

# SUR

## in English

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## LOCAL FLAMENCO FIRST AT THE VENICE BIENNALE

Malaga's Rocío Molina  
wins the 2022 Silver Lion  
for Dance **P19**

# Twenty thousand local businesses hope for deferral of repayment of Covid loans

Business associations are calling for a six-month extension to the time to start paying back due to the ongoing pandemic

Many small firms and self-employed jumped at the lifeline of special ICO loans backed by central government at the start of the pandemic. In Malaga province,

21,169 of these were taken out, mostly in 2020.

However these have to start being paid back in April, and, although they have special condi-

tions attached, business associations want the government to be generous as the pandemic is not over and high inflation is affecting firms' costs. **P12**



Staff, customers and friends sing outside the iconic Malaga city venue during its last days.

**NITO SALAS**

## Sad farewell to city's Café Central

Known to generations of locals and visitors as the perfect place to watch the world go by on Plaza de la Constitución, the 100-year-old venue has closed for good. **P10**

## The A-7 motorway along the Costa is to have all its exit numbers changed

These should be based on kilometres from the start of the road and need to alter as the full route is longer **P6**

### INSIDE

**Brit bars struggle to survive in Benalmádena Costa.** Owners say fewer tourists and hotel closures are behind the decline. **P2**

**World Rugby Sevens hits the Costa.** One of rugby's biggest events is in Andalucía next week in the hope of kick-starting Spanish passion for the sport. **P34**

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As with holiday destinations and resorts around the rest of the world, the Costa del Sol has recently suffered the worst crisis in tourism history. Although experts predict that the industry will recover this year (as they did last year), if the pandemic and the restrictions enforced to combat it continue for much longer, this recovery will come far too late for some.

In areas that rely on British tourism for revenue, the last two years have been fatal. As towns like Torremolinos, Fuengirola and Marbella begin to see a return to some sort of normality, other areas like Benalmádena Costa seem to be slipping off the tourist map. Although Arroyo de la Miel, the heart of Benalmádena, seems virtually unaffected by almost two years of the pandemic, the future of Benalmádena Costa seems to be hanging on a thread.

Some of the bars and restaurants along Avenida Antonio Machado - the main, coastal road from Plaza Sol y Mar (or 24-Hour Square) to Avenida de las Palmeras (or Palm Tree Avenue) - have been closed since March 2020, and many will never reopen under the same ownership. Those that are open have struggled to keep afloat; there has been a severe lack of tourists returning to the area, especially over the Christmas period, when many owners hoped to recuperate some revenue to make up for an unsettled summer season.

The area once known as the golden stretch - between the 'windmill' and 'sails' roundabouts - has been the worst affected section along this part of Benalmádena's coastline.

While some of the bars and restaurants on this strip have never reopened, others have opened their doors only to be forced to shut them again due to a lack of the regular long-stay visitors, whose anticipated arrival in the area over the festive period never happened.

If one turned the clock back a few years, this strip of bars would



Currently closed, the Hotel Balmoral towers over the troubled stretch of bars in Benalmádena Costa

T. BRYANT

## The decline of Benalmádena's golden strip

**Tourism crisis.** The winter closure of local hotels and the lack of tourists over the festive season has had devastating effects on this former British hotspot

TONY BRYANT



▲ The seasonal closure in November of Hotel Las Arenas has had a big impact on the local bars. T. B.

be the busiest in town, attracting thousands of British tourists during high season, and hundreds of 'swallows' during the winter.

### Former hotspot

Even the arrival of a large burger chain restaurant did not have the feared impact on daytime business. At that time, six of the eight establishments were British-owned, all with standard menus

offering a "full English breakfast" and the "best roast on the coast", and there were plenty of customers to fill them all.

Today, only three of these bars are British, yet there was still insufficient trade to keep them afloat over Christmas.

One of the bars was opened in 2001 and is still owned by the same proprietor. A source close to SUR in English explained that,

even with 20 years of experience under his belt, the owner closed the bar just after Christmas with no immediate plans to reopen it.

### Impact of closed hotels

Cath, the manager of the only bar that is currently open on the strip, blames part of the problem on the hotels shutting for the winter.

Medplaya Hotel Balmoral and Hotel Las Arenas, both located a

few metres from the bars, closed at the end of the summer season. This had a devastating impact; the bars in this area rely on customers from these two hotels.

Although Cath is hopeful that things will pick up in the future, she feels that the bars will never again see a time when "people would be queuing to get a table".

"Obviously, the closure of the hotels has had a big effect on this area. I have been working on this strip for more than 20 years, and I have never seen it this quiet. There just weren't enough British tourists here, so most of the bars just closed. It's a shame, because this strip used to be buzzing," Cath said.

As with the Hotel Balmoral, the owners of the bars on this strip have not given any indication of when, or if, they will reopen.

Some businesses have been put up for sale, although the chance of attracting a buyer seems unlikely at the moment.

John Hughes, a British tourist staying in Arroyo de la Miel, declared that he had never seen Benalmádena Costa in "such a sad state". John has been visiting the area since 1994 and had returned for the first time since the crisis began.

"It is so terrible to see many of my favourite bars all closed up. I have heard that some owners have gone bust, and I am sure this is true. I think it is a foregone conclusion that the British tourists will eventually return, but I don't think that many bar owners will be able to hold out," John said.

Andy and Sarah Moon were also upset by what they saw.

"We've been coming here for years over the festive season, but this year we had trouble booking a hotel because the one we usually stay at is closed. However, the biggest disappointment is that the place is like a ghost town. Most of the bars are shut, and the ones that are open have nobody in them," Sarah said.

## Malaga Airport saw 8.8 million passengers in 2021, down 55 per cent on 2019

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Passenger numbers at Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport are recovering but it is still not as busy as it was in 2019.

In 2021, 8.8 million people flew in or out of the airport making it the fourth busiest in Spain after Madrid, Barcelona and Palma de

Mallorca.

Compared to pre-pandemic 2019, passenger numbers are down 55 per cent. But compared to 2020, a year of strict travel restrictions in Europe, the 2021 numbers are up by 72 per cent.

On a national level, Spanish airports served almost 120 million passengers, 56.4 per cent

than in 2019. But comparing 2021 to 2020, the number of passengers increased by 57.7 per cent.

The Omicron variant of Covid-19 dented traffic in December with just 816,552 passengers passing through Malaga airport, 28 per cent less compared to December 2019.



Passengers at Malaga Airport at the end of last year. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

# 'Let's treat Covid-19 like the flu now,' says a family doctors' association

People testing positive trying to get signed off work are swamping health centres, but ministers will still treat it as a pandemic until the end of sixth wave

## SUR

MALAGA. A leading Spanish association of family doctors and community medics - semFYC - urged the government this week to treat Covid-19 like other infectious diseases, remove restrictions and end the mandatory use of masks.

The group said, "Neither the health system nor society as a whole can afford to continue testing asymptomatic patients or those with mild symptoms and isolating all those who are positive, because of the consequences for society and the economy due to the massive work absence of healthy people... Omicron allows it."

The comments come as the primary healthcare system creaks under the strain of people trying to ask doctors to sign them off work and then back on again af-



People queue to be seen at a Malaga health centre. S. SALAS

ter their quarantine period.

The national organisation said it wanted to send "a strong and coordinated message from all institutions to reverse the need to diagnose mild respiratory infections, either in health centres or with self-diagnostic tests".

Speaking on Wednesday, Spain's Health Minister, Carolina Darias confirmed the government was working on plans to treat Covid-19 like the flu, echoing comments by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez earlier in the week. She

said it would look to use measures more associated with epidemics like seasonal flu, rather than pandemics, but not until the current 'sixth wave' of Covid-19 cases had passed.

Darias left it up to each region's health service to find a solution to the processing of the unprecedented amounts of requests for a doctor's sick note.

## Disagreement

Not all associations representing the medical sector are so con-

## Andalucía encourages Omicron positives to sign off sick via its updated app or web

In order to avoid long queues at health centres, the Andalusian Health Service has reminded users who test positive for Covid-19 that they can use the Salud Responde website or app, which has been upgraded to allow this.

Since 30 December, when the new function went live, it says over 100,000 people have asked to be signed off by doctors for this reason and 90 per cent have done it online. The more contagious Omicron variant is causing unprecedented numbers to go off work.

vinced, however, about treating Covid-19 like the flu yet. Locally, Malaga province's Colegio de Médicos official association said, "It is still too early to talk in those terms, as we are in the middle of a pandemic still." Other national associations also spoke out against downgrading the pandemic yet.

**i To follow detailed local data on case rates in your area and other figures around Covid-19:**  
[www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com)

## IN BRIEF

### ANTIGEN TESTS

#### Spain sets Covid-19 test price at 2.94 euros

**SUR.** Spain set a maximum price of 2.94 euros for Covid-19 antigen tests on Thursday, after high demand caused the price to surge over the Christmas period. The measure will take effect on Saturday (15 January). Tests can still only be bought in pharmacies, despite several large stores offering to stock them.

### COVID PASSPORTS

#### Andalucía extends rule until 31 January

**SUR.** The Andalusian government has won support from the courts to extend its Covid passport requirement to enter hospitality premises, hospitals and care homes until at least 31 January. The move had been due to expire this weekend. Meanwhile, the region is now giving booster jabs to those aged 50 and above and said it hoped to start with 48 years and older from early next week. Spain is now considering boosters for all adults.

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**T**eresa Reina, who is from Barcelona, has just got out of the shower of her camper van, but she approaches us with a big smile, evident despite her face mask. "Malaga is fantastic. I love the city, the weather, the people and especially the fried fish!" she tells us. As she sits in the sun, her nextdoor neighbour, Juan Navarro, unhooks his small car down from his motorhome's trailer, ready to run a few errands. "We've been here for a couple of months now; it's the best place to spend the winter," he says.

A few metres away, Patrick has just parked after filling his tank of drinking water, and is chatting with some friends. "We're almost a family here," he says. Two are Belgian, like him, and Agnes has come from France "again" to spend some time on the "wonderful Costa del Sol".

They are all from different places, but for the past few weeks they have been residing in the Martín Carpena motorhome park, because that is what the esplanade beside the sports arena of the same name has become for a large community of nomads.

"Living like this, you can wake up where you want to every morning," Teresa says. And for the moment, and the foreseeable future, Malaga is where she wants to be.

She is by no means alone. Although the area that the council prepared last year to get these vehicles off the nearby Sacaba beach was planned as an L-shape with room for 100 motorhomes, there are about 200 now, taking up nearly all the space and making it difficult for basketball fans to park on match days.

Although the city hall says nobody should spend more than two



**Motorhomes.** About 200 vehicles park long-term in the space next to the Martín Carpena sports arena. F. J.

## A city on wheels on the edge of Malaga

**Life in a motorhome.** The esplanade by Malaga's Martín Carpena sports arena is full of families living a nomadic life, double the number for whom the council prepared the parking area. "It's wonderful in Malaga," they tell us

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



▲ **Sunshine.** Teresa, who is from Barcelona, says Malaga is "fantastic". F. J.



"It's much better here, but there are a lot of people now," they say. The noise from the motorway is a disadvantage, but on the other hand there are good road connections, with a bus stop, metro station and large stores for food shopping nearby.

"It's like a village," says Guillermo Ruiz, who is from the Canary islands and lives in a motorhome due to circumstances of life. "More people live like this now, from pensioners to travellers, and also a lot of divorced people who can't afford to pay rent," he says. He points out that these motorhome owners provide business for local shops, and he hopes the council will soon provide rubbish bins and improve the water connections.

As we talk, a Local Police car passes by on one of its regular patrols, and then an Amazon van arrives. The delivery driver gets out and asks for someone called Pedro. "Oh yes, his van is down there," he is told, helpfully.

or three days there, most of them do. "It has been full every day in recent months," says Juan, from Catalonia, who has owned three motorhomes in 15 years and has spent five years travelling around Europe - "although not so much

now because of Covid"- but staying in Andalucía for the winter.

Carlos García and his wife, however, are both local; four years ago they changed their lifestyle completely, more from need than for pleasure, but now they wouldn't

change back for anything. "We bought the caravan for 2,000 euros because otherwise we would have ended up living on the streets, and we're still here," they say. They spent some time at Sacaba, and are now parked by the stadium.



The Tres Pintores hotel complex was abandoned in 2008. SUR

## Squatters evicted from abandoned hotel complex

**BENALMÁDENA**

Mayor Víctor Navas said the evictions were necessary given the health and environmental risks the building poses

**IVÁN GELIBTER / JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. The last squatters living in the abandoned Los Tres Pintores hotel complex in Benalmádena were evicted by police on Thursday following a court order.

Mayor Víctor Navas said the

evictions were necessary given the health and environmental risks the building poses. Local residents had also appealed to the town hall to clear the area.

Some 26 people were removed from the hotel on Thursday. Previous operations to remove rubbish, provide social services and care to occupants and to close the hotel had cost the local council 60,000 euros, Navas said.

Although the hotel is privately owned, the council compiled a series of risk assessments for the property and presented them to the courts in order to gain permission for the eviction. The owners had failed to comply with an earlier order to clear, clean and secure the building which was abandoned in 2008.

"All the conscientious work on the part of the council has made it possible to present a file to the court that facilitated the eviction and to ensure it took place legally," Navas added.

Prior to the eviction, the council coordinated with the Red Cross to ensure the occupants have healthcare, housing and food for the next six months, as well as job-seeking resources.



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# Changes to A-7 exit numbers on the way: Marbella East will be 1044 and Vélez 953

Central government is to reorganise the numbering of all 84 junctions on the Costa del Sol to avoid duplication on other sections of the A-7 route

## FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The thousands of drivers who use the A-7 Costa del Sol motorway on a daily basis will have to get used to new numbers on each of the 84 exits along the 164-kilometre stretch of the road between Nerja and Manilva.

As examples of the changes being implemented by the Ministry of Transport, the current 242 exit, located to the north of Malaga city and used to access Ciudad Jardín or La Rosaleda

stadium, will become 922; exit 184 at Marbella East will be 1044; Vélez's 272 shifts to 953; and Arroyo de la Miel's 222 exit will be modified to 1003. But what's behind these changes?

In Spain, road junctions are numbered according to their distance, in kilometres, from the start of each road. (Kilometre points are also used to identify the exact location of an accident or a speed camera, for example.)

The A-7 these days runs all the way from Barcelona to Algeciras beyond Gibraltar, but different sections were opened or re-named at different times over the years. These new changes will avoid there being junctions with the same number on different stretches of the entire length of the - now complete - A-7 road.



The 174 exit in Puerto Banús will become the 1050 with the new system. SUR

tion numbers being repeated.

On the Costa del Sol there is another circumstance that complicated the numbering even further: several stretches of the free-to-use A-7 overlap with the pay-to-use AP-7 and are managed by the toll road company.

Currently, the kilometre markers on these stretches of the A-7 follow the ones corresponding to the AP-7, which means that drivers will notice numbers that don't add up on the road signs. This project will provide continuity.

With the road signs already updated in both Alicante and Murcia, it's now Almeria, Granada, Malaga and Cadiz's turn. The government has formalised the contract with a budget of 350,862 euros and a deadline of one year. The existing numbering of the A-7 exits between Almeria and Cadiz province will be modified, with this stretch starting in Almeria at kilometre point 663 (currently 565) and finishing at 1,122 (now 103).

In Malaga province, the first kilometre point coming in from Almuñécar will go from 302 to 923, and the road will cross into Cadiz province at kilometre 1,087 instead of 138. The route itself will not change, but the road through Malaga province will go from having an apparent length of 194 kilometres to 164, which is the real number.

A total of 84 junctions need modifying just in the province of Malaga alone. And for eagle-eyed drivers who want to know the location of speed cameras, these won't be physically moved. However the radar that caught most people out in Spain, located in El Palo (Malaga), will no longer be at kilometre 246.6, but at 979.

**What do you think? Will we all get used to the change quickly?** If you have a comment on this or any other story, let us know. We may publish your comments. Write to [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)

To understand this situation, you have to look back at an official road list from 1988. In it you can find two roads: the A-7 (Autovía del Mediterráneo), which went from the French border all the way to Alicante; and the N-340, which joined Algeciras with Barcelona via the Costa del Sol.

## A part-legacy of the old N-340

In 2003, the naming was modified when a new road gazetteer was published, which joined parts of the old A-7 with the N-340, so the road known as the Autovía del Mediterráneo started in Catalonia and ended in Algeciras. To make matters worse, when the stretch of the A-7 between Algeciras and Alicante was built, it was called the A-7 but kept the numbering system from the N-340, starting from Algeciras. This led to numerous junc-

## HERE AND THERE

### FUENGIROLA

## Marenostrum Festival offering 300 jobs

**IVÁN GELIBTER.** The organisers of the Marenostrum Festival in Fuengirola, one of the most important music festivals in Spain, has vacancies for 300 workers for the festival this year. The posts available include porters, waiters, cleaners and stage hands and will offer contracts of up to six months. Local residents will have preference to fill the vacancies and can apply up until 18 April through the employment site: [fuengirola.portalemp.com](http://fuengirola.portalemp.com) or through the app-Fuengirola+ Empleo or through the Festival website [www.marenostrumfuengirola.com](http://www.marenostrumfuengirola.com)

### MALAGA

## 2024 America's Cup could come to Malaga

**PEDRO LUIS ALONSO.** Malaga city is in negotiations to host the 2024 America's Cup, the oldest sporting event in the world. If successful, the city is betting on a promotional and economic boom. Both Valencia and Barcelona previously considered hosting the prestigious sailing competition but pulled out when they could not secure regional financing. Current cup holders New Zealand did not bid to host the event again due to a lack of government support, leaving Cork and Jeddah - and now Malaga - in the running. The winning bid will be announced on 31 March.



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The site of the proposed future Montaña del Deporte. **SUR**

## Fuengirola launches plan to turn La Cantera park into a 'sports mountain'

### FUENGIROLA

**TONY BRYANT.** Fuengirola town hall has announced a project to create a new outdoor sporting facility, which will be located in La Cantera park in the Los Pacos dis-

trict of the town.

The town's mayor, Ana Mula, has launched a contest for ideas for the 27,000-square-metre site, which will be known as the Montaña del Deporte (sports mountain). The public tender aims to

obtain preliminary proposals focused on the renovation of the park, which includes the installation of modern sports facilities, adequate accessibility and the implementation of new technologies, both in equipment and lighting installations.

