

# SUR

## in English

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September 10th to 16th 2021  
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Firefighters observe the blaze on the mountains behind Estepona. SALVADOR SALAS

## Wildfire sweeps Costa hillsides as hundreds leave their homes

Nearly a thousand people had been evacuated as the fire continued to rage through the Sierra Bermeja near Estepona and Benahavís on Thursday evening **P2-3**

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A helicopter empties its load of water in an area where the fire was burning close to houses. SALVADOR SALAS



The desolate scene left behind by the



Observing the flames. S. SALAS

# Hundreds of firefighters and volunteers join to save Sierra Bermeja from wildfire

Nearly a thousand people had been evacuated from their homes by Thursday evening as the huge fire raged dangerously close to residential areas near Estepona and Benahavís

as was the porch of another, reported the regional minister of Agriculture, Carmen Crespo, on Thursday.

In the early hours of the morning, around 400 residents on the Forest Hills and Abejeres developments were evacuated as the

flames got dangerously close, while later on Thursday residents were ordered to leave their properties on the Urbanización Montemayor in Benahavís.

People with no alternative accommodation were temporarily housed at the Carmen sports centre in Estepona or at Benahavís town hall.

Dense smoke from the fire caused the AP-7 toll motorway to be closed for a few hours between kilometres 157 and 171 in both directions; although it was reopened at 9.30am, before being closed

again for a while on Thursday afternoon. The MA-8301 and MA-8302 were closed throughout the day.

The forest fire brigade, Infoca, had mobilised 250 people on the ground, who were being supported from the air throughout Thursday by 29 planes and helicopters. Fire-fighting staff have been drafted in from Cadiz, Cordoba, Granada, Jaén and Seville, joining those from Malaga province.

Infoca pointed out that the terrain is difficult, with very steep slopes. The strong westerly wind, with gusts of up to 45 km/h, aided the spread of the flames and made fire-fighting tasks difficult.

By Thursday afternoon the fire had affected some 2,167 hectares in the Sierra Bermeja, said Crespo. Heavy machinery had been brought in to the area to create a wide firebreak in an attempt to stop the spread of the flames.

Fire was first reported to be burning at two different points at around 9.37pm on Wednesday in the municipality of Genalguacil, which has led to speculation that it could have been started intentionally.

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN / SUR

MALAGA. Hundreds of residents mainly on developments in Estepona and Benahavís were evacuated from their homes on Wednesday night and Thursday as a huge wildfire continued to spread through the area fanned by winds.

The blaze broke out at around 9.30pm on Wednesday in Jubrique and Genalguacil in the Ronda mountains and spread down through the Sierra Bermeja, affecting parts of the municipalities of Estepona and Benahavís.

At the time of going to press this Thursday, some 939 people had been told to leave their homes as a precautionary measure.

No personal damage had been reported although one evacuated house was destroyed by the flames



Source: Infoca (the affected area as shown on Thursday morning)

MAP ENCARNI HINOJOSA



flames. SALVADOR SALAS



Flames turned the sky red behind this residential area. SUR

## 'Wednesday was a very long, tense night as the fire approached our homes'

Residents tell of their evacuation experiences as the mayor of Estepona thanked the workers and volunteers

JOSE MARÍA MARTÍN / SUR

ESTEPONA. Mayor of Estepona José María García Urbano, whose town and its residents were greatly affected by the blazes this week, gave his first reactions to events on Thursday.

Commenting on how separate fires had worryingly appeared to start in different locations during the high winds, he said that overnight on Wednesday some 200 firefighting experts were on the scene supported by crews in the air.

He thanked the rescue workers and hundreds of volunteers who were supporting the operation but expressed concern about the damage to areas of Mediterranean forest of important natural value.

He was relieved, though he said, that "the area of highest ecologi-



José María García Urbano at a fire control station on Thursday. S. SALAS

cal value, the protected pinsapar pinewoods, hasn't been affected".

### A "tense night"

Residents evacuated from the areas affected by the fire described how they spent Wednesday night suffering from a mixture of anguish, tension, uncertainty and fear. In Urbanización Abejeras residents were told to abandon their homes at around 3 o'clock in the morning.

Wednesday was a "very long

night" one evacuated resident told SUR. "There were some tense moments because the fire practically got as far as our properties."

"From 10 o'clock at night we were watching the flames approach, and at three in the morning they evacuated us," he said.

"We've been scared, and above all we've been through a lot of tension," added the resident, who said the firefighters told him that the flames had reached the lawn around the development's pool.

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**Puerto Banús**

# Western Costa stays at Level 2 alert as city goes down to Level 1

People can stand or sit at bars once again in all Malaga province now except in the Costa del Sol health district, covering Torremolinos to Manilva

## SUR

MALAGA. The fifth wave of Covid-19 is closer to being history every day in the south of Spain after the Junta de Andalucía regional government announced on Wednesday that five of the six health districts covering Malaga province are now down to a Level 1 health alert.

The only exception is still the Costa del Sol health district, which includes the municipalities of the western coast of the province from Torremolinos to Manilva and which will not see its existing coronavirus control measures eased until at least next week.

The Malaga (city) health district has moved from Level 2 to

Level 1, joining the health districts of the Axarquía, La Vega (Antequera), Serranía de Ronda and Guadalhorce that are already enjoying an easing of measures, mainly relating to capacity limits that affect the hospitality, retail and culture sectors. Axarquía district includes the eastern Costa from Vélez-Málaga to Nerja as well.

The move to Level 1 in Malaga city allows greater capacity in shops (up to one hundred per cent) and in culture (up to 85 per cent in theatres, cinemas and auditoriums).

In hospitality, the number of people who can sit at the same table is ten on terraces and eight indoors, the same as Level 2 changes made last week. But the difference is that in Level 1 standing or sitting at the bar is allowed again.

Indoor celebrations can have up to 250 people at Level 1 and conferences may be attended by up to a thousand people indoors and up to 1,500 outdoors.



Drinkers can stand again at Malaga city bars like this one. M. F. (FILE IMAGE)

The further relaxation comes as Malaga province had 38 municipalities - out of a total of 103 - that have not registered any coronavirus infections in the last two weeks, (according to Tuesday, 7 September data).

The data has also improved so that no municipality in the eight provinces of Andalucía, including Malaga province, with more than 5,000 residents will have a nighttime curfew in place for the time being.

## Covid cases drop and province moves from high to medium risk

The colour of the Covid-19 case-rate map for Malaga province (including the Costa del Sol) moved from deep orange for high risk to paler orange for media risk this week. Although there are differences between each town, the overall average for the province was 123 positive cases per 100,000 people in the last 14 days on Thursday (9 September), down from 185 a week earlier. (The 14-day case rate risk category is different to the health district alert levels.) Overall, the Andalucía region is showing lower daily new cases, equivalent to back in March, and the regional case-rate average per 100,000 was 127 on Thursday. The number of people in hospital has continued to fall too locally. In Malaga almost 71% of people have now had a full Covid-19 vaccination, below the Andalusian regional average of 75%. There is no confirmation as yet of firm plans for Covid-19 booster jabs.

**More information:** For the latest on case rates in each local municipality and an up-to-date map, see [www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com)

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# Will your pensions get caught in the lifetime allowance trap?

By David Bowers, Partner, Blevins Franks

One outcome of the 2021 UK Budget was that the pensions lifetime allowance (LTA) was frozen at its current level for the next five years. This is estimated to net the Treasury approximately £990 million by 2026, pushing an extra 10,000 people over the threshold. With LTA tax penalties as high as 55%, make sure you are not caught unprepared.

## What is the lifetime allowance?

Since 2006, the UK government has capped how much you can hold in combined pension benefits without paying extra tax. Originally £1.5 million, the LTA peaked in 2011 at £1.8 million before gradually dropping to £1 million in 2016. Tracking inflation since then, the March 2021 Budget cancelled this year's scheduled increase, freezing the LTA at £1,073,100 until at least 2026.

And recent press speculation this summer suggests that the Chancellor is considering cutting the lifetime allowance to £800,000 or £900,000 to help raise much needed tax revenue. Do you know how much your pension fund is valued at? It may be worth checking.

## Who is affected by the LTA?

While the current £1,073,100 allowance sounds high, it does not just capture the ultra-wealthy.

All UK pension benefits outside the State Pension are counted, including everything accumulated over a working lifetime. After decades of pension contributions, compounding interest, investment growth and tax relief, the limit may be closer than you think.

For 'final salary' (defined benefit) pension schemes, the usual measure of value is 20x the annual income due. Generally this means those with pensions worth £53,655+ a year would be affected today.

## What are the LTA penalties?

Once total pension funds exceed the allowance limit, tax is payable whenever you access your money – technically called a 'benefit crystallisation event' – at rates of 55% for lump sums and 25% for income or transfers to an overseas pension. This is on top of any other tax payable.

Being resident in Spain offers no protection. The double tax treaty rules do not apply here – the LTA tax is applied in the UK first and cannot

be claimed back.

## How can you check your LTA position?

Calculating how much of your allowance you have used is not always straightforward, especially for final salary pensions, so check your position with your provider or adviser.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) will first test your allowance status when you start drawing your pension, then every time you access funds and when you turn 75. If you die before 75, any lump sums paid to your beneficiaries are subject to the LTA test and tax penalties.

## How can you protect your pensions?

While it is possible to obtain 'protection' from HMRC to secure a higher limit, strict conditions apply.

Expatriates have the option of transferring UK pension funds to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS). If you transfer one or more UK pensions into a QROPS and your total benefits are under £1.073 million, you will not face LTA taxes on the transfer.

However, make sure the QROPS is within the European Economic Area (EEA), otherwise you would still lose 25% through the 'overseas transfer charge'.

Once in a QROPS, funds are out of reach of LTA penalties, no matter how much you have or how you access it. A suitable QROPS can also provide tax-efficiency, currency flexibility and estate planning benefits.

Another option is to explore taking your UK pension as cash and reinvesting it into a tax-efficient Spanish-compliant arrangement. Again, this can unlock other benefits not usually available with UK pensions.

## Reviewing your options

Before making any major pension decisions, it is crucial to take regulated, personalised advice to determine the most suitable approach for you.

What if you are already over the limit? While you would trigger an immediate 25% LTA charge on a QROPS transfer, the funds become immune to further penalties. If you instead transferred to a UK scheme,

like a Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP), you would not trigger immediate taxation but the funds would remain liable. The 25% or 55% LTA penalties would become payable whenever you take benefits and apply to heirs inheriting the pension.

If you are close to the threshold, consider acting sooner rather than later. Your pension funds should continue to grow while the lifetime allowance remains frozen – or, worse, reduced, so you could potentially avoid unnecessary taxation by taking steps now.

A regulated adviser with cross-border experience can help you explore your options and take advantage of tax-efficient opportunities to help secure a comfortable retirement in Spain.

*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.*

# Could you pay wealth tax on your pension?

Wealthier residents in Spain are subject to an annual wealth tax on their worldwide assets. Although pension plans are generally listed as exempt, a 2019 binding ruling by the Spanish Directorate-General for Tax concluded that non-EU pension plans do **not** qualify for the wealth tax exemption.

Following Brexit, this could now impact British expatriates if your pension funds push you above the wealth tax threshold. You could try defending your pension with the tax authority or consider transferring into an EU pension plan or QROPS. Contact your local Blevins Franks adviser for personalised, regulated advice, to make sure you do what is right for you.



## Talk to the people who know

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Some of the graffiti sprayed on a building's façade. **CNP**

## Covid-denier arrested for damage worth 25,000 euros

**JUAN CANO.** National Police officers in Malaga have arrested a 70-year-old Spanish man who is accused of causing more than 25,000 euros worth of damage after allegedly painting anti-coronavirus graffiti on buildings in the city.

The man, who the police consider to be a Covid-denier, is accused of daubing messages such as "Covid-19 doesn't exist" and "TV is the virus" on more than a hundred façades of housing blocks, schools and commercial premises.

## Two police officers save the life of a disabled man in Benalmádena

**JUAN CANO.** Two quick-thinking National Police officers have been credited with saving the life of a disabled man in Benalmádena after a fire broke out in the kitchen of his home. The 48-year-old man couldn't escape the blaze from where he was on the first floor by the stairs so he made his way to the balcony.

A caller had alerted the emergency services to the fire at 7.45am on Saturday morning, warning that a large amount of smoke was coming from the property and there could be people trapped inside.

The person who had made the emergency call told them that a married couple lived in that house, although the woman was away on holiday.

## Holidaying police officers rescue a man from the bottom of a hotel pool

The pair pulled him from the water and performed resuscitation manoeuvres on the victim who wasn't breathing and didn't have a pulse

**J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS**

**MALAGA.** A couple of National Police officers from Madrid, who were holidaying with their family in Torremolinos, have helped save the life of an elderly man who was spotted lying at the bottom of a hotel swimming pool.

With the help of another guest, they pulled the victim out of the pool and began resuscitation manoeuvres until he regained consciousness and was transferred to hospital by paramedics.

The incident happened last Tuesday at around 1.20pm at the Sol Don Pablo hotel in the Costa del Sol resort.

Once the man was pulled from the pool, the off-duty officers checked for the vital signs of the man, who was unconscious and

The Sol Don Pablo hotel. **SUR**

a bluish colour.

Immediately they began to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the victim.

After a few minutes, the man regained a weak pulse and began to breathe unaided, before gradually regaining consciousness.

Paramedics, who arrived on the scene, congratulated the two officers for their swift action and told them that it had been decisive in saving the victim's life.

### IN BRIEF

#### NERJA

### A gardener dies after a palm tree falls on him

**A. NOGUÉS / E. CABEZAS.** A 54-year-old worker died on Tuesday in Nerja when a tree that he was cutting down fell on him, according to the 112 Andalucía emergency services control centre.

The accident happened just after 9.30am. A witness called 112 to report that a man was trapped under a palm tree that had fallen on him near the Chíllar river on the outskirts of Nerja.

#### MIJAS COSTA

### British driver arrested after motorway chase

**F. TORRES / J. CANO.** A 32-year-old British driver has been accused of ramming into a police car in Mijas, sparking a high-speed chase along the AP-7 motorway. Several other cars were hit.

The incident unfolded late on Sunday 5 September when a Guardia Civil patrol stopped the driver of an Audi A4 in the Riviera area. As the officers got out of their vehicle to identify the driver he fled the scene, hitting the police car.

Dogs had infestations of ticks. **SUR**

#### CASABERMEJA

### A possible case of animal abuse under investigation

**F. TORRES / J. CANO.** Police are investigating a possible case of animal abuse after two puppies, "on the verge of death" and living in "deplorable" conditions, were removed from their owners in Casabermeja. A tip-off from a concerned neighbour led officers from the Guardia Civil's Seprona branch to the farm in Malaga province. They removed two puppies from their owners, and the animals, now undergoing veterinary treatment, are safe in the hands of local association Ladram.



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## Words of love which have survived the passage of time

### CASARES

Workers at the area's waste management plant have found a letter written by a young man on military service to his girlfriend 47 years ago

### JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

For a while now, the Costa del Sol waste management centre in Casares has made announcements about items in good condition which have been found among the rubbish from the 11 different local municipalities which is handled by the plant.

Jewellery and coins are among the most common items, and this year one piece of jewellery has already been returned to its rightful owner.

Now, however, one of the workers at the plant has rescued something with a sentimental value which could equal that of the most precious jewel. It is a letter written by a soldier to his girlfriend in 1974, which is still very legible. In it the young man, who it seems was doing his military service in Santurce, expresses all his love and affection for the girl, and says he can hardly wait to see her again.

The only information to be gleaned from the letter is the sol-



A photo of the letter which was found among the rubbish. **SUR**

dier's location and his age - he was 22 when he wrote it. It is dated 21 April 1974. There is nothing to indicate his name or that of its recipient, nor the address to which it was sent. It consists of three folded pages which the sorter at the plant found on the solid waste classification belt and decided to

separate from the rest because she found it interesting.

In the letter, the young soldier announces that it would only be 19 more Sundays until they would be together again, and then they could get married "and be together forever. You will see how happy we are going to be," he wrote.

Among other curiosities in the text, he tells her he has cut his hair, so his future in-laws could no longer refer to him as "that hippie". From the conversation, it seems that his girlfriend's parents didn't consider him good enough for her. He insists that he has changed and asks her to convince her parents that this is a serious relationship. "It's logical that they don't trust me right now, because if they did it would show that they didn't really care about you," he says, then "tell them from me to try to get to know me a bit more now. If after a while they still feel the same about me, I will go, if I really am not going to make you happy, although I know that is not going to happen".

The letter ends with a reminder that in 127 days they would be together again, "this time forever". It will be kept at the plant as a curiosity. It is unusual for anything made of paper or cardboard to still be intact if it is deposited in with general rubbish and not the recycling container.

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Image of the inauguration of the newly renovated link to Cancelada. **SUR**

## Cancelada traffic link in Estepona is fully reopen

### ESTEPONA

The government delegate in Andalucía presided over the opening ceremony after the infrastructure repair works, which were finished early

#### JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

ESTEPONA. After several months of work by the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, traffic on the Cancelada junction on the A-7 motorway in Estepona has been flowing again. The central government delegate in Andalucía, Pedro Fernández, attended the inauguration ceremony

of the recently renovated infrastructure, commenting that the works had been completed two months early. "A 33% reduction in the planned work time, with the importance that this implies for the 50,000 users who use this point of the A-7 motorway every day," he said.

The Cancelada junction allows access to several population centers on both sides of the road and to a series of surrounding beaches.

This measure forced users to make the U-turn three kilometres later, at the Benahavís junction, "a situation that complicated traffic in an area with high mobility, hence the government decided to carry out an emergency complete repair of the overpass, amounting to 774,773 euros and 6 months of execution".

## New office in drive to improve tourist services in Fuengirola

### FUENGIROLA

T. BRYANT. Fuengirola town hall has announced a project to construct a new municipal tourist office on the Paseo Marítimo in Los Boliches. The initiative is part of a pledge by the mayor, Ana Mula, to improve tourist information services in the town. The old offices (Paseo Jesús Santos Rein) are considered to be impractical because of their location.

