

# SUR

## in English

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## AIR MUSEUM CHOCKS AWAY FOR MALAGA ATTRACTION

Spain's largest aviation collection is inside the original 1940s terminal at the city's airport **P22-23**



The Wonder of the Seas at Malaga's Levante dock  
**NITO SALAS**

## A towering wonder on the quayside

**World's largest cruise ship.** Malaga city hosted Royal Caribbean's newest arrival last weekend with space for 7,000 passengers and 2,300 crew. **P4**

## Separate organic waste bins start in larger towns by 1 July

Councils in municipalities with over 5,000 residents are preparing to collect bio-waste in new brown containers

Get ready for an extra coloured bin on the streets of Malaga province and the Costa del Sol. There are 28 local towns that have to meet the deadline by 1 July, which may be a struggle for many councils, although there

are EU funds available to get them through.

Into the brown containers will go food scraps, such as meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, coffee grounds and tea leaves, and grease-stained paper towels. **P2**

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## Russian museum returns artworks to St Petersburg and puts Picasso in their place **P7**

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## Numbers of employed nearly back to pre-Covid-19 levels

Figures show the labour market continues to recover but local jobless rate is still 20 per cent **P14**

## The Quitapenas bodega celebrates 142 years

The family-run winery was founded in 1880 **P38**

## Malaga CF closer to relegation after disappointing match

The Blue and Whites need a win this weekend at La Rosaleda **P40**



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**NEW IN BANUS**



# Larger towns have two months to bring in a brown bin for disposal of organic waste

A new Spanish law means 28 places in Malaga province with populations of over 5,000 will have to bring in a fifth container for bio-waste before 1 July

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. Larger towns across Malaga province are preparing to add a fifth type of refuse container to the four colours already in the streets: a brown bin for organic (mainly food) waste. They have two main reasons for the change. The first is that they are obliged to by law, according to Spain's Ley de Residuos that has just come into force.

Although the European Union (EU) has set its deadline at 1 January 2024, the Spanish law says that separate collection of bio-waste must start before 1 July this year in towns with more than 5,000 inhabitants. The 1 January 2024 limit will then apply to the rest of the country's towns and villages, to comply with the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) passed in 2018.

And their second reason for getting the brown bins out now is that there are European funds made available by the Junta de Andalucía to finance the purchase of new containers and collection vehicles, the construction of treatment plants and the launch of awareness campaigns to inform the general public of the changes.

So what has to go in the new brown bins? Biodegradable and organic waste. This refers basically to food scraps, such as meat, fish, fruit and vegetables or coffee grounds and tea leaves. Organic waste also includes used paper towels or serviettes that are stained with grease or oil (clean ones would go in the blue, paper, bin). Anything else that



Brown bins for organic waste can already be found on the streets of Vélez. EUGENIO CABEZAS

**Councils have been able to apply for grants from the regional government to buy containers and vehicles and launch awareness campaigns**

cannot be recycled in the existing yellow, blue and greens bins must go in the grey bin as usual. Barring exceptions such as Vélez-Málaga and Ronda, which already have brown bins on their streets, the majority of the 28 municipalities in Malaga province with registered populations of over 5,000, could well find it hard to meet the deadline. They are confident, however, that the new ruling limits itself to laying down the obligation to establish separate collection of bio-waste, but does not specify whether it refers to starting to implement the new system

gradually or whether it has to be available in every district of a town or city. In fact, the law does not stipulate a number of containers per inhabitant; and so councils are assuming it means the system can be brought in gradually. In Malaga city the council plans to launch an informative campaign as an initial step before putting the first brown bins on the streets, alongside the yellow ones (for plastic packaging and cans), green (for glass), blue (for paper and cardboard) and grey (for everything else that cannot be recycled). Limasam, the city's refuse collection company, aims to start using brown bins in Teatinos and Parque Litoral, two neighbourhoods with a higher proportion of young residents who, in general, are more aware of the need to recycle. The system would then be rolled out across the rest of the city during 2023. What the new law for the

whole of Spain does make clear is that the percentage of municipal waste collected separately in 2035 must be a minimum of 50% of the weight of the total waste produced. This obligation would only be waived in the case of separation being technically unviable or involving disproportionate financial costs. **Aid from the Junta** To accelerate the implementation of the bio-waste system, the regional minister of Agriculture and Sustainable Development has set up two lines of financial aid with a budget of nearly 61 million euros from the Next Generation EU recovery funds. The first, 37.1 million, is aimed at local authorities that provide the waste collection service in populations of over 5,000 to set up or improve the separate collection of bio-waste. In the province of Malaga seven individual councils have applied for these grants (Malaga

LIST OF TOWNS

28

municipalities in Malaga province have more than 5,000 inhabitants and therefore must bring in the brown bin before 1 July. They are: Alameda, Algarrobo, Alhaurín de la Torre, Alhaurín el Grande, Álora, Antequera, Archidona, Benahavís, Benalmádena, Campillos, Cártama, Casares, Coín, Estepona, Fuengirola, Malaga, Manilva, Marbella, Mijas, Mollina, Nerja, Pizarra, Rincón de la Victoria, Ronda, Torremolinos, Torrox, Vélez and Villanueva del Trabuco

city, Benalmádena, Torremolinos, Rincón de la Victoria, Nerja, Ronda and Torrox) as has the provincial consortium that deals with refuse collection in Cártama, Archidona, Mollina, Alameda and Villanueva del Trabuco. In total, subsidies of more than 4.5 million euros have been applied for. The second line of aid available, worth a total of 23.8 million euros, is intended to finance projects to build, adapt and improve specific facilities for the treatment of bio-waste. In the case of the city, the council hopes to use funds to contribute 1.6 million euros to its four-million-euro project to set up a plant at the recycling centre in Los Ruices, where the bio-waste would be turned into compost and sold for use in gardening and agriculture. This would avoid sending the organic waste to the landfill site that only has a few years of life left, if the current rate of disposal continues. Similarly, the consortium has applied for four million euros to set up a new line to separate waste at Valsequillo, the recycling plant in Antequera.

WHAT GOES IN WHICH BIN?

► **Yellow.** Metallic containers (tins, drinks cans, foil trays, aerosols), milk cartons and plastic containers (bottles that contained water, cleaning products or shower gels, frozen food bags, margarine tubs and yoghurt pots, white polystyrene trays, plastic wrappers and plastic bags).