The intention is to turn the park into a green space to promote outdoor sports and healthy living activities, and it will also include children's playgrounds, walking trails and shaded picnic areas.

The mayor pointed out that with the creation of this initiative, several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 agenda will be met.

"I promised that we would increase the green spaces in Fuengirola with the implementation of new projects, such as the one we're presenting today. I'm sure that we will receive proposals with spectacular designs that provide this space with innovative materials, new facilities and technologies that will make it a sporting benchmark in the municipality," Mula said.

### HERE AND THERE

#### BENALMÁDENA

### Working group aims to fight for Tivoli World

**A. JIMÉNEZ.** Left-wing coalition Unidas Podemos plans to create a working group to "continue pressing" for the reopening of the Tivoli World amusement park in Benalmádena.

The Andalusian coordinator of Izquierda Unida (IU), Toni Valero, after a meeting with representatives of the Tivoli staff and unions on 11 January, said, "We have to propose a viable solution for the reopening of the amusement and leisure park and the resolution of the labour dispute that affects 100 workers." Union representative, Lola Villalba, added, "It is key that public administrations get involved and that in 2022 Tivoli can reopen for its 50th anniversary."

#### BENALMÁDENA

### Free bus passes available from today

**T. BRYANT.** Cards to allow the free use of a municipal bus service for residents in Benalmádena can now be applied for, the town hall said this week. The bus pass will initially only be valid on the 103 line that connects the Pueblo with Arroyo de la Miel and Benalmádena Costa, but it is expected to be extended to other routes in the future.

#### MIJAS

### New roundabouts to improve Pueblo access

**I. GELIBTER.** Work has started on two new roundabouts aimed at improving access and road safety on the road to Mijas Pueblo, specifically the stretch passing La Loma, Pueblo Don Silverio and Haza del Algarrobo.

# Water supply finally returns to Fuente de Piedra homes

The new well gets the green light from the regional Health ministry after months of trials and four years of water being delivered by lorry

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

FUENTE DE PIEDRA. Residents of Fuente de Piedra have received a long-awaited gift this new year: the return of drinking water to their homes. After more than four years, families in the town can once again use the water provided by the mains to cook and drink.

The new well and treatment plant, built last year, are now fully operational after several months of trials. The new supply has received the green light from the regional government health authorities, who declared the water as fit for consumption.

"It was a long-awaited project for the local people, and it has been possible thanks to the collaboration of the Junta and the Malaga provincial council," said the town's mayor, Siro Pachón. But despite his happiness, this is not a definitive solution.

"We need to use the water sensibly, because this new well is the only resource we currently have. If we don't look after it, its level will quickly lower and the water quality will worsen. The defini-



Fuente de Piedra's water treatment plant. SUR

tive solution to the Antequera region's drought is the diversion from the Iznájar reservoir."

The new water supply began working on 3 January after two months of trials. It is 100 metres deep, located in the town's industrial estate. A water treatment plant was also built, and the water has now been inspected by health authorities on several occasions.

The well's approval puts an end to four years of using tank-

ers to deliver over 10,000 litres of water to different parts of the municipality every Tuesday and Friday.

The situation arose due to the continuous droughts affecting different wells, which meant that pumps were taking water that was too deep and contained high levels of chloride. "The situation was worsened by the pandemic, but we can finally say that drinking water has returned to Fuente de Piedra," said the mayor.

# Salares overtakes Atajate as village with smallest population in province

This year's INE census has revealed that the village has 173 residents registered on the Padrón while the second smallest place has 179

E. CABEZAS

SALARES. The village of Salares in the Axarquía has become the smallest in Malaga province in terms of population, having overtaken Atajate, which had held the title for several decades.

This is according to the latest report published by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), with data corresponding to 1 January 2021. Salares has maintained the 173 inhabitants it had 12 months earlier, while Atajate has gained ten residents, bringing its population up to 179.

"It has been surprising, because we have around 15 per cent more



The village of Salares has the smallest population in the province. SUR

residents registered since the pandemic arrived," said the mayor of Salares, Pablo Crespillo.

However, he acknowledges that the data published actually refers to the year 2020, "when it is true that we practically maintained the population."

Among the measures that have been put in place by the town hall to encourage to fight against depopulation is the creation of a space to facilitate teleworking.

Since the start of the pandemic, Salares has registered twelve cases of Covid-19, with one death.

## HERE AND THERE

### TORRE DEL MAR

#### Dog park set to open in Tomillar area of town

J. R. Work has started on a new dog park for Torre del Mar, located at the entrance of the El Tomillar area and parallel to Avenida Juan Carlos I, near Mercadona. Vélez-Málaga's Deputy Mayor, Jesús Pérez Atencia, said during a visit to the site on Wednesday, that a dog park is one of the facilities "most requested" by local residents. The works will consist of enclosing the park and installing benches, litter bins, a play area for the dogs, a drinking fountain and lights.

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

#### Coastal path to go ahead after years of protests

E. C. After more than three years of protests and after various changes to proposed projects, Vélez-Málaga town hall announced on Tuesday that it is set to put out to tender contracts for three new sections of the coastal path between Benajárf and Chilches. At 2.5 kilometres long and with a planned investment of 1.2 million euros, the project will be financed entirely by Malaga's provincial authority, the Diputación.



The discoverers with representatives from the town hall and cave E. C.

### NERJA

#### Nerja cave marks sixty three years since its discovery with hopes for a return of the music and dance festival in summer

E. C. Wednesday marked 63 years since the discovery of the Nerja cave by brothers Manuel and Miguel Muñoz, José Torres, José Luis Barbero - who died in 2007 - and Francisco Navas.

The surviving finders, along with representatives from the town hall and the Nerja Cave Foundation, gathered outside the historic site to mark the occasion.

The cave has been hit hard by the pandemic, although visitor

numbers were up 34 per cent in 2021 compared with 2020.

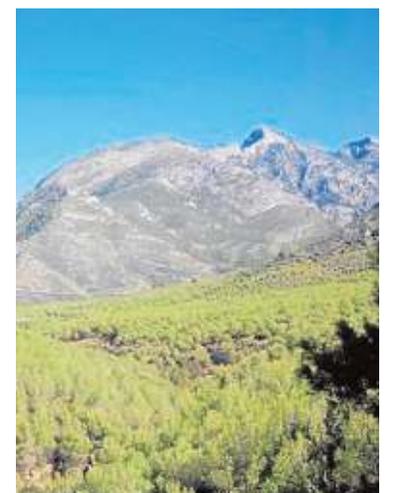
There are hopes that the annual international festival of music and dance will be able to go ahead this year after a two-year hiatus. The foundation also aims to set up a virtual reality room, with the dual aim of making the cave more accessible and bringing it closer to visitors. This project was planned for 2019, but the pandemic put it on hold.

### ALHAMA DE GRANADA

#### Body of hiker recovered from Almjara mountains

E. P. The Guardia Civil and mountain rescue experts recovered the body of a 57-year-old man on Tuesday from the summit of the Pico Lucero mountain in the Sierra de Almjara mountain range.

The man collapsed at around 1.45pm after apparently suffering a heart attack, while hiking on the Pico Lucero, or Raspón de los Moriscos, as it is also known, on the Alhama de Granada side of the mountain range. He was with two other people at the time.



The Sierra Almjara. SUR

# Strategic financial planning for the New Year

Of course, you can review your financial planning any time to ensure it is on the right path, but the New Year is the perfect prompt to do so if you have not taken a fresh look for a while.

One key reason to review your wealth management is to ensure it is up to date. Establish whether any tax rules or financial regulations have changed and consider if developments in your personal circumstances mean you should adjust previous arrangements.

But an effective review of your financial planning, to ensure it is suitable for your life in Spain and wishes for the future, needs to go beyond that.

Many people only consider segments of their finances at a time. They may have bought shares in companies they like and/or invested in funds recommended by an adviser years ago. They may speak to a tax accountant about Spanish taxation and tax planning opportunities. Then they speak to a lawyer about setting up a Spanish will. At some point they look at their pension funds.

For truly effective financial planning, however, you need to consider all these various aspects together. For example, how you hold your investments can make a difference to your Spanish tax liabilities. Estate planning in Spain is no simple matter, with its complex succession tax regime and forced heirship rules, and how you own assets can impact on what you can achieve.

Here are three key areas to consider in your review.

## Spanish residency and taxation

The fact that you are resident in Spain has an impact on your financial and tax planning.

Firstly, establish where you are resident for tax purposes, especially if you are new to Spain or spend time in both countries. The Spanish and UK residency rules are different and can be more complex than first meets the eye. The double tax treaty determines where you pay tax if you are resident in one country and earn income in the other.

Regardless of how effective your tax

planning in the UK was, you pretty much need to start afresh in Spain. What was tax efficient in the UK is unlikely to be tax efficient here. Explore the compliant arrangements available in Spain to establish what would work for your situation and aims, and how much tax you can save.

## Estate planning

The way you own assets could make a difference to how you can distribute them on death and how much tax your beneficiaries pay, so take this into consideration early on. The Spanish succession tax rules are very different to UK inheritance tax rules; you need to understand these to be able to plan around them.

Succession law in Spain establishes forced heirship rules and protects children over your spouse. This can have unwelcome consequences for certain families unless you plan ahead. UK nationals can use the EU regulation 'Brussels IV' to distribute their estate under the appropriate UK jurisdiction's law, but research this first to confirm if it is the best solution for you.

## Financial structuring for life in Spain

Perhaps the key rule for financial planning is that it must be specifically structured around your personal circumstances – your lifestyle and plans for the future, family situation, income requirements, objectives, time horizon and risk tolerance.

If you do not already have a strategic financial plan in place for Spain, you may need to take a completely fresh look at all your investments and consider if they are suitable for you today. Are they too risky? Do you have adequate diversification? Can they provide income without risking the capital? Could you consolidate shares and funds so they are easier to manage?

At the same time, consider your tax liabilities on investment income and gains and wealth, and whether you could use tax-efficient arrangements to hold your investments as resident of Spain. And how will these savings be passed to your heirs? What inheritance taxes will they pay? Can the funds be passed on directly or

will there be a lengthy probate process?

Every family is different. Your strategic financial planning must be carefully designed for you. All the various aspects should work cohesively together to create an overall wealth management plan that provides long-term financial security for yourself and achieves your wishes for your heirs. For peace of mind, take professional advice, ideally from a locally based cross-border wealth management specialist.

*All advice received from any Blevins Franks firm is personalised and provided in writing. This article, however, should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation and/or investment advice. Summarised tax information is based upon our understanding of current laws and practices which may change. Individuals should seek personalised advice.*

*Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at [www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com)*

# It's a New Year. Is it time to review your financial planning?

Regular reviews are instrumental to successful wealth management. Tax and succession regulations change regularly – are your arrangements up to date? Is your investment portfolio suitable for today and the future? Will the new changes to QROPS affect you?

At Blevins Franks we specialise in strategic financial planning from a holistic perspective. We start by discussing your situation and concerns, then analyse your residency, domicile, cross-border taxation, financial structuring, pensions, and estate planning wishes before outlining our personalised recommendations.

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The shutters were pulled down for the last time at the Café Central

## The iconic Café Central serves its last coffee

**End of an era. Malaga's most famous café closed for the last time on Sunday after over 100 years of service**

JUAN SOTO  
IGNACIO LILLO



▲ The famous tile mural with the types of coffee will be displayed on the wall outside the Juan Brea flamenco centre. **ñ. s**

► Owner Rafael Prado and his wife outside the café on Sunday. **ñ. s.**



**S**unday 9 January 2022 will go down as a sad day in Malaga city's history as its famous Café Central served its final coffee after being open for business for over 100 years.

The establishment's official "goodbye" was held last Friday, with a celebration held on the terrace for friends and regular customers, who all sang, toasted, drank coffee and ate churros.

The café's owner, Rafael Prado, said on Sunday that he was overwhelmed by the closure of his business in the central Plaza de la Constitución.

"I never thought this day would come," he said.

Prado hadn't slept for two days. "This is really hard for me. It's like going to work abroad and being separated from your family."

He couldn't even face being present as the café shutters were pulled down for the final time. "I can't do it," he said earlier on Sunday. "I'm going to the football with my grandson and I'll come back for a bit, but I'm not ready for this," he confessed.

Café Central has been the city's most famous place to get a daily

dose of caffeine, serving an average of 1,500 cups a day.

### Coffee types

Much of its fame was thanks to the instantly recognisable tile mural located on the café's outer wall, explaining how to ask for your cup of coffee, offering ten types depending on the strength. The most popular were the 'corto' and 'sombra' coffees.

The mural is so famous that Prado has personally offered it to Malaga city hall to exhibit in the city.

Prado doesn't want the future tenant destroying it. "It's part of Malaga's history," he said.

The city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, accepted the proposal. "We will find a place where it can be looked at by locals and visitors alike," he said on Monday. By Wednesday it had been decided that the new home for the original mural would be the Juan Brea flamenco centre.

The café is steeped in history. It is thought to have first opened its doors early in the 1920s. Although its origins aren't exactly clear, the first references to it are from 1920, when the estab-

lishment's name appeared in a city tourist guide as 'Café Central Manuel Lucena'. It has been owned by the Prado family since 1954.

### So why close it?

It would be tough to imagine why one of the city's most famous establishments would close down. The reason is twofold: on the one hand, Rafael Prado is 67 and believed it was time to retire; on the other hand there were problems with the building's ownership, despite it being in the family, which hindered the café doing business going forward as Prado had wanted.

The café became a souvenir shop of sorts on Sunday, as countless customers went to buy the remaining coffee mugs, with some even asking if they could buy the paintings that decorated the interior.

By midnight, Prado had run out of glasses and mugs to give away, but people were willing to take anything that was left to hold onto a piece of memorabilia.

But despite the café's closure, the essence of the family business will remain firmly in the

city. Prado's son Nacho opened a second café, Café Central La Malagueta, in 2018; as well as owning Artisan Coffee Malaga, which sells the family's famous coffee in Plaza San Francisco.

### The future of the premises

The question on everyone's mind now is: what happens next? Prado will know as soon as it passes on to the next tenant, as he himself owns a third of the building. "I don't know anything. Whatever is being said is speculation," he said on Sunday.

Moreover, and despite claims that it could become a McDonald's, Prado said that there are interested parties, but that the owners have to get together to decide what to do, because nothing has been set in stone.

When asked what he wants the café to become, Prado said that he doesn't have an answer just yet.

"I don't have a preference, anything I say is hypothetical. It's true that I have shown some interested people around the premises, although I haven't mentioned the ghosts that live in the building," he joked.

## Malaga's La Farola lighthouse is lined up for top protected monument status

JESÚS HINOJOSA / SUR

MALAGA. The well-known historic lighthouse at the old sea entrance to Malaga's port - known as La Farola - is to be classed as a protected monument. The top-level BIC (Bien de Interés Cultural) status for the iconic 1817 building is being processed by the national ministry of Culture and brings with it a strict set of restrictions, which is already causing controversy with local politicians.

La Farola lighthouse is just several hundred metres from the site of the planned five-star skyscraper hotel in the city's cruise terminal. While the Conservative-controlled local and regional governments are in favour of the tower, the Socialist-controlled government has been seen to be dragging its heels on final planning permission for the hotel. The city is split on the tower. Opposition to it stems from its effect on the port landscape.

As well as preventing modifications to the lighthouse and its immediate area, the planned new decree also adds a phrase, "Beyond the physical space, it is essential to respect the visual surroundings of the lighthouse." City leaders believe this vague terminology may be an attempt by Madrid to complicate planning permission for the hotel.

Malaga's councillor for Planning, Raúl López, said the move was just one more example of "being up against systematic harassment by the government of the project for the tower in the port".

Both the city council and the port authority claim it is down to the regional government and not central government to give the La Farola protected status.



The famous La Farola. **SUR**



# The sale of 'microcars' went through the roof at the start of this year

The small vehicles do not need a car driving licence and are safer than mopeds, a 'microcoche' distributor in the city claims

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. It appears that teenagers asked the Three Kings to give them 'microcars' this year as sales of the petite vehicles have exploded, car dealers in Malaga report. The microcars are small but expensive cars that do not require a car driving licence, just a category AM moped licence.

Registrations grew in 2021 by 72.5 per cent with 226 units sold. Malaga accounts for 30 per cent of the entire Andalusian market and only Madrid and Barcelona surpass it in sales. At the national level, the Costa del Sol market accounts for almost seven per cent.

The boom may have been motivated by the traditional gift of a moped for Kings Day, but this appears to be accelerated by a fear of public transport as a place to



Microcars that don't need a car driving licence on display at a dealership in Malaga. **SUR**

catch Covid-19 and by the fact that the 'minicoches' are safer to drive than motorcycles and mopeds.

Miguel Rebolledo, distributor of the Aixam marque in Malaga, Cadiz and Seville, said, "We are very surprised, after the pan-

demic, sales have skyrocketed well above previous records in 2019. People prefer to have their own car to avoid public transport."

The profile of who owns a 'microcar' has also changed. Previously, they were sold mainly to

**Prices vary from 9,500 to 17,500 euros, similar to that of a normal saloon car, and more electric cars are being sold too**

## Motorcycle demand picks up in the province again

On a general level, 2021 was a good year for the motorcycle and moped sector, now joined by new formats such as tricycles and quadricycles. At a national level, growth was around 6%. Again, in the case of Malaga, it has been "an exceptional year", with growth of over 20%. As a result, the province is already the third in Spain in registrations of motorcycles and light vehicles, after Barcelona and Madrid, after overtaking Valencia, which had historically occupied that position.

people aged 40 or more who do not have a car driving licence. Increasingly, buyers are aged between 15 and 18.

"First the trend was seen in the large European capitals and now it is in Malaga," said Rebolledo.

These vehicles are not, however, cheap and can cost from 9,500 euros to 17,500 euros, making the parents who buy them for their offspring very generous indeed.

"Many parents are buying them for their teenage children because they are safer than motorcycles," Rebolledo added.



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# Twenty thousand local businesses hope for new deferral of state pandemic loan repayments

More than 1,100 self-employed workers and SMEs joined the ICO credit scheme last year; repayment is due to start in April

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



MALAGA. More than 20,000 businesses in the province of Malaga, mainly small enterprises and self-employed workers, have started the year with an extra worry. As well as having to cope with the general uncertainty created by the health crisis and the increase in production costs, they face the prospect of having to pay back the state-guaranteed loans they took out in the darkest days of the pandemic, when their business ground to a halt or fell dramatically.