As indicated by the mayor, the implementation of the new facility has a budget of more than 300,000 euros and an initial execution period of three months.

The new facilities, explained councillor for Tourism Rodrigo Romero, "will be modern and will have all the necessary resources to provide an excellent service to our visitors."



R. Romero



The mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, visited the site. **SUR**

## San Pedro sports centre put out to tender for 5.7 million euros

### MARBELLA

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS. Marbella council has put out to tender the construction of the new indoor sports hall in San Pedro Alcántara for almost 5.7 million euros. It is a new facility that will be located on a 5,000-square-metre municipal plot on Calle Lyon, in the southern extension to San

Pedro, and will have an area of 4,300 square metres. The project consists of two floors in which natural light will predominate with a unique roof and a large multipurpose central court.

The work will need to be carried out within 15 months once the contract has been awarded.

The mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, explained, "it will become a benchmark in an expanding area thanks to state-of-the-art design and a commitment to energy efficiency."

The chosen plot has easy access from the Mediterranean motorway and from San Pedro's main boulevard.

## Three new works of urban art for Torremolinos mural route

### TORREMOLINOS

T. BRYANT. Torremolinos has bolstered its reputation as a serious cultural destination with the addition of three new murals that have been painted on the façades of prominent edifices. The recently inaugurated mural route already boasts numerous colourful graffiti-style paintings of John Lennon, Frank



The new Ava Gardner mural. **SUR**

Sinatra, Camarón de la Isla and Picasso, just a few of the iconic celebrities who have become part of the town's cultural history.

The new murals include An Oasis in Torremolinos, a four-

metre-high work by local artist Ana Cortés, known by her artistic name of Bosska. The colourful work, which is located in the neighbourhood of El Calvario, represents freedom and diversity and is part of a project to revitalise spaces in residential areas of the town.

Ava Gardner, painted by graffiti artist NESUI SRC, is another new piece of urban art that now adorns the façade of the Hotel Princesa Solar, while the San Miguel Health Clinic was chosen by graphic humourist Idígoras, whose work highlights the dedicated support of the health workers during the coronavirus pandemic.

## Vital donation for Cudeca homecare teams

The Mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, and members of his council visited the Cudeca Hospice last week to donate 15,000 euros to help support the charity's homecare programme. Cudeca has experienced a recent rise in demand for its homecare teams and these funds will help it to continue providing much needed help and support to those in the final stage of life.



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Red from top to bottom - Simon Kinnersley, director, poses with equipment at the plant in Málaga. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

# A hundred years of the 'colorao' factory

It's no use trying to fight the red. "It's best to just embrace it," advises Simon Kinnersley, the director of Óxidos Rojos de Málaga. That's what he did some time ago now, and he seems to have blended into this strange place. Everything here - the floor, ceiling, walls, machinery, workers and even the office furniture and birds that rest on the ceiling beams - are covered in a vermillion dust; the surface of Mars must look like this. It also reminds you a bit of the Wild West films.

This businessman greets his visitors from his digger, dressed in a tattered pink tee-shirt and shorts that may once have been blue. His naturally pale skin - he is a foreigner by birth, although he says he feels 'malagueño' - is tinged with an earthy hue which has nothing to do with the sunbathing which is enjoyed by so many retired Brits on the Costa del Sol.

Now aged 70, he comes to work at 7 o'clock every morning along with his six employees at this unusual factory which produces 5,000 tonnes of high quality natural red pigments a year and exports them halfway round the world.

**Industry.** Óxidos Rojos de Málaga has always been owned by the same British family and still sells the same product: Spanish red

NURIA TRIGUERO

Óxidos Rojos de Málaga is probably the only surviving company from the era of industrial splendour enjoyed by the province in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was founded in 1905 by a British investor called Norman Stuart Kinnersley - Simon's grandfather - who came from Somerset to seek his fortune, although it was not until 1921 that the business was formally set up and registered. That's why they are celebrating its centenary this year, and they are still going strong: 90 per cent of the factory's production is exported to over 30 countries and turnover is expected to reach a record high this year, around two million euros.

The original production plant was in Huelin, in Calle Héroe de Sostoa. It eventually had more than 100 employees and in the 1970s it moved to the Guadalorce industrial estate, where it remains today. It immediately became known as the 'colorao' factory. It still does today what it used to do a century ago: grinds the iron oxide extracted from Andalusian mines to obtain what is known as 'Spanish red', a natural, economical, durable and non-toxic pow-

dered pigment with numerous uses. Now, of course, they use more machinery, with fewer workers and in accordance with strict quality protocols.

## One colour, a thousand uses

The head of exports, Raúl Sánchez, says there are many uses for the Oxired powder, which is its brand name. "Painting ships, anti-corrosive coatings, roof tiles, bricks, concrete and cement (sports tracks and cycle paths get their characteristic colour from ferric oxide), fertilisers, animal food, to name a few," he says. But it has some unusual uses, too: in the past it has been used as a food colouring and for cosmetics. There is even evidence that in the mid-20th century in Kenya it was imported for use as body paint in traditional dances. Now, researchers from Malaga university who have been contracted by the company are looking for innovative applications for the product, which is in fact the same one used by Homo Sapiens to decorate the Altamira cave.

In those boom days of industry in Malaga in the 1920s other companies, also financed by foreign

◀ **History.** When it began, the factory was in Huelin and at one time over 100 people worked there. **SUR**

▼ **Raw material.** The ferric oxide is obtained by grinding the stones which arrive from a mine in Cordoba province. **M. FERNÁNDEZ**



capital, produced the coveted 'Spanish red' as well, but over time only this one remained, and not just in Malaga but in the whole of Spain. What is extraordinary is that it is still in the hands of the same British family: the heirs of Norman Stuart Kinnersley, represented in the Golden Valley Colours company, which was and still is the 100 per cent shareholder in Óxidos Rojos de Málaga.

The family character of this unusual industry is not just reflected in its ownership: the jobs have also passed from fathers to sons. One of the oldest employees, Francisco Ojeda, has been making 'colorao' for over 30 years, just as his father did before him. And the only woman on the staff, Isabel Bautista, who is the head of administration and quality, has been there for 21 years and her uncle, Antonio González, was the factory manager for three decades.

"This really is a family business and all the employees have been here a long time, so we almost think of it as ours," she says.

The present director of Óxidos Rojos de Málaga is the grandson of the founder, which some peo-

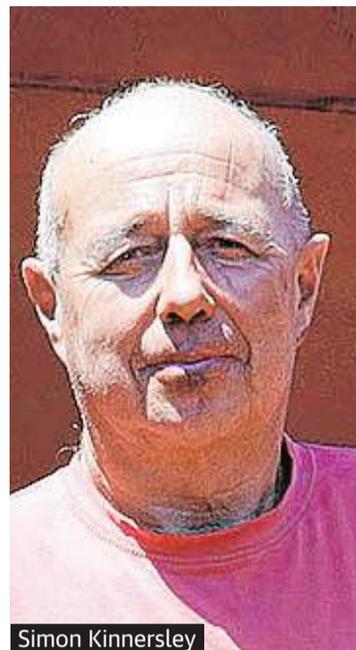
## From show business reporter in UK to grinding stones in Malaga

**N. T.**

**MALAGA.** Simon Kinnersley appears to be part of the Martian landscape of Óxidos Rojos de Málaga, but he has not always ground stones in this 100-year-old business. In another life he was a freelance journalist in the UK, working for the Daily Mail and the Sun, among other big names, and from the 1970s to 1990s he did a bit of everything: he began as a music critic and for a time he specialised in show business. Famous actors and singers gave him interviews, but "the street", as he puts it, was calling him. He was a war reporter, covered the fam-

ine in Somalia and the outbreak of the Aids pandemic, reported on domestic violence when it was seen as "women's stuff" and also tried sports journalism. He was never on the staff, "so I could always write what I wanted," he says.

When the professional conditions in the sector became worse, he decided to embark on a new adventure: refloating the family business, an industry about which he knew nothing in a country he had rarely visited. Now, at the age of 70, he has no interest in retiring. Simon - or Simón, as he calls himself - loves Malaga: he likes going for tapas in the different



Simon Kinnersley

districts of the city, his friends are local, and he is a member of Malaga CF.

## Staff shortage causes Covid health control chaos at Malaga Airport

**MATÍAS STUBER**

**MALAGA.** Long queues and crowds greeted flyers who arrived at Malaga airport on Sunday night when the Covid health control system collapsed, as the result of ten international flights arriving in a two-hour slot.

The two channels were insufficient to process the flow of travellers and hour-long queues were generated, admitted airport operator, Aena, saying it was a "one-off" event, since the arrival of several flights coincided in a short period of time.

Aena pointed out that, because of the Covid situation, "You have to monitor a lot of people, take the temperature of everyone who arrives and check the vaccination passports."

The airport operator said the coronavirus measures contract was awarded to companies Mitie and Quirón. The former is in charge of the administrative part of the process and the latter of the health side of the operation.

In the event that a passenger does not pass the temperature control, they are transferred to a room for a more exhaustive examination and where it is decided whether to notify Junta de Andalucía health authorities or not.

"We have already spoken with the companies awarded the contract about increasing staffing, especially when several planes are expected to arrive at the same time," said the airport spokeswoman.

Rachel O'Shea was one traveller from Ireland who posted a video on social media saying: "Welcome to the Covid control at Malaga airport."

The strict health protocols and the lack of sufficient personnel at the controls caused exactly what is intended to be avoided throughout the pandemic: many people together and without any social distancing in an enclosed place.

The incident was widely reported by the press in Britain.

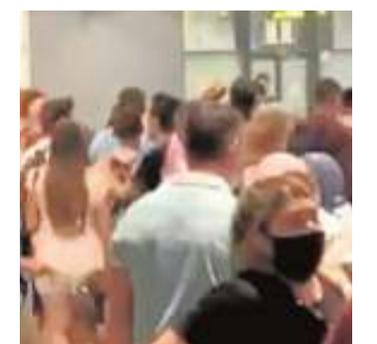


Image of airport crowding in Malaga on Sunday. **SUR**

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ple might think would make the policy of the company pretty conservative. However, that isn't Simon Kinnersley's personality.

When he arrived in Malaga 16 years ago to take over a business about which he knew nothing ("not about the way it functioned, anyway," he admits), the company was in a difficult situation. "We needed some major investment. I came because I didn't want the company to close after such a long history: it survived the First World War, the Civil War, the Second World War... we needed to keep it going," he says, and with "energy, passion and new ideas" he convinced the owners to invest the one and a half million euros necessary to renew the production line.

There was also a stroke of luck. The most essential part of the factory is the mill where the stones are ground to extract the red oxide. Buying a new one would have cost a fortune and the shareholders were not prepared to pay it. Simon found an alternative, almost by magic.

# 1921

is the year when Óxidos Rojos de Málaga was formally registered as a company

# 2 million

euros is expected to be the company's record turnover this year

"We were driving through the countryside in Jaén and we saw a huge machine abandoned in a field. I had a hunch about it, and we went to ask what it was. They said I could have it for 8,000 euros, but I didn't know if it was what we were looking for or whether it worked. I found an expert in this type of equipment: a British man who was living in the USA. I sent him photos of it by email and he said there was no doubt about it, that it was a fantastic machine and would last for

decades. And it is still working today," he says proudly.

The Óxidos Rojos family is looking ahead with optimism, as they celebrate the company's centenary. "We're sure we have a great future. Now, at last, sustainability is a priority concern and our product is more attractive than ever, because it is a natural, cheap and non-toxic alternative to synthetic pigments," says Raúl Sánchez.

In contrast to the simple production method of 'Spanish red' (drying and grinding ferric oxide, one of the most abundant minerals on the Earth's surface), synthetic pigments are made by burning scrap metal in Asian countries, with the toxicity that that implies.

Also, the company is guaranteed a supply of its raw material for some time: it has its own mining concession in Priego de Córdoba and the vein they are exploiting at present will go on for decades. The 'colorao' factory is prepared to continue for at least another hundred years, colouring the world red.

# Torre del Mar to look to the skies for the first time in two years

The international air show will be taking place this weekend, having been cancelled last year due to Covid-19

**EUGENIO CABEZAS**

**TORRE DEL MAR.** One of the most anticipated and popular events on the Costa del Sol will make a return this weekend after it was cancelled last year because of the Covid-19 crisis.

On 10, 11 and 12 September the Torre del Mar Air Festival will return to the skies above the town's beach, with around 35 aircraft taking part in the flying displays.

Aerobatics display teams Aspa and Águila will feature and a Spanish Eurofighter jet will also be taking to the Axarquía skies from Friday onwards. In addition, on Sunday, the big day, there will be Guardia Civil and National Police force exhibitions.

The director of the Festival, Pablo González, has said that this



The last Torre del Mar air show took place in July 2019. **SUR**

year's event will include "many new things", noting that there will be "nine participants that have never been to Torre del Mar and others that have never been seen anywhere".

In terms of the programme, all the training sessions will take place on Friday, from 9am to 6pm. Saturday will be free for the pi-

lots to rest and Sunday will be the festival itself, starting from 10.30am and running until 3.15pm. A free shuttle bus will be made available from the El Ingenio shopping centre.

Deputy Mayor Jesús Pérez Atencia said that the beaches will be "subdivided to control numbers".

## Vélez-Málaga's Red Cross starts to extend services

**J. RHODES**

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the Red Cross (Cruz Roja) in Vélez-Málaga, which also runs an English-language service, was forced to suspend many services and activities.

However, volunteer Richard Weale has told SUR that the char-

ity is now able to extend some of the services that it provided beforehand.

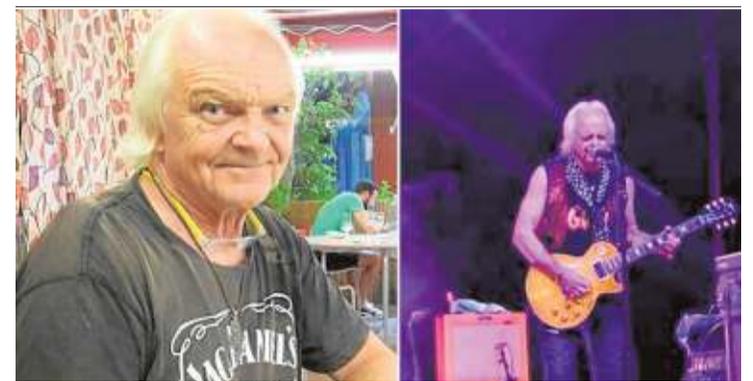
"As the situation improves, it is hoped that the Red Cross can gradually offer more services and activities," he said.

In the meantime, Richard confirms that the charity is now able to offer the loan of physical aids

such as wheelchairs, crutches, walking frames, and beds. "There is no charge for the loan of these items and, apart from the beds, they are normally in stock and available at relatively short notice."

Lifts to attend important appointments such as medical check-ups and the supply and installation of emergency help alarms are also now available. Richard noted that there is a charge for the alarm service. For further information and help, contact: email: 29094social@cruzroja.es or phone: 952 50 03 21.

## HERE AND THERE



Jonathan 'Pix' Pickford was a member of band GU!R!. **J. RAMSAY-WHALE**

**ALMOGÍA**

### Body found in search for missing British musician

**J. CANO / F. TORRES.** Authorities found the body of man on Monday morning during their search for British musician Jonathan 'Pix' Pickford, who was reported missing on 29 August.

Pickford had failed to return to his home in Torre del Mar after spending time with friends in the Viñuela area.

Jo Ramsay-W hale, a friend of Pix, whose social media post sparked the initial hunt, posted an update on Facebook saying, "He has been found, in the area of his van. He's not alive. Thanks to all who helped to find him x"

Pickford was well-known in the Axarquía area as a member of rock band GU!R!. The body was found on one of the banks of the La Oliva stream, in the Los Moras area, some 300 metres from where his van and dogs had been found the previous Friday.

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

### Water 'highway' is 60 per cent complete

**E. C.** During a visit to the Axarquía last week, Junta de Andalucía president Juanma Moreno told subtropical fruit growers that the regional government was "making a great effort," to complete the work to connect the province's western and eastern reservoirs, via a "water highway". Moreno said that work on the first phase in Churriana is 60 per cent complete. He added that another section is being planned and two more will be put out to tender this month. "Unfortunately water is not falling from the sky, there has been 30 per cent less rainfall since 1980," he pointed out.

**MARO**

### Environmentalists warn of sunscreen risk

**E. C.** Environmental group Gena - Ecologistas en Acción has written to Malaga's provincial authority to warn of the risk to the protected Maro cliffs area of the use of sunscreen by bathers.

In the letter the group urges the authority to close the area to the public as a preventive measure "in view of the more than proven problem of pollution by commonly used sunscreens". According to Gena, marine life affected includes sea urchin, mussels, octopus, and crabs but it adds, "There is no doubt that many other as yet unstudied species can also be affected."





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September brings the end of summer and the return to work, school and routines. It's time to prepare uniforms, pencil cases, books and backpacks so that children and youngsters are ready to start the new 2021-2022 school year with their batteries fully charged. This can cause real nightmares for parents though, as they have little time to gather a long list of items and equipment which will cost a fair amount of money.

With ease of purchase in mind, and always aiming to provide the best prices, Carrefour has prepared for the return to school with a wide range of items to meet the needs of all its customers. Parents will be able to find everything they need in the hypermarkets in Estepona, Fuengirola, Mijas, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce to kit their students out for school, from uniforms, sportswear and footwear to books, stationery or bottles and lunchboxes to make their school breakfasts more sustainable.

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## A show of support?



The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has dismissed a case against Spain brought by two Catalan citizens who were seeking condemnation of the Spanish government's intervention in the independence referendum of October 1st 2017 (1-0). Coming just ahead of Catalonia's National Day (Diada) tomorrow, it's a setback for the region's secessionists, who have repeatedly requested that external bodies such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, of which the ECHR is part, support their bid to break from Spain.