► **Blue.** All containers made from cardboard, such as boxes that contained biscuits, cereals or frozen foods, shoe boxes, cardboard egg trays and all types of paper (newspapers, books, magazines and paper bags). Dirty serviettes and paper towels will have to go in the new brown bins.



► **Green.** Any glass bottles, cosmetics and perfume bottles and jam and other preserves jars must go in the green bin. Bottle tops should go in the yellow bin if they're plastic or metallic and corks go in the brown bin. Light bulbs, crockery, mirrors and ceramics must go to the recycling centre (punto verde).



► **Brown.** Fruit and vegetable peel scraps of meat and fish, eggshells, sea-food shells, nutshells other food waste, coffee grounds, tea leaves, wine corks (without added plastic or other materials), matches and sawdust, dirty kitchen paper and serviettes and small amounts of garden waste.



► **Grey.** Anything that cannot be separated and recycled in the other coloured bins must go in the grey bin. This includes sanitary towels, cotton buds or wet wipes, kitchen utensils, toys and any glass, plastic or metal items that are not containers or packaging.







Workers clear waste from the carriageway following the accident on Thursday morning. JOSELE

## Overtaken lorry on A-7 causes traffic chaos with long tailbacks

Marbella's mayor called for the AP-7 toll road to be opened free of charge to help keep the traffic moving while the accident was cleared

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. More than 40 Local Police officers battled to try and keep traffic moving after a lorry carrying more than 25,000 kilos of waste overturned in San Pedro, at kilometre 172 of the A7

coast road, in the early hours of Thursday morning. The accident forced the closure of the carriageway heading towards Cadiz, but despite the best efforts of police officers, tailbacks quickly formed on both sides of the main artery running the length of the Costa

del Sol.

At eight in the morning, emergency services announced that a detour was in place from kilometre 174 to 171 through the urban area of Marbella. But queues quickly formed due to the number of vehicles that use this main road. They reached the exit of the Puerto Banús tunnel, where many drivers also chose to head towards the Los Naranjos development via the Istán exit.

At 9am the Directorate-General for Traffic reported tailbacks in both directions, with 11 kilometres heading in the direction of Estepona, reaching La Cañada, and another 6km, heading towards Malaga, due to people slowing down to look.

As the problems grew, the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, called on the authorities to open the AP-7 toll road free-of-charge to motorists to alleviate the traffic situation in the Costa del Sol town.

Meanwhile workers set to transferring the 25,000 kilos of waste material that had spilled from the lorry and onto the road into another vehicle before the lorry involved in the accident could be righted with the use of the crane.

However it wasn't until mid-afternoon that the carriageway was finally cleared by maintenance crews and the major road could be reopened to traffic again.

## Greenpeace protest against use of 'Russian gas'

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Some 30 Greenpeace activists slipped past security at Malaga's combined cycle power plant, which is located in the Technology Park, early on Thursday morning, 5 May, and occupied the facility. National Police officers monitored the demonstration

The NGO said the action was to highlight the alleged use of gas from Russia at the plant.



Protesters and their banner. SUR

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The Wonder of the Seas, moored on the Levante quay of Malaga port on Saturday.  
NITO SALAS



# 'This cruise ship is another world'

It must be easy to lose track of time in a place like this because at the entrance to each of its 24 guest elevators a rectangular ingot placed on the floor rotates every 24 hours to remind passengers of what day it is. Today it announces it is Saturday on the Wonder of the Seas, the largest cruise ship in the world that arrived in the Port of Malaga early last Saturday morning.

"I've been on nine cruises, but this seems like another world..." said Rafael Martín Jerez, a 44-year-old from Malaga, who took his twins Javi and Leo, who are almost five years old, to the city's docks to get a closer look at the imposing vessel operated by Royal Car-

**Wonder of the Seas. The planet's largest pleasure boat docked in Malaga last Saturday, its first Mediterranean port of call after crossing the Atlantic**



ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

Shopping mall. Complete with a Mustang. N. SALAS



ibbean. And they were not the only ones who gazed at the huge ship at the Levante dock that morning.

The Wonder of the Seas lives up to its name and has an enormous leisure offer: from the water park to the open-air auditorium for more than 750 people; the tallest water slide in the world installed at sea to the huge shopping centre; from the surfing pool to the outdoor basketball court. It is a beast of a boat which

weighs in at 236,857 tonnes, and has a capacity for almost 7,000 passengers served by a crew of more than 2,300.

Maria is a hostess on this cruise ship that had chosen Malaga for its first ever stopover in Europe after crossing the 'pond'.

"This is almost like a city... or better, because you have everything to have fun and relax," she said.

The ten-day journey across the Atlantic and the charms of Malaga meant that only a few stragglers remained on the ship while it was in port. Pop reggae played on the top-floor deck as a few passengers basked in the midday sun.

The spectacular silver deck that can be seen from the ground at the bow of the ship shelters a glass-enclosed veranda with whirlpool baths, shaded loungers and a bar. And there are more than 30 choices when it comes to eating or drinking something on board the Wonder of the Seas.

## First of many

The new giant of Royal Caribbean fleet was welcomed last Saturday by the president of the Malaga Port Authority, Carlos Rubio; the mayor of the city, Francisco de la Torre; and the Tourism delegate of the Junta de Andalucía, Nuria Rodríguez. The three welcomed the docking of the Wonder of the Seas as a symbol of the gradual recovery of tourist activity after two years marked by the health crisis.

In fact the Wonder of the Seas was the first of seven cruise ships to visit Malaga for the first time this week.

On Tuesday it was the turn of another Royal Caribbean sister, the Odyssey of the Seas, as well as the Silver Moon, the new acquisition of the exclusive Silver-sea Cruises.

Two Celebrity liners, Edge and Beyond, have also been in town, while Carnival Pride and Norwegian Escape arrive this Friday, and Le Bellot on Sunday.