They ought to start paying off their debt in April, but different business associations have already raised their voices to call for the central government to put back the deadline again, for at least six months, so that the payment moves from spring to the end of this year.

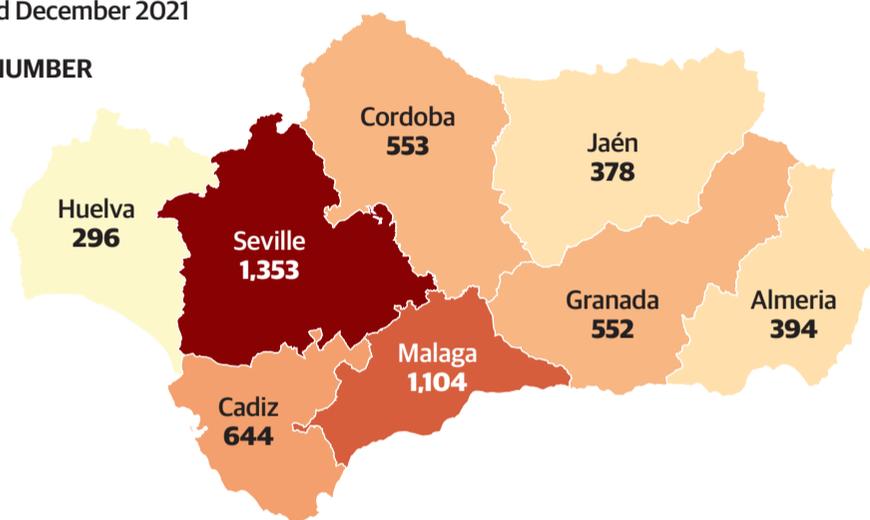
"We need to buy time and if they could get six more months, that would be very important, because we believe that 2021, and probably also 2022, will be years of transition until the situation with the virus becomes more stable," said the vice-executive president and secretary-general of the Malaga business confederation, CEM, Natalia Sánchez.

"We are in the process of recovery. Many self-employed are currently having to face other payment commitments which had been deferred during the pandemic, but we are aware of

## ICO loans in Andalucía

December 2020 and December 2021

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES



	2020			2021		
	Operations	Businesses	Average credit*	Operations	Businesses	Average credit*
<b>Andalucía</b>	<b>149,925</b>	<b>96,979</b>	<b>92,499</b>	<b>162,914</b>	<b>102,215</b>	<b>91,389</b>
Almería	11,554	7,182	97,040	12,481	7,576	95,217
Cádiz	19,030	12,781	79,750	20,627	13,425	78,378
Córdoba	14,722	9,061	97,123	16,016	9,614	96,266
Granada	16,650	11,028	81,828	18,062	11,580	81,591
Huelva	8,680	5,683	98,408	9,463	5,979	97,157
Jaén	10,758	7,095	74,484	11,697	7,473	74,344
<b>Malaga</b>	<b>30,865</b>	<b>20,065</b>	<b>88,228</b>	<b>33,398</b>	<b>21,169</b>	<b>86,799</b>
Seville	37,666	24,346	107,743	41,170	25,699	106,391

Source: Instituto de Crédito Oficial (\*) Euros received per operation

INFOGRAPHIC E. HINOJOSA

the current situation, with an increase in infection and a rise in energy costs, so moving this back from April to October would be very important," said the president of the national federation of associations of self-employed workers, ATA, Lorenzo Amor.

Both representatives of the business world are calling for another moratorium in the repayment of these ICO credits, which were guaranteed by the state and awarded through the Instituto de Crédito Oficial (official credit institute) to businesses to help deal with the effects of Covid-19 on their activity.

The ICO formula was taken up by 21,169 businesses in Malaga province. The majority took out the loans in 2020, while another 1,104 joined the scheme in 2021, according to the latest figures released by the ICO. The Spanish state, therefore, has provided guarantees in Malaga to the value of 2.27 billion euros, at an average of 86,799 euros per loan.

The ICO reports specify that the vast majority of beneficiaries of this line of credit are small businesses and self-employed workers. Among them 41.6% are micro enterprises (with fewer than ten employees), 32.4% are

**The deal was that the firms could apply for low-interest loans from their banks and the state would guarantee up to 80% borrowed**

self-employed workers and 24.1% are SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises).

The deal was that the firms could apply for low-interest loans from their banks and the state - through the ICO - would guarantee up to 80% of the amount borrowed.

Government and banks signed an agreement for this line of credit, which established up to two years of non-payment and even release under certain very specific circumstances.

"The last solution is release; what the businesses owners are asking for is more time and that's what we want too," stressed the vice-president of the CEM. Sánchez pointed out that they had already extended the deadline to start repayment of these loans three times, and that another moratorium would be welcome for local industry.

### A necessary extension

"The ICO reports reveal that 43% of the loan operations had already requested a deferment of repayment, so this moratorium seems necessary," said Sánchez, who mentioned another element of uncertainty for businesses:

"From the second half of 2021, we've seen a significant increase in costs. There has been a recovery that raised all our expectations, but we have found an increase in energy costs for companies, and this has been felt more intensely by self-employed workers and SMEs. Then we have the sixth wave [of Covid], and so we're finding that any firm that applied for these ICO loans needs to gain some time," she pointed out.

"These six months would not just be a financial buffer for the self-employed, but also for the ICO itself and for the financial institutions, as this could prevent default," said Amor.

"At the moment we are in continual dialogue with the government. There have been deferments in other areas. Is the moratorium feasible? Yes. We hope that they show willing, because we believe that it's good for everyone," he added.

## Electricity price in Spain doubles in just ten days

JOSÉ MARÍA CAMARERO

MALAGA. In the space of just 10 days, the wholesale price of electricity in Spain has risen from 112 euros/MWh to 223 euros/MWh.

Since 6 January, the cost of electricity has not fallen below 200 euros/MWh, except for Sunday 9 January when it cost 120 euros due to lower demand for electricity at weekends.

Compared to last year, the price of electricity on the wholesale market is 170.6 per cent more expensive than the price on 11 January 2021 when it cost just 82.45 euros/MWh even though Spain was in the grips of storm Filomena.

On 11 January this year, electricity was most expensive in the morning between 9am and 10am at 262.66 euros/MWh, while the minimum of 193

euros/MWh was available only to early birds between 4am and 5am.

### Prices and tension

The steep increase in recent months has been attributed to rising gas prices across Europe and geopolitical tensions.

In 2021, the average monthly price of wholesale electricity was 111.93 euros/MWh, making it the most expensive year yet.

The government has extended until 30 April the reduction of taxes included in electricity bills paid by all consumers in order to offset the negative impact of increasing costs on consumers.

## Domestic employees must not be paid less than the minimum wage, government warns

SUSANA ZAMORA

MALAGA. People who employ domestic help must not pay them less than the minimum wage, the Social Security department in Spain has warned.

Since 1 September 2021, the minimum wage for full time

work was set at 1,125.83 euros per month, and that applies to cleaners and household staff as well.

For 35 hours a week, the minimum salary is 1,055.60 euros per month; 904.80 euros per month for 30 hours per week; 603.20 per month for 20 hours per week; and 452.40 euros per month for 15 hours of work per week.

For domestic employees the hourly wage is set as no lower than 7.55 euros and the employer may not reduce that wage because they house or feed, or offer any other kind of non-monetary benefit.



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Animals now have more rights in society than ever before. EFE

## A pet is no longer an 'object' and courts must respect its welfare

The legal reforms mean an individual found guilty of animal cruelty could now lose access to their children in the event of separation

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Under Spanish law animals are now classed as sentient living beings and their welfare must be taken into ac-

count when couples divorce. Additionally, an individual found guilty of animal cruelty could lose access to their children, warns a legal association.

Family lawyers said the reforms mean that people who have been convicted of or have an open case against them for mistreating an animal, may lose custody of their children in the event of separation or divorce.

"Any incident of animal mis-

The outcome for pets will be decided by a judge, who will also decide what would happen to a pet if one of the owners dies

treatment, gender-based violence and child sexual abuse is very important in the sense that the guardianship and custody of children is limited if there was a history of animal abuse," said Mariló Lozano, the President of the Spanish Association of Family Lawyers (Aeafa).

"There may not be a situation of violence against children or against a partner, but animal abuse is a form of violence against the family."

If a person abuses and kills their pet, this would be "a total impediment to having custody of their children or joint custody" in the case of separation or divorce, Lozano added.

The Spanish Civil Code, used by judges to guide decisions, now stipulates that the welfare of the animals must be taken into account during the process of separation or divorce, including custody, care and visitation rights.

The outcome for pets will be decided by a judge, who will also decide what would happen to a pet if one of the owners dies.

## Minister's comments on meat farming continue to spark outrage on all sides

Alberto Garzón, who looks after Consumer Affairs, believes that people should eat less meat - a controversy dubbed 'the chop war'

SUR

MADRID. The national minister for Consumer Affairs continues to be in hot water over comments made in a newspaper interview about intensive meat farming in Spain.

Alberto Garzón - of Unidas Podemos, the smaller group in Spain's left-wing coalition - said, according to the UK's Guardian newspaper, that, while meat farming in Spain spread over large areas of land was sustainable, "what isn't at all sustainable is these so-called mega-farms... They find a village in a depopulated bit of Spain and put in 4,000, or 5,000, or 10,000 head of cattle. They pollute the soil, they pollute the water and then they export this poor quality meat



Alberto Garzón last month. EP

from these ill-treated animals." The comments, published just after Christmas, drew immediate criticism from the left and right of the political spectrum, including harsh words from the PSOE Socialist party, the larger partner in the coalition.

Two weeks on, the unhappiness has still not gone away, against the background of regional elections next month in Castilla y Leon, an area with a

large meat industry. Critics feel that it is not a minister's place to seemingly undermine an important sector of the Spanish economy.

The PSOE president of the neighbouring Castilla-La Mancha region, Emiliano García-Page, suggested Garzón had little else to work on and quoted a local saying, "When the devil has nothing to do, it swats flies with its tail."

The national Farming minister, Luis Planas, also said on the radio that Garzón should stick to his own department.

"I am minister for Agriculture, you'd expect if somebody was going to talk about food they would call me," he said.

However Garzón - who represents Malaga province in the Congreso - has been unrepentant, blaming a bad translation and fake news. "Everybody knows I was telling the truth," he explained. He was already known for favouring a reduction in the consumption of meat, sparking a controversy that the press has dubbed "the chop war".

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## Spot the difference



A recent poll of voter intentions in Spain shows that the gap between the Socialists and the Conservatives, in terms of their perceived competence in handling major issues, is becoming smaller and smaller. Equally uninspiring (as you could interpret the results), they form one great homogenous mass - the Political Class. Two other things about the poll command attention: first, that the Socialists are now seen as the best stewards of the economy, an accolade traditionally awarded to the Spanish right; and secondly that the right, in the form of the Popular Party (PP) and Vox, would have more seats than the current leftist coalition if an election were held today.

Of the 2,000 people polled for El Pais and the Cadena SUR radio station, 22.4% said that the Socialists are best able to improve Spain's economic situation, putting the governing party marginally ahead of the PP, which received 21.2%. Pole position isn't entirely undeserved for the PSOE: Yolanda Diaz's labour reforms look set to augment workers' rights and employment levels have returned to pre-pandemic health. But does this last fact speak of quantity rather than quality? After all, under Mariano Rajoy, the PP pulled half a million jobs out of its hat every year - and most of them were worthless.

Puzzlingly, 25.2% of the survey's participants reckon that

the PSOE is the best party to disburse the EU's Covid recovery funds over the next few years. Or should it be more surprising that as many as 17.7% think that the PP could do a better job, given that the Conservatives have provided no indications about how they would deploy this unprecedented handout if in power?

Overall, the Socialists came first with 26.1% and the PP came second with 23.5%. It's far from an emphatic victory for the left. Substantial gains on the right, for both the PP (+11 seats) and Vox (+14 seats), mean that they would sit on 165 seats in congress if a vote were held today, as opposed to 139 by the PSOE (-12) and Unidas Podemos (-4). Since the 2019 election, the right is thriving and the left is waning; and if this trend continues, it could result in defeat for the Socialist-Podemos bloc in December 2023 and a potential PP-Vox coalition - provided that the right's negotiating powers are up to the task.

There's another possibility. Because the Conservatives, under the content-free leadership of Pablo Casado, collude with almost everything the government does, maybe they should junk the opposition gig and join the POSE, after what's guaranteed to be another inconclusive election next year. At least that way both parties would have a majority, instead of having to hold a policy auction every time they wanted to get something done.

## City opens its first funeral home for pets with facilities little different to those for humans

J. ASUA

VALLADOLID. A northern Spanish city has just got its first funeral home for pets. The centre in Valladolid - called Tanatomascota - has facilities that differ very little from those intended for humans.

"We wanted it to be a warm and welcoming place," said owner Ana Belén Pérez Pahino.

In its first month of operation, Tanatomascota hosted 12 individual and five collective burials.

The funeral home for pets aims to show empathy for ani-

mals and their grieving owners; from the collection of the corpse in an isothermal van and transfer to the funeral home, to the cremation of the remains after mourners pay their last respects to a dead pet in one of three rooms where the animal's body is laid out.

"There are people who are very affected, with a lot of pain for the loss after having shared many years. Here we want that goodbye to be carried out in the best possible way," said the owner.

The layout of the funeral home for pets is identical to those for people. It includes sofas to receive visits, a viewing area of the body after its preparation on a table with a cloth and rose petals and cremation of the pet and later an urn to keep the ashes safe. Costs can vary; an individual cremation costs between 220 euros and 320 euros. A therapist is also on hand.

# Optimism and a warning in Gibraltar New Year message

Describing 2021 as an "awful year" for pandemic deaths, the chief minister said he was optimistic but realistic about the future

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Gibraltar's future is British, British, British, chief minister Fabian Picardo emphasised in his televised New Year Message on Monday evening, but as it is on the edge of Europe and a part of the European continent it has to reflect the reality of life in the third decade of the 21st century.

The chief minister was referring to the situation post Brexit, which he described as a cutting political reality that Gibraltar had not brought upon itself, and the ongoing negotiations regarding the future relationship with the EU. These include the prospect of Gibraltar having special access to the Schengen Area, as this would do away with the land border and move the external Schengen border to the airport



Fabian Picardo. SUR

and port.

Picardo said the fact that the talks with the EU are continuing is a positive sign for the prospects of reaching an agreement which will improve prosperity both sides of the border, but a deal would be legally and politically complex and "based on the reality of the multilateral relationships that our politics depends on".

He pointed out that Gibraltar's existing business model and interaction with Europe depend on

a fluid frontier that is administratively easy to traverse, but any agreement with the EU would have to respect Gibraltar's red lines on its exclusively British sovereignty, jurisdiction and control.

"The deal, if we make one, will not compromise our sovereignty, or we will not do it," he reiterated. Picardo warned that challenging times are ahead, but said there is no external challenge that Gibraltar cannot overcome and that it is no stranger to adversity: "If we stand together, I have no doubt that this year we can once again emerge successful after twelve months of hard work and determination," he said.

Earlier, Picardo had expressed his condolences to everyone in Gibraltar who had lost a relative or friend because of Covid 19. 100 people have died since the pandemic began, 93 of them in 2021, which he described as an "awful year" of pandemic deaths. "We can now look back on 2021 and see we have come through an astonishingly difficult year. And we all jointly hope or pray that a better and brighter 2022 lies ahead of us," he said.

## IN BRIEF

### CRIME

#### British suspects arrested at airport

D.B. Two British people were arrested in the departure lounge of the Gibraltar International Airport last Thursday for alleged credit card fraud. The 40 year old man, who has been named as Ansumana Jabati, and his female companion Ancilla Lucille Saba, 40, who are both believed to live in London, were detained by the Royal Gibraltar Police following a report from a business in Main Street that high value goods had been purchased in their store using fraudulent credit cards.

Further investigations found



Gibraltar Airport. D. BARTLETT

that a number of other businesses had also been targeted using fraudulent credit cards over the past few weeks. The pair were remanded in custody pending their court appearance.

### SOCIETY

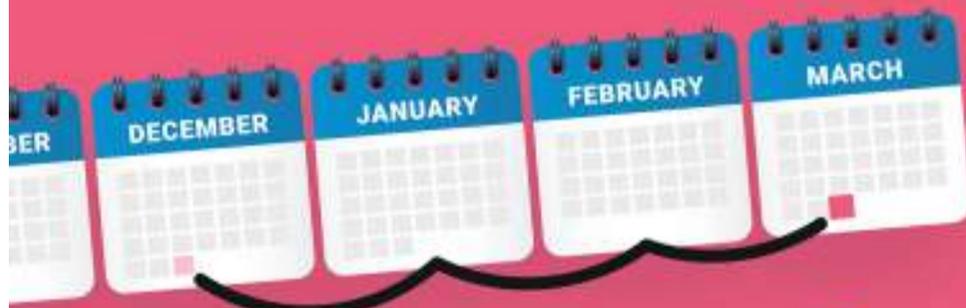
#### Nominations open for Mayor's Awards

D. BARTLETT. Nominations can now be made for the 2022 Mayor's Awards, which will be conferred upon the recipients at the end of March. These awards, which originally began as a way of recognising members of the essential services who had displayed ex-

treme courage in the course of their duties, highlight the extraordinary achievements of members of the community, and local people who have made a difference to society.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from [www.mayor.gi](http://www.mayor.gi) or collected from the Mayor's Office at City Hall, and should be filled in and returned to the office or sent via email to [mayor@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:mayor@gibraltar.gov.gi) by Friday 4 February.

# Good things must come to an end, so we moved the end.



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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Why are we taking drugs?