The ECHR ruled that Spanish police violated no human rights in their treatment of voters throughout Catalonia on 1-0. This seems to clash with the verdict of Human Rights Watch, an international monitoring organisation that conducted on-the-ground research immediately after the referendum and concluded that police had used "excessive force" - although one could argue that, depending on how "excessive force" is defined, it doesn't necessarily amount to a violation of fundamental rights.

The Catalan independence movement is also being sullied by investigations allegedly revealing its attempts to secure Russian backing. A recently unveiled EU intelligence report has found that Josep Lluís Alay, a history professor at the University of Barcelona and senior advisor to self-exiled former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, visited Russian officials and former intelligence officers in Moscow throughout 2019.

The goal of these meetings, says the report, was to obtain

Russian support for Catalonia's attempts to secede from the rest of Spain. Later text messages also seem to show Catalan separatists to be concerned about aggravating Russia: when Puigdemont expressed solidarity with the pro-democracy Belarusian opposition, his lawyer texted Alay saying "we will have to tell the Russians that this was just to mislead". Why would they want to do that if the purpose of the Moscow trips was journalistic, as Alay and Puigdemont claim it was?

Current, pro-independence Catalan president Pere Aragonès denies knowledge of the visits to Russia, but they may still complicate the latest round of negotiations with PM Pedro Sánchez, due to start next week. When these talks were scheduled in June, Aragonès said they were likely to be "the most difficult negotiations in all of contemporary history". Given the apparent irreconcilability of the secessionists' demands and the Spanish government's baseline position, this is perhaps not as big an overstatement as it seems.

Covid-induced restrictions resulted in a neutered Diada last year, with several separate events attended by a total of around 60,000 people. But in 2019, only about 600,000 people marched in favour of Catalan independence, one of the lowest turnouts in eight years. Tomorrow's Diada, the first since thirteen imprisoned secessionist leaders were pardoned in June, will indicate how much support remains for secession, as well as being a celebration of the freedom to hold street-based gatherings again, regardless of their political significance.



Houses in the central Madrid district of Malasaña this week. EP

## 'Homophobic crime' sees war of words between left and right-wing parties

**SUR.** The political left and right were this week embroiled in a very bitter war of words over a disturbing homophobic attack, which in the end turned out to have been invented by the alleged victim to hide the real story.

At the start of the week, a 20-year-old man reported that he had been set on at the door to his home in the Malasaña area of Madrid by eight hooded men who hurled homophobic abuse and assaulted him, including marking on his bottom the word

'maricón' (poofter) with a knife.

Politicians on all sides condemned the attack and activist groups called demonstrations.

Left-wing parties, particularly, linked the attack quickly to alleged anti-diversity views by far-right Vox party.

Among many comments from senior politicians, Interior Minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska told media that Vox was "a worrying breeding ground". Vox leaders strongly condemned their political opponents and spoke out forcibly against the attack.

On Wednesday, the young man confessed that the damage to his body had been part of a consensual sadomasochistic act.

Vox has called for the minister to resign after using the "fake" attack for "political purposes".



A branch of Banco Sabadell in Barcelona. REUTERS (FILE IMAGE)

## Banco Sabadell looks to shut nearly a third of its branches across Spain

**COLPISA.** One of Spain's biggest high-street banks is proposing to close 320 branches, affecting almost 31 per cent of its network across the country.

If the plans go through, some 1,900 employees of Banco Sabadell, around 12.5 per cent of the 15,000 workforce in Spain, would lose their jobs.

Sabadell said on Tuesday that, of the 320 branches to go, some 176 would be converted to offer basic services via ATM cash

machines.

Some 1,639 branch-office employees would be affected by the cuts, according to union sources, while the rest of the jobs, around 260, would be lost from corporate centres and corporate services.

Sabadell has blamed the cuts on a search for greater profitability and the need to transform its business model. It has set out an objective of reducing its costs by 100 million euros.

The CCOO union said that it rejects "all the explanations given" and "unlike management, seeks other alternatives to this process".

The union has also criticised the "millionaire salaries" of management and alleges that new staff hiring has been carried out during 2021.

## Traditional-leaning bishop resigns post over his love for a satanic-erotic book author

**A. PANIAGUARMA.** The Bishop of Solsona, in Catalonia, has resigned his position for love, it has been revealed. Xavier Novell had already said he was stepping down but until this week the reason was unknown.

The bishop has met Silvia Caballol-Clemente, a physiologist and writer - including of two satanic-erotic novels - who is divorced and with two children.

Novell in the past has not hidden his sympathy for independence in Catalonia and has defended conversion therapy for homosexuals.



Xavier Novell.

The Diocese of Solana has not commented, saying the resignation is private. But Fermí Manteca, a priest in the diocese, was shocked by the abrupt departure given Novell's conservative beliefs. "Going off with a woman all of a sudden is a reason to be surprised," he said.

## Government to 'hurry up' with its proposed moves to stem record rises in electricity prices

**J. M. CAMARERO.** The national government is to speed up its measures to bring relief to customers as wholesale electricity costs for those on the floating, regulated tariff continue to break records.

On Tuesday this week, the Ministry for Ecological Transition said it was almost ready to unveil its ideas.

The government under Pedro Sánchez wants to get the average electricity bill in homes down to levels last seen in 2018, around 68 euros a month on average.

Measures are likely to include boosting support for vulnerable people and the creation of ways for the big energy providers to sell to small industrial customers at a different fixed price.

The opposition PP party has proposed a law to parliament to reduce bills by 20 per cent.

The price of wholesale electricity, which makes up part of a household bill, is expected to keep rising this weekend.

### IN BRIEF

#### ZARAGOZA

### Cadet dies of heat stroke at top military academy

**C. VEGA** A 22-year-old cadet from Gijón, identified with the initials PJS, died on Monday at the General Military Academy of Zaragoza as a result of suffering heat stroke during manoeuvres. The young man had been with his companions carrying out an instruction and training exercise.

#### LOGROÑO

### Babies swapped by hospital at birth in 2002

**SUR.** A woman is claiming 3m euros in compensation from the local health authority in Logroño, northern Spain, for the "human error" which saw two recently born babies swapped by staff in the incubation ward at a now-closed hospital in 2002. The woman suing says she never got to live with her real parents.



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## IN BRIEF

## CRIME

**Court grants confiscation of money-laundering cash**

**D.B.** The Supreme Court has granted an order in civil proceedings for the confiscation of over £1.7 million in cash which was seized by the Royal Gibraltar Police as part of a money laundering investigation against the tobacco wholesaler South-east Limited. This follows a long investigation by the RGP's Money Laundering Investigation Unit after a robbery at the wholesaler's premises in New Harbours, in 2016.

A further £450,000 was also ordered to be paid by the respondents to cover the costs of forensic accountants who had been contracted to assist with the investigation.

The funds will be confiscated by the Court and dealt with by an official receiver appointed by the Court, and will go to the Government of Gibraltar. A police spokesperson said this order was a vindication of the unit's hard work and dedication over a number of years, and that the order will show the international community that Gibraltar takes money laundering seriously.

## WILDLIFE

**Dolphin rescued from inside silt curtain**

**D.B.** The Gibraltar Environmental Protection and Research unit assisted a dolphin which was in distress last Friday after it became trapped inside the silt curtain next to the Small Boats Marina. The alarm was raised around 9am. Upon inspection, the dolphin appeared to be in good condition and divers were used to open the silt curtain to enable it to escape. It finally managed to leave at 4.30pm.

## HISTORY

**Calpe Conference from 23 to 25 September**

**D.B.** This year's Calpe Conference, which is organised by the Gibraltar National Museum, will take place from 23 to 25 September at the University and is on the subject of the Iberian Neanderthals. Anyone who would like to attend must register first, via the Museum's website. Registration is free for Gibraltar residents. There will be strict adherence to current Covid-19 rules throughout.



National Day usually is the biggest day in the Gibraltar calendar. **SUR**

# National Day in Gibraltar on 10 September

be clear in that negotiation: Only we will decide who enters or does not enter Gibraltar. We will never cede that decision making power to anyone," the message reads.

The reference to the Gibraltar authorities deciding who enters or does not enter is a bone of contention in the EU's draft negotiating mandate for the forthcoming talks. Under the New Year's Eve agreement-in-principle, which forms the negotiating position of Gibraltar, UK and Spain, if Gibraltar is granted access to the Schengen area, the Schengen border would be manned by the EU's Frontex force and the information sent remotely to Spain, which is officially responsible for control of that border. This is because the Gibraltar government made it very clear that it would never accept Spanish security forces on its territory.

However, when the EU's draft negotiating mandate was published, it said that Spanish officers would control the border, which would be at Gibraltar airport and port, which Gibraltar and UK insist is completely unacceptable.

**Land border**

If a treaty can be agreed - and Picardo insists that he is still optimistic that it can - the land border between Gibraltar and Spain would be abolished, but anyone arriving in Gibraltar by air or sea will pass through a control manned by the Gibraltar Borders Agency, exactly as they do at present, before reaching the Schengen control.

The Gibraltar government has always been clear that these negotiations will not be easy, but for one day at least, Friday 10 September, the mood will be lighter as Gibraltarians young and old celebrate who they are and their love for the very special place in which they live.

And as Picardo also said as he concluded his message: "See you in Casemates in 2022, the 55th anniversary of the referendum."

**Low key.** This is a day of huge celebration, commemorating the 1967 referendum and right to self-determination, but Covid has stopped the party again this year



**DEBBIE BARTLETT**

September 10th is a red-letter day in the Gibraltar calendar as it is National Day, and indeed Gibraltar itself normally turns red and white as the population dress in the national colours for the annual celebrations.

This year, like 2020, these celebrations will be muted because of the coronavirus pandemic. There will be no political rally in Casemates Square, no crowds, no live music and dance performances, no huge parties, as the entertainment will all be televised, but one thing will remain the same as every year: the Gibraltarians' determination to remain British.

This is highlighted in chief minister Fabian Picardo's National Day message, a copy of which was released to the press on Thursday. In it, he refers to the negotiations regarding Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union, and also to the referendum held on 10 September 1967 when the people of Gibraltar made it very clear that they wanted to stay British and accept no control from

Spain.

"On the 10th September 1967 we made a choice. We chose to remain British. And today we commemorate and celebrate that choice. In the same way as our forefathers said then, we are clear. This land is our land. The soil of Gibraltar belongs to no one but the people of Gibraltar. The soil of Gibraltar will belong to no one but the people of Gibraltar. No one but the Gibraltarians will decide the future of this, our land. And we will never make or permit any concessions on our sovereignty. We will preserve and maintain full jurisdiction and control over our land and every part of our sea and air. That is not just our position. It is the position of the United Kingdom too. And in the months to come we - alongside the UK - will negotiate commercial and immigration arrangements with the EU which will not impinge on sovereignty in any way. We will negotiate a future treaty that we will agree only if it is in keeping with the New Year's Eve Agreement. And we will

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THE BIGGER PICTURE  
JEREMY BLATCH

# 'Nothing is as permanent as a temporary government spending programme'

✉ [jb@ehh.gi](mailto:jb@ehh.gi)



**E**conomist Milton Friedman was right about 'temporary' government spending. In 1803, the UK government devised income tax as a temporary measure to pay for the Napoleonic Wars. It's still here! In 1971, President Nixon removed the physical gold backing of the US dollar. He promised in his speech to the nation that it would be temporary and that the move would stabilize the currency. Fifty years later, the US dollar is not only unstable, but it has lost around 95% of its value against gold since Nixon made the announcement!

Meanwhile, since 1971, gold has returned to the investor a gain of approximately 4,457% or an 8% compound annual growth on capital, outperforming the S&P 500 Index of large US businesses over the same period. Gold is a proven hedge against the destruction of the USD's purchasing power. Since 1971, the history of gold and the case for gold ownership has not been taught in economics classes nor included in MBA or FCA curriculum. It's as if gold has disappeared from the financial system, when in fact it has never gone away. Whilst he was Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank, Alan Greenspan disparaged gold, but in his book *The Map and the Territory 2.0*, he admits that gold is the real asset underpinning the international monetary system.

The gold price moves on fear and uncertainty, and since the financial crash of 2009, central banks around the world have been aggressive buyers of gold. China is the world's largest producer and importer of gold to hedge their position in US Treasuries and the USD. Because they do not file with the World Gold Council, we can only guess at their current reserves, guarded by the People's Liberation Army under a mountain somewhere in China. Meanwhile the US holds around 11,000 metric tons, which are stored at Fort Knox and West Point. Recently Brazil, Thailand and Russia, along with

EU countries like Hungary and Poland, have increased their reserves of gold. Do they know something we don't?

Investors should own gold as insurance in a long-term investment strategy. If an allocation of 10% to gold declines by 20%,

this results in an overall loss of 2%, which is hardly a catastrophe. But if this 10% allocation gains 500%, it will go a long way

to protect other risk assets. Since 1971, we have experienced two bull markets (rising prices), during which the gold price gained 2,000% and 700%. Both cycles lasted about ten or eleven years. Currently, we are four years into a third bull market in gold with some six years left to run, if history 'rhymes'.

Sensible investors own physical gold, avoid any counterparty risk and allocate 10% of their net worth to avoid instability caused by our governments.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Bank robbers

With reference to Nuria Trigueros's excellent article last week (August 27th 2021) on bank charges.

I have been with a bank for 21 years (It shall remain nameless, but has red and green in its logo). I had a sizeable investment in a bond for 5 years. When it matured the interest accrued was 22 euros, or 4.40 euros per year to be exact.

Foolishly I agreed to another bond that was guaranteed, then got a letter in the post to say the guarantee was to be removed. We had a signed agreement; surely the initial contract should have been honoured? Now all of a sudden my wife and I are being charged 28 euros each for our debit cards and 30 euros for maintenance (What's to maintain?) We had some other issues with them so I have decided to change banks.

It's very easy - Go to another bank with all your existing bank details and the new bank will transfer everything over free of charge. There used to be a time when people used to rob banks, now it's the banks robbing people. These hidden charges are daylight robbery. I am so looking forward to one of those bank heist films. I will be rooting for the villains. **TONY RUIZ**

## It's a mystery?

I have a holiday flat in a complex on the paseo in Marbella. Up until 1st August this year, there were about six feral cats in the complex - all neutered by some kind resident, all well fed by all of us, and healthy. The same cats have been here for some years now and we have become very fond of

them. But after the 1st August they all disappeared - as did the few cats in the restaurants near us. The owners of these restaurants had no problem - they say - and also have no idea where the cats went. Were they adopted? Relocated or poisoned...? Long ago this used to happen but we hoped this cruel custom had been stopped. **VICTORIA MURPHY**

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## Food forethought

**W**ell it had to happen, I suppose. Just when we thought the world of gastronomy couldn't get any more absurdly self-indulgent, somebody somewhere has come up with a beauty. I genuinely had to look twice - a kind of exaggerated double take that Stan Laurel would have been proud of.

I was, as usual, whizzing through the fruit and vegetable section, studiously ignoring its dubious delights, and - as all right-thinking souls do - heading straight for the crisps aisle, when I caught a glimpse of a little sign on the refrigerated shelves. I blinked, rubbed my eyes, did the Stan Laurel thing but, alas, all to no avail - there was no escaping the disconcerting truth:

DIET SALAD - 2,99.

What in heaven's name is diet salad? Usually when something is marketed as the diet version it means that all the good bits have been taken out. Given that salad

doesn't have any good bits in the first place, this couldn't be the case here. I peered gingerly at the product, half expecting to see an empty box and hoping to indulge in a huge sigh of relief as I realised that the whole thing had been a harmless prank. But no, there it all was: the sweetcorn and the beetroot and the shredded carrots, plus all kinds of unspeakable green stuff that I had no wish to dwell upon any further. I legged it out of there sharpish.

How did this work in the supermarket's creative department meeting?

'Look here, García. We need to sell people more stuff with a faux healthy moniker. It's all the rage. Put your thinking cap on, son.'

'What about Diet tonic water, sir?'

'It's been done, you fool.'

'Zero to the power of ten soft drinks?'

'Ditto. Come on lad! We'll be here all day.'

'I've got it, sir. Diet salad!'

Diet salad? Has your wife put some wacky baccy in your coffee, lad? Diet salad? Even the eternally gullible unwashed masses won't fall for that one.'

Weeks later diet salad is flying off the shelves and García is promoted to chief blue sky, out-of-the-box, creative seller, thinky person.

The irony, of course, is that we're kidding ourselves. My brother used to work as an air steward - or whatever they call them these days - for British Airways. He would often regale us with tales of first class passengers ordering whopping triple burgers, lorry loads of chips and mega buckets of ice cream, before adding 'Oh, and a diet Coke.'

No, if we truly wish to stop wobbling, there's only one timeless formula that counts: eat less, do more.

Now then, where did I put my crisps?

## IDÍGORAS

Atajate is the only place in Malaga province that has had no registered Covid infections



**SUR** in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE  
ALEKK M. SAANDERS

## Bullfighting persists in Ronda

**L**ast year all events with bullfighting (like many other festivals) were cancelled. While may summer bullfights were also called off this year, this September, Ronda decided to hold the traditional 'Corrida Goyesca'.

Ronda sets the standards of bullfighting in Spain, and especially in Ronda bullfighting is perceived by many local people as being an integral part of their historical culture.

Unsurprisingly, the town, considered the cradle of modern bullfighting, shows its devotion to the sophisticated tradition, or rather artistic show, depicting the aesthetics of the era of the Spanish artist, Fran-

cisco de Goya.

Hollywood's Oscar red carpet would envy the arrival of guests for the flamboyant event. The young women of Ronda shine as 'Damas Goyesca', or in their best 'feria' dresses, and the men wear their elegant costumes. Incidentally, in 2008, toreador Cayetano Rivera Ordóñez appeared in a 'Goyesco' bullfighting costume designed by the haute couture maestro Giorgio Armani.

However, bullfighting is still bullfighting and is now considered a deeply controversial spectacle, especially on the wave of the growing animal rights movement.

