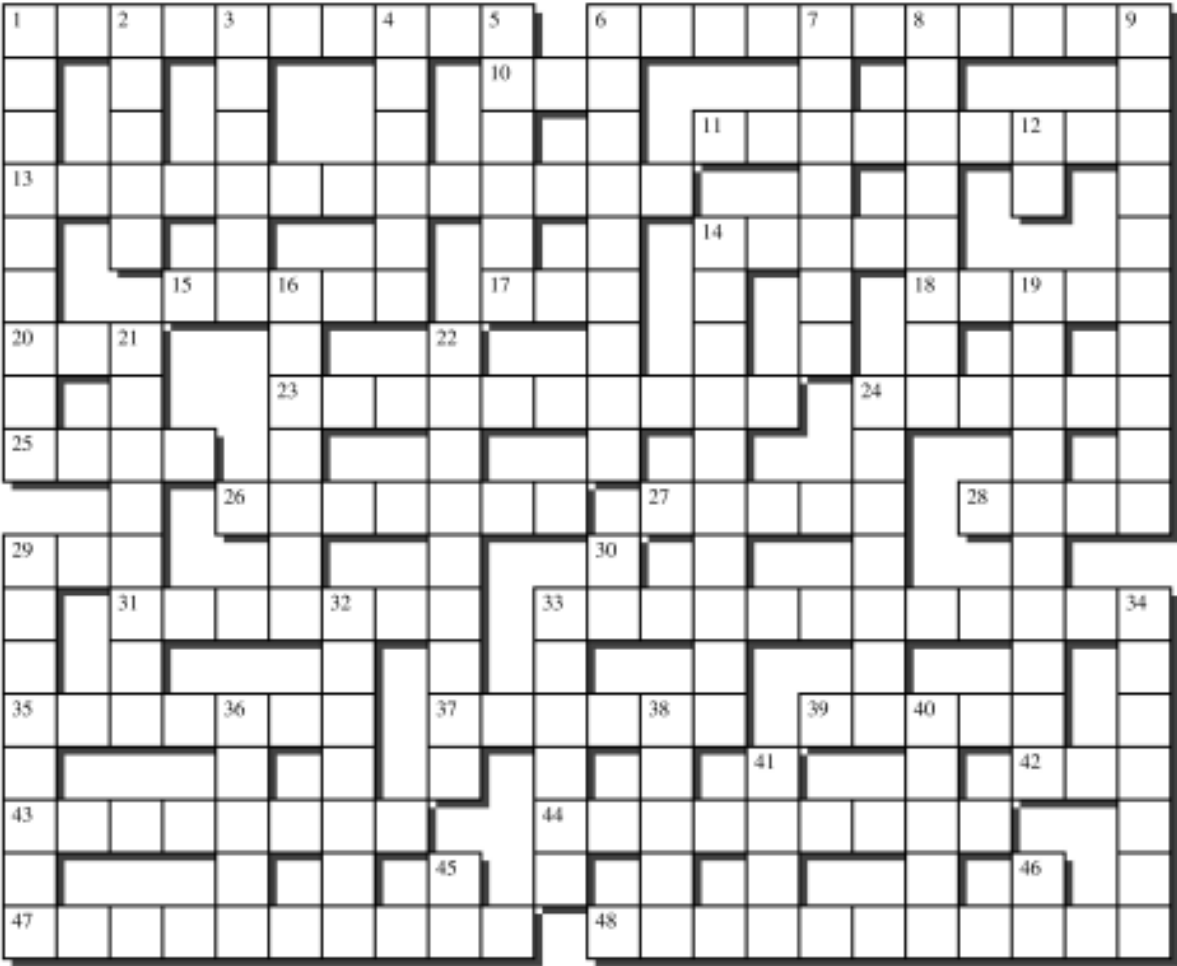
38) According to (5)

40) She travels (5)

41) Cold (m) (4)

45) Gol (pl) (2)

46) My (2)



ANSWERS

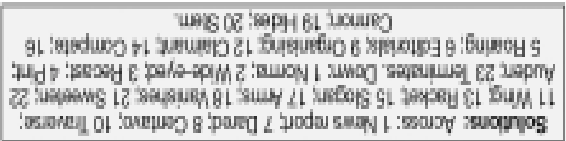
Quiz answers

**Answer:** Priest  
**Of interest:** The chasuble is the outermost liturgical vestment worn by clergy for the celebration of the Eucharist in Western-tradition Christian churches that use full vestments, primarily in Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches.  
**Answer:** Fencer  
**Of interest:** A plastron is worn under the jacket. It provides double protection on the side of the sword arm and upper arm. It does not have a seam under the arm to line up with the jacket seam and prevents a weak spot.

Language Crossword



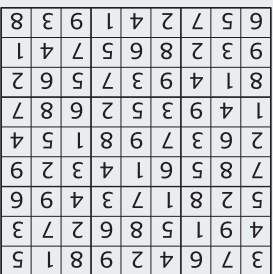
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



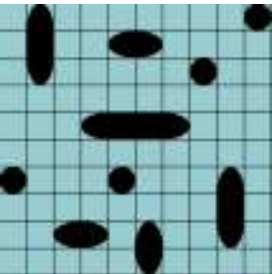
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is T. Trumpet, trombone, timpani, all orchestral instruments.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A peaceful square

Last week: Riogordo

This charming sculpture of two snails can be found in Riogordo. It is to commemorate one of the town's favourite dishes, snails. The annual Día del Caracol is usually held in May. The photograph was sent in by Rob Lawson.



CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

To notify symptoms of coronavirus

If you have symptoms and/or have been in contact with someone with coronavirus



**APP Salud Responde:** take the coronavirus symptoms test

If the virtual test is **positive**, the **health services** will contact you by telephone

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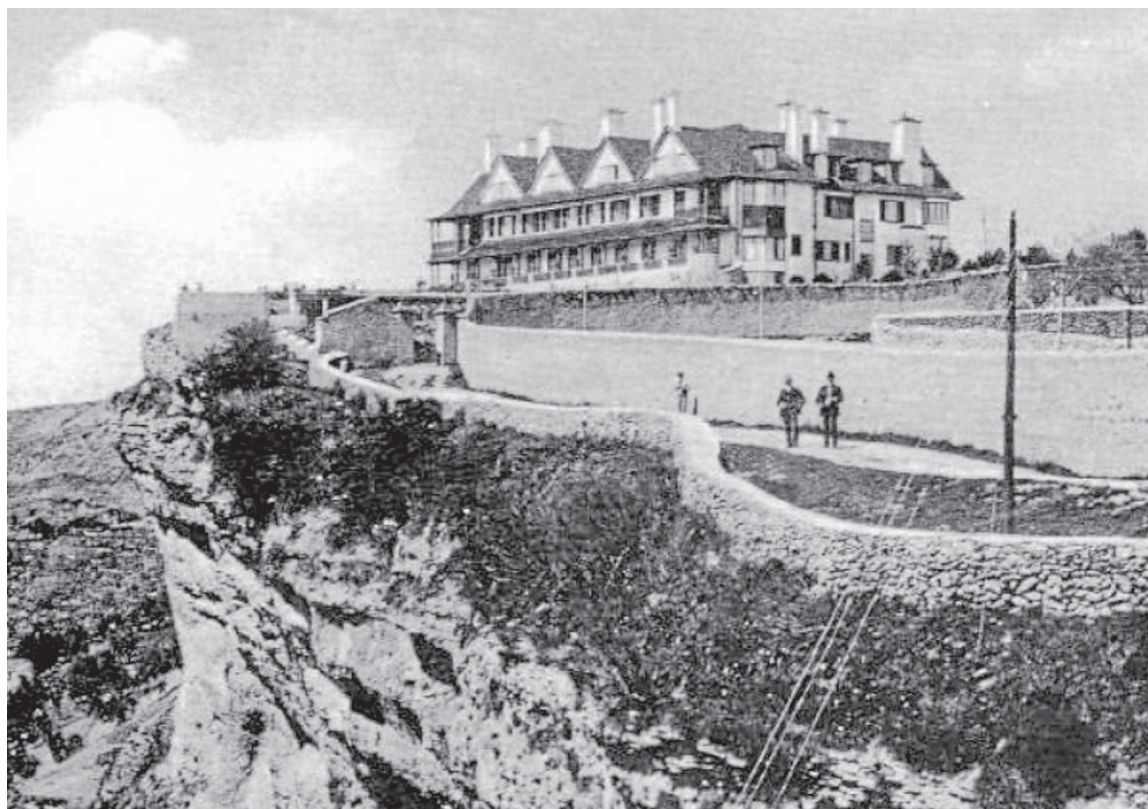
**900 40 00 61**



# A pathway for the British, along the edge of a gorge

**Ronda.** After building the railway line from Algeciras and the Reina Victoria hotel, a way had to be found for the guests to access the town on foot

VANESSA MELGAR



Local people gave the Paseo de los Ingleses its name. **SUR**

There are two places in Ronda which are dedicated to the English and have become famous: the Camino Inglés and Paseo de los Ingleses, the first of which led to the creation of the second.

The Camino Inglés was a railway line, built to enable people from Gibraltar to come into inland Spain. "For most British people, the first time they set foot in rural Spain was when they were staying in Gibraltar and caught the train from Algeciras and through the Serranía," explains Faustino Peralta, the official chronicler of Ronda. It became very popular and many writers of the time referred to it in their works.

"The original idea was for the railway to start at Gibraltar, not Algeciras," says Peralta, but this was not to be the case and a second proposal to create a connection with San Roque was also

unsuccessful.

As well as this railway line, which was built in 1892, the British constructed two hotels: first, the Reina Cristina in Algeciras, and then the Reina Victoria in Ronda, which was very popular because of its romantic location. The Ronda hotel was built just outside the town, on the Cornisa del Tajo, overlooking the precipice and mountains. It was a view that entranced the poet Rilke, who lived there for a while.

Before the hotel, with its typically English architecture, was inaugurated, which is believed to have been in 1909, the British company asked Ronda council to improve the access to it, because it was in very bad condition.

"At that time, Ronda ended at the Merced Convent. The hotel was in a very poor area of the town, where there was no road, just a dirt track, no pavements, there were pigsties and it was very



Part of the pathway today. **S. VALADEZ**

muddy," says Peralta.

Some important people were due to attend the inauguration and the town hall had no money so asked local people to make donations towards the cost. However, the British had a plan B. They didn't trust the council and decided to create a path between the hotel and the town, border-

ing the precipice. It became known locally as the Paseo de los Ingleses, because of the number of well-dressed hotel guests who were seen strolling along its 350-metre length between the Reina Victoria and the Alameda del Tajo park. The Camino Inglés and the Paseo de los Ingleses are still popular today.

No longer what it was, but still spectacular

Nowadays, not all of the original Paseo de los Ingleses is accessible. Part of it was closed off by the Caja de Ahorros in Ronda to provide privacy for swimmers in a pool it built on land it owned there for workers to use. Later, the Juan de la Rosa school incorporated some of it into a playground. The part which can still be visited has been remodelled in recent years by local architect Sergio Valadez and it is a spectacular place to walk and admire the views. Many local people would like it to be reopened completely again as a tourist attraction, or even for it to be extended as far as the Bodega Descalzos or Puerto de las Muelas.

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