I can't help but feel worried for myself and the rest of today's youth. Just last summer there were a total of 25 drug-related deaths reported, with each victim having at least one substance in their system at the time of their passing. Drugs are, as they always have been, a cause for division among the many different factions of society. Some like to constantly call into question their consumption - ranging from alcohol to cocaine - while others seem to be a lot more relaxed about its use, with marijuana coming to mind. As a member of the so-called 'youth', and not a very heavy 'drug' user, it's difficult to find a side to take. I would just sit back and let people do what they want. We're all adults, at the end of the day. But at the same time I can't help but feel a sense of dread every time a friend of mine goes out for an energetic night out. Should I now feel worried that they may be offered a substance that, a priori, may enhance their experience, but at the same time fatally harm them? The world has already tried outlawing drugs. Prohibition didn't last very long, and the 'war on drugs' launched by Ronald Reagan has been about as effective as using a bucket of water to extinguish Sierra Bermeja's fire. So what can we try next? **LEANDRA ARGON**

## The 'pure' bloods

The denialist forums have a surreal feel to them and in their fight against the system, they have coined the epic term 'thoroughbreds', by which they allude to those who haven't been vaccinated and therefore have 'pure' red blood cells. The 'thoroughbred' of the month is tennis player Novak Djokovic who has never clarified

whether he is vaccinated or not and has now won a legal battle with the Australian government. The denialists believe in a mysterious global power which will dominate the world using the virus as an excuse. What New World power is in control if a 'thoroughbred' has just won a legal victory? The New World Order is still the usual disorder... **ÓSCAR B. DE OTÁLORA**

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THE MUSIC MAKER  
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## Job application

Colouring by numbers was, as far as I can recollect, a fairly enjoyable thing to do at the age of six. Whether it would hold quite the same charm these days is a moot point but there are, apparently, a good number of adults who currently find this very activity both relaxing and therapeutic in the cradle of their autumn years. Good luck to them.

The thing is, I wouldn't imagine that any of these good folk would wish to sell their wares to an unsuspecting public. Painting by numbers is an example of what used to be known as a hobby. For anyone under the age of forty, a hobby was something people would do for fun after a hard day's graft, safe in the knowledge that, although they weren't particularly good at whatever it was they were doing, it didn't matter because only their long-suffering spouse would ever

witness the results. Said spouse would have a selection of well-rehearsed, anodyne phrases at the ready for whenever something new was produced. These would include "Ooh, that's lovely, dear," the wonderfully ambiguous "I simply don't know how you do it," and - my favourite - "I'll put it safely away with the others."

Nowadays, hobbies don't really exist. Anyone who does anything, from making gingerbread men to taking photos of park benches, immediately sets up a web page, prints some business cards and calls themselves a professional photographer or gingerbreadman-makerperson. This is why nobody is doing any proper jobs any more.

It comes as no surprise then, that somebody whose name I forget has recently created an app that will write songs for you. All you have to do is press a button, go to Almeria for the

weekend, and come back to collect all the compositions your extensive button-pushing created. Something like that anyway. Then you can upload your work to Spotty Thigh and tell all your friends that they can stream them at will. They won't, though, because they're too busy trying to sell their gingerbread men and/or park bench photographs. Meanwhile, no lorries are being driven or olives are being harvested.

For now, at least, this trend seems unstoppable. So rather than wailing like a banshee in the wilderness, I've decided to go with the flow.

First, I'll bring together a crack team of bespectacled individuals to develop an app which can write newspaper articles at the swipe of a screen. Then, I'll pop to Madrid for the weekend and, in fact, this very piece should be ready when I get back.

P.S. It was.

## IDÍGORAS

The minister's mistake was to tell a British daily newspaper that Spain exports poor quality meat... They have such strange taste in food there... they hadn't even noticed...



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THE BOTTOM LINE  
JENNIE RHODES

## Childless pet owners are sentient beings too

It's pets that have been grabbing the headlines in the last few days: Spain announced a new law giving pets more rights and recognising them as "sentient beings" rather than "objects". The new law ensures that pets' welfare is considered when couples separate or an owner dies.

Meanwhile, Pope Francis, an unmarried man with, presumably (but you never know) no children through choice of career over marriage and family, was reported as saying that couples who choose to have pets

over children are "selfish". Spot the irony.

The pope is apparently concerned about falling birth rates, but surely having children just for the sake of it is more selfish than not having any in the first place. People cite all sorts of reasons for not procreating these days, from helping the environment to economic pressure, as well as simply not wanting to raise a family. According to a YouGov survey conducted in the UK in June 2021, one in 12 parents regretted having children!

He also suggested that those couples unable to have their own children should adopt. As an aunt to two adopted children, I know that it's not a decision to be taken lightly. If people wanting to have their own children naturally had to go through a similar process to that of adopters, most would be put off at the first hurdle.

While the Spanish law has been welcomed by animal lovers, the Pope's words have angered the cat and dog owners among us. I'd like to know what the Pope's namesake, Saint Francis of Assisi, would think of the pontiff's words. He is, after all, the patron saint of animals and ecology. Does he not teach us to be kind to animals and as an ecologist, surely he'd support not having children for environmental reasons?

The responsibility for animals is anything but selfish; something that the animal rescue organisations are at constant pains to

stress. Much like having children, there's food, medication and so on. Just like children, pets are messy; they don't make their beds or tidy their toys away and leave hair everywhere. All of this takes time, money and patience. You have to be pretty unselfish to have pets, in my view.

Neither is pet ownership any more convenient. Children are allowed in pretty much any hotel, campsite or airbnb. Pets, for the most part, however, are not. In some restaurants we've been told we can't even sit on the terrace with our dog. When we do take him, he lies down under a table and sleeps, while the kids on the next table are running riot and playing irritating games on their parents' mobile phones.

The pontiff's words have caused considerable contention among pet-owning, childless-by-choice couples, who are, by the way, also sentient beings.

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## IN THE FRAME

# A love affair with Spain that started nearly 60 years ago

**Clubs.** Robert Winchester has recently been elected president of the Nerja International Club which he hopes to "restore to its former glory"

JENNIE RHODES



**R**obert Winchester is the new president of the Nerja International Club (Club Internacional de Nerja). He says he's "very passionate" about the club, of which he's been a member pretty much since he and his wife Helen first discovered Nerja 16 years ago.

Robert, 75, was born in the east end of London in 1946 and after leaving school at the age of 15, he completed a six year apprenticeship with British Rail.

The experience served him well when in 1972 he started his first company, still in the east end, buying land and property and then opening a kitchen studio.

By the time Robert started his first company, he had already discovered Spain. Drawn by the images of those early years of tourism on the Costas in the 1960s, Robert's first visit to the country was in 1964 when he visited Tossa del Mar in Catalonia. "Coming from the east end of London, when you sat on a terrace watching the sun coming up while eating croissants, you thought you were on a different planet," recalls Robert.

He was hooked, and the following year he found himself sitting on terraces in Sitges. "That's

when the love affair with Spain started," he admits. Robert went on to buy a property near to Figueres, which he still owns.

Travel has always been important to Robert, who has made several trips to the USA, as well as travelling extensively around Europe and north Africa. His son and two grandchildren live in Australia and as such he has visited the country no fewer than nine times. Robert also has a daughter in the UK.

Following the death of his first wife, with whom he had his two children, Robert remarried and has been with Helen for 33 years. It was with her that Robert discovered Nerja. The couple first visited the town when they came to Cómpeeta for a wedding and fell in love with it there and then. They started coming more regularly and the "visits got longer" each time they came.

They divide their time between Nerja and their UK home near Canterbury in Kent, with occasional visits to the house near Figueres.

Before Brexit, Robert and Helen would come to Spain for five months at a time. However, now limited to the post-Brexit 90-day rule, the couple have had to rethink their trips to Spain



Robert Winchester outside the club's premises in Nerja. J. RHODES

and of course, the reduced mobility caused by the pandemic has put more constraints on their lifestyle.

## Painting

Robert says that he loves everything about Spain and in particular "the people, the culture and the language." He adds, "Spain has a certain smell, I think it must be the fresh air compared with London."

"I always tell people that my heart is in Spain but my head is in England," Robert explains. His biggest regret, he says, is "not learning the language." However, he does point out that he would have had to learn Spanish and Catalan.

One thing that Robert has always done, both in Spain and England, is paint. He uses oils and his sense of humour comes

**"Coming from the east end of London, when you sat on a terrace watching the sun come up while eating croissants, you thought you were on a different planet"**

out in his art, many of which are of people.

He has some pieces hanging up at the International Club's premises in Calle San Juan in Nerja. Any sales he makes, Robert says he will donate the money to the club.

He has, for many years, been donating the profits of paintings he sells to the William Harvey hospital in Kent, which is where his two grandchildren were born.

He's even written a children's book, *Lilian's Secret Garden*, which he also illustrated himself. It is available on Amazon and 50 per cent of the price also gets donated to the hospital. Robert says he's got another book in the pipeline, but it's a "question of getting round to it."

Clearly a charitable person, Robert also reveals that he did a parachute jump four years ago, near to the house in Figueres, which was also to raise money for the hospital. Having done it once, he does confess that he "wouldn't do it again."

As far as the club is concerned, Robert hopes that as the situation allows, it will be "restored to its former glory," having closed in September last year after a series of problems.

On Tuesday 11 January, members and nonmembers were invited to a complimentary glass of Cava and to hear about forthcoming events.

As well as being open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings (11am to 2pm) Robert is hoping to get back to a regular programme of talks, tours and trips, which were always popular before Covid.

When he is back in the UK, the club's president says he is confident that he can count on the vice president and other members of the committee to keep things going.

**i Further information about the Nerja International Club :**  
Facebook: Club Internacional De Nerja

## Spanish choreographer, Tamara Rojo, becomes first woman to direct the San Francisco Ballet

### EUROPA PRESS

SPAIN. The San Francisco Ballet (SF Ballet) company has appointed Tamara Rojo as its artistic director.

She will join the company in late 2022 after a nearly decade-long stint as director at the English National Ballet.

Rojo will replace Helgi Tomason who has been SF Ballet's director for 37 years.

She will join her husband and dancer, Isaac Hernández, who has recently been named principal dancer of the company.

"I've long admired San Francisco Ballet as one of the most creative dance companies in

America, offering so many different artistic voices the opportunity to create works for some of the best dancers in the world," Rojo said.

"I'm excited to join SF Ballet to add to the innovative spirit of the company as we reassess what the future of ballet can and should look like, opening the

best of what our art form can offer to the widest possible audience.

And while internationally recognised both for its performances and training, SF Ballet has a deep, year-round commitment to San Francisco audiences and the community, a dynamic community that my family and I very much look forward to joining and exploring," she added.

"SF Ballet is thrilled that Tamara Rojo will be joining us in San Francisco as artistic director later this year. She's had

an outstanding international career as a dancer and has been a transformative artistic director over the last near-decade.

Classical ballet is evolving from a very 'traditional' past, and as a creative visionary, Tamara is the dynamic leader who will change and expand upon how patrons of dance will be able to see and engage with it.

She is the voice of the future, and we are delighted she will be here at SF Ballet," the company added.

FUENGIROLA REVISITED  
PATRICK H. MEEHAN

# 1842: the division of Fuengirola and Mijas



**T**his February, 180 years will have passed since a historical separation gave Mijas 148 square kilometres of land and left Fuengirola with just 10. This article will explain how and why that happened.

Under the Romans and the Moors, Fuengirola Castle was the centre of an authority stretching from Cabopino to Benalmádena. When the 'Reconquista' took Fuengirola Castle in 1485, the first royal act was the appointment of Álvaro de Mesa as Warden of the Castle and administrator of its lands. He was followed in 1489 by Alonso de Mesa who would rule for almost two decades.

Alonso was a controversial character, frequently denounced to the Council of Malaga for not supporting repopulation, unfair land distribution and harsh treatment of Moorish refugees. He was even convicted of smuggling a shipment of barley bound for Barcelona. While tolerated in the chaos of building a new state, eventually the opprobrium of church and state leaders from Mijas to Malaga would subtly end his reign.

By 1510 the authority of Fuengirola Castle was reduced to its own walls, while its vast lands were placed under the administration of Mijas.

For three centuries Fuengirola was taxed and administered by authorities high in Mijas Pueblo. In 1822 Fuengirola residents petitioned the Provincial Delegation of Malaga for independence; it was contested by Mijas and dismissed. The matter simmered for 20 years until mu-

nicipality status was finally offered, with a proviso that would shape the town to this day. The Spanish constitution limited the Council of Malaga to granting an area of "four leagues in square" or 10.2 square kilometres.

If they refused and appealed to Madrid for a larger settlement, it would have been vigorously contested by Mijas and may have taken decades. Instead they accepted what was on offer and on 2 February, 1842, Fuengirola became a municipality of Malaga province. Further petitions requesting more land were made in 1866, 1873 and 1875; all were contested by Mijas and rejected.

Today Fuengirola sits compactly on 7% of the land of Mijas while each boasts a similar population of around 80,000. They are unlikely to merge voluntarily: Mijas refused an offer 25 years ago; they have too much to lose to a more obvious administrative centre.

This leaves Fuengirola today a prisoner of its history, like Monaco, Gibraltar or the Vatican, confined within borders forged in the heat of powerful moments by actors long forgotten.

**i** Patrick H. Meehan is a 20-year resident of Fuengirola and author of Fuengirola Revisited, a unique book that tells the story of the location through the ages. Feedback can be sent to [info@fuengirolarevisited.com](mailto:info@fuengirolarevisited.com) For more information visit [www.fuengirolarevisited.com](http://www.fuengirolarevisited.com) or follow @fuengirolarevisited on Facebook.

# Venice Biennale awards the innovative flamenco of Rocío Molina

The 'bailaora' and choreographer from Malaga is the second Spanish dancer to receive the Silver Lion award and the first flamenco artist

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. The Venice Biennale has awarded the 2022 Silver Lion for Dance to Rocío Molina, a choreographer and flamenco dancer from Malaga. She is the second Spanish artist to receive the award, after María La Ribot, but the first flamenco dancer to be recognised by the prestigious Italian art festival. Saburo Teshigawara, a Japanese choreographer and dancer, has been awarded the Golden Lion.

The Venice Biennale jury described Molina as the "young radical of international flamenco".



Rocío Molina. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

"Molina's avant-garde, extravagant and powerfully raw choreographies fuse traditional flamenco with modern dance styles and 'impulsos' - improvisations that characterise her unique dance language. Indeed, Molina has coined her own artistic language based on a recalibrated traditional flamenco style which respects its es-

sence but embraces the genuinely new," added director Wayne McGregor.

In Venice on 27 July, at the Teatro alle Tese, Molina will present the world premiere performance of her new work, Confesión de la Carne, "a battle between her volcanic body and five live musicians".

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María Monasterio, working on the latest commission from Las Palmas in Gran Canaria. **MARCOS ÁLVAREZ**



# The art in slow cooking

**Design.** Iconic restaurants including some with Michelin stars are enhancing their clients' sensory experience with tableware by artist María Monasterio, a potter from Malaga

**SUSANA ZAMORA**



**S**he recently moved to the heart of Malaga's La Victoria district, and there she is focusing on the project which she thought about so often when she was studying architecture at Malaga University. She had always been fascinated by manual arts and design, but after studying sciences at school she thought that type of career would bring her the best of both worlds. She was mistaken.

During her second year she realised that it was not for her. It didn't meet her initial aspirations and she felt that all the ideas flowing through her brain needed to be given form by her hands and not with a computer programme. So, before graduating (which she did in 2014), she began to learn pottery at the San Telmo Art School and took her first steps in

the profession under the guidance of her uncle, ceramics artist Pablo Romero.

Her new studio is at the top of a steep hill, so visitors are quite out of breath when they arrive. As soon as she opens the door, it is obvious what she has been doing. The traces of clay and marks on her white apron give it away.

María Monasterio is working hard. Her potter's wheel, beside two enormous kilns, presides over the room and, on an extraordinary set of shelves more than three metres long, a set of plates, all the same size and shape, are waiting to be fired. This is her latest commission and it will be finished by the end of the year: 50 pieces which will go to Calma Chica restaurant, in Las Palmas on Gran Canaria.

In fact, ever since chef Mauri-

cio Giovanini crossed her path, nothing has been the same for María. The soul of the Messina restaurant in Marbella, which retained its Michelin star this year, proved to be a turning point in her career.

Giovanini wanted ceramics which spoke the same language as his culinary creations, tableware of the same standard and in perfect harmony with his exceptional cuisine. Diners enjoy their experience via the sense of taste

**“When Mauricio Giovanini, from Messina, rang me, I could hardly believe it. Everything changed from then on”**

but also through their sight. Dishes need to be a feast for the eyes before they become a feast for the mouth, and therefore what they eat is as important as where they eat it. Lunch or dinner in a restaurant with a Michelin star is more than just sampling flavours, textures, alliances and unexpected and surprising aesthetics; it is a matter of staging, a spectacle in several acts which makes it something exceptional. Plates and trays are there on the stage to make fine

**Kaleja, Takumi, Cavala, Palodú and La Alvaroteca are among those who have commissioned pieces by María Monasterio**

dining almost a religious experience, and in that process María plays an important role.

But before that happened, there were some difficult months wandering around social media trying to attract interest in her catalogue. She decided to concentrate on functional ceramics, wanting to open up a niche in the market which had been little exploited in Malaga, and taking advantage of the boom in gastronomy in Spain.

She says she can't remember how many emails she sent to restaurants over the months, most of them in Malaga.

“It was just at that time that Mauricio happened to be looking for artisans to be involved in his new gastronomy project, and he decided to give me a call. I could hardly believe that that had happened, when I put the phone down after speaking to him,” says María, who in record time and in the busy festive season had to meet his order.

“It was quite stressful because it takes time to create ceramics and there is little we can do to speed the process up, but I managed it in a month, which is what he wanted,” she says.

Once a piece has been shaped, the base has to be fixed and left to dry for at least a week. “If you fire it before it's completely dry, it cracks,” María says. Once it has been fired (firstly at 980 degrees for about nine hours) and left to cool, it is varnished and then fired again, this time at 1,260 degrees

◀ **Potter's wheel.**

The shaping is one of the parts of the process which requires most attention. **MARCOS ÁLVAREZ**



believes that personal attention is key, carefully monitoring each piece from the moment it is shaped to ensure that it meets the chef's requirements and that the finish is perfect before it is delivered.

Other establishments outside Malaga province have also appreciated that in María, including the Dama Juana restaurant in Jaén, which was awarded a Michelin star in 2020, and Bugao in Madrid, run by Hugo Ruiz, a chef who trained in Malaga at Calima, Café de Paris and El Higuérón, among others.

María works with 'gres', a stoneware that adapts well to high temperatures and makes pieces which are strong enough to be "exposed to a lot of wear and tear" she explains, and it also makes an exceptional glaze possible. She doesn't dislike any colours, but she is particularly fond of the blue of the Malaga sea and she also likes irregular shapes. She avoids symmetry in her designs, which is where everything begins.