Nevertheless, for the proponents, bull-

fighting still remains an art form created by a skilful artist - the toreador - while being in permanent danger during the exciting performance.

To those who compare bullfighting to 'blood sport', supporters respond that indeed there is no direct competitive element in it. Moreover, in their opinion, the 'plaza de toros' should not be called a slaughterhouse either, because toreadors follow rules, procedures, and traditions that have been developed over centuries.

In any case, Ronda annually attracts many nobles, celebrities and artistic personalities to witness the duel between a human being and an animal which (in spite of common opinion) takes place only once a year.

The American author Ernest Hemingway was one of those who admired Ronda and its art. The writer saw bullfighting as "an art form which explored fear and courage, and the battle between life and death." He stressed that "courage and grace is a formidable mixture", and "the only place to see it is the bullring."

If opponents of the slaughter relate the spectacle to cruelty we should not forget that we indeed live in the world where whales, dogs, baby seals and pigs are still traditionally killed for eating and in some cases die a brutal and traumatic death. On a less horrendous scale we don't mind buying eggs produced by hens that are crammed all their life in a small cage and never stand on the ground, simply because their eggs are cheaper.

But the 'Corrida Goyesca' in Ronda is not cheap at all - the tickets cost about 130 euros, and are difficult to acquire. Especially this time people bought them out of concern because they were aware that the Covid-19 crisis has hit the sector hard: jobs are on the line and those rearing bulls for fights are also struggling.

And here arises the question - if the pandemic keeps us away from bullfighting, might it lead to the demise of the controversial tradition?

Or will at least Ronda persist and thereby uphold its spectacular tradition...



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## IN THE FRAME

# The Briton who found a 'window' of opportunity on the Costa del Sol

**Martin Minor.** Positive thinking has helped this entrepreneur from the UK break down barriers and find success in the sun

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



Martin Minor, from cleaning to windows in Benalmádena. SUR

Living in another country is a dream, but also a struggle. It is important to stay optimistic even in the ongoing pandemic situation. Positive thinking and networking have helped British expat Martin Minor in his search for jobs and new businesses on the Costa del Sol.

Martin Minor moved to Spain 13 years ago and immediately fell in love with the cheerful coastline of Benalmádena. He remembers how he could hardly believe (after living in England) that the sun was "able" to shine almost all year round. The weather improved his mood and motivation.

This new environment kick-started Martin into trying something new professionally, after previously working in construction. Considering himself as a very open person he didn't mind knocking on any door, even expecting to hear 'no' to his suggestions. His communication skills helped him acquire new contacts leading to new experi-

ences and job opportunities.

"Living in a very new and even totally foreign place needs much more effort than in your own country. My first house in Benalmádena was in Bonanza. It is a very British spot because there are lots of places to eat, to drink and to entertain in a very British way. I started helping to arrange tribute shows in one of the clubs in the area. Later, I became a manager and brought quite well-known British tribute artists to local hotels along the Costa and to the Rock. Besides welcoming 'stars', we were also scouting talents to produce and promote," he told SUR in English.

Britons in Spain often seem to dare only to start a real estate agency, a cleaning company or a restaurant business. And following that pattern, Martin also opened a cleaning company along with his Ukrainian partner.

"Cleaning services are something in demand in any tourist resort. My existing network was

also useful, because word of mouth is the best ally in terms of advertising and can lead to the success of any business. Knowing this, I didn't hesitate later to open a bar in La Carihuela, Torremolinos. It was a socialising place for expats. In Torremolinos there are lots of bars for consumers to choose from.

"Despite this competition, I was still able to make my bar successful but later I felt that I was spending too much time there which more and more limited my time and affected my flexibility," he said.

Having got rid of the bar, Martin and his partner suddenly decided to make a sharp turn towards industry, though Martin had his doubts.

"Sincerely, like other expats I also thought it is really impossible to carry out an industrial

**"I'm an optimistic person who is sure that opportunity is all around us," says Martin, who made an industrial project work on the Costa**

project in Spain because of the bureaucratic procedures and 'mañanas'," he said.

"But as I said, I am an optimist. Additionally, my Ukrainian partner reminded me that Britain had become 'Great' based upon skills related to being the first industrial country to establish manufacturing. In the end I was convinced and we set up a workshop to start window production in Malaga," he continued.

But why windows? "Living in different apartments on the Costa del Sol, I soon realised that the construction of some houses is a disaster. Moreover, it's a common thing not to have heating here. So in winters it literally feels warmer outside your apartment than indoors. Spanish houses are indeed built to be cool but we, northern residents, suffer from this 'coolness' in winter, he said.

Martin went on to point out that the locals on the Costa del Sol say that the cool weather only lasts a couple of week and advise you to use a "braserero", a typical heater placed under a table covered with a cloth.

"At the same time gaps in window and door frames are not 'covered', or rather 'sealed' at all as Andalusians in general don't pay much attention to insulation like we do. However, with proper insulation it is possible to keep cool in summer and warm in winter and save energy and thereby money. That's why we started producing insulating windows," he added.

It wasn't just the lack of insulation and the use of braseros that confused Martin when he came to Spain. The Spanish work routine in general first shocked him and then made him eventually understand.

"In the very beginning lunch breaks that can stretch up to two to three hours were annoying for me. Now I can also relax for an hour in the afternoon, although being in permanent movement is more natural to me. I cannot stay passive-like or idle. I must move and it doesn't matter in which direction as long as I'm doing something," he said.

Perhaps it is in those long lunch breaks that Martin finds time to think up new projects.

"I allow myself to dream a little and strive hard to fulfil [those dreams]. You know, I am an optimistic person who is sure that opportunity is all around us," he concluded.



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MARIPOSA ENERGÍA

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Green energy company, Mariposa Energía is offering businesses and consumers cheaper electricity tariffs

**MARBELLA**

**SUR.** If the prospect of becoming more environmentally friendly has always been a tough choice between saving the planet and watching the pennies, there is now a great way to 'go green' and save money at the same time.

Green energy company, Mariposa Energía is offering businesses and consumers cheaper electricity tariffs and the team are confident they can save you money, which is welcome news if you have been stung with soaring energy bills this year.

All the electricity Mariposa Energía provides is certified 100% green, coming exclusively from Spanish wind farms, meaning that not only will you reduce your bill, you will also reduce your carbon footprint and be 'doing your bit' to help protect the future of the planet.

There is no need to consume less energy to make the saving. Infact, simply by providing a recent energy bill, the team will calculate the saving you can make based on your existing usage.

The switch to green energy is completely free of charge, there is no need for any new equipment or cables of for any work to be done whatsoever. The process is also seamless, so there is no risk of any interruption to your electricity supply when it takes place.

Mariposa Energía CEO, Martin Tye, said: "With our cheaper, greener energy tariffs we are confident we can save consumers money. "Often, becoming more environmentally conscious can be more expensive. Organic food, for example, usually costs more than regular food. But when you switch

with Mariposa Energía you will save money as well as helping to save the future of the planet. "We've been helping both businesses and householders in Spain to save money for almost two years and many are surprised at just how much they can save. "Electricity prices have sky rocketed this year and that increase can put a real strain on both families and businesses, particularly those that are high consumers of electricity. "By switching to Mariposa Energía and reducing your outgoings it can make a real difference to your finances. Why pay more than you need to when you can save money simply by telling us you want to switch?"



Freepik

you want to switch they take care of the whole process and, according to Martin Tye, you only notice the switch has occurred when you start receiving cheaper bills.

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# Who is Thomas Helmig? 5,000 Danes will be at his Fuengirola concert

A legion of fans are flying in from Denmark to see the star perform in concert for the first time in three years at Marenstrum on Saturday

REGINA SOTORRÍO



MALAGA. Make a note of this name: Thomas Helmig. It may not ring any bells and you may never have heard any of his songs, but Helmig will be causing huge excitement among the Danes of the Costa del Sol this weekend. The artist will be filling the Marenstrum Fuengirola on the hill of the Sohail Castle on Saturday, and most of the audience of 5,000 (the maximum permitted under the Covid-19 restrictions) will be Danish.

He is the Danish Alejandro Sanz, a 1980s music star who is still performing and attracting a legion of fans everywhere he goes. Helmig can boast of being the pop star who has won the most awards in his home country, including the Danish Music Awards Prize of Honor, the honorary award which is granted to the greatest personalities in the industry. He writes his own

songs, but also composes for films and for other Danish singers.

His concert in Fuengirola has filled local hotels and makes it difficult to find a direct flight from Copenhagen to Malaga at present. It is estimated that about 500 of the tickets have been purchased by Danish residents of the area, but the other 4,500 have been acquired elsewhere. "And that is something very special. Never have so many people travelled to see a Danish artist perform abroad," says Henrik Andersen, the promoter of the concert.

## Three years with no concerts

Several factors explain this. With the pause forced by the pandemic, the concert that Thomas Helmig is giving in Fuengirola will be his first in three years. It is happening at a time of recovery, when Danish music lovers are longing to travel again and wishing to enjoy the last days of the summer in southern Europe. "And Malaga is very fashionable nowadays," says Andersen.

The singer also has a personal link with this area, which makes the concert even more unusual. He has a second home here, where he spends long periods with his family, and one of his ballads is dedicated to the province. If you search for his name on Google, the videoclip called Malaga is one of the first results,



Thomas Helmig wrote a song called 'Malaga'. SUR

with nearly four million viewings. It will undoubtedly be one of the most popular songs at his concert on Saturday.

In order for this performance to take place, more than 5,000

antigen tests will have to be carried out (on the public and the workers) during the day. Danish travellers also have to show a valid Covid certificate when they fly.

This event has become a tradition for the Danish community. Since 2007 Henrik Andersen, who has been living in Malaga for more than 20 years, has organised an annual concert on the Costa del Sol, featuring an artist from his home country. "And bit by bit it has grown," he says. Normally it takes place inside the Sohail Castle with an audience of about 1,500, most of whom are foreigners who live in Malaga, but the pandemic has changed things. On one hand, the desire

to get back to something resembling normality has caused more excitement than in previous years, and on the other, Andersen says, many Danish people decided to go home during the pandemic and that means that this year most of those attending the concert will be coming from Denmark.

They are travelling because they want to see Thomas Helmig perform live, but that is not the only reason. "Many will take the opportunity to stay for a week or two. In northern Europe, everyone talks about the Costa del Sol," says Andersen, who admires Marenstrum for putting on concerts to add culture to the traditional tourist attractions of sunshine and beaches.

**He has been performing since the 1980s and he is as famous in Denmark as Alejandro Sanz is in Spain**



ARJONA



VANESSA MELGAR

## The Goyesca returns to Ronda

Ronda enjoyed the most important date in its social calendar last weekend with the celebration of the Goyesca bullfighting festival. The mountain city in Malaga province is known as the birthplace of modern bullfighting and its historic bullring is the scene each year of spectators and locals dressing in costume from the eighteenth century, the time of painter Francisco Goya, and a turnout of many in Spanish high society. Among those present at the event, which was cancelled last year, was Cayetano Rivera (right hand photo), part of the Ordóñez-Rivera dynasty of three generations of bullfighters deeply associated with the Ronda Plaza de Toros and the Goyesca event.

DEBBIE  
BARTLETT



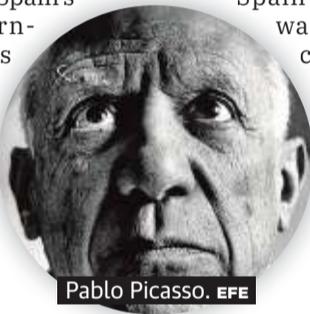
## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

10 SEPTEMBER 1981

# Picasso's Guernica is finally brought to Spain

The artist, who was born in Malaga, refused to allow his anti-war painting to enter the country until democratic freedoms had been restored

One of Picasso's most famous works, the massive Guernica, which reflected the carnage of the Nazi bombing of the Basque town of the same name in the Spanish Civil War, was commissioned by Spain's republican government for the Paris International Exhibition in 1937. The artist, who was living in Paris at the time, completed the painting, which is 3.5 metres high by 7.8 metres wide, in just three weeks and



Pablo Picasso. EFE

it is a savage portrayal of man's inhumanity to man. Picasso expressed his horror at the barbarity of the attack, in which 1,000 people were killed, by painting the picture in shades of black, white, and gray, and its jagged features include a screaming woman, a dead child, a gored horse, a dismembered soldier, flames and other nightmarish images that effectively evoke the horror of war.

Picasso insisted that the work was never to come to Spain until democracy was returned to the country. In 1939 he passed it to the New York Museum of Modern Art on an extended loan and there it stayed for four decades, apart from occasional temporary loans to museums in



A group of people contemplating Guernica in Madrid. EFE

Europe, before finally being moved to the country of Picasso's birth, eight years after his death.

In 1968, having released a little of his iron grip on the country by restoring some liberties, the dictator General Franco attempted to have Guernica brought to Spain, but

Picasso was adamant in his refusal to allow his painting to enter the country.

Franco died in 1975, two years after Picasso, and King Juan Carlos I began to restore democracy, but Picasso's family insisted that more still needed to be done and it was not for another six years that

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Artista	Artist
Cuadro	Picture
Exposición	Exhibition
Guerra	War
Bombardeo	Bombing
Muertos	Deaths
Grito	A scream
Llamas	Flames
Democracia	Democracy
Libertad	Freedom
Museo	Museum
Rechazo	Refusal
Dictador	Dictator
Anexo	Annex
Exponer	To display
Público	Public
Aniversario	Anniversary

the picture was finally delivered on 10 September, under heavy guard, to Madrid, to an annex to the Prado Museum.

On 25 October, which would have been Picasso's 100th birthday, it was put on display to the public.

It is now in the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

# Daphne bholua

Native to Nepal and the eastern Himalayas, Daphne is a member of the Thymelaeaceae family and is a semi-evergreen shrub with an upright habit. It is not drought resistant and must never be allowed to completely dry out, especially during the growing season.

Like other Daphnes, D. bholua flowers in the winter

and has small clusters of very sweetly scented flowers. The small, dark-pink flower buds open to pale-pink, four-petaled flowers, each with a yellow eye. These are followed by purple-blackberries. The clove scent will fill a small space and can be overpowering in a patio.

Daphne bholua is one of the species of

Daphne traditionally used to make paper hence the common name, paper daphne. The inner bark contains a fibre used to make rope and, although most parts of the plant are toxic, the bark and roots are used in traditional medicines to treat fevers. Care must be taken when handling as the sap can be an irritant and the toxins can also be absorbed through the skin.

The leathery leaves are around 5-10cm long and depending on the location, the shrub may lose all of them in the winter. A good site for Daphne bholua is in a sheltered position away from strong winds and with some shade on hot afternoons. It prefers an acidic soil and will grow in a large container.

Propagation is difficult as Daphne bholua is very slow growing and cuttings often die before producing roots. The seeds are viable for only a short time and must be sown as soon as they are ripe. Commercially grown Daphnes are usually grafted onto roostocks of related species or grown by micropropagation techniques. This makes them more expensive than some other shrubs.

Daphne bholua can suffer die back if pruned so avoid cutting it back, and it does not transplant well so care must be taken, even when re-potting, not to disturb the roots.

There are lots of different cultivars but D. bholua Jacqueline Postill is often considered the best, although at two to three metres tall when it reaches maturity it may be a bit big for some smaller gardens.



Daphne bholua and close up of blooms (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



ELISABETH

## Cheese plant flower

Not many people know this but Monstera deliciosa (Swiss Cheese plant) will flower when it's really happy and produce edible fruit.



MARIA HILLEN

## A birthday gift

This Dipladenia was given to reader Maria Hillen as a birthday present last year and it is now smothered in blooms.

PHOTOS

### Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies and some like to take photos of plants they see when out and about. Why not share them with others? Email

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



## Butterfly Children Golf Tournament

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**Aloha Golf Club**

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**Tee-off time:**  
From: 8.00h

**Green Fee:**  
€85 per person  
Members: €30  
\*Picnic included

**Prizes:**  
16 prizes  
(2 categories)  
Prizes at each hole







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## SOCIETY SCENE

# Costa clubs welcome a new term of learning and fundraising

The U3A, Arts Society and other local societies have a full programme of events for the autumn and winter months

TONY BRYANT / JENNIE RHODES

### U3A Costa del Sol Educational classes and leisure activities

The U3A Costa del Sol, a volunteer-run association that aims to promote learning for personal fulfilment and pleasure, will resume its courses in Fuengirola next month. Following an 18-month break due to the pandemic, the Fuengirola branch will be offering a full schedule of educational classes and leisure activities at different locations in the town: these will include St Andrew's Church, the Cafeteria Manila and the Hogar Social de Fuengirola (pensioners club). The classes will include The Art and Artists Group, Science and Technology, Ukulele for Beginners, the Modern Jive Club, Flower Arranging Spanish for Beginners and Intermediate Conversation, among others.

Those who enjoy sport and leisure can choose from a variety of activities such as darts, snooker, padel, table tennis and petanca, as well as yoga and walking and hiking groups.

The association also hosts lectures and talks (given by members who want to share their knowledge and experiences), quiz nights, coffee mornings and a monthly Ladies Who Lunch club.

Membership registration and group enrolment can be made at the Cafeteria Manila (Paseo Marítimo Los Boliches) on Monday 27 September between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Membership costs ten euros per term (October 4 - December 17, January 10 - March 25, March 28 - May 27). The price for new members wishing to join for three terms is 25 euros, while existing members pay 15 euros.

Enrolment takes place on a first-come-first-served basis and those wishing to register

are reminded to complete an enrolment slip stating their name, membership number, e-mail address and preferred activities. Membership and enrolment forms, along with timetables and group information, can be obtained from the U3A website ([www.u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com](http://www.u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com)).

The fee entitles all members to participate in as many group activities as they wish (subject to availability).

### Simply Surviving Fundraising activity

The Simply Surviving group has announced that it will resume its activities this month following its summer break. The charitable group, a platform which seeks to support entertainment venues, artists and local businesses that have suffered financially due to the effects of the pandemic, will be holding a series of fundraising events for its chosen charity. This month's campaign is in aid of Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas/Benalmádena, a volunteer run charity that supports the over-50s English-speaking community.