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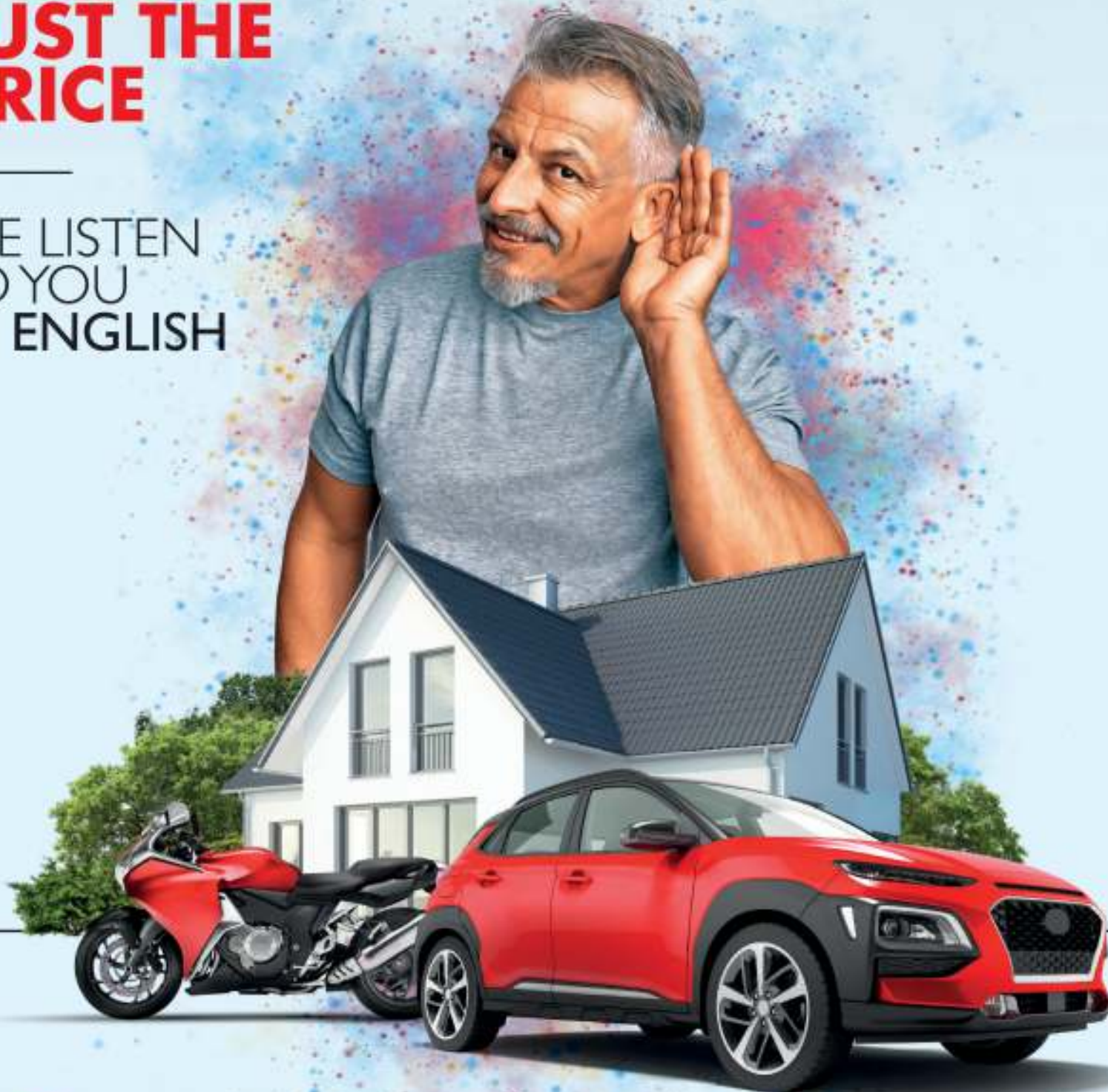
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## From 'summer's here' to wintry showers

The May holiday weekend was considered as the start of a successful season for the Costa del Sol. The warm weather, with temperatures of up to 30°C in some areas, brought bathers to the sand and diners to the beach bars. The scene changed on Tuesday, however, when many parts of the Ronda and Guadalhorce Valley areas saw hailstorms while rain continued on the Costa through Wednesday.

MARCOS ÁLVAREZ / F. M.

## 112 REPORTS

### CHURRIANA

#### Youth accused of stabbing father 15 times

JC / ÁF. A 17-year-old youth has been arrested in Churriana accused of inflicting 15 stab wounds on his father, who remains in Malaga Regional Hospital although the severity of his injuries is not yet clear.

Several units of the National and Local Police attended the scene after a call was made to the 091 police emergency number alerting them that a man had been injured in his home on Wednesday.

On arrival police found the 60-year-old victim and his wife, who told them that the injuries had been caused by a fall. However officers soon realised that the injuries were the result of an assault with a knife.

The young man was located shortly afterwards in a nearby field where he was arrested for attempted murder.

### COSTA DEL SOL

#### Seven arrested in Operation Gunpowder

EUROPA PRESS. The National Police force on the Costa del Sol has smashed a criminal network dedicated to the sale of narcotic substances in leisure areas of Torremolinos and Benalmádena.

Officers have arrested seven people, six men and one woman, for their alleged involvement in drug trafficking crimes and belonging to a criminal group.

Police carried out searches in three homes and a bar, seizing 450g of cocaine, 115g of hashish, some 8,315 euros in cash and a pistol, among other items.

The illegal activity was allegedly led by an Arroyo de la Miel resident with a record of crimes against public health and all those detained have been made available to the courts.

### RONDA

#### Man trying to rescue dog killed by train in Ronda

VANESSA MELGAR. A young man died on Saturday evening in Ronda when he was hit by a passenger train.

Police sources said the incident happened just after 9pm on 30 April on the section of track in the Olivar de las Monjas urban district of the mountain town.

Initial investigations suggest the victim was walking with his dog alongside the railway when the pet became entangled on the line and, while trying to free the animal, he was hit by a moving train on the Antequera

to Algeciras railway track.

Firefighters, paramedics and police attended the incident but could do nothing to save the life of the young man, known as 'Pepelu' who was 26 years old, single and a soldier stationed in San Fernando.

On Wednesday afternoon the Asociación Solidari@s en Ronda put out an appeal to help raise 3,000 euros on behalf of the young man's mother as she was unable to cover the funeral expenses.

The money was raised in just 45 minutes but will be returned to the donors after the father of the deceased young man said he would take care of all the expenses, (the man's parents are separated).

### MARBELLA

#### President to reimburse community of owners

IRENE QUIRANTE. A court in Malaga has ordered the president of a community of owners in Marbella to repay money to the association's accounts after spending money on legal action without putting the proposal to the vote or obtaining permission from the property owners.

A Marbella court originally found that the president had "exceeded her authority" and ordered the woman to repay 97,389 euros. But she lodged an appeal and a provincial court has now agreed that she had exceeded her authority, but modified the sentence and ordered that the amount the president must now repay to the community of owners should now be 47,700 euros.