"Although most of the chefs let me choose what I create, I always need to know, at least, the size and the shape they want the piece to be, although it also helps me to know the style of their restaurant, and how minimalist it is," she says. So far, none of the chefs, even the most demanding ones, have returned any of her pieces. "On the contrary, I'm the one who discards them if I don't think they are exactly what I wanted," she says.

for 12 to 13 hours, to optimise the colour.

This may have been her debut, but she didn't disappoint. After that project came more commissions, not only from Mauricio Giovanini again, for his Bar de Fuegos restaurant in Madrid, but other restaurants which have made a name for themselves in Malaga, such as Takumi, Cavala, Palodú, La Alvaroteca and Kaleja. The latter, which is run by Dani Carnero, was also one of the first to place its trust in this artist, who strongly

**BESPOKE DISHES**



▲ **Kaleja.**

Bowl with a bluish varnish, one of the artist's favourite colours. **MARCOS ÁLVAREZ**



▶ **Messina.**

Pieces designed exclusively for a Michelin starred restaurant in Marbella. **SUR**



▲ **Dama Juana.**

Plate for a Michelin restaurant in Jaén.

▶ **Tuna tail.**

Designed for Bugao (in Madrid).

◀ **Cavala.**

A piece for a restaurant in Malaga.



"Pleasantly satisfied" was the reaction to one of the biggest challenges María has faced in the past five years, when the Bugao restaurant in Madrid, which specialises in seafood, ordered 400 pieces and wanted her to create a tuna tail as a napkin holder on the tables. "I remember that the

mould for the reproductions took me longer than I initially calculated and maybe I lost some money because of that, but it was an experience which taught me a lot," she says.

Her prices depend on the type of piece and its size, but normally range from 12 euros for a tray to 32 or 35 euros for a plate with a more exclusive design and which are more difficult to make.

For the moment, María Monasterio is not short of work. She has found her niche, dedicated to creating, giving shape to her ideas with pieces which have a use. She is well aware that being self-employed and an artisan is

a difficult combination, but the orders

keep coming, one after the other, although not to the extent that she is overburdened with work. That is something she is grateful for, and it is certain that her one-year-old baby appreciates it as well.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

# The gold flower of Chile

A native of the Chilean Andes, *Solenomelus pedunculatus*, commonly called the gold flower of Chile or, in Spanish, Maicillo, is a member of the Iris family (Iridaceae). It is at home living in the valleys between the coastal mountains from 500 to 2,000 metres above sea level.

The genus *Solenomelus* (previously classified as *Sisyrinchium*) has around 15 species, although only two have been officially accepted.

*Solenomelus pedunculatus* is an attractive herbaceous perennial with long, grass-like greenish-grey leaves and bright yellow flowers

in the spring and early summer. Over time, it will form large clumps, depending on the space it has for its tuberous roots. The blooms have six tepals with a touch of red at the base of each one and are held on wavy stems up to 40cm high.

Unfortunately, each flower won't last more than a couple of days.

As the gold flower of Chile likes filtered light and will withstand up to around 80 per cent shade, it is ideal for growing under trees and shrubs that will protect from direct sunlight. It is also useful for rockeries, ground cover and can be grown in a container, the bigger the container, the bigger the clump will grow.

During the summer, the foliage will die back and the plant will go dormant. If in a pot, it is probably best to water the pot occasionally to prevent the underground rhizomes from desiccating.

Once the rains return in the autumn, *Solenomelus pedunculatus* will grow again and flower in the early spring. During the winter it will tolerate short frosts but inland it is probably best to apply a layer of mulch around the base to help protect the roots.

The gold flower of Chile is easy to propagate from fresh seed sown in the autumn although seeds can be kept refrigerated for several years and remain viable. The resulting seedlings will grow fast and should flower in the first spring.

The gold flower of Chile is easy to propagate from fresh seed sown in the autumn although seeds can be kept refrigerated for several years and remain viable. The resulting seedlings will grow fast and should flower in the first spring.



*Solenomelus pedunculatus* and close up (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



MARIA HILLEN

## Euphorbia milii

This prickly succulent is commonly called crown of thorns and is said to be the plant used to make the crown of thorns that Jesus was made to wear. This photo was sent in by SUR in English reader Maria Hillen who says it is called Jesus plant in Spanish.



RICHARD ASFOUR

## Mother of thousands

Richard Asfour sent in this photo and says, "Bells of *Kalanchoe tubiflora* to ring in the New Year. A really good succulent for self seeding around a garden that is not irrigated. Also in the photo is a *Crassula ovata*, the money plant in full flower. Both flower so well in the costal winters of the Costa del Sol."

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 Mañón 48, 29009 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([@surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter (@SUR\_English).



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ALEKK M. SAANDERS



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

14 JANUARY 1875

# Alfonso XII arrives in Madrid to take the Spanish throne

Spain's history includes a peaceful and much-loved monarch, Alfonso XII, who was in England when he agreed to take the Spanish throne

**A**lfonso XII is known as El Pacificador or the Peacemaker as he devoted much of his efforts to strengthening the monarchy and putting an end to the confrontations of previous periods. He was the son of Isabella II and Francisco de Asís, Duke of Cadiz. When Queen Isabella and her husband were forced to leave Spain by the Revolution of 1868, Alfonso accompanied them to Paris. From there, he was sent to Vienna to continue his studies. On 25 June 1870, he

was recalled to Paris, where his mother abdicated in his favour. Shortly afterwards, Alfonso went to the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in England in order to complete his military studies.

It was while he was in England, that the Spanish prince agreed to become king and supporter of a constitutional monarchy by signing a political manifesto (later named as the Sandhurst Manifesto) on 1 December 1874. That document was devised and produced by Malaga-born politician and historian, Antonio Cánovas del Castillo.

The Spanish press published the manifesto on 27 December. Only two days later, General Martínez Campos



The statue of Alfonso XII on the Balcón de Europa in Nerja. SUR

carried out a military uprising in Sagunto (Valencia) with hardly any opposition, and proclaimed Alfonso XII the King of Spain. On 14 January 1875, the new king arrived in Madrid. On his way there he had passed through Barcelona and, and apparently had been met with acclamation everywhere.

Much later Malaga was also visited by the monarch but on a rather tragic occasion. A devastating earth-

quake had been registered in Granada province on 25 December 1884, affecting the eastern part of Malaga province. King Alfonso XII travelled to the areas destroyed by the earthquake; it is thought he visited about 25 villages between 10 and 20 January 1885, travelling on horseback in severe weather.

On 28 February 2003, the bronze monument to Alfonso XII was inaugurated on the Balcony of Europe in Nerja. The statue, created by the artist Francisco Martín, commemorates the king's visit to the town on 12 January

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Monarquía	Monarchy
Enfrentamiento	Confrontation
Pacífico	Peaceful
Traición	Treachery
Destrozado	Destroyed
Terremoto	Earthquake
Conmemorar	Commemorate
Príncipe	Prince
Estudios	Studies
Coronado	Crowned
Trono	Throne
Abdicar	Abdicate
Manifiesto	Manifesto
Pronunciamiento	Uprising
Balcón	Balcony



A portrait of Alfonso XII. SUR

1885. A popular story tells of how Alfonso XII stopped (at the end of that trip) in the district of El Palo in Malaga city. It is believed that at the restaurant La Gran Parada he was invited to taste the typical Malaga 'espetos de sardinas' (sardines on skewers). The owner of the well-known chiringuito, Miguel Martínez Soler, instructed the king on how to eat the fish correctly - with his fingers, and not a knife and fork.

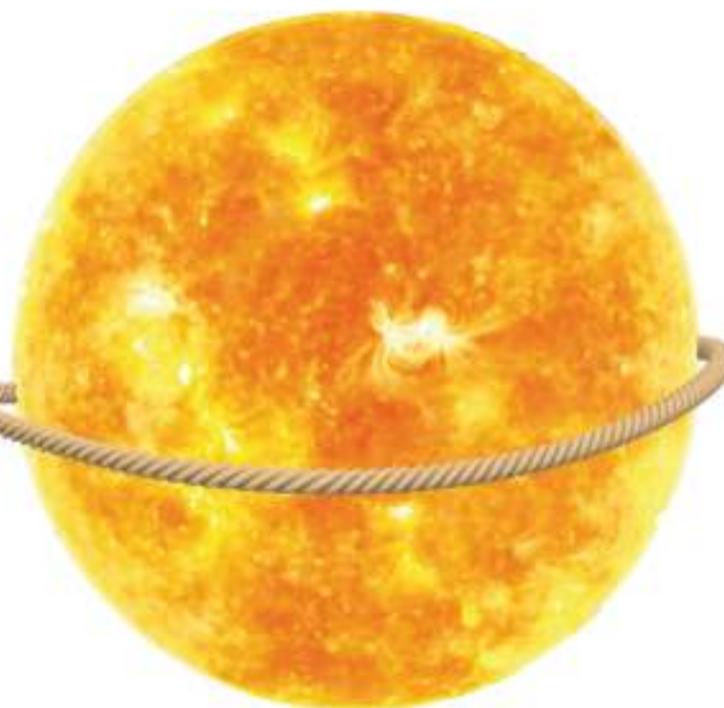
**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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## HEATING THE HOME

# Keep the home fires burning this winter

**Tips to lighting a wood burning stove to get maximum heat output and keep it burning longer**



### CAST IRON WOODBURNERS

With the evenings starting to get decidedly chilly and forecasts of more cold weather to come, nothing beats a real fire in your sitting room to keep you feeling cosy. While open fires can do the job quite well, a cast iron woodburner is much more efficient and has the added benefit of radiating heat while creating a pleasing focal point. It is best to get one installed professionally, preferably with a flue that goes all the way up inside an existing chimney or exits through an outside wall.

To lay the fire, clean out most of the ash that might block the air holes, leaving just a centimetre or two. Scrunch up some paper and place in the bottom, followed by two or three small logs on the stove bed. Then stack

some softwood kindling on top. Using a firelighter will make things a lot easier or you can just light the paper with a match. Make sure the air control is fully open at this point - this will maximise the supply of oxygen and get the fire roaring away. Once it is burning well, close down the air intake and add a log. Do not overload the fire, try to keep to a maximum of two mid-sized logs at once. The heat output depends a lot on the type of wood that is being burnt and its moisture content. Softwoods burn faster but hardwoods produce more heat over a longer period.

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**EXHIBITIONS****Massimo Cedrini**

**MARBELLA.** Until 31 January. Excellence Art Gallery. Italian artist Massimo Cedrini is exhibiting a collection entitled Amort Un Solo Planeta (Love Is The Essence Of Life, Humans, Animals, Just One Planet.) The objective of these paintings is to highlight the mistreatment of Mother Nature and includes around twenty works which have a big emotional impact.



Massimo Cedrini, Marbella

**My Secret Garden**

**PUERTO BANÚS.** Until 16 January. Belgian artist Arne Quinze is exhibiting a collection of his aluminium sculptures, inspired by nature, around the streets and port of Puerto Banús.

**Toy exhibition**

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** Until 28 February. El Museo Andaluz de la Educación, C/ Ermita. Over 150 toys and dolls are on display all from the 1950s up to about 2000. The exhibition includes bicycles, scalextric and Game Boy consoles.

**Introverso**

**MALAGA.** Until 17 January. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter 1. The exhibit Introverso will display ceramic art by Mónica Rivas Lee. [www.alfajar.es](http://www.alfajar.es)

**Malaga Picasso Museum**

**MALAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín. **Picasso exchange.** The MPM has made an exchange with the Musée National Picasso-Paris and will be able to exhibit the wood and oil paint sculpture Copa, Periódico y Dado that Pablo Picasso created in 1914. The museum is also exhibiting Bodegón con Cráneo, Puerros y Jarra which Picasso painted in 1945. It is on loan from the Fine Arts Museum in San Francisco. Both artworks are on display until February 2022. [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org).

**Centre Pompidou**

**MALAGA.** Muelle Uno. <https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/> **La Ecología de Las Imágenes.** Until 17 January 2022. An exhibition by 11 French and Spanish artists. Videos, photos and contemporary art. **From Miró to Barceló.** Until 6 February, 2022. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló.

## Soul and Motown classics tribute night



The Soul Brothers. SUR

The show will pay tribute to Lionel Richie, The Drifters and The Stylistics

**TONY BRYANT**

**MARBELLA.** The Live Lounge music venue at the La Sala in Puerto Banús will host the Lionel Richie and The Soul Brothers Experience tribute night on Tuesday 25th January.

Popular Costa duo The Soul Brothers will perform tributes to Lionel Richie, The Drifters, The Stylistics and The Temptations, whose combined hits include classics like Hello, Save the Last Dance for Me, Betcha By Golly Wow and The

Way You Do the Things You Do.

The repertoire will also include hits of other soul artists like Wilson Pickett and Sam and Dave, among others.

The duo consists of James Ray, a saxophonist and vocalist who has performed in venues throughout Europe and the Middle East; and Frankie B, former singer of the band Heatwave who has made his mark on the soul scene on the Costa del Sol.

Tickets for the concert, which begins at 8pm, can be reserved can be made on [www.lasalabanus.com](http://www.lasalabanus.com), or by phoning 952 814 145.

Capacity restrictions will be enforced, so early booking is advised.



Toy exhibition, Alhaurín de la Torre

Un siglo de Arte Español (From Miró to Barceló. A century of Spanish art). This chronological journey through a century of Spanish art shows that the generation of contemporary artists has kept alive the spirit of the avant-garde with extraordinary energy. This exhibition has been joined by the works of sculptor Julio González.

**Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA.**

**Uncertainty's Grace.** Until 30 January, 2022. Markus Muntean (Austria, 1962) and Adi Rosenblum (Israel,

1962) produced this eight minute video clip to reflect the diverse possibilities of non-religious spiritualism in a consumer society.

**Dieter de Greef.** Until 20 February. Coup de Théâtre by Belgian artist Dieter de Greef will be exhibited for the first time in Europe at the CAC. The exhibition consists of paintings in different formats completed over the last four years.

**Patricio Cabrera.** Until 28 February. Seville artist Patricio Cabrera, is exhibiting over twenty of his works in different techniques and formats in this exhibition entitled El Labrador y el Astronauta.

**Habitar la Pausa.** Until 16 January. Students that form part of the VIII de la Beca Artista Residente de Postgrado 2021 la Facultad de Bellas Artes de la Universidad de Málaga, will be exhibiting their works.

**Art For Change**

**MALAGA.** Until 23 January, 2022. Sala de Exposiciones, Jardín Botánico La Concepción

The exhibition aims to make the viewer reflect on the sustainability of the planet by providing a complete overview of visual arts from Malaga in the second decade of the 21st century.

**100 Years of the Foreign Legion**

**MALAGA.** Until 15 February. Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País, Plaza de la Constitución.

The exhibition is organised by the Ministry of Defence with the support of the Museo del Ejército, the Asociación de la Legionarios de Honor, the Fundación Tercios de Extranjeros and the Asociación Bernardo de Gálvez. The exhibition consists of photos and documents that cover the 100 years history of the Spanish Foreign Legion.

**Presencias 51**

**MALAGA.** Espacio Expositivo Pacífico 54, C/Pacífico.

The Asociación de Artistas Plásticas de Málaga (APLAMA) celebrate 25 years this year with a collective exhibition. Open daily 9am - 2pm.

**Mamones vs Human**

**MALAGA.** Until 25 February. El Centro de Fotografía y Artes Visuales, C/Victoria.

An exhibition by Jorge Rueda of surreal and sometimes amusing photographs which question societies hipocritical values, sex, religion and politics.

**Metal Dennis Manarchy**

**MALAGA.** Until 15 January. La Térmica.

An exhibition of photographs by American artist Dennis Manarchy. The models in the photos have been made-up using metallic spray paint and dressed with fantastic objects from 'Radio Guy' Steve Erenberg's collection. The items include industrial artifacts and rare medical instruments.

**Carmen Thyssen Museum**

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

**Sorolla in Javea.** Until 16 January 2022. Sorolla's summer vacation in Javea in 1905 was the catalyst for a series of paintings which demonstrate his recognised style coming to maturity with rocky coves and bright light reflecting off the sea with figures in the water. Around 20 canvases from that period have been lent by the Sorolla Museum in Madrid.

**Museum Jorge Rando**

**MALAGA.** C/ Cruz del Molinillo. [www.museojorgerando.org](http://www.museojorgerando.org)

The Jorge Rando museum is celebrating its seventh anniversary this year and has a special exhibition entitled Soldados by Jorge Rando. A new exhibition, in conjunction with The Chinese Art Museum is called Huellas



Hua Mulan, Museo Jorge Rando



Estrella Carabel, Almuñécar

de Oriente. The exhibition will include pieces by Dao Zi, one of the main promoters of Christian contemporary art in China; Zhang Fuye, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts among many other accolades: and Liu Xuguang, modern and contemporary artist and intellectual. [www.jorgerando.org](http://www.jorgerando.org)

**Solana y Romero de Torres**

**MALAGA.** Until 19 March. Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja, Plaza del Obispo.

The new exhibition is entitled Solana y Romero de Torres, una Historia de Arte Español en Negro. The works of both artists are linked by the use of black in their paintings. Over 100 paintings are in the exhibition including some by other artists such as Murillo, Goya and Sorolla. <https://www.fundacionunicaja.com/>

**Estrella Carabel Ferreiro**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 30 January. Sala de Exposiciones Rowland Fade, Casa de Cultura.

Las Memorias del Alma is the title of this exhibition by Galician artist Estrella Carabel Ferreiro.