One of the highlights of the campaign will take place on Friday 24th of September, when four group members, one of whom is 87, will take part in Age Concern's Zip Line Challenge in Alhaurín de la Torre. More than 20 fundraisers will participate in the event, a 1.2-kilometre flight that will reach speeds of up to 100 kilometres per hour.

Other events include a dinner and fashion show (13 September), a fun quiz afternoon, held at the Restaurante Verona, Mijas (22 September), and the historical walking tours of Mijas (2, 8, 14, 23 and 28 October).

For more information about the group's activities, see the Simply Surviving Facebook page or contact Val Williams: 951313257, or Alan Boardman: 610522605.

### Mijas Dementia Support group Fashion show

The Mijas Costa Alzheimer and Dementia Support Group, an organisation founded in conjunction with Age Care Mijas, will hold



U3A members get together at a pre-Covid meeting in 2019. sur

its fundraising Ladies Lunch and Fashion Show at the El Jinete restaurant in La Cala de Mijas on Wednesday 29 September. Tickets for the event, which begins at 12.30pm, cost 35 euros (ten euros of which will go to the charity) and will include lunch, a fashion show by Mapuchi Moda, entertainment and a raffle.

Reservations can be made by phoning 610774408.

### The Arts Society New season

The different Arts Societies across Malaga province (Nerja, Costa del Sol and Benahavís) are beginning a new season of lectures and other events. The Nerja so-

ciety is holding a coffee morning to welcome new members on 21 September at the Varadero restaurant in Torrox Costa from 11am.

The Nerja and Costa del Sol societies will be sharing eight lectures during the 2021-22 season. In Nerja the first talk will take place on October 5 2021 with Chair, Helen Sijlsing's Flamenco: The heartbeat of the South talk.

The Benahavis society's first talk will be starting on Tuesday 28 September with a talk on Cleopatra. This lecture will be delivered by Zoom because of a refurbishment of the town hall. Future meetings should take place at the venue itself.

It is hoped that all 14 Nerja lectures will be given live, but each one will also be streamed so that members and visitors have the option to watch them from home.

For further information visit: [www.theartsociety.org](http://www.theartsociety.org) and look for the three local societies' pages.

A young girl with her hair in a bun, wearing a white lab coat and a blue stethoscope, is smiling. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with colorful bokeh lights. Text is overlaid on the image.

Choose the adventure  
in which you build  
your own future.

Your adventure begins now  
Enjoy to back to school.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021

La Cañada  
SHOPPING

# The place that Esperanza Gómez-Carrera calls home

Seven years after her last show, the Malaga artist and London resident has a new exhibition in her home city, designed for La Casa Amarilla

CRISTINA PINTO



MALAGA. People are said to return to places where they were happy and, although Esperanza Gómez-Carrera has been living in London for many years, whenever she comes back to Malaga she is overjoyed to be home, close to her roots. She hasn't exhibited here since 2014, so this return is a reason for celebration and that is why she has called the show Times That Were Awaiting Me (Beyond Words).

The exhibition is taking place at La Casa Amarilla. From the entrance to this small gallery you can see a large door, inviting you into the display: it is the piece called Lights in Search of Freedom, which is born from books: the pages show

the way to the light from the window. Towards freedom.

Walking through the gallery a few minutes before the official opening, Esperanza never stopped smiling and couldn't hide her joy at being home again.

"I love Malaga, that's why these are the wonderful times that awaited me, the times when I am truly happy in my own city," she said.

Books fill the room but the protagonists are the stories inside. A small window of minimalism peeps out of each of them to reveal the message inside: "It's as if the characters in the book come out and tell their story. I'm a very fanciful person," she said.

This exhibition has been designed specifically for La Casa Amarilla (Calle Santos, 7) and it can be visited until 26 September. Esperanza has been preparing for it for the past 18 months.

"There are 29 works created especially for this exhibition, apart from two or three that I have already shown in London or Italy," she said. One of those is I Fell in Love With You As I Was Looking at You, and as we regard it Esperanza's eyes shine and she



Gómez-Carrera, at the opening of her exhibition. MARCOS ÁLVAREZ

smiles as she remembers the event that gave the work its name. "There's a wonderful story behind that one," she said.

And so Esperanza Gómez-Carrera has come home and is very happy, among the pages of books and stories that invite us to fantasise about her characters. This is a display full of freedom, which she has been waiting for some time to take to her home city and which goes far beyond words. These are the times that were awaiting her.

The exhibition is open Monday to Wednesday 10am-2pm, Thurs-

day and Friday 10am-2pm and 5-8pm, and Saturday 10am-2pm.

## Isla Negra

Esperanza Gómez Carrera is also featured in a four-artist show entitled Deconstruction for Creation - Feeling Art Made of Books, which can be seen until 2 October at Isla Negra, an antiquarian book shop/contemporary art gallery situated in the historical centre of Malaga (Calle Álamos, 15). Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10.30am-2pm, 5pm- 8.30pm; Saturday 10.30am-2pm.

## EXHIBITIONS

### Art Tolox

**TOLOX.** 18-19 September.

The annual festival includes exhibitions of contemporary art by international artists as well as sculpture, murals, children's workshops and theatre, live music including classical chamber music and flamenco, and dance. <https://www.facebook.com/art.tolox>

### El Arte de Nacho Fernández

**ESTEPONA.** Until 15 September. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. An exhibition of works by comic book illustrator Nacho Fernández.

### Jesús Sarrate

**ESTEPONA.** Until 16 September. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.

Profetas y Sibilas is the name of this exhibition of six charcoal drawings by Seville artist Jesús Sarrate. They are based on the paintings in the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo Buonarroti.

### Asunción Fernández Pardo

**ESTEPONA.** From 16 until 30 September. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.

Emociones is the title of the exhibition of acrylic paintings by this artist.

### Los Bravú

**MARBELLA.** From 18 September until

5 November. Galería Yusto Giner, C/Madera.

Los Bravú (Dea Gómez and Diego Omil) present their work for the first time at the Yusto / Giner gallery with ten canvases with classical mythology as the theme.

### Nacho Hercuejo

**BENAHAVIS.** Until 30 September. Centro Social.

Local man, José Ignacio Hernández, artistically known as Nacho Hercuejo, will be exhibiting a selection of his sculptures in the exhibition entitled Luz Y Ferro. [www.nachohercuejo.com](http://www.nachohercuejo.com)

### Legends of Sport

**FUENGIROLA.** Until 19 September, Tues -Sun 6-10pm. Museo de Fuengi-



Jesús Sarrate, Estepona

rola.

The exhibition includes around 500 items linked to legendary sports personalities including a Ferrari racing car driven by Alonso.

### Colección del Museo Ruso

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

**Temporary exhibitions.** Until 12 October. The two temporary exhibitions currently at the museum are Iván Konstantínovich Aivazovsky and the Russian sea painters which includes 26 of Aivazovsky's own works and 13 of other famous seascape artists such as Konstantín Krugovijin, Aleksandr Dórogov, Alekséi Bogoliubov, Konstantín Istomin, Vasili Shujaev, Borís Yákovlev, Vasili Meshkov and Izraíl Lizak.

### Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

**MALAGA.** CAC Málaga. C/Alemania.

**Don Bergland.** Until 12 September. Canadian artist Don Bergland is exhibiting The Silence of Eternity, the first time this artist has exhibited in a European museum. His surreal works are created digitally and enhanced with pigments on canvas.

**MALAGA.** CAC Málaga - La Coracha. Museo del Patrimonio Municipal.

**Aixa Portero.** Until 19 September. Pax Natura is the first solo exhibition by this Malaga artist in a Spanish museum. The works on display were completed between 2015 and 2021.



Esperanza Gomez, Malaga

### Javier Garcerá

**MALAGA.** Until 16 October. Galería Isabel Hurley.

Y En Mi Jardín is an exhibition by Valencian artist Javier Garcerá. Each of the works are made from silk using techniques that, depending on where one stands, invite you to view the works from different perspectives.

### Octavio Colis

**MALAGA.** Until 15 September, Salas Mingorance, Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal, 23.

Forty-seven works including paintings, drawings, sculpture etc make up this exhibition by Octavio Colis. One of the paintings is dedicated to the colours of Malaga wines.

### Carmen Thyssen Museum

**MALAGA.** C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday.

**Collection.** Until 15 September. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Museum there is an exhibition of works by Rusydael, Canaletto, Friedrich, Corot, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Pissarro, Picasso, Matisse, Munch, Nolde, Goncharova and Stepanova among others.



Sempiterno, Malaga

### Sempiterno

**MALAGA.** Until 8 October. Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País. Twenty-four students from the Escuela de Arte San Telmo are exhibiting their photography projects

### Flamenco en Negro

**ARCHIDONA.** Until 12 September. Auditorio Municipal, Plaza Ochavada. Exhibition of black and white photographs of flamenco performers by José Ramón Zapata 'Zacha'.

### Coby Bloemsmma

**NERJA.** Until 19 September, Wed to Sat, 5-10.30pm, Sun from 2 to 6pm. Hostel Alegre.

An exhibition of all new art works by the Dutch artist Coby Bloemsmma including colourful abstracts and objects made from recycled materials.

### Esteban D'Azúa

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 31 October. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Un Mundo Nuevo. El Límite Fotográfico de una Pandemia is an exhibition of photographs that reflects the often difficult story behind each person in the image during the pandemic.

### Anarquía Geométrica

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** Until 17 September. Casa Fuerte de la Bezmiliana. José Luis Gutiérrez Repullo 'Chico Repullo' is holding a retrospective exhibition of pieces from two of his collections.

### Transversales

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 15 September. Sala Rowland Fade, Casa de la Cultura.

The collective exhibition has been organised by the Universidad de Granada Bellas Artes and the town council and consists of students' work.

### José Cabrera Alaminos

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 24 September. La

*Galería, C/Vélez.*

An exhibition of watercolours and oils by local artist José Cabrera Alaminos.

**Industrial lighting exhibition**

**LA HERRADURA.** 11 September from 8pm to midnight. Castillo de La Herradura.

Rafael Matías uses parts of old steam trains, Edison bulbs and rusting metal to create his contemporary lighting. The exhibition pieces are available to purchase.

**La Fábrica**

**LANJARÓN.** C/ Hondillo 119.

The Artists' Network Alpujarra (ANA) have two exhibitions at La Fábrica **Gareth Lister.** Trees in a Landscape. Until 26 September.

**Collective exhibition.** La Alpujarra: El Viaje. Until 31 October.

**MUSIC AND DANCE**

**Clarence Jazz Club**

**TORREMOLINOS.** 8.30pm and 10.30pm. Calle Danza Invisible, 8.

**11 September.** Javier Colina and Albert Sanz.

**18 September.** Ernesto Aurignac. Reservations: 951918087 www.clarencejazzclub.com

**The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra**

**MALAGA.** Various venues.

**16, 17 September, 8pm.** Teatro Cervantes. The orchestra play music by Alejandro Cano Palomo and Camille Saint-Saëns in the first half and by



José Cabrera, Almuñécar.

Gustav Mahler in the second. More information: www.orquestrafilarmonicademalaga.com Twitter: @filarmonimalaga or Facebook: www.facebook.com/Filarmonica-Malaga.

**La Cochera Cabaret**

**MALAGA.** Avda de los Guindos.

**10 September, 9pm.** El Balsero. A musical based on the Cadiz carnival and other music.

**16 September, 8.30pm.** SÉS presents her latest recording, Liberar As Arterias. https://lacocheraentradas.com/shows/list

**Dire Straits tribute**

**BENALMÁDENA.** 10 September, 8pm. Municipal auditorium.

Brothers in Band will perform a selection of songs made famous by Dire Straits. With guest support band

Elosphera, a tribute to ELO. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.com, El Cortes Inglés or Ruben Money Exchange (call 633647260).

**Movie Score Málaga**

**MALAGA.** Until 12 September, various venues.

**10 September, 8pm.** Sala María Cristina. The Movie Score Málaga Assemblé Orchestra with soundtracks from movies with the theme Women's Stories.

**11 September, 8pm.** Teatro Cervantes. The Movie Score Málaga Assemblé Orchestra play music from videogames.

**12 September, 8pm.** Teatro Cervantes. The evening is dedicated to Gustavo Santaolalla, winner of two Oscars, two Baftas, a Golden Globe and 19 Grammys. With the Orquesta Sinfónica de Málaga conducted by Arturo Díez Boscovich and with guest guitarist Juan Luqui. www.mosma.es Tickets: https://www.unientradas.es/janto/

**International Music Festival**

**MARBELLA.** Until 12 September, 8.30pm. Parque de la Constitución.

The Festival Internacional de Música de Marbella will return this year with music by some of the greatest composer including Mozart, Shumann, Rachmaninov and Chopin played by world class international musicians. The concerts are free but tickets must be reserved: www.mientrada.net or from the box office.

**Green Covers**

**BENALMÁDENA.** 18 September, 9.15pm. Municipal auditorium.

The four piece band Green Covers play the best of British pop and Indie rock including a tribute to Depeche Mode, The Cure and a spectacular 80s set. Tickets:www.ticket-source.co.uk/bigmpromotions

**La Banda Sonora de mi Ciudad**

**MALAGA.** From 11 September until 2 October. Various venues.

This music festival will highlight the hard work of local bands with special attention to the marching bands of religious brotherhoods. It will include concerts by the Banda Musical del Rocío, the Banda Musical Cruz de Humilladero, the cornets and drums of the Real Cuerpo de Bomberos, Banda Musical Churrana, Banda Musical de Mena,



Industrial lighting, La Herradura

Banda Musical de Miraflores, The cornets and drums Fusionadas, the cornets and drums Esperanza, the Banda Musical Trinidad Sinfónica and the Banda de la Expiración Eloy García. www.malaga.eu

**Music therapy to reduce stress**

**ONLINE.** 11 September, 7pm. Via Zoom. 10€.

"A music therapy session to find harmony and wellbeing for our body, mind and emotions." Subscribe: reservas@musicaconencanto.org

**Salon Varietés**

**FUENGIROLA.** 7.30pm Friday, Saturday. 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipación.

**10-12 September.** The Abba Experience.

**17-19 September.** Rock of the Ages - Live. Tickets: boxoffice@salon-variantestheatre.com or call: 952474542

**Classical Concert**

**MALAGA.** 18 September, 8pm. St George's Church.

A classical concert of French chansons and German Lieder. www.stgeorgemalaga.com

**Moraga Sound**

**MALAGA.** Until 24 September. Various venues.

More than twenty Malaga bands will perform eight concerts of Indie, pop, rock, R&B, hip-hop and DJ music around the city. More information: https://www.malaga.eu/

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Mrs Susan Thomas, February 2021

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## MUSIC AND DANCE

## Marenostrum

**FUENGIROLA** Until 25 September. The Marenostrum festival continues until the end of September. A full programme on: <https://marenostrumfuenjirola.com/>

## Pyros

**ALCAUCÍN**. 19 September, 6.30pm. Puente Don Manuel. 18€. Music of the world with guest dancer Aitana López. Entry fee includes show, drink and vegan tapa. Reservations: [www.sci-rocco.montealegre.eu](http://www.sci-rocco.montealegre.eu)

## FLAMENCO

## La Zambra

**ALMUÑECAR**. 18 September, 9.30pm. Auditorio Martín Recuerda, Casa de la Cultura. La Zambra is a flamenco show with Ana Pastrana. Tickets: [www.bravoen-tradas.es](http://www.bravoen-tradas.es) or from Viajes Ecuador or the Casa de Cultura.

## Fausto &amp; Judit

**ALMUÑECAR**. 25 September, 10pm. Casa de la Cultura. The concert presents the new recording of flamenco fusion by Fausto and Judit entitled El Reloj de Tiempo.

## CHARITY

## Comparsas for the Franciscan monks

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**. 19 September, 9pm. Claustro de San Francisco. Four members of a well-known Cadiz comparsa group, Los Carapapa, will be performing to raise money for the order. Tickets from Óptica Vélez and El Pasaje in Malaga.

## Costa Animal Society coffee

## morning

**NERJA**. 25 September, 10.30am. Fitzgerald's Bar. The CAS charity is holding a fundraising coffee morning. Five euros for a coffee or tea and three cakes or bakes.

## Macmillan coffee morning

**ALCAUCÍN**. 24 September, 9.30am. El Asador, Puente de Don Manuel. For the whole of September sales from charity book stall will be donated to Macmillan charity. Every morning except Thursdays.

## ACE dog shelter show night

**LA CALA DE MIJAS**. 25 September, 7.30pm. Legends Bar. With live entertainment from Drag-tastic, plus Westlife and Take That tributes and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses and supporters. Tickets 10€. Seventy-five per cent will go to ACE (15€ to include a shared buffet.) Call or Whatsapp: 628353884.

## Collective Calling beach olympics

**PUERTO BANÚS**. 25 September, from 11am. Paradise Beach. Teams of at least five and maximum ten will prove their fitness, strength and endurance. Registration by 24 September: Whatsapp 650341938 or 00447720037384 <https://collective-calling.org/>.

## FIESTAS AND FERIAS

## Fiesta del Boquerón Victoriano

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA**. Until 12 September. The annual 'boquerón' festival consists of a varied programme of events including show-cooking and free tastings of the local anchovies in over 60 restaurants in the town.

Beach olympics, Puerto Banús

[condelavictoria.es](http://condelavictoria.es)

## Fiesta de Viñeros

**MOCLINEJO**. 15 September. The fiesta will feature making raisins, treading grapes and making the traditional Moscatel wine. There will be live music and a display of sculptures created by chain saw and a demonstration of jamón slicing with an opportunity to purchase plates of ham afterwards and taste the local wine.