### MARBELLA

#### 'Affectionate' woman held for watch thefts

SOFIA FERNANDEZ. A woman has been arrested and charged with three crimes of theft and a crime of robbery with violence towards several foreign people after stealing high-end watches worth 115,200 euros.

The Romanian national used what is known as the 'affectionate' method to get close to her victims in Marbella. She was arrested by Girona National Police officers after Local Police officers recognised her when she parked her car illegally.

She is reported to have numerous police records for crimes against property. The woman has been released provisionally, with precautionary measures, while the court case against her is prepared.



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# Some British residents forced to stop driving as right to use a UK licence ends

Spain and Britain have not yet agreed a simple post-Brexit process for swapping to a Spanish-issued licence

## SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Before Brexit it was relatively simple for a resident in Spain with a UK licence to swap to a local licence under EU rules. Not anymore.

From the start of May, all those still driving in Spain on British-issued licences and who have been resident in the country more than six months have to stop driving. The alternative is to take a driving test to get a Spanish licence. People on holiday or short stays in Spain are unaffected and

a UK licence is still valid.

It had been hoped, post-Brexit, that the two governments would agree to a simple swapping procedure, as both have with many other countries.

However a hold-up in the lengthy negotiations (which are still ongoing) means a temporary bridging arrangement allowing UK or Gibraltar licences still to be used in Spain has now expired.

Writing on his Twitter account, British Ambassador Hugh Elliott said the delay was down to coordinating the high degree of information exchange requested by the Spanish authorities from the UK as part of the deal.

It is thought that potentially thousands of Britons have been caught out, without the right to drive. Driving without a valid li-



UK Ambassador Hugh Elliott. E. P

cence can lead to fines or invalidate insurance, motoring experts said.

The British Embassy has recently been telling expats that, while it was hopeful of an agreement, those who needed to drive should go down the route of tak-

ing the tests.

This route to a Spanish test is considerably more expensive than a simple swap. The theory test can be taken in English but the practical test has to be taken in Spanish. There has also been criticism of the number of slots for tests available.

Anne Hernández, of campaigning group Brexpats in Spain International, told SUR in English that not everyone affected had been slow to swap before the original Brexit deadline. "Many people were given misinformation or wrong professional advice on registering to swap just before Brexit and thousands have also arrived since Brexit on visas," she said. "I feel sorry for those in the countryside or who need to drive to schools or to work," she added.

## Ardales is tenth town in province to be officially declared a Tourist Municipality

### ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía has awarded Ardales, along with the towns of Ayamonte (Huelva) and Salobreña (Granada), the distinction of Tourist Municipality of Andalucía. Ardales is now one of ten municipalities in Malaga province with the recognition: Álora, Benalmádena, Torremolinos, Antequera, Ronda, Estepona, Fuengirola, Frigiliana and Nerja.

Among other benefits, the status brings improvements to ensure that essential services are not affected when the population rises at certain times of the year due to the numbers of tourists.

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## Filming site for BBC El Dorado series outside Coín set for new lease of life after council deal

### ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

COÍN. Councillors in Coín have agreed the contract for reopening, improving and managing the Ciudad del Cine site on the outskirts of the town. The complex was used for filming the BBC series El Dorado 30 years ago.

Versus Resort has won the right to run some 8,000 metres of commercial space, 4,000 metres of gardens and a hotel with 170 rooms. The contract is for 50 years with a 90,000-euro annual fee paid to the town.

"This is great news for Coín," said the mayor, Francisco Santos. "Our town and residents deserved a hotel like the one they are planning to put in, which will have up to four stars," he added.



## The Russian Museum prepares to return to sender

Malaga's much-heralded display of Russian art is being dismantled, ready to be sent back. The deal between the city council and the State Russian Museum in St Petersburg has not been renewed because of the conflict in Ukraine. Some 300 pieces are being prepared for the journey. A new Picasso exhibition will occupy the space from June.

## Mijas town hall joins forces with Red Cross to provide aid to Ukrainian children

### TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. Mijas town hall has launched a new campaign in conjunction with the Cruz Roja (Red Cross) to offer help and support to the Ukrainian refugee children who have arrived in the municipality since the war began.

Donations of non-perishable foods, milk and juices, school supplies and hygiene products can be dropped off at the entrance to four nursery schools in Mijas - Gloria Fuertes and La Casita de la Pimienta (Las Lagunas), El Limonar (La Cala) and Europa (Mijas Pueblo). Other schools in Mijas are also expected to join the campaign which will run until 16 May.



# Seven million euros destined for green spaces in Marbella

Among a dozen projects planned are the overhaul of the El Juanar park, the reforestation of El Pinillo and the new Xarblanca green zone

ESTHER GÓMEZ

**MARBELLA.** This year, the Marbella Town Hall's Works department is allocating 6.84 per cent of a budget of over 100 million euros to a dozen projects aimed at refurbishing and improving the town's parks and gardens, including Xarblanca and El Juanar. It also plans to reforest other

green areas of the municipality such as the Finca El Pinillo and the Guadalpín area.

Around 70,000 euros have been set aside for the projects, some of which are already under way, which include the creation of new recreational areas and the planting of trees and flowerbeds in public spaces such as the Mateo Álvarez roundabout where a large *Chorisia speciosa* tree has been placed. The Arias de Velasco roundabout, which was started and never finished, will also be completed. The work has been given to a local company from San Pedro Alcántara and it should be ready in about a



An unfinished roundabout. JOSELE

month and a half.

The complete overhaul of the park in Calle Juanar, on which work began in November, aims at making it a spacious green lung in one of the most populated areas of Marbella.

The park is over forty years old and there is a budget of 700,000 euros to make it ready for the summer. Besides paths, recreation areas and children's playgrounds, the beds will be replanted with a variety of trees, plants and shrubs and the access will be improved.

More trees are also going to be planted at the Xarblanca macro park. It will also have sports areas, children's playgrounds, pedestrian routes and parking.

The two other major projects planned are the reforestation of the Finca El Pinillo estate and the environmental restoration of the Guadalpín stream.

## Coasts authority begins dumping 300,000 cubic metres of sand to replenish beaches

IGNACIO LILLO

**MÁLAGA.** Up to 300,000 cubic metres of sand will be needed to stabilise the beaches of Málaga, the Costa del Sol and the Axarquía which were damaged by the storms of 4 and 5 April.