**MUSIC AND DANCE****La Cochera Cabaret**

**MALAGA.** Avda de los Guindos. **14 January, 9pm.** Subze 2021 Tour. **15 January, 9.30pm.** The Buzz Lovers, tribute to Nirvana. **16 January, 12pm.** A Compás. Flamenco, dance and song. **22 January, 10pm.** La Bengala Tickets: [www.lacocheraentradas.com/](http://www.lacocheraentradas.com/)

**Clarence Jazz Club**

**TORREMOLINOS.** Calle Danza Invisible, 8. **14 January, 10pm.** WIP Trio. The Working In Privacy trio is headed by pianist, composer and mathematician José Ignacio Hernández **15 January, 10pm.** Javier Ruibal Trío. **20 January, 10pm.** Jazz jam session. **21 January, 10pm.** Bosch & Torres Quintet. **22 January, 10pm.** Pedro Pablo & Three Cuban Jazz. [info@clarencejazzclub.com](mailto:info@clarencejazzclub.com)

**Film jazz**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 22 January, 7pm. Auditorium of the Casa de Cultura. The Costa Jazz Quartet. [aytoalmunecar.prensa@gmail.com](mailto:aytoalmunecar.prensa@gmail.com)

**Vargas Blues Band-Back In Memphis**

**NERJA.** 21 January, 8-9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja, C/Granada. Tickets 15€ in advance, 18€ on the door: [www.mientrada.net/evento/vargas-blues-band/](http://www.mientrada.net/evento/vargas-blues-band/)

#### Salon Varietés

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

**Johnny G Jukebox Gold.** 15, 16 January. Johnny G and Miss Gin play jukebox favourites from The Kinks, Roy Orbison, The Beatles, The Animals, The Bee Gees and today's radio hits from the likes of The Killers and Kings of Leon. Tickets: [boxoffice@salonvarietestheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@salonvarietestheatre.com) or call: 952474542

#### The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**MALAGA.** Various venues. 25 January. In the auditorium of the Museo Picasso Málaga, 8pm. Violin and piano duet with Jesús Reina and Josu de Solaun. More information: [www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com](http://www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com).

#### Joven Orquesta Mediterránea

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 23 January, 7pm. Auditorium of the Casa de Cultura. The orchestra will be in concert. [aytoalmunecar.prensa@gmail.com](mailto:aytoalmunecar.prensa@gmail.com)

#### Trío Medal

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 24 January, 8pm. Auditorium of the Casa de Cultura. The Juventudes Musicales de Almuñécar have organised this con-



Johnny G, Fuengirola.

cert of piano, French horn and violin. [aytoalmunecar.prensa@gmail.com](mailto:aytoalmunecar.prensa@gmail.com)

#### La Posada

**MALAGA.** Vincci Posada del Patio, Pasillo de Sta Isabel.

14 January, 8pm. Play On.  
21 January, 8pm. Iris Nieto Duet.  
28 January, 8pm. Señor Blues. [www.tallerblues.es](http://www.tallerblues.es)

#### The Rob Sas Band

**COSTA DEL SOL.** Various venues. 29 January, 9pm, Benalmádena. Bar los Motos.

#### Michael Kevin Jones in concert

**MARBELLA.** 29 January, 6pm. Las Mariposas. The first in the Hauskonzert series, a concert with cellist Michael Kevin Jones accompanied by Monica Forrester Becko on the harpsichord. With

music from composers such as Bach and Vivaldi. Tickets: [reservas@musicaconencanto.org](mailto:reservas@musicaconencanto.org) or call: 654013232 Covid vaccination certificates and masks are mandatory.

#### CHARITY

#### ARCH Open Day

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** Sundays, 9am-4pm. Viña Borrego. The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys have resumed their popular Sunday open mornings. Children can groom the donkeys and ponies, and volunteers are on hand to explain the charity's work. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or [www.horserescue-spain.org](http://www.horserescue-spain.org)

#### ADANA coffee mornings

**SABINILLAS.** First Friday of every month. Luna Nueva, on the seafront. Home baked cakes, scones and biscuits, donated items for sale and an occasional raffle.

#### LECTURES AND TALKS

#### National Museum lecture series

**GIBRALTAR.** Monthly at John Mackintosh Hall.

13 January, 7pm. Dr Jennifer Balantine. "Two Gibaltars - the one that lies before him and the one that exists in his mind" (Mark Sanchez, Ruina): The convergence of the past upon Gibraltar's fast changing topography.



Bernardo Ocando is exhibiting at El Morche's Bio Beach Club. SUR

## A figurative tribute to the beauty of Venezuelan women

#### JENNIE RHODES

**EL MORCHE.** Venezuelan architect Bernardo Ocando is holding an exhibition of his work at the Bio Beach Club restaurant on the promenade in El Morche from 14 January. It will run until 10 February.

The exhibition, 'Figurative Art in Harmony of Abstract' is a collection of the 83-year-old artist's oil paintings.

He describes his work as a "tribute to the beauty of Venezuelan women, with the

intention of inspiring and promoting the bases of value and respect for all women, as a fundamental pillar of a successful society."

Ocando and his wife have lived in Andalucía for over 50 years, which is where he finds "tranquility and inspiration" for his work, having had many "difficult experiences" in his country of birth.

The Bio Beach Club is open every day except Tuesdays, from 9am to midnight.

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## MORE IDEAS

## Friday activities for pensioners

**TORREMOLINOS.** *Palacio de Congresos.*

Aimed at the older generation, Torremolinos Town Hall has announced the Viernes de Guateque which will take place once a month between 5pm and 9pm and will include a light afternoon tea and live music. Call: 952371486.

## TIMS choir

**LOS BOLICHES.** *Wednesdays 7-9.30pm. St Andrew's Church.*

The International Music Society is welcoming new members. There are no auditions and the ability to read music is less important than enthusiasm and commitment. Visit their Facebook page or their website :- [www.timschoir.org](http://www.timschoir.org) call: 654891790.

## Coral Coraxalia

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** *Thursdays, September to June, 5.30-8pm. Casa Hermandad de la Cofradía de los Estudiantes, Plaza del Sastres.*

The choir is welcoming new members. Call: 689111352 (Spanish) or 657951755 (English). Email: [euco-rax@hotmail.es](mailto:euco-rax@hotmail.es)

## Family English Cemetery Days

**MÁLAGA.** *Saturdays, 10am-2pm. Avda de Pries, 1.*

Are you looking for a family activity for Saturday mornings, which is fun, educational and in the open air? Book

a family visit to the English Cemetery and we will provide a route to follow to discover some fascinating Malaga history, and games to play along the way - all in both English and Spanish. Reserve a time slot on <https://cementerioingles-malaga.org/en> under the "visits" tab. Language, history and art teachers are also welcome to contact us via the web about this and other activities we can provide.

## Bridge Lessons

**FUENGIROLA.** *Every Tuesday, 11am - 1pm from 18 January. Restaurante La Chispa, near the Feria ground.*

Fuengirola International Bridge Club is offering a course of bridge lessons to beginners and rusty players who want to learn the modern game. The first three weeks are free and there is no obligation to continue. The full course is 15 weeks and the weekly cost is 6euros. Information and to register email: [frankdeakin@aol.com](mailto:frankdeakin@aol.com) or call: 603358489.

## Gibraltar Chess Festival

**GIBRALTAR.** *From 23 January until 3 February. Garrison Library.*

The Battle of the Sexes 2022 is an International chess festival with a full programme of evening events including lectures from world class chess writers and journalists. The novelty blitz pairs evening offers the opportunity of partnering a world-class player such as Nigel Short. More info: <https://www.gibchess.com/>

## Lux Mundi

**TORRE DEL MAR.** *Mon and Wed 10am-1pm, Fridays, 11am - 1pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.*

**Taizé Prayer.** 28 January 7.45pm. San Andrés church. Taizé prayer is a monthly invitation to join in prayer. Send an email to be included in them: [luxmundi@lux-mundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@lux-mundi.org).

**Coach trip to Marbella and Plaza Mayor.** 20 January. Various departure points. An excursion to Marbella Old Town then drive to Plaza Mayor and the Designer Retail Outlet, McArthur Glen. Tickets 19€ visitors or 16€ for Lux Mundi card holders. Bookings: 952543334 or email: [luxmundi@lux-mundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@lux-mundi.org)

## 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.*

**Matrix Resurrections:** 20.05 (Tues).  
**The Card Counter:** 21.45 (Tues).  
**La Casa Gucci:** 20.10 (Tues); 22.45 (Sat, Sun).  
**Flag Day:** 21:15 (Tues).  
**Scream:** 20.15 (every day).  
**Spiderman No Way Home:** 13.30 (Sun); 19.05 (Tues); 22.35 (Fri, Sat).  
**Westside Story:** 17.05, 21.20 (every day).



English cemetery days, Malaga

## Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

**Scream:** 19.40 (Tues)  
**Westside Story:** 19.45 (Tues).  
**Spider Man No Way Home:** 20.00 (Tues).

## Yelmo Cines, Vialia

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

**House of Gucci:** 20.30 (Tues).  
**Matrix Resurrections:** 12.40 (Sun); 20.10 (Tues)  
**Spiderman No Way Home:** 19.00 (Tues).  
**The Card Counter:** 20.00 (Tues)  
**Westside Story:** 12.45 (Sun); 22.55 (Fri, Sat).

**Scream:** 19.40 (Tues).

## Cinesur Miramar

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

**Dazed and Confused:** 20.00 (Tues).  
**Bram Stoker's Dracula:** 20.00 (Thurs).  
**Spiderman No Way Home:** 12.15, 16.15, 19.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.15, 20.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 22.15 (Sat).  
**Canta 2:** 12.20, 17.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Scream:** 20.00 (Sat, Sun); 21.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 22.30 (Sat).  
**Westside Story:** 17.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).  
**The Card Counter:** 18.35 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).  
**Matrix Resurrections:** 17.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

## Cinesur Ingenio

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

**Scream:** 19.40 (every day except Thurs).  
**Spiderman No Way Home:** 11.50 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Mon, Tues), 22.00 (Fri-Wed).  
**The Card Counter:** 21.45 (every day except Thurs).  
**Canta 2:** 11.50 (Sat, Sun).  
**Dazed and Confused:** 20.00 (Tues).

## Cine Albéniz

**MÁLAGA.** *C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com.*

**Flag Day:** 17.30, 22.00.  
**Baghdad in My Shadow:** 19.45.

## Rockin Race Jamboree returns to Torremolinos for 28th edition

The four-day, retro extravaganza has become the most important American roots music festival in Europe

## TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** The town of Torremolinos is gearing up for one of its biggest cultural events of the year, the coveted Rockin Race Jamboree, which will be held next month.

The music festival was cancelled last year due to the pandemic and there was some concern as to whether the 28th edition would be staged this year, but organisers have announced the festival will go ahead, although it will adhere to any covid regulations in force at the time.

Capacity restrictions is one of the most likely measures, so early reservations for the main concerts held in the municipal auditorium has been advised.

Organisers also intend to present the highlight of the festival, an afternoon of live music and a classic American car parade on the seafront in Playamar, but stressed that this will depend on any further restrictions enforced to combat the latest wave of the virus.

The festival will begin with a launch party at the Hotel Barracuda in Torremolinos on Wednesday 2 February, and continue at the auditorium from Thursday 3 until Saturday 5 February from 8pm.

Other daytime concerts are planned at the hotel, and also in Plaza del Remo, but it is advisable to check the festival website in case of any changes.

The website also offers a complete list of the regulations that have been enforced to ensure the protection of the audience, musicians and staff. These will include the wearing of face masks and the presentation of a covid passport or a negative PCR test to gain access to the hotel and the auditorium.

The four-day retro extravaganza



London band The Comet Combo will bring their classic rock and roll to the retro music festival next month. **sur**

is the most important American roots music festival in Europe. Nominated 'best music festival' by the Ameripolitan Music Awards in Memphis, the event presents live performances by some of the genres most celebrated artistes.

## International musicians

The festival has gained momentum over the years because it presents musicians from all over Europe, the USA and Latin America.

Fans of rock and roll travel from all over Europe and Spain to enjoy the gathering, many of

whom dress in classic 50s style attire especially for the event.

This year's line-up includes Reverend Horton Heat, a musician from Texas who has become known as the "godfather of modern rockabilly and psychobilly". His band of the same name formed in 1986 and began performing swing, big band and rockabilly classics in the clubs around Dallas. Today, they have recorded 12 albums and have achieved several hits on the American Billboard charts.

Also appearing are London rockers The Comet Combo, a

six-piece group who perform in the style of Bill Haley; Charlie Hightone and The Rock-It's, Charlie is one of Spain's top rock and roll performers who has played at some of the most prestige festivals in the USA, Canada and Australia; and Roy Dee & the Spitfires, a four-piece rockabilly band from Portugal renowned for their energetic stage show and their incredible musicianship.

Tickets for the main shows in the auditorium and the Hotel Barracuda must be made in advance. Special packages are available: [www.rockinrace.com](http://www.rockinrace.com)

# Start the year in good shape. With these apps you can exercise body and mind in your own home

SARA BORONDO

Since the start of the pandemic many people have reduced their level of physical activity and this lack of exercise affects not only what the weighing scales show but also mood. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that we all get moving every day to look after the body and also the mind. A study published in *The Lancet* four years ago, which analysed the relationship between exercise and mental health, came to the conclusion that the most sedentary people have a worse perception of their mental health than those who exercise daily. So, let's get moving! With all the apps that exist nowadays, there is no excuse to lounge about on the sofa.

## Home workout No equipment, by Leap Fitness Group

This includes routines to exercise different muscle groups (abdominals, chest, legs, arms...) without leaving home, as well as warm-up and stretching exercises of different intensities, which can be adapted to the user's fitness level. The app has video guides and animation for each exercise, so it is easy to maintain correct posture. It even has a specific programme for people who are confined. There are also nutritional suggestions aimed at strengthening muscles. To access some of the exercises you have to watch an advertising video. If you want to repeat the programme with a guide, you have to take out an annual subscription, and there are seven days free so you can try it out.

## Yoga Down Dog, from Yoga Buddhi Co.

The user chooses the postures they want to practise depending on the level they are at - there are five different ones. They can also choose the type of music or the sound they want to listen to during the session. The app allows you to choose between different types of yoga and also the rhythm of the sessions or whether you want to focus on a specific part of the body. All the details and the configuration can be changed at the beginning of each session.

## Pilates Nexoft Mobile

Pilates is a type of training exercise which is becoming in-

creasingly popular among sport lovers because it is a way of combining stretching and strength exercises without overloading the joints. It also improves posture and increases flexibility. Although equipment is normally used, you can also practise pilates in your living room.

This app, which is only available for Android, has a total of 60 yoga and pilates exercises, classified according to their intensity and difficulty. It includes the description of each exercise in audio, video and text. There is a table showing weekly progress, so users can check whether they have attained their objective. There is a version in Spanish, but the translation is not very good.

To create a personal plan, you have to pay a one-off fee of 3.99 euros. For Apple devices there are similar applications, such as Pilates Anytime.

## Flexibility A month of exercises with Mel Studio

Those who are not used to doing any type of exercise may prefer to start by stretching their muscles. The results can be noted within just a few days. You

## Some apps include specific programmes designed for people who are confined

can set a specific target, follow one of the programmes contained on the app or focus on stretching one part of the body. The exercise you do is registered on the calendar and you can see how you evolve. There is also an achievements system. The application, which is only available for Android, has a Spanish version, but the translation is not very good.

For iPhone or iPad there are similar apps. Stretch and Flexibility is one of them, with options such as stretching before going to sleep and exercises to do after practising sport.

## High intensity Seven-minute workout by Perigee Absads

You don't have to spend a lot of time doing physical exercise for it to be effective. Just a few minutes can be enough. With this app, you can choose between three options: get in shape, strengthen the body or lose weight. The sessions have 12 high-intensity exercises at various intervals with a few seconds of rest in-between.

In this case it is advisable to be in shape and consult a doctor before starting, because it is demanding on the heart, especially for people who are overweight, have cardiovascular problems or are not used to intensive exercise.

The subscription gives you access to personalised plans and advice from qualified personnel.





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# Priory wines



ANDREW J. LINN

The link between wine and religion has existed for many centuries, although to be specific, the wine had to be red and the religion Catholicism. English settlers on America's east coast brewed beer from practically anything, while Spanish colonisers' priority was planting vines for 'communion wine'. Cynics will maintain that the priests drank most of it, leaving thimblefuls for the faithful.

Nearer home the majority of Spanish wine regions have no religious links, except the Priorato region, high up in the Pyrenees and with freezing winters and hellish summers. It had been settled by the Carthusians in the 12th century, and it was the monks who hacked terraces out of steep hillsides to plant vines

Into this unusual scenario arrived two hippy drifters, both coincidentally from winemaking families, René Barbier and Alvaro Palacios. While René bought the finca L'Hort Piqué, Alvaro acquired Finca Dofi, now L'Ermita, in 1990. Understandably at the time the locals thought they were mad since all of them were doing nothing more than scratching a living from viticulture.

The possibility that great wines could ever be made in the region was thought of as sheer lunacy, and there was even a proposal on the table for all wines made locally to be funnelled through a co-operative and sold under a generic label.

Back then in 1989 there were only four bodegas in Priorato. Today there are more than a hundred, with well-known names like Jose Luís Pérez, Carles Pastrana, Torres, Castell de Peralada, Freixenet and Codorniu. Four million bottles of wine are produced annually.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Pissarres Priorat

A very acceptable Priorato of reasonable value. Made with the local Samsó grape blended with Garnacha, very solid and with good fruit. For a first sampling of a wine from this region, a perfect example. Around 14.50 euros.



The Morá carrot isn't purple all the way through but has shades of lilac, orange, purple and white. **SUR**

# The purple carrot, the unique gastronomic symbol of Cuevas Bajas

This unusual vegetable was first introduced by the Arabs and is grown along the banks of the Genil river

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The most familiar carrots are orange, a shade introduced by the Dutch in the 16th century. Although it is currently the most widely used type of carrot, there is another that has been cultivated since the time of Al-Andalus in Malaga, specifically in the vegetable plots along the banks of the Genil river: the purple carrot. This vegetable has become the symbol of Cuevas Bajas, the inland Malaga village which is producer of it. With a tradition that passes from generation to generation, this characteristic tuber is the protagonist of a series of different events in the town and of an extensive harvesting campaign that takes place between November and December.

According to the producers, it has a higher amount of antioxidants than conventional carrots.

This type of carrot, which originated from Asia, was introduced to the Iberian Peninsula by the Arabs at the time of Al-Andalus. On the banks of the Genil river, a rich, fertile plain was found ideal for its production, which has been maintained until the present day, although after the popularity of the orange carrot, this purple variety has been disappearing from the rest of the country.

Its peculiarity is its intense purple colour, as well as an average size larger than that of conventional carrots. Its interior is very unusual: with tones of lilac, mauve, orange and white.

Morá carrots are planted during the first few days of summer and are harvested in late November and early December, so its presence "has always been a sign of the arrival of cold weather", which in turn has made it the star ingredient for winter dishes such as migas, very typical in this area.

In addition to being a good source of carbohydrate, it has diuretic properties, anti-carcinogenic components, vitamins A, E and B and potassium.