## LECTURES AND TALKS

## Guernica: Pervivencia de un Mito

**MÁLAGA**. 18, 19 November. Auditorio, Museo Picasso Málaga or online. This is an international seminar on Picasso's contemporary painting Guernica. With dialogues and conferences with Pepe Karmel, professor of the History of Art at New York University; W.J.T. Mitchell of the University

of Chicago; Timothy J. Clark of the University of California, Berkeley; Andrea Giunta of the University of Buenos Aires and South African artist William Kentridge. Fee 90€. [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org)

## MORE IDEAS

## Eco Weekend

**TORREMOLINOS**. 10-12 September, Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Around twenty stands at the event will promote sustainable and ecological products. There will be workshops and entertainment provided by Suzette, Camino de Nómadas, 12,13 Reggae Band and Chico Quebranto. <http://ecoweekend.es/>

## Estepona Fashion Week Finalists

**ESTEPONA**. 18 September, Parque Botánico-Orquidario. A fashion show will take place in the Carmen Thyssen gardens of the Parque Botánico.

## 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

**MÁLAGA**. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es). **After We Fell**: 13.00 (Sun), 17.30 (Tues). **Gunpowder Milkshake**: 19.45 (Tues). **Free Guy**: 17.10 (Tues). **Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten**

**Rings**: 12.00, 14.45 (Sun); 19.00 (Tues).

## Yelmo Cines, Rincón

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA**. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es). **Gunpowder Milkshake**: 17.20 (Tues). **After We Fell**: 21.30 (Tues). **Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings**: 19.00 (Tues).

## Yelmo Cines, Vialia

**MÁLAGA**. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922. **After We Fell**: 22.30 (Tues). **Gunpowder Milkshake**: 17.05 (Tues). **Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings**: 19.05 (Tues). **Worth**: 19.25 (Tues).

## Cinesur Miramar

**FUENGIROLA**. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600. **Shang Chi**: 12.15, 17.00 (Sat and Sun). **Gunpowder Milkshake**: 17.30 (Mon and Tues). **Shang Chi**: 17.15 (Mon to Thur). **Free Guy**: 17.35 (Mon, Tues and Thur). **Worth**: 18.05 (Tues).

## Cinesur Ingenio

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187. **Shang Shi**: 22.15 (Tues). **Gunpowder Milkshake**: 18.05 (Tues).

## Cine Albéniz

**MÁLAGA**. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com). **Annette**: 19.35 (every day). **Reminiscence**: 17.55 (every day).

## A taste of German tradition: the Oktoberfest is back in Torremolinos

The festival will feature typical German gastronomy and Bavarian Oom-pah brass bands

## TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS**. The sixth edition of the Oktoberfest, the traditional Bavarian beer festival, kicked off in Torremolinos this week with a series of live music, typical German gastronomy and plenty of cold beer.

Due to the current work on the new train station in Plaza la Nogalera this year, the event is being held in the Plaza del Remo in La Carihuela. The festival, which began on Wednesday and continues until Sunday 12 September (between midday and midnight), offers visitors the chance to try a variety of handcrafted lagers and traditional German beers, strong alcoholic schnapps, wines and herbal liquors. Cheeses, pretzels, Frankfurt sausages,



Oktoberfest will promote traditional German beers and wines. SUR

sauerkraut and traditional cookies and cakes will also be available.

The festival, organised by the Torremolinos Foreign Residents Department, will feature typical Bavarian music and the rhythmical Oom-pah brass bands traditionally associated with the beer halls of Munich.

The free festival will be held in an enclosed area and capacity will be limited. Visitors are

asked to respect the current Covid-19 protocol.

The Oktoberfest is based on a festival that began in Munich in 1810, an event to celebrate the wedding of Prince of Bavaria and Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen.

This event is incorporated into the agenda of cities around the world with the objective of promoting the German tradition.



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# 'Between 10 and 15% of women of fertile age suffer from endometriosis'

**Emilia Villegas** Coordinator of the Endometriosis Unit at the Regional Hospital

The gynaecologist warns of the need for early diagnosis of a little-known condition which can have "terrible" consequences

ALBERTO GÓMEZ



MALAGA. It is one of the least-known common conditions, but endometriosis affects one in ten women of fertile age. It consists of an external growth of the endometrium (the tissue that lines the inside of the uterus), causing severe menstrual pain which is often incapacitating. Many undiagnosed women have grown up being told that they are exaggerating, that periods are always painful. Emilia Villegas, one of the pioneers in gynaecology in Malaga, coordinates the Endometriosis Unit

at the Malaga Regional Hospital. -I don't know if you are aware, but when I mentioned your name to women with endometriosis, they said you are a guardian angel who has saved them from their ordeal of pain and uncertainty.

-I'm lucky if that is the case. I do feel appreciated by them. It's what every doctor wants. We have had this unit for six years now. I have realised that patients find a type of inner peace because at last they feel understood, taken seriously. It's quite unusual. It doesn't happen with every pathology.

-In general these patients feel they have been misunderstood and they have suffered from mistaken diagnoses. Many have even been referred to psychiatrists.

-It is a curious condition because, even though it is benign, it has tremendous consequences for the women. It affects them in two important ways: the pain - which is often so incapacitating that they can't work, have relations with their partners or take the children to



Emilia Villegas is seen as a "guardian angel" by her patients F. SILVA

school - and fertility. On average, it takes between seven and ten years to diagnose endometriosis. They have become used to painful periods and problems deriving from that pain. That's why, by the time someone finally says "this could be endometriosis," and gives a name to what they are going through, they have suffered a real ordeal.

-It is a benign condition, but it seems to cause destruction and even death.

-Because it is benign but it behaves in an infiltrative way on the tissues. To explain briefly: endometriosis causes tissues to form outside the uterus when they ought to be inside. And that tissue can grow because immunity fails and the cells that should eliminate these tissues do not fulfil their function. And the tissues grow and affect different

organs, such as the uterus and the intestines. That's why it is so destructive in character.

-So it is 'benign', in inverted commas. The consequences can be serious in some cases.

-It behaves terribly because it never stops, except during the menopause or pregnancy. And it continues to get worse.

-It's also one of the primary causes of infertility.

-Yes, endometriosis has to be one of the primary causes to be taken into consideration when someone

**"These patients suffer from not being understood. Continual pain always produces psychological problems"**

suffers from infertility. -The women have grown up with the conviction that menstruation is painful. When does that pain stop being normal? -Dysmenorrhoea, which is menstrual pain, stops being normal when an analgesic doesn't stop it. If a woman has to stop going to work or can't live her normal life, you have to start looking for causes, especially if it is something that happens every month.

-So menstrual pain which is incapacitating isn't normal, and is a sign that something is not right.

-Exactly. An ultrasound should be done, and tests to rule out focal points of endometriosis which could be causing that pain during menstruation.

-Why is it important that these specialist endometriosis units are multidisciplinary?

-It's essential. We gynaecologists can handle the genital side, but the illness doesn't stop there. When we talk of a deep endometriosis, which is the most severe degree, it affects the urethra, bladder, rectum... it is important that different professionals work together with these units. It's quite hard to put together an interdisciplinary unit because everyone has to understand what the illness is. In gynaecology we study it, but in the other specialities they don't, until the professionals see that it also affects other organs. In Andalucía there are two benchmark units: one in Malaga and the other in Seville. Each has its own territory and patients are referred there from other provinces. They have the right to be treated in the top hospitals. Our unit comprises coloproctologists, urologists, radiologists, pain clinicians, psychologists and gynaecologists. There are a lot of people involved.

-It's interesting that psychologists are involved, but the delays in diagnosis mean that many women are suffering from depression and anxiety because for years they have been misunderstood and told that they are exaggerating.

-When you play down a patient's pain, you are telling them you don't believe them. But they can't live a normal life and sometimes they don't know how to explain why. Continual pain always produces psychological problems. It is not common for them to turn to psychologists, because what they want is for someone to get rid of the pain. And when they find a medication or surgical procedure that alleviates the pain, their quality of life improves.

-How many undiagnosed cases are there?

-It is calculated that between ten and 15 per cent of women of fertile age have endometriosis. That's very high. It used to be an unknown condition, but these patients are very proactive and want to be heard. They have joined forces to get solutions and the social pressure has worked. I see an increasing number of cases being diagnosed nowadays.

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**VILLA PARADISO GROUP**

# VILLA PARADISO GROUP OPENS FIRST ECO-REHAB IN THE WORLD

**MÁLAGA**

**SUR.** The renowned Villa Paradiso Group, awarded best addiction treatment centre in Europe 2020, is opening a brand-new, 100% ecological rehab concept in Málaga.

**Welcome to the first Eco Rehab in the world**

Spain's Hacienda Paradiso is set to become the world's very first eco-rehab. Situated in Malaga, Spain, Hacienda Paradiso works with clients to end the cycle of addiction and behavioural problems in a completely eco-friendly atmosphere.

The five-star rehab facility is nothing like traditional rehabs, and is an experience like never before. Guests spend their time recovering in an affordable, natural retreat allowing you to recover in complete relaxation. Addiction and mental health recovery can be exceptionally challenging, but Hacienda Paradiso does everything

to provide guests with the most comfortable stay imaginable.

**Award-winning treatments**

Hacienda Paradiso provides guests with a bespoke 28-day treatment. The package includes an individual treatment programme and an additional 12-month aftercare programme. Guests are treated from the moment they walk in the doors with a psychiatrist evaluation upon arrival. Clients attend group-therapy sessions seven times per week. On-site chefs provide exceptional, healthy meals for clients during their stay. Daily exercise and weekly excursions are also part of the plan.

**Jasmine's Eco Farm**

Two healthy, nutritional meals are provided by the rehab, but there is more in store for clients of Hacienda Paradiso. Clients also have the benefit of a healthy, on-site

eco-market where they can shop for fresh fruit and vegetables from local suppliers, all in one place. Or perhaps order a fresh smoothie after the daily workout routine in the open air. Jasmine's Eco Farm shop also provides products for your breakfast like different kinds of cereals, eggs and fresh croissants or different eco-friendly products. The profits are donated to charities.

**"Allow nature's peace to flow into you as sunshine flows into trees"**

Nature dominates life at Hacienda Paradiso Rehab: Magnificent views stretch across high Spanish plains, sunlight dances across the Caminito del Rey, and white Andalusian villages melt into the landscape. Clients synch completely with nature, including open-air workouts, outdoor excursions (e-bike tours) and cultivating the on-site ecological garden.



**(Eco)nomical treatments for patients all over the world**

Hacienda Paradiso has been awarded Best Affordable rehab in Europe by Worlds Best Rehab, beating over 30 other treatment clinics in the UK, Ireland, Scandinavia and Spain to the coveted award.

Hacienda Paradiso is part of the award-winning Villa Paradiso Group, existing of:

- Villa Paradiso Spain - Individual treatment clinic in Marbella, Andalusia.
- Villa Paradiso Tunisia - Indi-

vidual wellness rehab in Gammarth, Les côtes de Carthage.

- Hacienda Paradiso Spain - World's first Eco Rehab in Málaga, Andalusia.

In 2020, the Villa Paradiso group was rewarded for their unique approach and named 'Best Treatment Center in Europe 2020' by the renowned World's Best Rehab Magazine.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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

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# Is clean natural?

ANDREW J. LINN



If a winery wants to make organic wine, it must follow the rule book and open up its vineyards and production processes to outside inspection. Once approved, the coveted back-label can be stuck on the bottles. Experience shows that using very limited amounts of permitted pesti-

cides and fertilisers, less than the levels normally employed, produces wines that are as near biological as possible. However, if the winemaker prefers not to bother with form-filling and official checks, the easy option is to forget 'organic' and market the wine as 'natural'. This of course means nothing at all, yet

there are wine critics who praise such wines as being more 'honest' than the regular commercial varieties. In any case, although unfiltered wine may be more 'natural' than the other 95%, does it taste better? It usually costs more. Would we instinctively buy butter or sugar in the supermarket labeled 'natural' as the best option? Probably not.

**We should not confuse 'natural' wine with 'clean' wine, the new trend**

We should not confuse 'natural' wine with 'clean' wine, the new trend, although there are no official requirements for either. Producers can put what they want on the label. So why not sign up a celebrity, like Cameron Diaz. But does it work? Her brand, Avaline, was voted 'least favourite celebrity white wine' in a Zoom survey recently. Worse, the use of the word 'clean' is a nasty little trick implying most other wines are by implication dirty. It may be assumed that clean wine is automatically vegan, while in fact gelatin, egg whites, and other animal byproducts are always present.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

**Pinord Chateldon Reserva 2015**  
Although Spain's largest family winemaker, Torres, produces some excellent wines from the Penedès region in Catalonia, they are a hard sell to many regular Rioja and Ribera del Duero fans. However this very good aged tinto from Bodegas Pinord in Penedès is far above average: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Value for money - absolute tops. Around €11.



# Timeworn tradition in a mountainside village

## TRADITIONAL TAVERNS

Mijas boasts some of the most picturesque bodegas offering typical wines and gastronomy

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. Mijas Pueblo is one of the most inviting white villages in Malaga and it boasts a character and ambience of 1950s Andalucía. Along with its iconic donkeys, historic monuments and ramshackle houses, Mijas offers visitors some of the most nostalgic taverns and restaurants. Today, the Andalusian village life goes hand in hand with the modern-day tourist industry, and those who are looking for typical cuisine in authentic establishments will find no end of options to choose from.

One of the town's most popular bars is El Niño, located just a short distance from the old town in a setting with privileged views of the Mediterranean. This delightful bar, situated in Calle Campos, presents a cosy, rustic-style

decoration and a welcoming atmosphere, while offering traditional Andalusian home-cooking at its finest. The menu, which offers tapas, half rations and á la carte, is based on local seasonal produce and tempts diners with classic dishes like scrambled eggs with Serrano ham, meat balls in almond sauce and a selection of fresh fish and seafood dishes. Founded in 1968, one of the establishment's attractions is the varied wine list, which includes wines of denomination of origin from different areas in Spain, such as Valdepeñas, Ribera del Duero and Rioja. The bar is popular with the locals and is excellent for those in search of a little piece of Spanish village life.

Another bar that is popular with the locals, as well as floods of tourists, is La Bodega del Flamenco (Plaza de la Constitución), the central hub for the stereotypical Andalusian characters. The interior of the bar, which is set in a historic old farmhouse, is quite nostalgic: its arched-bricked ceiling and simple decoration presents an image of a cave-type



Bar El Niño in Calle Campos presents cosy, rustic-style decoration and a truly Andalusian atmosphere. SUR.

dwelling. However, the main attraction is the pretty outside area, where the local men enjoy coffee and anise while waiting for their wives to collect the daily groceries. Because of its pretty geranium lined walls and vine-covered exterior patio, the bar has appeared in numerous publications and documentaries about Mijas, and it is one of the few remaining meeting places that offers a true insight into daily life in a mountainside village. But it is not just the picturesque setting that makes this place so popular,

**Today, the Andalusian village life in Mijas goes hand in hand with the modern-day tourist industry**

for it is celebrated for serving authentic home-cooked food, and is one of the top places to visit on the tapas route in Mijas. The bar is renowned for its selection of molletes (small bread rolls from

Antequera usually eaten at breakfast and served with olive oil), Manchego cheese or zurrapa de lomo (pork loin fried in paprika enthused lard).

Mijas certainly has plenty of traditional taverns and bodegas that offer the cultural-seeking visitor local gastronomy and viticulture at its best. Other places of interest include Bodegas Casa del Pintor - a restaurant full of Spanish charm- and Bar Martina - a country-style tavern offering the quintessential image of post-card Spain.

# Malaga CF hopeful for fans' support after last weekend's defeat in Almeria

Season tickets go on sale from Monday thanks to an increase of the permitted capacity in La Rosaleda

S. CORTÉS / B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Malaga CF's defeat away at Almeria on Saturday was another sign of the Blue and Whites' main flaw in these first games of the season: a lack of precision when it comes to scoring opportunities.

And their rivals Almeria had plenty of what Malaga lacked, especially thanks to the best player in Spain's second division this season: their centre-forward Saïd.

This advantage was enough to decide the outcome of the Andalusian derby which the home side won comfortably with two goals in the second half. A powerful Almeria left their visitors trembling as they allowed for no hesitation, especially when the hosts had been left with ten men as Iván Martos was sent off soon

after the start of the second half.

The first half was the better of the two for Malaga, mainly thanks 20-year-old Kevin, who impressed on the wing in this game, as he had done in the club's three earlier fixtures this season. Coach José Alberto chose to take him off after the first half, however, so as not to risk a second yellow card and the expulsion of this player who has caused a sensation among fans since he was brought up from the junior ranks.

## Season tickets

Saturday's defeat in Almeria has left the Blue and Whites in the bottom half of the league table, with the hopes that a lift in home support will give them the boost they need.

An increase in the maximum permitted capacity at La Rosaleda stadium to 60 per cent has prompted the club to put season tickets on sale from this Monday 13 September.

The aim is to raise the crowd to 12,000, around twice the figures of the more than 6,500 re-



Almeria's star Saïd fights for the ball with Malaga's Cufre. AGENCIA LOF

corded in the previous two home matches against Mirandés and Alcorcón.

The season ticket sales will not come in time for this Sun-

day's home game against Girona (kick-off 9.30pm), however.

To compensate, tickets for the game will be available with a 50 per cent discount.

## SECOND DIVISION

### Results (Matchday 4)

Girona-Sporting	1-2
Eibar-Leganés	1-1
Cartagena-Real Sociedad B	1-0
Tenerife-Ponferradina	2-0
<b>Almeria-Malaga</b>	<b>2-0</b>
Fuenlabrada-Lugo	1-1
Burgos-Valladolid	3-0
Ibiza-Amorebieta	1-1
Alcorcón-Zaragoza	1-2
Mirandés-Las Palmas	4-2
Huesca-Oviedo	1-2

### League table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GC	PT
1. Sporting	4	3	1	0	5	2	10
2. Almeria	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
3. Ponferradina	4	3	0	1	4	3	9
4. Tenerife	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
5. Mirandés	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
6. Valladolid	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
7. Huesca	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
8. Ibiza	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
9. Cartagena	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
10. Fuenlabrada	4	1	2	1	4	3	5
11. Oviedo	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
12. Real Sociedad B4	1	2	1	1	1	1	5
13. Las Palmas	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
14. <b>Malaga</b>	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
15. Burgos	4	1	1	2	3	2	4
16. Girona	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
17. Eibar	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
18. Zaragoza	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
19. Amorebieta	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
20. Lugo	4	0	3	1	3	5	3
21. Leganés	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
22. Alcorcón	4	0	0	4	1	6	0

Malaga's fifth fixture of the season is this Sunday, 12 September, at home against Girona - kick-off is at 9.30pm

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, Sky Sports

## The jury and the Spain team

Luis Enrique's squad bounced back with victories over Georgia and Kosovo to hold a four-point lead of the qualifying group

**T**he jury is out, and the jury is very much split on what verdict to return on the Spanish national team.

The loss to Sweden ended a twenty-eight-year run without defeat in a World Cup qualifier, so we could justifiably say it is the end of an era.