The works are being carried out by the central government's coasts authority in coordination with the affected town councils and have been divided into five sections: Nerja, Torrox and Algarrobo; Vélez-Málaga, Rincón de la Victoria and Málaga; Torremolinos, Benalmádena, Fuengirola and Mijas; Marbella; and Estepona, Casares and Manilva. The work will involve an investment of 2.1 million euros and will be carried out throughout this month, with the aim of having the beaches ready to welcome bathers at the beginning of the summer.

The government representative for Málaga, Javier Salas, emphasised that there will be almost 40 projects along the coast. He also said that they are working with the Junta de Andalucía to speed up the administrative authorisation required to carry out the extraction of sand from the riverbeds needed to replenish the beaches.

This work will also make it possible to recover the high quality sand accumulated at the mouth of Málaga's Candado marina, which has been almost inoperative since November.



Mayor of Benalmádena Víctor Navas meets participants of the language exchange. SUR

## Benalmádena mayor pays surprise visit to language exchange students

The weekly language sessions offer Spanish and British residents in the town the chance to meet and learn each other's languages

TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** The mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, visited the Innova Centre earlier this week to meet with the participants of the language exchange session, and also, the members of the local petanque

club.

The weekly language sessions have been running for more than 12 years and are organised to offer Spanish and British residents in the town the chance to meet and learn each other's languages.

The mayor said that the free initiative serves as an opportunity to "strengthen integration" and also to help participants to make new friends, while offering lessons to those "without the ability to attend private lessons".

"In Benalmádena we offer all the possibilities to learn lan-

guages, either through the regulated teaching courses that we offer from the town hall, or through these language exchange days, which also serve to promote good citizenship and co-existence," he said.

### Arroyo Petanque Club

After meeting with the language students, Navas, who is also the councillor for foreign residents, held a meeting with members of the Arroyo de la Miel Petanque Club, the oldest in the municipality.

The group, which meets at the facility three times a week, consists of several different nationalities, although the majority of its members are British.

The mayor promised that the council will expand the club and improve the facilities, "seeing as it has become too small for the intense activity of the group".

## HERE AND THERE

### MARBELLA

## Starlite Festival attracts 6,000 job applicants

**JOAQUINA DUEÑAS.** Around 6,000 people registered to be selected for one of the 1,000 jobs offered at this year's Starlite Catalana Occidente which starts in June. The festival has been ranked as top in terms of economic impact, according to the list of music festivals in Spain compiled by the Association of Music Promoters. In its early years, Starlite employed between 300 and 400 people - now that figure has more than doubled.

### MARBELLA

## Club Med Magna ready to open in Marbella

**PILAR MARTÍNEZ.** Marbella will soon be able to boast a luxury family holiday resort with 14 hectares of gardens in the Sierra Blanca. Called Club Med Magna Marbella, it is scheduled to open on 14 May in the former Don Miguel hotel, which closed 17 years ago. The new resort will be run on an all-inclusive basis and will be able to accommodate 1,000 people. The company is currently recruiting staff and want 75 per cent of the employees to be from the local area.

### MARBELLA

## Project for 96 luxury properties in Marbella

**ESTHER GÓMEZ.** The construction of 96 high-end homes with a budget of 170 million euros was announced by the managing partner of Prime Invest, Darío Fernández, last week. The properties will be located at the entrance to Marbella, in the direction of Málaga. During the presentation of the project, town mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, highlighted how the property market in Marbella continues to grow and luxury housing is at the epicentre of this growth.

### ESTEPONA

## Eleven new facilities for sport open in last year

**ESTHER GÓMEZ.** Estepona has added eleven new sports facilities and services in the last year, taking the number from 180 in April 2021 to 191 today. This makes this municipality, in the opinion of Deputy Mayor Begoña Ortiz, "one of the towns where it is possible to practice a large number of sporting disciplines". Sixty-seven of these facilities are free and include the bio-healthy circuits and open-air gyms.



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More than one million people visited the multicultural fair in Fuengirola last week, said organisers **SUR**

# Fuengirola's six-day multicultural festival a 'resounding success'

## FUENGIROLA

The Feria Internacional de los Países attracted one million visitors who enjoyed the customs and traditions of 33 participating countries

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. More than one million visitors are said to have attended the Feria Internacional de los Países (formerly the Feria de los Pueblos), the popular multicultural festival that took place in Fuengirola last week.

Mayor Ana Mula, who described the event as the “world epicentre of multiculturalism”, said that hotels reached an average occupancy of 85 per cent during the May holiday weekend, claiming that the festival had been

a “resounding success”.

The six-day festival began last Wednesday, with the highlight being Saturday's colourful parade of the 33 participating countries, and finished on the 2 May public holiday.

**Exceptional weather**

Visitors took advantage of the exceptional weather at the weekend, when sunny skies and temperatures of around 25 degrees attracted people from all over the province.

The fair, which began in 1994 with just eight participating countries, highlighted the different nationalities and cultures that reside in the town. This year's event included Great Britain, Greece, Australia, Hawaii, Belgium, India, Bolivia, Ireland, Cuba, Spain, Estonia, South Africa, Finland and Uruguay, although Russia was not represented this year.

In addition to gastronomy, which ranged from Argentine barbecued meats to German sausages and Japanese sushi, each caseta offered a series of live music and dance shows, which included everything from jazz and punk rock to tango, flamenco and line dancing.

One of the most popular rendezvous was the British Caseta, which presented several of the coast's top tribute bands. The venue, which was designed like an English pub, offered five live bands each day, along with traditional British beer and cuisine, including a hog roast, fish and chips and homemade pies.

“After two years of absence due to the pandemic, the fair has shone once again and made our town a reference point for global multiculturalism. We can conclude that the 26th edition has been the best so far,” the mayor said.

## HERE AND THERE



Visitors at the Lions stand at the Solidarity Market in La Cala. **SUR**

## MIJAS

### Lions Club raises funds and awareness

**SUR IN ENGLISH.** Members of the Mijas La Cala Lions Club and Diabetes Support Group were out and about raising awareness

for their work last week. At the Solidarity Market outside the town hall offices in La Cala passers-by were tested for sugar diabetes. Meanwhile, books in several languages from the Lions charity shop were on sale at the book fair in Las Lagunas over the weekend.

## FUENGIROLA

### Four-legged friends to star at local 'dog day'

**T. B.** The eleventh Día del Perro will be held in the park next to Sohail Castle in Fuengirola this Sunday, 8 May. The day is designed to highlight the role of dogs in society, either as a companion or assisting the security and emergency services and helping the blind and disabled.