Its flavour is also very characteristic, with a delicate sweetness. Although the carrots can be eaten both raw and cooked, they do not respond so well to cooking as the conventional orange carrots do. To celebrate the wide range of culinary possibilities offered by the purple carrot, Cuevas Bajas holds the Fiesta de la Zanahoria Morá, the first Sunday of December every year, coinciding with the harvesting season. The farmers sell their crop in a market that is complemented with numerous activities and a huge dish of migas for the attendees.

The versatility of this vegetable has led local firms to produce products with the morá carrots, as a sign of the identity of Cuevas Bajas. Among them are dried snacks, balsamic and caramelized vinegars, jams and even beer and gin with it as an ingredient.

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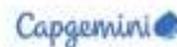
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# A home point to kick off 2022

The Blue and Whites were unlucky not to take all three points, with many chances not quite hitting the mark

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. Malaga returned to La Rosaleda for the first time in 2022 on Sunday, 9 January, with a 2-2 draw against Sporting Gijón in a good display from the hosts, who were unable to overcome a solid defence.

Head coach José Alberto lined up a strong starting eleven, as several players returned from either injury or testing positive for Covid-19, with new signings Aleix Febas and Álvaro Vadillo starting on the bench.

The opening ten minutes saw a dominant Malaga press high up the pitch, eager to win the ball back, and they also enjoyed a good amount of possession but struggled to find space to play.

Sporting were then given a penalty in the 15th minute, as one of their players was clumsily brought down. The visitors converted the spot kick to take the lead, completely against the run of play.

The goal gave Malaga's opponents a big boost, nearly doubling their lead five minutes later. The hosts would revert back to pressing high and trying to regain possession, with both teams now fighting for control of the game.

## Penalty

The Blue and Whites had a stroke of luck on the half-hour mark,



Malaga players celebrate scoring the first goal. MARIANO POZO

being given a penalty of their own, which Brandon tucked away in the bottom left corner.

Malaga had a few more chances but despite their best efforts, Sporting scored their second just five minutes from the break with a stunning, left-footed effort from outside the box that completely silenced La Rosaleda.

The second half saw an equally determined Malaga side, with a few early chances - namely a wasted one-on-one attempt for Brandon - showing that the hosts were eager to bring things level.

Both Sekou and Jozabed were brought on with half an hour left

## Febas and Vadillo debuted

**Malaga's first two winter signings were brought on in the second half. Febas impressed in midfield and upped the tempo, often trying to find his new teammates with passes into the limited space; while Vadillo, although with a lot less time to shine, was able to show promising signs and flashes of quality, often using his flair to try and better his opponents.**

to replace Roberto and Kevin, boosting Malaga's physical presence in attack. The Blue and Whites only grew in confidence, edging close to the equalising goal but with their attempts not quite hitting the mark.

This was largely due to a stubborn Sporting defence doing their job to perfection, clearing just about every cross and dealing with every attempt that Malaga threw at them, including a point-blank header from Sekou, expertly saved by the goalkeeper.

And with under five minutes to go, a loose ball fell to Ramón

## SECOND DIVISION

### Results Matchday 23

Amorebieta-Tenerife	1-1
Cartagena-Huesca	0-3
Ibiza-Alcorcón	6-2
Valladolid-Burgos	1-0
Leganes-Real Sociedad B	1-1
Girona-Fuenlabrada	2-1
Lugo-Mirandés	2-1
Málaga-Sporting	2-2
Ponferradina-Zaragoza	0-0
Las Palmas-Almería	1-1
Real Oviedo-Eibar	1-1

### Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GC	PT
1. Almería	22	14	4	4	38	15	46
2. Valladolid	23	13	4	6	35	24	43
3. Eibar	23	12	7	4	35	27	43
4. Tenerife	23	11	6	6	29	18	39
5. Ponferradina	23	10	8	5	28	20	38
6. Girona	23	11	4	8	32	26	37
7. Las Palmas	23	9	8	6	30	27	35
8. Real Oviedo	23	7	12	4	26	20	33
9. Cartagena	23	10	3	10	28	31	33
10. Ibiza	23	7	10	6	27	26	31
11. Málaga	23	8	7	8	23	30	31
12. Huesca	23	7	9	7	25	21	30
13. Burgos	23	8	5	10	23	24	29
14. Sporting	23	7	8	8	24	27	29
15. Lugo	22	5	12	5	27	26	27
16. Zaragoza	23	5	12	6	17	23	27
17. Leganes	23	6	8	9	25	26	26
18. Mirandés	23	7	5	11	31	36	26
19. Amorebieta	23	3	12	8	27	34	21
20. Fuenlabrada	23	3	11	9	17	26	20
21. R. Sociedad B	23	4	6	13	19	31	18
22. Alcorcón	23	2	5	16	18	46	11

on the edge of the box, who smashed it around all the opposing defenders, placing it into the top corner to bring things level.

In the end, Sporting held onto the draw, handing the Andalusians a bittersweet point that will still raise further questions around José Alberto.

If fortune really did favour the bold, Malaga would have taken all three points. But the reality is that the team came into this campaign looking to survive another season in the second division, although promotion is still close enough to challenge for.

The Blue and Whites will hope to turn that luck around in their next game, which will be at home against UD Ibiza on 22 January.

# Farewell to Miguel Ángel, who helped Spain to the World Cup

His lucky golden star touched the hearts of top footballers and supporters

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Miguel Ángel Pérez, the boy whose lucky star shone as the Spanish team qualified for the World Cup, has died aged 10 after a lengthy battle against a brain tumour.

Miguel Ángel, from Alhaurín el Grande, died on 8 January. An enthusiastic football supporter, he won the hearts of his

local team CD Alhaurino.

His story captivated members of La Roja and other top-level players such as Joaquín, from Betis, and PSG's Sergio Ramos.

Last November, Miguel Ángel was finally able to meet his idols in person. He had been promised the encounter in April 2020 by manager Luis Enrique.

A day before Spain's World Cup qualifier, Miguel Ángel visited the national team and gifted striker Álvaro Morata a gold star for good luck.

When Morata scored against Sweden, he proudly waved the star.

"They tell me that you're one of the best fans we have. Now it's my turn, as a manager, to cheer you on as you did for me. Stay strong, we're the best," said Enrique.

"It was a very happy moment and he cried with excitement. This will do him a lot of good and I'm very grateful. I thank Fundación Pequeño Deseo for making children, like mine, happy," said Miguel Ángel's mother Lourdes.

When Morata scored, Enrique posted on social media, "You were our star, Miguel Ángel. Morata's goal is for you."



Miguel Ángel met Spanish players Morata and Unai Simón. SUR



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, Sky Sports

## Why are referees being lynched online?

Refereeing decisions shouldn't be questioned by clubs, and even less so on their social media pages, where officials are being unfairly scrutinised



There's a dangerous trend developing in La Liga.

Even if the manager selects the wrong team, the star player misses a penalty or the goalkeeper juggles one into the net, clubs are instructing their fresh out of college social media kid to "blame the referee".

The Twitter feeds of Valencia, Real Sociedad and Real Betis have all lowered their reputation by making unsavoury remarks about the whistle-blowers in recent weeks. The tweets have backfired and made the clubs look cheap and, quite frankly, stupid.

Real Sociedad blamed officialdom for failing to win against Alavés: "Such decisions cost us points," they posted.

Valencia were subtle by comparing their defeat in Madrid to

the Netflix show *Money Heist*. They likened it to a bank raid in the capital: "Robbery in Madrid is beginning to be somewhat repetitive."

Real Betis took it to a whole new level - a very low level. "The job of the referee is to be fair and just, not the disgrace we have seen today. What we've seen today is incomprehensible." What is truly incomprehensible is the clubs allowing this nonsense to appear on official pages.

I'll hold my hands up! In my early commentating career, I finished a match by saying: "There is referee, Paul Harrison, who had a complete nightmare." He had given an indirect free-kick instead of a penalty, booked the wrong player, and generally lost control of a local derby.

The head of English referees, the legendary Neil Midgely wrote



Chimy Ávila is sent-off. EFE

to my boss, asking: "Who does this young commentator think he is? What qualifies him to make such remarks."

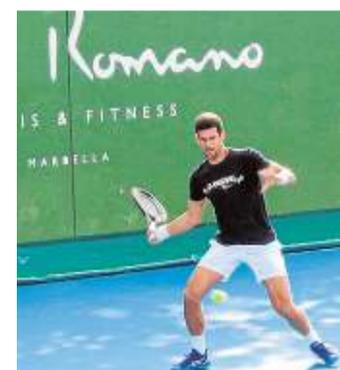
Stung by the criticism, I signed up for a six-week course to qualify as a referee and passed with 95%. My examiner was an up-and-coming young

referee called Mike Dean, who went onto much greater things.

I learned that it's the "Laws of the Game" and "Rules of Competition" and just how difficult it was to progress from parks' pitches to the professional game. So many decisions come down to interpretation of the "laws" and no decision is black and white. Referees make incorrect calls, but they are always human and make mistakes.

Now I place myself in the ref's position and understand why he came to his snap conclusion. In the Barcelona game at Granada last weekend, I thought Piqué should have been sent off. I reasoned that the referee's subconscious had kicked in after dismissing Gavi minutes earlier. Would he be known as the man who reduced the mighty Barcelona to nine players when we do a search on his name? Did he want his name in the headlines for dismissing a player who divided national opinion? No is the answer and avoided a tough call.

If I disagree, you'll hear me say: "In his opinion..." After my course I wrote back to Mr. Midgely to say: "I'm now qualified to comment on the ref. In my opinion, I was right, he did have a nightmare!"



Djokovic at the hotel. JOSELE

## Marbella finds itself part of the unfolding Novak Djokovic visa saga

SUR

MARBELLA. One of Novak Djokovic's problems this week proving he had a right to enter Australia was the revelation that he had said on his visa application he was in no other country before travelling, when in fact reports had him travelling between Serbia and Spain and in Marbella, training at the Puente Romano Hotel. His brother is coach there and Novak has a home nearby. The player blamed a mistake on the form.

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**RUGBY SEVENS.** One of the world's most prestigious tournaments comes to the Costa del Sol

# World Rugby Sevens lands in Andalucía

## MALAGA

**SHAY CONAGHAN.** One of World Rugby's most prestigious tournaments arrives in Andalucía next week in the hope of kick-starting a Spanish passion for a relatively unknown sport.

## Spain debuts as a host

For the first time in history, Spain will be hosting the World Rugby Sevens Series, a tournament in which international 7s teams - both men and women - pick up series points, with the overall winner crowned at the end of the season.

The two series in Andalucía will be played on consecutive weekends. Firstly, Malaga will be the host between 21 and 23 January, with games being played at the Estadio Ciudad de Málaga.

Seville will take over on the weekend of 28 to 30 January, with the matches being played out in the colossal Estadio de La Cartuja, with capacity for 60,000 spectators.

The series lands in Spain for the first time, with the country being a 'core team' in the tournament for a number of years. "Spain has a lot of things going for it," said New Zealander Paul Nicholson, CEO of KiwiHouse, the tournament promoter.

"It's very accustomed to successfully holding large sporting events and the beauty of having it in Andalucía is that they can be held at any time throughout the year because of the weather, which provides good conditions to play rugby."

## World Rugby Sevens Series

Rugby 7s can be considered a mix of professional sports and a festival. Though similar to its big brother, rugby union, 7s is unique in the way it plays out.

"If you've never seen a game of rugby in your life and don't know the rules of it, 7s is probably the most simple and exciting format to watch," explained Nicholson.

Each game lasts just 14 minutes and consists of two, seven-minute halves, with two teams of seven players playing on a full-sized rugby pitch.

"It's running, sprinting rugby and very exciting to watch. The moment you see a few games, you'll be addicted to what is 7s," said Nicholson.

The series has an intense and condensed format. Played across three days, there are 28 participating sides from the top nations in the world - 16 men's and 12 women's teams - with almost 12 hours of non-stop rugby played every day during the weekend.

Out of the 28 teams heading to Andalucía, four of them picked up medals in last year's Olympic Games in Tokyo. The men's teams include gold medallists Fiji and Argentina,



Action during a men's rugby sevens game in a previous competition. SUR

who picked up bronze. As for the women's sides, France will be in attendance after their silver medals alongside Fiji, who managed bronze.

Notable games to watch out for include Spain's men's clash with the Argentinians in group C; South Africa, England and Scotland all face each other in group A.

Spain's women will have a tough game against two-time winners Australia in group A; England and France will come together in group C, in what has historically been a heated rivalry.

## A stroke of luck for the tournament hosts

Rugby 7s in Spain is not a very well-known sport, which is why the chance of hosting two series was too good an opportunity to ignore.

## WORLD RUGBY SEVENS SERIES

### Venues in Andalucía:

**Estadio Ciudad de Málaga.** 21 - 23 January. Times: 9am-8.05pm, Fri-Sat; 9.30am-6.56pm, Sunday.

**Estadio Olímpico de La Cartuja, Seville.** 28 - 30 January.

### Participating nations:

**Men and Women.** Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Ireland, Spain, USA.

**Men only.** Argentina, Germany, Scotland, Japan, Kenya, Samoa, South Africa, Wales.

**Women only.** Belgium, Brazil, Poland and Russia.

**Additional info and tickets:**  
<https://spain7s.com/>

"This whole tournament has come about because of Covid," said KiwiHouse CEO Nicholson. "Both these series were set to be played in Hamilton (New Zealand) and Sydney (Australia) on the same weekend. But due to the pandemic and each country's quarantine restrictions, the opportunity for Spain to host came about. There aren't many countries in the world that can put up their hands and say that they could do it," he said.

So from the misfortune of the two initial host countries, a stroke of luck fell upon Spain. "It's a great opportunity, one that I don't think would have ever arisen for Spain, at least not in the next few years," Nicholson said. "We have to jump at the chance and take it. We want to make it a success, so that both World

Rugby, the fans and teams want to come back here."

But Spain being chosen to replace the nations Down Under was no coincidence, either. In early 2021, Madrid held a small, pre-Olympic tournament under the gaze of World Rugby, which could lead to the Mediterranean country hosting more events in the future.

"The tournament we held last February gave World Rugby the assurance to give Spain a couple of world series. Once they have confidence in how things are managed on the ground, it can lead to more in the future," he said.

The World Rugby Sevens Series begins next week, when fans will be dressed up for the occasion, as they mix music, fantastic weather, world class facilities and thrilling rugby.



The World Rugby Sevens Series trophies in La Cartuja stadium. SUR

## A non-stop party in Spain's sunny south

The World Rugby Sevens Series is unique because of the added entertainment it offers fans. As well as being able to experience nearly 12 hours of daily rugby across a weekend, attendees will have a dedicated fan zone to enjoy. This means that people won't be sitting in their seats the whole time watching rugby.

"It's a long day. You'll have time to go and enjoy the rugby from a slightly different arena. There will also be dedicated kids' zones and all sorts of activities, alongside bars and restaurants," said Nicholson. This includes live music with DJs, lights and fireworks to really make a show of the whole event.

In addition, there will be an international presence to really show the sport off to those unfamiliar with it. "These particular tournaments are special. We're also bringing in international expertise on 7s, as the knowledge of how it works in Spain is limited," he said.

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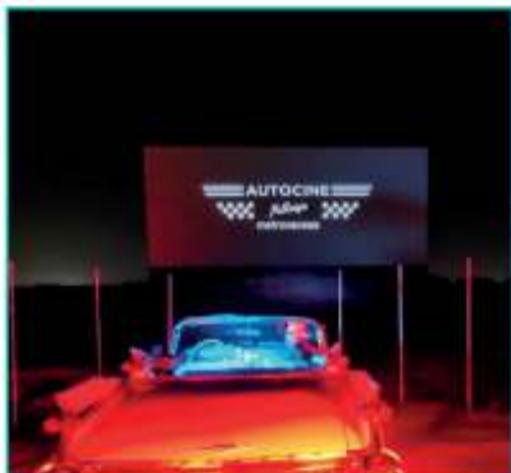


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**THE STARS**



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Something may trigger an issue that has remained dormant for a while. If you sense that you need help with this, then get it.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
It may be time to let go of someone who seems to be causing you problems. You're also entering a quieter phase as the Sun glides into your spiritual zone. Take time out to relax and recharge.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
You may decide to let go of a commitment or job to take advantage of a better opportunity. You'll do it, if it brings a better quality of life.



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
This week's potent Full Moon could find you overly sensitive and defensive, and there's a chance you might regret missing out on an opportunity.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
A situation may need closure, or you might need to pare back an idea, business or your expenses. This can pay off in the long term, as streamlining your affairs will leave you better off.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
The Full Moon and its close link with Pluto may cause you or another to take a decision you'll regret. With careful handling you'll have a chance to reset a close bond.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
This week could be the start of a whole new phase if you can let go of the old to make way for the new. Someone you know from a while back may have some advice for you.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
The Sun's move into your lifestyle sector is perfect for getting organized, and tweaking your routines so you can be more productive. Every moment brings an opportunity. Choose wisely!



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Watch out for control battles that might destabilise family relationships. There is potential to clear the air, if done sensitively.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Need to get something out of your system? Start the week with a workout or channel edgy emotions into a jog or walk. Nurture yourself, and indulge in some self-care..