However, Luis Enrique's team bounced back with victories over Georgia and Kosovo to hold a four-point lead of the qualifying group, so it could be claimed that the country's team is not at a crisis point.

It's very much like the summer when most fans wrote off any hopes at the Euros as they accepted the team was in transition. This appeared to be justified when they started with a dull draw against Sweden, yet they exceeded expectations by reaching the semi-finals.

It really is difficult to make a judgement. Take goalkeeper Unai Simon. At times he looks like a liability and then he will make a save that completely changes your perception.

Centre-half Eric García appears to be the natural successor to Gerard Piqué that his club and country have been looking for. He has a huge presence and all the attributes to be a top-class defender for the next decade. Yet, the shocking performance against Athletic Bilbao which ended in a dismissal still burns in the short-term memory.

Carlos Soler is the latest young player to make his mark when promoted to the senior side. A goal in the fourth minute of his debut was followed by another against Georgia. This comes on the back of a sensational start for his club Valencia for whom he's scored



Luis Enrique during the match between Spain and Kosovo. EFE

three goals in the opening three Liga games.

Remember teenager Pedri was given time off following the marathon season which ended with a starring role at the Euros

and Olympics. He's arguably the most exciting young talent in European football. Ansu Fati has just been handed the coveted number ten shirt at Barcelona and great things are ex-

pected of the eighteen-year-old. Couple these two with Ferran Torres who is establishing himself under the guidance of Pep Guardiola at Manchester City and you have a fearsome strike force.

They are backed up by Rodri who is the natural successor to Sergio Busquets as a midfield enforcer. From what I've written so far, the case for an all-conquering Spanish national team is very convincing.

However, there is still an element of doubt. Álvaro Morata and Gerard Moreno continue to earn selection yet neither have proven to be of international quality. Jordi Alba and César Azpilicueta are both 32-year-olds and should be concentrating on club football but are in the side because there are no real challengers.

Remember there were no Real Madrid players chosen for the Euros and none made the squad for the September internationals. Maybe that is the key? If they can get Marco Asensio back to his best and reignite Isco this will filter through to the national team.

It could be the start of something very exciting for Spain. It could be a period when they plateau. It's just very difficult to decide. The jury remains hung until we see further evidence.



Some of the Malaga players celebrate one of Sonia's goals. ADG

## Malaga Femenino start the season with a win

Malaga CF's women's team beat Salamanca in the first game in Primera Nacional Group 4 after last season's relegation

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Malaga Femenino made a victorious debut in Spain's third tier of women's football, Primer Nacional, last weekend.

They beat their hosts Salamanca by two goals to one, with

forward Sonia scoring both.

The visitors dominated the game from the starting whistle and fought back from going one goal down after 20 minutes, turning the scoreboard round in their favour before the end of the first half.

Malaga were relegated from second division last season to Group 4 of Primera Nacional. Their next game is against Sevilla at the Cártama stadium on Sunday 12 September at 11.30am.

## Party planned to celebrate 80 years of the La Rosaleda stadium

Almost 9,000 people will be invited to the celebrations at the Malaga ground on Tuesday, 14 September

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. The La Rosaleda stadium turns 80 next week and Malaga Football Club wants to "throw a party in style" to celebrate the occasion on Tuesday, 14 September. An appointment that should also serve to thank the fans for the support received throughout this time, and that has made this club one of the historic ones in Spain.

There have already been several commemorative events that have taken place throughout this year, such as the publication of a book that tells the history of the ground and the unknown story of the basketball team that was once based at the Club Deportivo Malaga ground.

The stadium reopened to home team spectators just a few weeks ago, thanks to the relaxation of the pandemic restrictions. And, on Tuesday, the club is preparing a big celebration at the ground, starting at 8.30pm, to which it has invited all 9,000 members who have subscribed to the 'Fiel Malaguista' supporters' club – which has an annual membership fee of 29 euros.

Each enrolled member will receive an email with an invitation to attend the event.

### Surprises

There will be giant screens, live music, special guests and "many more surprises" for a party that, in addition to celebrating the 80th anniversary of the ground, will also be a reunion of the entire Blue and White family since the pandemic. Those who wish to attend will have "until this Friday (10 September) to register and come to the celebration".

# Local sailing champion Ana Moncada moves up a level

Under-21 champion of Spain and silver overall, she moves up to the highest level with the aim of qualifying for the Paris Games

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Ana Moncada is one of the sportswomen from Malaga province who this year came close to participating in the Olympic Games. She just missed out on going to Tokyo in the qualifiers, competing against some of the best in the world, despite her young age. At just 20 years old, she is one of Spain's great sailing promises, specifically in the ILCA 6 category, or what was previously known as Radial Laser.

Moncada ended her season last week and did so with two new podium places in the Spanish Championship held in Barcelona: she was the under-21 champion and the runner-up overall, behind the Olympian Cristina Pujol.

Starting next year, this young woman from Malaga, who lives in Barcelona, where she trains

and studies Public Relations, will officially become a 'senior'. A jump in category for which she is already preparing.

"There is a much higher level. You have to keep training every day, there are no more secrets. I need strength and endurance for my boat to go fast," she said.

It will be tough, but one of her greatest assets has always been her nonconformist and self-confident mentality:

"I think that if I continue with my progress I will be able to be up there [at the top]." There are only three years left until the Paris 2024 Games, her true goal, and the Spanish team's qualification for the event is already close (in March-April 2022).

## Added pressure

Another of Moncada's characteristics is her sincerity, and she admits that this last year has not been her best year and that the pressure to try to reach Tokyo, despite the fact that at her young age there was no rush to make the Games, affected her more than expected: "I always manage pressure well, but I think that in the qualifying regatta for the Games I got more nervous



Ana Moncada ended her season last week. SUR

## The pressure to try to reach the Tokyo Olympics Games affected her more than expected

than necessary."

That frustration with always wanting to compete with the best affected her in competitions: "My goal was to do my best in my last youth championships, and in the end I did not make a podium in any of them ... In the European [championship] at the beginning of summer I finished seventh and then in the World, fourth. It's not bad, but I was left

with the desire to make the podium."

Now she wants to work hard to recover the Ana Moncada who amazed the world with her talent in 2019. That year she was absolute champion of Spain, European youth and sub-21 gold and youth world runner-up.

It's time to reboot, rest for a few days, and start a new stage in her career.

# Favourites win in the Spanish Beach Volleyball Championship

M. RIVAS

MALAGA. After four days of intense activity at El Higuero Resort, last Sunday, 5 September, the curtain closed on a new edition of the Spanish Beach Volleyball Championship. There were no surprises. The two favourite pairs won the title: Paula Soria and Belén Carro did so in the female category while the experienced Olympians Pablo Herrera and Adrián Gavira took the men's title.

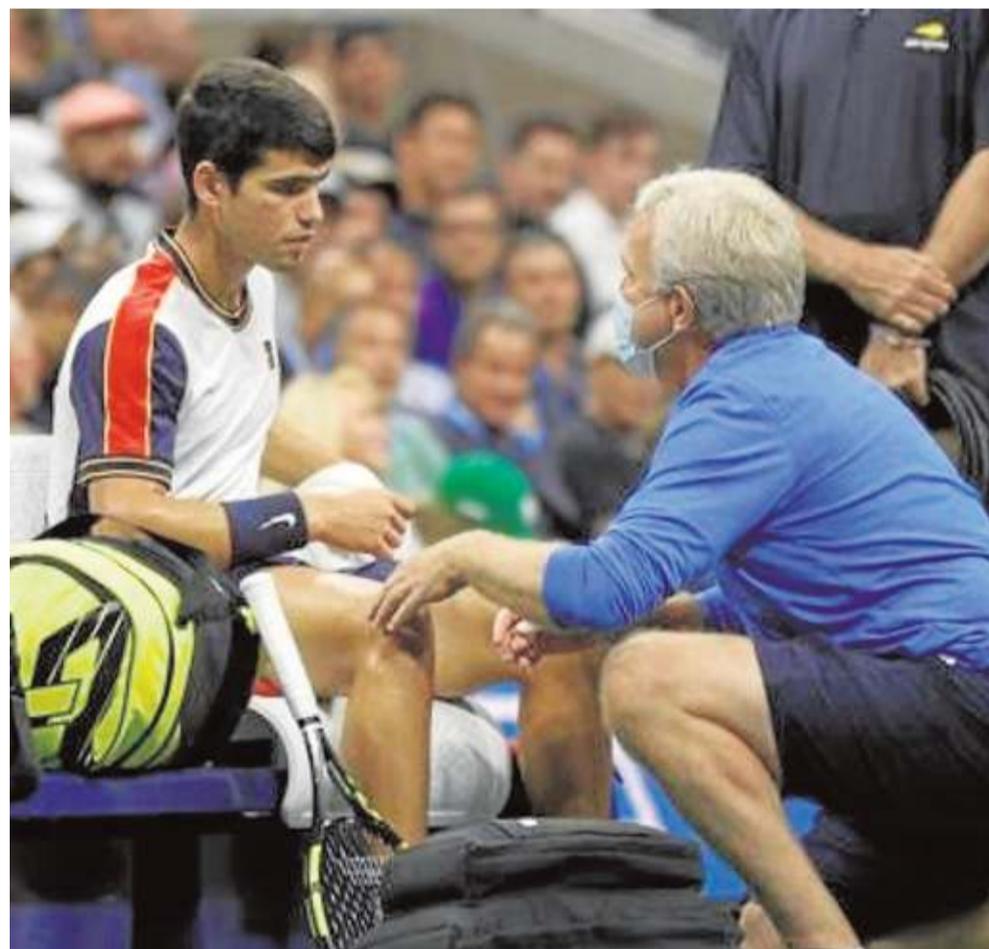
The best local representative, Ángela Lobato, could not hold on to her 2019 title of champion of Spain. In the men's category, the only player from Malaga in the running, the former international Nacho Batallán, failed to access the group stage, falling in the previous qualifying round.



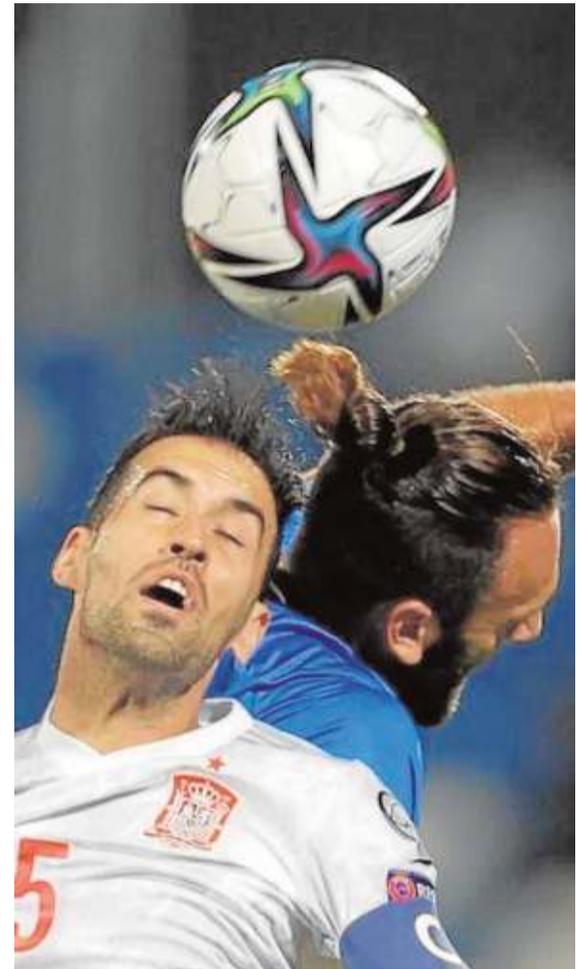
## SPORT IN PICTURES



▲ **Handball.** On Wednesday this week the only signing of Costa del Sol Málaga for the new season landed at Malaga Airport. She is the 24-year-old Brazilian Talita Alves, with experience in the handball league of her native country and in the Turkish one, in which she played last year. Therefore, this will be her first experience in the Spanish competition. She already has her paperwork in place to be able to play in official matches here. **BM COSTA DEL SOL**



▲ **Tennis.** Spain's Carlos Alcaraz said he stopped playing his US Open quarterfinal against Felix Auger-Aliassime because of an issue with a muscle in his right leg. He felt the problem in his right adductor before taking to the court on Tuesday night. He was coming off two consecutive five-set victories - including over Number 3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the third round - that made the 18-year-old the youngest man in the quarterfinals of New York's hard-court Grand Slam tournament since 1963. **EFE**



► **Football**  
Spain's victory against Kosovo (0-2), along with Sweden's loss to Greece this week, now gives La Roja a four-point lead in Group B of the World Cup qualifiers for Qatar 2022. Spain are in a good position and could finish ahead of Sweden with a home win over the Scandinavians on the final matchday in November. **EFE**



▲ **Cycling.** Pablo Guerrero from Coín has won the 2021 Sierra de Cazorla BTT, the penultimate scoring event of the Spanish Open XC Marathon. The local cyclist, now in the ranks of the Manresa BMC Tbellles, was the fastest in the men's category in a highly contested test. José Márquez, also from Malaga province, who finished sixth in Cazorla, also remains the leader. **REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE CICLISMO**



▲ **Cycling.** Primož Roglič sealed his third straight La Vuelta a España title after adding to his already comfortable lead by winning the final stage's time trial last Sunday. It was the fourth stage win for the Jumbo-Visma leader in this year's race. Roglič added to his Vuelta titles of 2019 and 2020 less than six weeks after claiming gold for Slovenia in the time trial at the Tokyo Olympics. **AFP**

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National Police	091	Taxi Service	952471000	Tourist Information	952521531
Local (municipal) Police	092	Tourist Office	952467625	Town Hall	952548400
Medical	061	Town Hall	952589300	Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401
Fire	080	Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	TORREMOLINOS	
Guardia Civil	062	MALAGA		Bus Station	902143144
Sea Rescue	900202202	Bus Station	952350061	Taxi Service	952380600
Crime report	902102112	Railway Station	902240202	Tourist Office	952371909
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		Taxi Service	952345693	Town Hall	952379400
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	Tourist Office	951926020	Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	MARBELLA		BENALMÁDENA	
Age Care	952933409	Bus Station	955038665	Bus Station	902450550
Age Concern (Estepona)	722606347	Taxi Service	952774488	Taxi Service	952441545
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		Tourist Office	952768760	Tourist Office	952442494
Salud Responde (Doctors' appointments and advice)	955545060	Town Hall	952761100	Town Hall	952374231
ESTEPONA		Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760	Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494
Bus Station	955038665	MIJAS		VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA	
Taxi Service	952802900	Town Hall	952485900	Bus Station	952503162
Tourist Office	952802002	Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952801100	Taxi	952478288	Town Hall	952559100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	Tourism Office	952589034	Tourist Office	952541104
		Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	GIBRALTAR	
NERJA				General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
Bus Station	902422242			Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
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<b>Denmark</b>	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797	<b>Finland</b>	Calle Córdoba, 6, Malaga	952212435
<b>Norway</b>	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
<b>Canada</b>	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346	<b>Greece</b>	Dr Manuel Perez Bryan, Malaga	95225689
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<b>Sweden</b>	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383	<b>Philippines</b>	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952771850
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**To notify symptoms of coronavirus**

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

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

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

There is also a number to notify symptoms, but to avoid jamming the line **try the APP first**

**900 400 061**

**Coronavirus information**

**955 545 060**

**Other emergencies** For general health emergencies. **Avoid using this if not urgent**

**061 / 112**

**THE STARS**



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
With Mars moving into your sector of far horizons, travel adventures and fresh experiences may be on the cards. The coming weeks can inspire you to explore new options.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Watch out for mixed messages that could derail a plan or undermine a relationship. The Sun's opposition to Neptune could cause bad feeling.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
The Sun's face-off with dreamy Neptune could dupe you into thinking a situation is hopeless when you can easily tackle it.



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
This week you could be inspired to take a brilliant idea further, and perhaps turn it into a side hustle. Don't let busybodies put doubts in your mind.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Mars powers into your leisure zone, which can ramp up your efforts to promote your skills and talents. The chance to indulge in activities you enjoy could recharge you.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
The Quarter Moon in your lifestyle sector brings an opportunity to ring in the changes. You may be inspired to manage your time better and file your paperwork.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
As Mars moves into your sector of talk and thought, you'll be busy with all kinds of plans and projects, negotiations and with seeking out new opportunities.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
The very powerful Sun/Pluto aspect can give you the strength to override any criticisms. This could be a glorious week for you if you focus on a key goal.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
This week, assertive Mars moves out of your spiritual sector and into your sign for a stay of around six weeks. Your courage could increase, and you'll find it easier to stand up for yourself.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
With a potent blend of energies showing up, a collaboration with someone might bring out the best in you and lead to further developments.