Organised by the town hall, the event will begin at 10am in Plaza de España, where residents are invited to bring their dogs. Professionals will be on hand to offer advice about the importance of animal health and hygiene, as well as information about the council's campaign to keep the streets of the town free from excrement and urine. Owners and pets will then parade along the promenade to the castle, where a day of activities will be hosted.

## FUENGIROLA

### Age Concern appeals for new professionals

**T. B.** Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas/Benalmádena is seeking three professionals to join the volunteer-run charity, which provides help and support to English-speaking senior citizens.

The charity, founded in 2014, needs a new administrator, a position that involves working closely with the executive committee. Applicants for this position will need to be computer literate with a good knowledge of Word and Excel.

The organisation also needs a treasurer, who will be responsible for the daily management of finances; and a fundraiser, whose job will include developing existing relationships with both donors and supporters.

More information is available from [info@ageconcernfym.com](mailto:info@ageconcernfym.com)

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# Regional government shelves 'Brick Beach'

## VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

The plan, which would have used recycled rubble, is deemed "incompatible" with Malaga's coastal protection strategy

EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. The Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge has definitively shelved Vélez-Málaga's 'Brick Beach' project, which proposed the regeneration of the east-



Mezquitilla beach. E. C.

ern beaches of Vélez-Málaga using recycled construction rubble.

The Directorate General for the Coast and the Sea has issued a report in which it considers that "the creation of the artificial beach is not compatible with the strategy for the protection of the coast of Malaga considering the effects of climate change, so the requested action cannot be reported favourably".

### Potential toxicity

The report cites issues related to potential toxicity from the waste materials used, as well as a lack of clarity around the proposed breakwaters being effective against coastal erosion.

The 'Brick Beach' project was launched in 2018 with the aim of using construction and demolition waste to regenerate some of Vélez-Málaga's beaches. The idea has been co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to recover the beaches of Mezquitilla and Lagos, which disappeared as a result of the construction of the port of Caleta de Vélez.



Plaza de la Constitución in Torrox pueblo, with its iconic umbrellas. J. R.

## Torrox census exceeds 20,000 residents for the first time

### TORROX

E. C. For the first time in its history, Torrox has surpassed 20,000 inhabitants according to the town's latest census figures. The exact number according to the town hall is 20,886. However, the data will now need to be ratified by Spain's National Institute of Statistics (INE), before it can be confirmed.

Should the INE agree with the figure, Torrox will be eligible for additional state and regional

funding as well as gaining four more councillors in the local elections which are due to take place in May 2023.

Mayor Óscar Medina expressed his "satisfaction" during a press statement last Friday and said that the figure is "continually growing".

Medina explained that having reached this figure, which in Spain represents the limit to be considered a town instead of a village "will bring great benefits for the town, among which are greater economic funds from the State or the assumption of new competencies".

The population has grown by over 5,000 people in six years and Moreno recalled that there were exactly 15,371 inhabitants registered in the 2015 census.

## Reopening of Vélez-Málaga's San Francisco 'gourmet' market still up in the air

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

E. C. The reopening of the San Francisco 'gourmet' market in Vélez-Málaga remains up in the air after more than two years since the electricity company cut the supply due to irregularities with the contract.

At the end of March last year, the town hall gave the four companies, which had still shown an interest in reopening their businesses, a period of fifteen days in which to do so before Easter week this year. However, they rejected the offer, stating that they "did not have written guarantees" that they would be able to continue operating.

María José Giles, one of the businesswomen affected, criticised "the lack of communication and information" on the part of the town hall, "when we have been asking them for more than two years to let us go back to work. We need to know when we can reopen," she said.

## Contract for management of access to Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs out to tender

### NERJA

E. C. The Junta de Andalucía has put the contract out to tender for the management of access control services to the Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs from Cantarrián beach which sits between the towns of Nerja and Almuñécar, in Granada province.

The concession will be for a period of ten years and with a total budget of around 1.2 million euros. The deadline for submitting bids was Tuesday 3 May.

The Maro-Cerro Cliffs natural park, which has been a protected area since 1989, is one of the most environmentally important enclaves in Malaga province, as it is the only large undeveloped stretch of coastline.

In order to preserve and protect the area, vehicles have been banned, with the exception of the areas of El Cañuelo and Cantarrián beaches, which are shared by the town of Nerja and the neighbouring town of Almuñécar.



Torre del Mar's former National Police station is up for auction. E. C.

## Bids start at 1.5 million euros for former National Police station to be sold at auction

### TORRE DEL MAR

E. C. More than two years after the transfer of the National Police Station in Torre del Mar, in February 2020, from the Avenida de Andalucía to a new building in the Cuesta del Visillo area, near the entrance to the town, the Interior Ministry has put the old building, where the station was based for almost three decades, up for auction. The period for submitting bids is open un-

til 20 May, with a starting price of almost 1.5 million euros for commercial premises of 1,065 square metres.

Bids will be accepted until 2 pm on Friday, 20 May 2022, at the General Registry of the Ministry of the Interior, Calle Amador de los Ríos, number 7, Madrid, as well as at any of the registries referred to in article 16.4 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.

In this case, a copy of the sheet bearing the stamp of the registry where the documentation has been submitted must be sent to the email address giese.ventas@interior.es.

The public auction for the sale of the property will be held at 10am on 6 June 2022.

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# Jobless rate in Malaga province drops by two points on last year but it is still high at 20 per cent

The quarterly active-population report from central government shows numbers in work almost back to pre-Covid-19 levels

N. TRIGUERO / L. PALACIOS

**MALAGA / MADRID.** The local labour market for Malaga province - including the Costa del Sol - is continuing to recover from the disastrous effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Not only are more new jobs being created but also the percentage of unemployed is falling slightly, which is an achievement given that there has also been a rise in the number of people available locally wanting work.

Last week central government published the employment data for January to March this year in its quarterly Economically Active Population Survey (or EPA - Encuesta de Población Activa). This showed that just over 20 per cent of people available to work in Malaga province were out of work. This compares to a national average of some 13 per cent.

This Spanish EPA survey published every three months is used by the EU to compare unemployment with other countries and is seen as more reliable than the monthly data from the Spanish Social Security department as the latter excludes people not registered as looking for work.

## More people looking for work

Despite the first three months of the year being traditionally bad for employment - after the Christmas season and before the start of the peak tourist months and this year with the effects of the war in Ukraine on the economy - there were 33,100 more people in work in Malaga province than a year earlier. This brought the total number in work locally almost back to pre-pandemic levels at 643,500.

demical levels at 643,500.