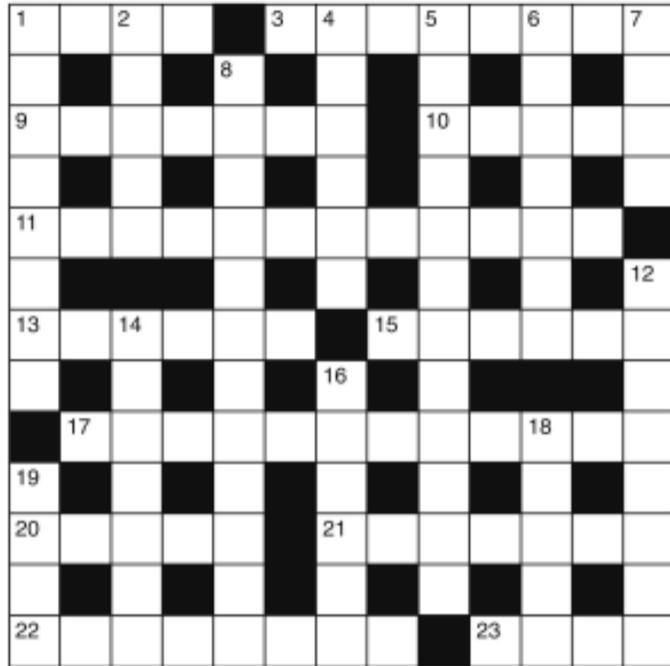


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Communication is key as the Sun moves into your sector of talk. If you and another have had words, this influence can encourage you to make up.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
The Sun's move into your money zone can help you take stock and make healthy decisions that leave you with more cash in your pocket. Check out the small print on any deals before you buy.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11496**



**Across**

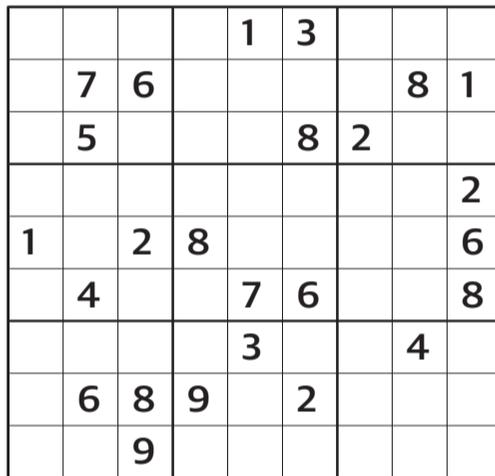
- 1 Raise more than 50 feet (4)
- 3 Actors from all points in presentation of latest reports (8)
- 9 Pushing on behalf of minor in guardian's care (7)
- 10 Finally curtailed production of map book (5)
- 11 Taking the plunge but failing? (2,3,3,4)
- 13 Get away from two points on the promontory (6)
- 15 Suit for diggers? (6)
- 17 Retain clip - it means two further copies required (2,10)
- 20 In the trial, I bitterly seek a let-out (5)
- 21 Sheared but clings (7)
- 22 Phantoms of the press, etc. (8)
- 23 Was in debt for the ring to get married with (4)

**Down**

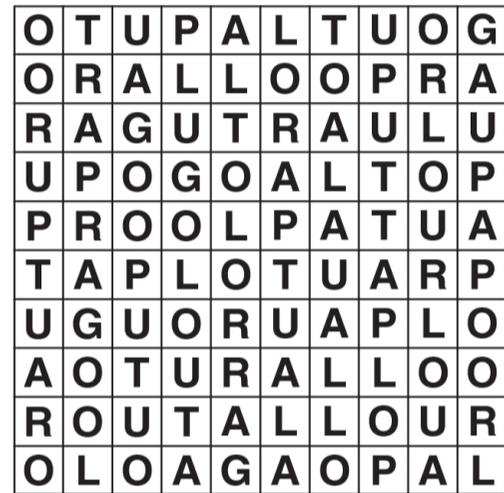
- 1 One side too remaining unused (4,4)
- 2 Prime position of tree on street (5)
- 4 Some friend earlier giving cause to be loved (6)
- 5 A thorough battle, not a passive sit-in (5-2,5)
- 6 Everybody due to be paid is given leave (7)
- 7 After the end of a fortnight, request a job (4)
- 8 Inventive painter needed in the theatre? (4-2,6)
- 12 Donkey sees silly dunderhead - given rating (8)
- 14 Limit to 100 getting on very well (7)
- 16 The work one consumed was a drug (6)
- 18 It is usually taken with a bow (5)
- 19 Overtake in the mountains? (4)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

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



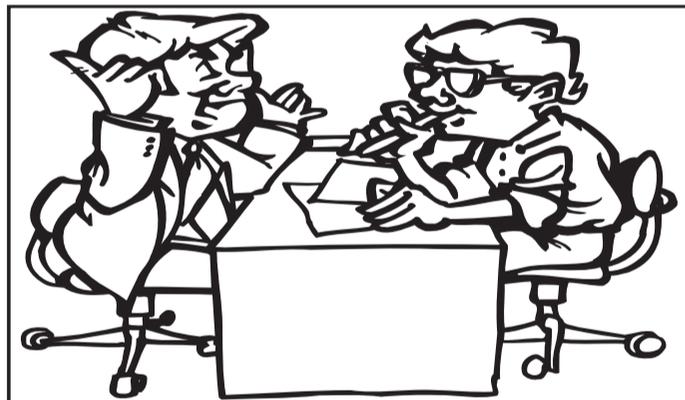
**THE WORDPUZZLER**



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

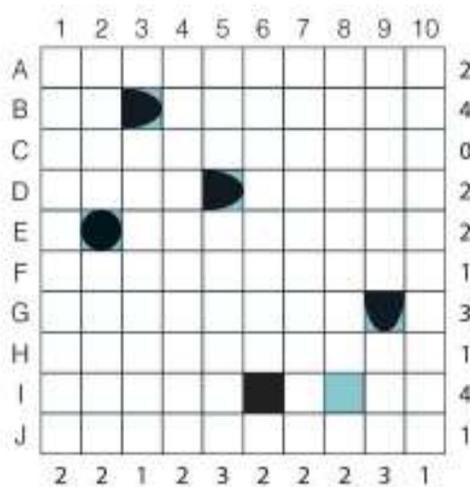
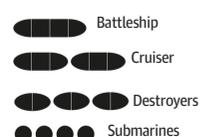
- 1. Aim
- 2. Hooligan
- 3. Spoken
- 4. Scheme
- 5. Stopper
- 6. Defeat
- 7. Snare
- 8. Attentive
- 9. Gemstone
- 10. Russian river

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**

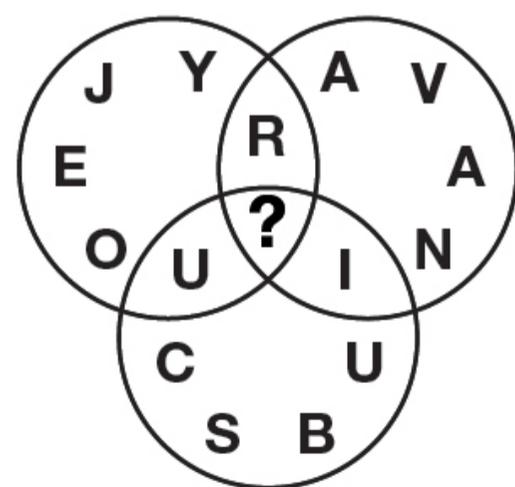


**BATTLESHIPS**

**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?

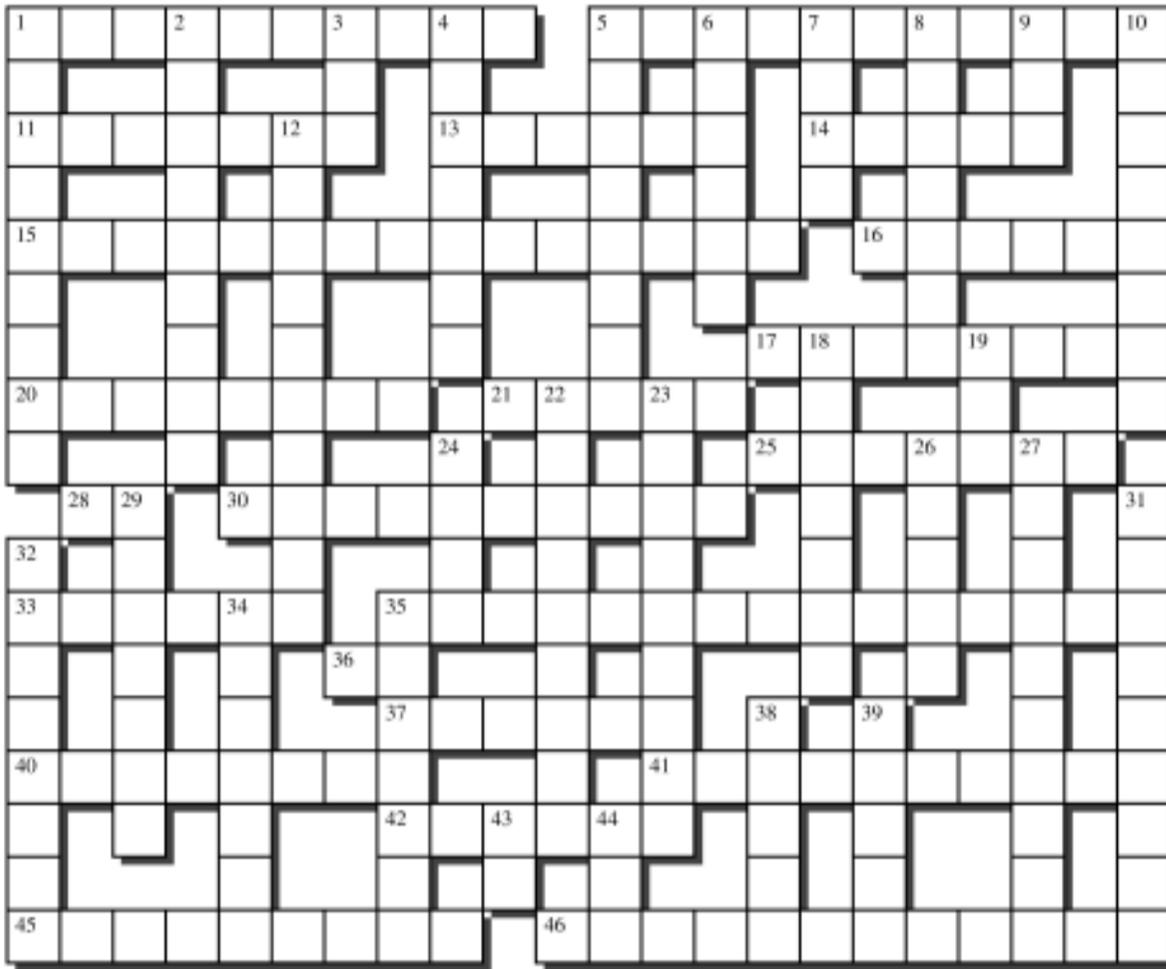
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**LANGUAGE CROSSWORD** FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



**Across**

- 1) They finished (10)
- 5) Restaurant (11)
- 11) He revives (7)
- 13) Cloths (6)
- 14) Layers (5)
- 15) Confrontations (15)
- 16) City (6)
- 17) Peaceful (m) (8)
- 20) Treachery (8)
- 21) Circus (5)
- 25) To decorate (7)
- 28) Faith (2)
- 30) Structure (10)
- 33) Retreat (6)
- 35) Uprising (15)
- 36) My (2)
- 37) Nation (6)
- 40) Known (m) (8)
- 41) Destroyed (f) (10)
- 42) Married (m) (6)
- 45) Efforts (9)
- 46) They commemorated (12)

**Down**

- 1) Earthquake (9)
- 2) Monarchy (9)
- 3) Wing (3)
- 4) Optimal (f.pl) (7)
- 5) To rethink (8)
- 6) Frights (6)
- 7) Arch (4)
- 8) I suppressed (7)
- 9) Us (3)
- 10) Studies (8)
- 12) Manifesto (10)
- 18) To abdicate (7)
- 19) End (3)
- 22) Intensive (f) (9)
- 23) Crowned (m) (9)
- 24) To flee (4)
- 26) Blond (5)
- 27) Announcer (m) (10)
- 29) Surroundings (7)
- 31) They proclaim (9)
- 32) Prince (8)
- 34) Rescue (7)
- 35) Pinocchio (7)
- 38) I'll use (5)
- 39) Throne (5)
- 43) Her (2)
- 44) He gave (3)

**QUIZ**

**In which Spanish city did the Joan Miró museum open in 1975?**

- 1. Palma de Mallorca 2. Madrid
- 3. Bilbao 4. Barcelona



**Which Italian artist painted the birth of Venus?**

- 1. Michelangelo 2. Botticelli 3. Da Vinci 4. Jan van Eyck

**In which English town did Adolf Hitler study art?**

- 1. London 2. Liverpool 3. Birmingham 4. Manchester

**THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN**

**Take up a new interest this winter**

Many readers are looking to find things to do during the winter months to keep themselves busy and as social groups and clubs have started up again, there are lots to choose from. You might want to stretch your vocal chords and join a singing group, learn a bit more about the arts or broaden your horizons by taking up a new hobby or interest. There are also many charities in need of volunteers along the Costa del Sol and if you pick one of the animal charities, the added exercise walking the rescued dogs will help get you fit again after the excesses of Christmas. SUR in English works to link communities and is pleased to continue to give coverage to groups like these. Town halls along the coast can provide details of local groups through their foreign residents departments. Email us your views and news at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or simply Tweet them to us @SUR\_English We are also on Facebook @SURinEnglish

**ANSWERS**

**Quiz answers**

**Answer:** Barcelona  
Miró is a museum dedicated to the artist it opened on 10 June 1975. Joan Miró was born in Barcelona but Palma became his adopted city and was where he died in 1983.  
**Answer:** Botticelli.  
**Of interest:** known as the "Birth of Venus", the composition shows Venus in a scallop shell. It was painted around 1485 and is believed to have been commissioned by the Medici family.  
**Answer:** Liverpool  
**Of interest:** Adolf's brother Alois, invited him to stay with him and his wife in Liverpool in 1912. Alois was working as a waiter in a Lyons café at the time.

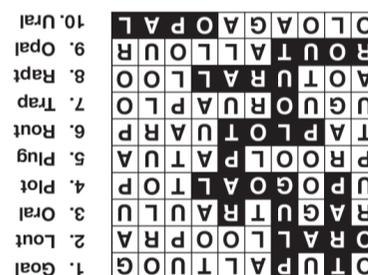
**Circlegam**

The letter represented by the question mark is 'N'. Journey, Nirvana, Incubus, all American rock bands.

**Cryptic Crossword**

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Lift; 3 Newcastle; 9 Forward; 10 Atlas; 11 On the way down; 13 Escape; 15 Spades; 17 In triplicate; 20 All; 21 Achieves; 22 Specter; 23 Owed; Down: 1 Left over; 2 First; 4 Endear; 5 Stand-up right; 6 Allowed; 7 Task; 8 Make-up artist; 12 Assessed; 14 Confine; 16 Operate; 18 Arrow; 19 Pass.

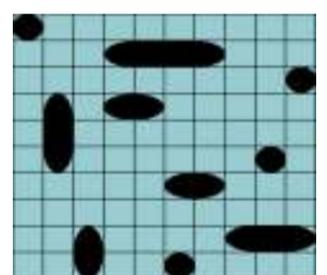
**Wordpuzler solution**



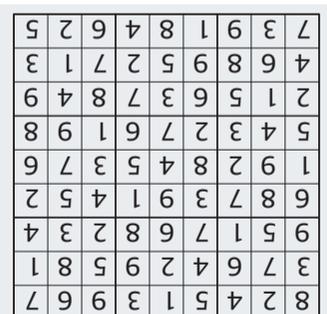
**Language Crossword**



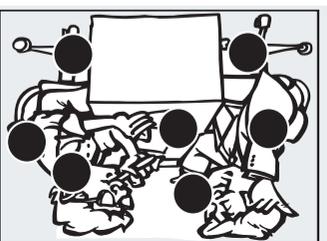
**Battleships**



**Sudoku solution**



**The seven differences**



Through his work, Italian artist Massimo Cedrini speaks out against animal abuse and the lack of respect for the environment in contemporary society in a collection of unique and previously unseen paintings called Amort Est Vitae Essentia. Uomini Animal un solo pianeta (Love is the essence of life. Humans, animals, a single planet).

The exhibition, which can be seen at the Excellence Art Gallery in Marbella until the end of this month, will be going on to Switzerland in the spring and in the summer it will cross the pond to defend mother nature against ill-treatment in Miami, USA.

This collection, which is as much a form of protest as it is art, consists of 20 works mainly carried out in oil and graphite on which Cedrini has worked for just over a year. With these pictures this animal lover, who is very concerned about the frequent attacks on them, wants to give visibility to what he considers "a terrible situation, but one which can be changed if people become more aware".

#### Ill treatment

"Unfortunately there is no single form of ill treatment of animals," Cedrini stresses, and that is what he has wanted to show in his paintings. They are all different, all have an impact and are emotionally charged.

Every day hundreds of dogs and cats are abandoned in rubbish containers, in the middle of motorways or in the doors of animal welfare societies which are already overcrowded and have no way of housing and looking after them; elephants are killed by people who want to sell their tusks, felines for their fur, to make luxury coats and whales for their blubber;



Massimo Cedrini, left, and the art director of Excellence Art Gallery in Marbella, Giuseppe Carnevale. JOSELE

# Art against animal cruelty

**Protest.** Italian painter Massimo Cedrini is using his work to denounce ill treatment of animals in his new exhibition in Marbella

ESTHER GÓMEZ

and millions of bees, the source of health and life, disappear daily as a result of indiscriminate fumigation.

Many examples of this tragic aggression towards defenceless animals are featured in the Amort Est Vitae Essentia collection, to draw people's attention to their plight. These are paintings filled with significance which, he admits, have made some peo-

ple cry upon seeing them and understand, sometimes, their harsh message.

A seal who wonders between brushstrokes why someone is being cruel to it, a bee - essential to the pollinating process - presented as the mother of all flowers, thinking about what would happen if they no longer existed, a sad dog saying goodbye to the little girl who has been his com-

panion but who, and he doesn't know why, is leaving him behind a pane of glass. These are some of the scenes in this collection which their author hopes will "stir the heart" of those who view them.

Massimo Cedrini, who was born in the town of Novafeltria in the province of Rimini, Italy, has always been interested in teaching and sharing art with others

**"We're destroying the world and people don't realise," says Cedrini**

and today, more than ever, he is an artist who is very committed to his principles. Principles that are inevitably and indisputably demonstrated clearly and forcefully in all his work, but especially in the collection he is currently exhibiting in Marbella and to which, he has announced, he will be adding one more piece.

#### Transformation

Cedrini, who says he is experiencing a "sincere spiritual transformation", invites those viewing the works in this collection to reflect upon the future they want for a planet which he judges to be "undergoing a silent transformation".

"We are destroying the world and people don't seem to realise," he says. The society of today has preferred "to put money ahead of people," he adds, and has managed to "convince us that achieving material wealth brings true happiness," but "the reality is that it can lead to depression and feelings of absolute frustration," he says.

However, he didn't create this collection for sale, but to expose how badly mankind is behaving towards the environment which is our home and to provoke a social reaction,

Giuseppe Carnevale, the artistic director of Excellent Art Gallery, says that the paintings, whose prices range from 12,500 to 16,000 euros, will be available for purchase once their planned programme of events has come to an end.

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