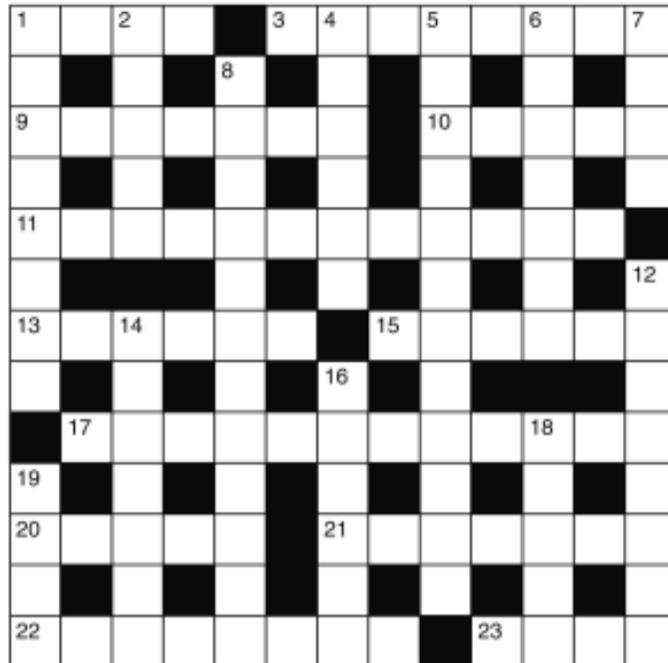


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
As go-getter Mars moves into Libra this week, it enlivens your social life and might inspire you to get moving on a goal that has been in mind for some time.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Trust your intuition this week, especially concerning a scheme or deal that may not be all that it seems. If your instincts are telling you that something is off, pay attention.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11478**



**Across**

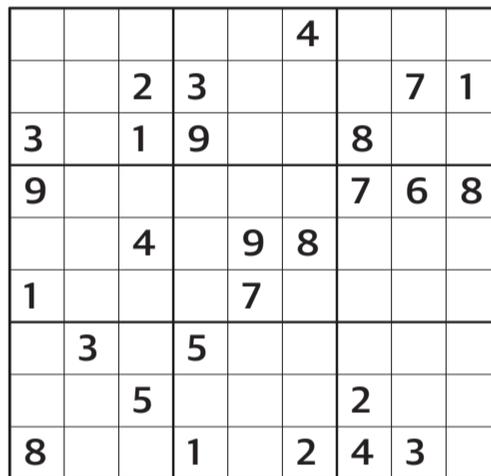
- 1, 18Dn and 8Dn What those who are particularly successful in running slimming courses do! (4,2,3,3,2,3,4)
- 3 Strangely respects tokens of sovereignty (6)
- 9 Shout loudly what used to be staked (7)
- 10 A quarter always cut off (5)
- 11 Local types I'd converted in a domineering way (12)
- 13 Purchasing power common to an associated group of states! (6)
- 15 Bumble bee encircles a lad in distress (6)
- 17 Curses a way of speaking among men (12)
- 20 Heather is partly Americanised (5)
- 21 It means various occupants (7)
- 22 Putting one's foot down when doing business round the East (8)
- 23 See 19 Down

**Down**

- 1 Is prone to make solid new arrangement (4,4)
- 2 They keep a tight hold on immoral habits (5)
- 4 Pledge oneself to perpetrate a crime (6)
- 5 One to get licked before becoming enveloped! (7,5)
- 6 Make a speech up, having been abused (7)
- 7 We hear it makes a cut tender when touched (4)
- 8 See 1 Across
- 12 Maintains a point, but it's misrepresented in the press somehow (8)
- 14 The greediness with which Virginia tucked into a kind of pudding! (7)
- 16 It is twice put up by an outstanding artist (6)
- 18 See 1 Across
- 19 and 23Ac Being uneasily active without sleep (8)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

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



**THE WORDPUZZLER**



Can you identify the cheeses from the anagrams listed below?

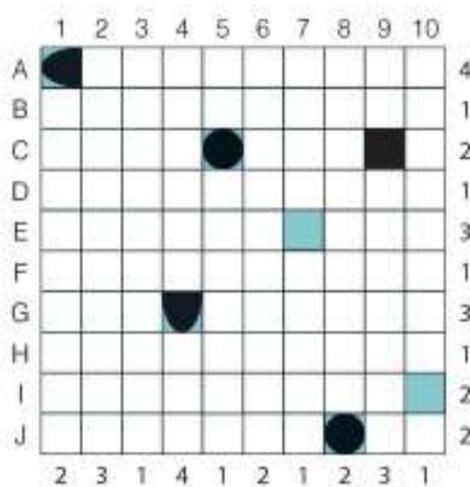
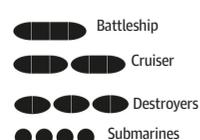
- 1. Fate
- 2. Rybed
- 3. Serbes
- 4. Made
- 5. Nottils
- 6. Ererugy
- 7. Dugoa
- 8. Ribe
- 9. Refomu
- 10. Durc

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**

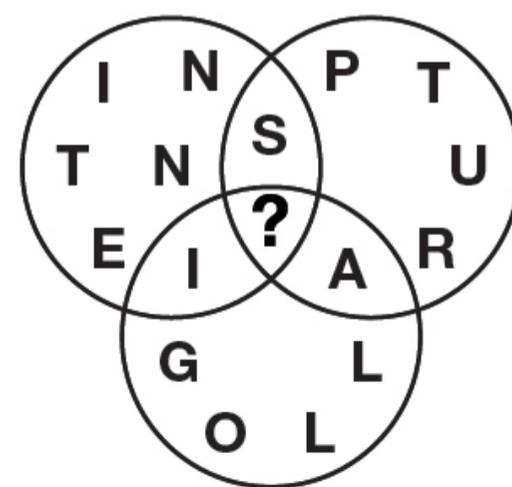


**BATTLESHIPS**

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



**CIRCLEGRAM**



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

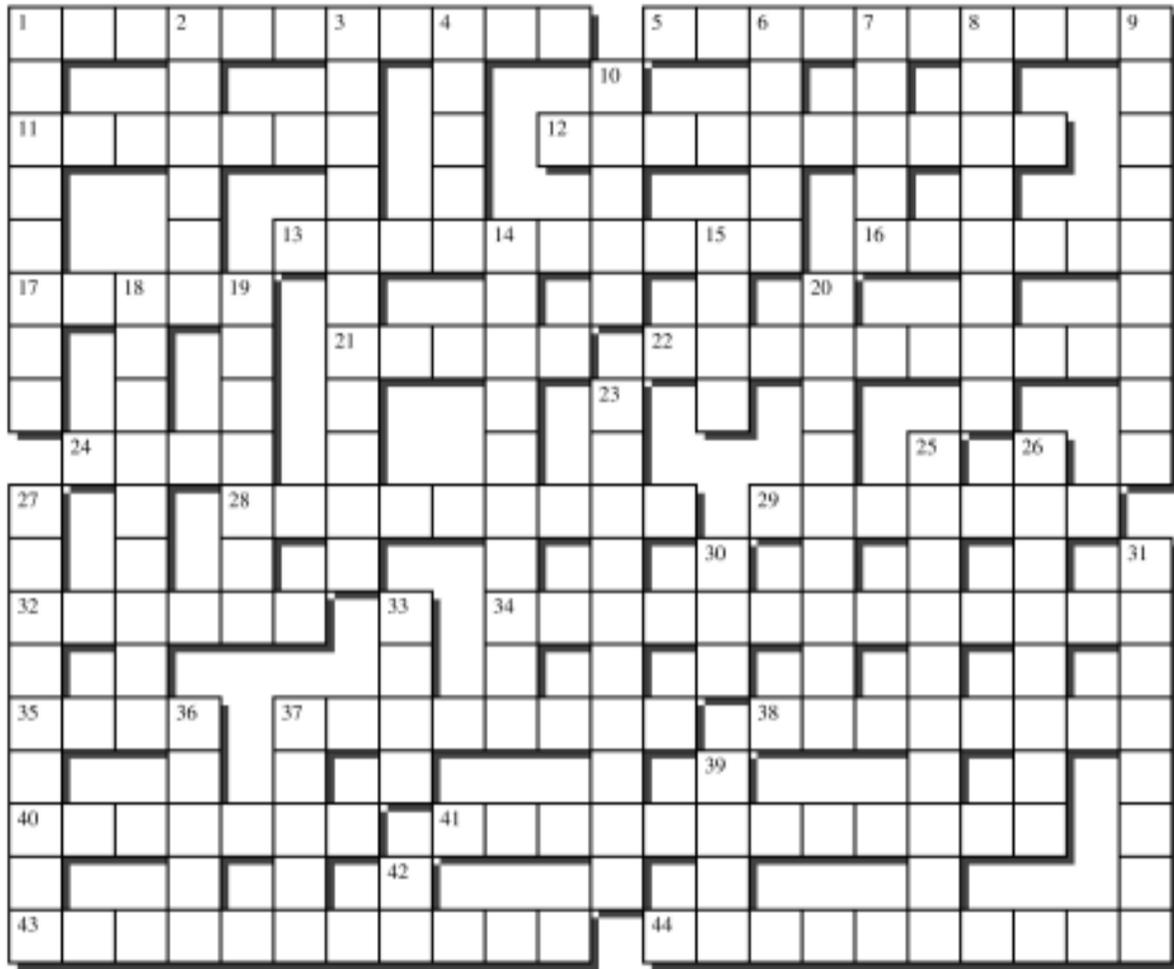
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**LANGUAGE CROSSWORD** FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



**Across**

- 1) Exciting (11)
- 5) Bombings (10)
- 11) Drill (7)
- 12) Disastrous (m) (10)
- 13) Coordinated (m) (10)
- 16) To break (6)
- 17) Script (5)
- 21) Cheese (5)
- 22) Difficulty (10)
- 24) Boot (4)
- 28) They maintain (9)
- 29) Post office (7)
- 32) Shipment (6)
- 34) Impressive (13)
- 35) Smooth (m) (4)
- 37) Will (8)
- 38) Cauliflower (8)
- 40) Joy (7)
- 41) Missing (m) (12)
- 43) Masterpiece (4,7) (11)
- 44) To remain (10)

**Down**

- 1) To hand over (8)
- 2) Painting (6)
- 3) New Yorker (m) (11)
- 4) To be born (5)
- 6) Museum (5)
- 7) To open (5)
- 8) I conceal (8)
- 9) Security (9)
- 10) Queen (5)
- 14) Discretion (10)
- 15) You give (pl) (4)
- 18) We don't know (9)
- 19) We swim (7)
- 20) Symbolic (m) (9)
- 23) To replace (10)
- 25) Transition (10)
- 26) Screw (8)
- 27) Rolled up (m) (9)
- 30) Net (3)
- 31) To return (8)
- 33) Candle (4)
- 36) Orgy (5)
- 37) Pod (5)
- 39) Coffee (4)
- 42) It's (2)

**QUIZ**

Where would you find the anatomical feature 'Henry's pocket' on a cat?

1. groin 2. lip 3. ear 4. eye



What type of animal is a Flemish giant

1. rabbit 2. chicken 3. pigeon 4. hamster

What is the National Animal of Scotland?

1. grouse 2. pine marten 3. wildcat 4. unicorn

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**ANSWERS**

**Quiz answers**

1. Feta  
2. Derby  
3. Bresse  
4. Edam  
5. Stilton  
6. Gruyere  
7. Gouda  
8. Brie  
9. Fourme  
10. Curd

**Wordpuzler solution**

B	R	E	S	S	E	A	L	E	R
R	E	S	T	A	G	I	D	A	
I	L	P	I	E	R	O	A	G	
E	R	E	L	F	O	U	R	M	E
S	O	N	L	E	N	Y	E	P	N
A	P	C	A	T	B	E	R	E	T
G	O	U	D	A	I	R	L	N	O
L	I	R	I	C	D	E	R	B	Y
O	D	D	R	I	M	A	I	R	L
N	O	N	A	S	T	I	L	T	O

**Language Crossword**

**ACROSS:** 1. BOMBINGOS; 2. GIBRALTAR; 3. BRESSE; 4. EDAM; 5. STILTON; 6. GRUYERE; 7. GOUDA; 8. BRIE; 9. FOURME; 10. CURD; 11. DRILL; 12. DESASTROSO; 13. IMPRESIONANTE; 14. SUAVEMENTE; 15. BARRILES; 16. ROMPER; 17. GUSTO; 18. COORDINADO; 19. GUION; 20. ESCALERA; 21. COMITADO; 22. DIFICULTAD; 23. MANTENIENDO; 24. ENVIO; 25. TRANSICION; 26. SÍMBOLO; 27. ROLLO; 28. LOS MANTIENE; 29. OFICINA; 30. RED; 31. VUELTA; 32. ENVÍO; 33. VELAS; 34. IMPRESIONANTE; 35. SUAVEMENTE; 36. ORGIA; 37. VAINA; 38. CAULIFLOR; 39. ALEGRÍA; 40. ALEMANES; 41. FALTA; 42. ESTÁ; 43. OBRA MAESTRA; 44. QUÉ.

**DOWN:** 1. FETA; 2. DERBY; 3. BRESSE; 4. EDAM; 5. STILTON; 6. GRUYERE; 7. GOUDA; 8. BRIE; 9. FOURME; 10. CURD; 11. DRILL; 12. DESASTROSO; 13. IMPRESIONANTE; 14. SUAVEMENTE; 15. BARRILES; 16. ROMPER; 17. GUSTO; 18. COORDINADO; 19. GUION; 20. ESCALERA; 21. COMITADO; 22. DIFICULTAD; 23. MANTENIENDO; 24. ENVIO; 25. TRANSICION; 26. SÍMBOLO; 27. ROLLO; 28. LOS MANTIENE; 29. OFICINA; 30. RED; 31. VUELTA; 32. ENVÍO; 33. VELAS; 34. IMPRESIONANTE; 35. SUAVEMENTE; 36. ORGIA; 37. VAINA; 38. CAULIFLOR; 39. ALEGRÍA; 40. ALEMANES; 41. FALTA; 42. ESTÁ; 43. OBRA MAESTRA; 44. QUÉ.

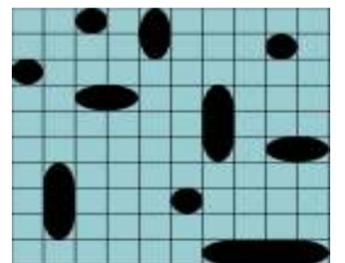
**Circlegam**

The letter represented by the question mark is E. Einstein, Pasteur, Galileo, all famous scientists.

**Cryptic Crossword**

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Live; 3 Septines; 9 Exclaim; 10 Sever; 11 Despotically; 13 Wealth; 15 Beadle; 17 Malicious; 20 Enca; 21 Implies; 22 Threading; 23 Less; Down: 1 Lies down; 2 Vices; 4 Commit; 5 Postage stamp; 6 Haved; 7 Sore; 8 Fat of the land; 12 Persists; 14 Avarice; 16 Tiram; 18 On the; 19 First.

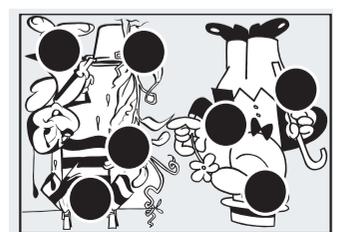
**Battleships**



**Sudoku solution**

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

**The seven differences**



# The spectacular recovery of the bearded vulture

**Survival.** The species is close to extinction but thanks to the efforts of an in-captivity breeding centre several pairs are now living in the wild

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA



**T**he bearded vulture is flying in Andalucía again thanks to the spectacular recovery of this species after a programme of breeding in captivity and reintroduction was begun by the Andalusian government 15 years ago.

The project, which is coordinated by the regional Ministry of Agriculture, Farming, Fishing and Sustainable Development, is now seeing its best results so far with a total of five pairs who have bred after being released into the wild, and the ten chicks which have been born at the Breeding Centre at Guadalentín, in the Cazorla natural park in Jaén province, so far this year. This is a record number, the highest ever in a centre of this type in Europe, placing it at the forefront of the 15 which exist on the continent.

Every birth of a baby bearded vulture is a real miracle for the survival of a species which is in

danger of extinction. Since the first one was born in captivity in Guadalentín in 2002, eggs have hatched and produced 100 chicks, of which 90 have guaranteed the conservation of a type of bird which is essential for the biodiversity of the planet.

With regard to breeding in the wild, the first attempts were not very successful because, of the first three, two disappeared and a third left Andalucía for the north of Spain. However, he then returned to Cazorla and did something historic in 2015, breeding with a different female bird who had been released.

That was the first time in 40 years that such an event had taken place in the mountains of Andalucía, and it resulted in the birth of Esperanza (Hope in English), the first female bearded vulture to be born in the wild in Andalucía, who is already trying to reproduce at the age of nearly six.

Since Esperanza was born, more birds have been released and five breeding pairs currently fly in the Andalusian sky, of which three females in the Cazorla natural park are bringing up their chicks despite the difficulties normally encountered in this species with their first clutches, which are rarely successful. There is also a sixth pair who have so far made no attempt to breed.

Some of the birds released in Andalucía come from other European centres, to strengthen their genetic quality, says Íñigo Fajardo, the coordinator of the bearded vulture programme.

He attributes the success of this project to the team and their efforts over many years. He also praises the work of the Vulture Conservation Foundation, which manages the Guadalentín and other centres in Europe, as well as the collaboration of the zoos in Berlin, Liberec and Tallin.

## The eradication of the use of poison in the mountains, key to their survival

J. L. PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The eradication of the use of poison in the Andalusian mountains has been key to the survival and recovery of the bearded vulture, says Íñigo Fajardo, the coordinator of the Recovery and Conservation programme for Necrophagous Birds in Andalucía.

In his opinion, the first birds to be released probably fell prey to poisoned baits, but the strategy introduced by the regional government more than a decade ago, and increasing awareness and cooperation from land owners and users of mountainous areas, has been essential in

combating this serious threat to the species.

### Patience

Íñigo Fajardo also says that “you have to have a great deal of patience when it comes to bearded vultures, because they are difficult birds. They have a lot of character and they live a long time, which is why they take so long to start breeding, it can be up to ten years,” he explains.

He also points out that with this species it is often the case that they don't reproduce at the first attempt.

And this is something which has occurred with several pairs in the wild.

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