However, 19,400 more people joined the labour market in a year - those in work or available to work - bringing the figure to 806,100. Therefore, the net effect is that the province has 14,000 fewer unemployed than a year ago and 162,500 people unoccupied. This is equivalent to 20.16 per cent out of work - a two-point drop on a year ago. Cadiz is the only other province in the Andalucía region that has over 20 per cent out of work.

The sector of the economy with the biggest increase in work in Malaga province in the last year was the building industry. The service sector increased only slightly and the agriculture sector stayed the same.

## The national picture

On a national level, the story was not as positive. In a normally bleak first quarter for employment figures in Spain, the early effects of inflation and the war in Ukraine combined with Easter falling later to see a net increase in unemployment across the country of 70,900. This ended a run of five quarterly EPA reports where figures had been dropping.

The number of unemployed in Spain was 3,174,700 at the end of March, according to the data - equivalent to 13.65 per cent of the workforce.

In Andalucía, unemployment fell by 112,100 compared to January to March 2021. This was the region with the biggest fall nationally.

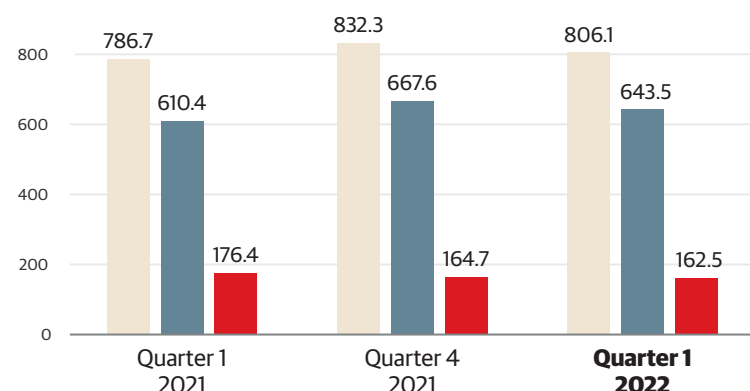
The average unemployment rate in Andalucía is the fourth highest of any Spanish region at 19.43 per cent.

**The number of unemployed in Spain was 3,174,700 at the end of March, equivalent to 13.65 per cent of the workforce**

## In Malaga province

Thousands of people

Economically Active Occupied Unemployed

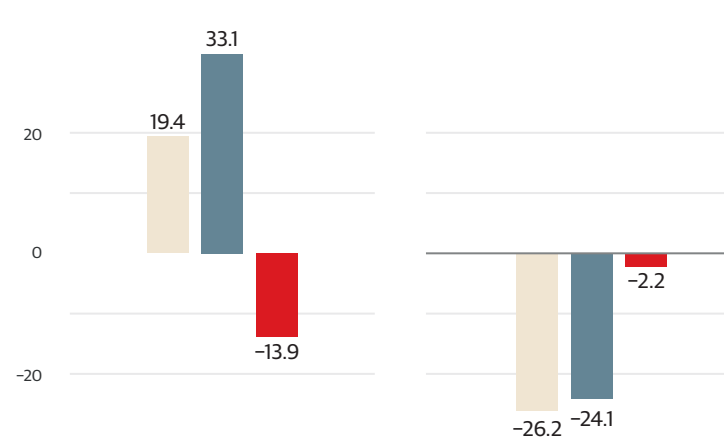


OVERALL CHANGE

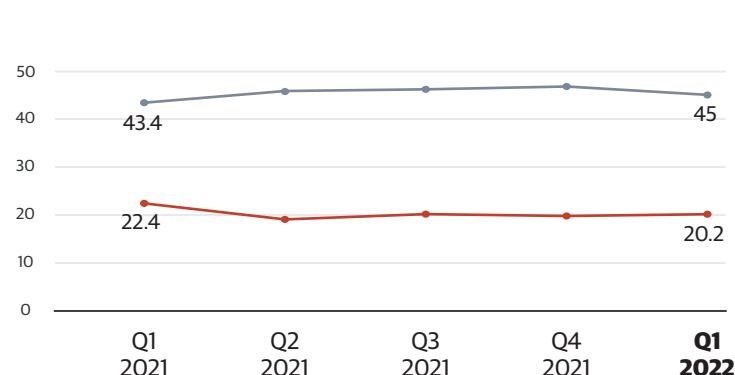
Thousands of people

YEAR-ON-YEAR

QUARTER-ON-QUARTER



RATES — Unemployment rate — Employment rate



INFOGRAPHIC A. M. C.

## Spain does worst out of Euro countries on its unemployment stats

Countries in the Eurozone reached their lowest level of unemployment in at least the last 24 years at the end of March, with 6.8% on average. This was despite the harsh economic conditions of the last two years during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But this is not the case for Spain, which, despite being at below pre-coronavirus levels, is still double the Eurozone average at 13.5% and a long way off the lowest ever recorded in the country in 2007 of 8%. Spain's rate is the highest in Europe.

Youth employment is also a big issue. The Eurozone average for those under 25 out of work is 13.9%, whereas Spain is at 29.6%, slightly more than Greece and Italy.

The situation in Malaga is worse than the national average, an embarrassing situation for a province that aims to be the economic driver of the Andalucía region. The lowest figures were in 2007. Back then, 75,000 people were out of work. Now, in 2022, there are the same number of people in work in Malaga province as then, (643,000), but more than double those out of work (162,000), according to the EPA survey.

Why is this? The local business association head, Javier González de Lara, calls the case of Malaga the "great paradox", as the area is attractive for new migrants: as much new work as it creates, there is never enough to satisfy job demand.

It is worth pointing out more uncomfortable reasons for politicians: causes linked to the economy's structure, which depends heavily on tourism and less on industry, and where a large number of unemployed do not have the right skills.

## Record amount of people going on fixed instead of temporary contracts

LUCÍA PALACIOS

**MALAGA.** Hot on the heels of the quarterly EPA employment data for January to March this year - seen as the most reliable measure of real unemployment - this week came the monthly April data from the Social Security department of how many people

were registered in the system as workers. And it was good news.

For the first time ever, there were more than 20 million people in Spain paying into the Social Security system - a target that the government has been aiming for for some years. This strength in the labour market is

causing surprise among ministers after the trauma of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The other major piece of good news in April on jobs is that the number of people going onto permanent contracts - rather than more precarious temporary contracts - has shot up to record levels. In January, 10% of new contracts were fixed and in April it was up at 48%.

Creating more job stability in this way has been a key target of the current Socialist-led government and recently the law was

changed to push employers into giving more secure contracts,

In April, 534,566 more permanent - or fixed - contracts were signed compared to last year and 441,318 fewer temporary contracts, a drop of 37%. This is being attributed directly to the labour market reforms.

"They told us that it was not possible, but it is possible. The labour reform is working," said the minister for Work, Yolanda Díaz, who highlighted the "paradigm shift in the labour market in our country".

The big surge in permanent contracts has been seen in all sectors of the economy and in all regions. There are now 77% of workers on these fixed contracts, six points higher than usual for this time of year.

However there is still work to do, commentators said, as the majority of the new permanent contracts were for part time work or for seasonal work, suggesting some employers may have swapped giving out temporary contracts for fixed contracts with fewer hours.



# Government admits that PM's and defence minister's phones were hacked last year

Sophisticated Pegasus software was found to have been used and, although no country has been blamed, speculation is focusing on Morocco

## SUR

MADRID. The Spanish government said on Monday this week it had just discovered that the mobile phones of the prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, and the minister of Defence, Margarita Robles, had been spied on using the now-notorious Pegasus software.

According to documents from the investigation, the hacking of the PM took place twice: on 19 May and 31 May 2021. More data was said to have been taken from the PM than the defence minister. Reports said it was their private phones that had been affected.

The announcement came amid recent, ongoing allegations from pro-independence politicians in Catalonia that Madrid had been spying on them using the same Pegasus software, which is sold only to governments' spy departments by its Israeli maker.

Madrid would only say that those spying on the PM and the minister were "external" and it would publish its findings after an investigation. This prompted fierce speculation over which foreign government or body could be behind the hacking.

Around the time of the spying last year, Spain was facing a diplomatic crisis with neighbour Morocco over allowing a pro-independence leader of Western Sahara to have Covid treatment in northern Spain. This was followed by Morocco relaxing its guard on

the frontier at Spanish Ceuta on the North African coast, allowing some 8,000 people to cross uncontrolled into Spain. This happened on 17 May and the next day Sánchez was hacked.

On the day of the second hacking, 31 May, Morocco announced it was giving up on diplomatic relations with Spain. Relations with Morocco have been significantly improved recently, to the criticism of opposition parties in Spain.

The minister of Defence's phone was hacked later, in June, said court documents. It has also been reported that the phone of the former Spanish foreign minister was hacked around the time of the same crisis with Morocco.

Although no country is being



Pedro Sánchez uses his phone. AFP

openly blamed, spy chief's have been highlighting the high level of overall espionage against Spain by Morocco for some time, claiming it is the second most aggressive after Russia.

## Catalan complaints

The opposition has suggested the government has revealed details of the spying of the PM now to distract attention from supposed spying on Catalan politicians. On Thursday, boss of Spain's CNI spy agency, Paz Esteban, was called - in secret - before a committee of MPs to give details of the Pegasus software spying, especially last month's allegations against Madrid from Catalonia. She said there had been no mass spying.

What is the Pegasus software that has spooked everybody?

## SUR

MALAGA. In the last couple of weeks the whole of Spain has been talking about a piece of very expensive software designed by an Israeli company to secretly extract information from a mobile phone.

The makers, NSO Group, are even subject to export control by the Israeli government as the software - or more accurately malware, for the harm it can do - is classified as a cyberweapon.

The Pegasus malware is said to be sold only to national governments who have proved they uphold democratic values, although more authoritarian regimes have been shown to have it. Access for the general public is near impossible.

It allows data, such as photos and files, to be copied from phones without the user knowing and without leaving any trace that it happened for technical experts to find.

Some 2.6 gigabytes were said to have been taken from the prime minister's personal phone the first time it was hacked last May - equivalent, for example, to a quarter of the information held on the Wikipedia website. On the second attempt, 130 megabytes were taken. In the case of the defence minister, only nine megabytes were taken.

The main difference to traditional spyware is that the owner of a phone does not have to click on an infected file for the virus to download.

An advertisement for Linea Directa insurance. It features a man in a blue shirt looking at a laptop, with a red car and a motorcycle in the background. Text includes: "THE SECRET? IT'S NOT JUST THE PRICE", "WE LISTEN TO YOU IN ENGLISH", "GET THE BEST PRICE NOW", "CAR BIKE HOME INSURANCE", "linea directa 952 147 834", and "Phone number valid from anywhere in Spain". Logos for "British Chamber of Commerce in Spain" and "MOBILITY AS A SERVICE" are also present.

## THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

### Positive spin



If viewed from the perspective of the Spanish government, two developments this week could be seen in a positive light and even used for PR purposes. One concerns April's employment statistics and the other concerns alleged espionage against prominent politicians. If looked at from another angle, though, the second development isn't good news for anyone, certainly not its protagonists.

Spain's job statistics are often

deceptively upbeat, disguising outsized dependence on temporary contracts and/or seasonal labour. April's weren't any different in the latter respect, spanning as they did the busiest Easter since the pandemic hit. There was, however, one indication of structural improvement: 48.2 per cent of all new contracts signed last month were permanent rather than temporary - the highest such statistic in the historical series and 326 per cent more than in the same

month last year (although that enormous increase partly reflects the fact that there were still lots of Covid restrictions around in April 2021).

Spain's overall unemployment rate is still more than double the EU average, but the figures quoted above are indicative of the kind of improvement that could last, rather than just another seasonal peak. Pioneered by employment minister Yolanda Díaz, the reforms negotiated with unions and companies over the last couple of years seem to be yielding results already; and given the coalition's precarious state in parliament, they might prove to be the only legacy of its time in office.

The government's weakening grip on power slipped even further at the end of April, when it

emerged that over sixty Catalan separatists had been targeted by digital espionage. Regional president Pere Aragonès was quick to blame Pedro Sánchez; but this week, in a development that could be used to bolster the government's "It Wasn't Us" line, Sánchez and defence minister Margarita Robles were also named as victims of the Israeli-produced Pegasus spyware. Might Pegasus have been used by a single, external entity to target both prominent Catalan secessionists AND Spain's national government?

Perhaps, but the revelation that Sánchez and Robles have also been the targets of digital espionage won't ease tensions between the Catalan and national presidencies. The Socialists' reaction to reports that

Catalan politicians had been targeted highlighted the polarised nature of the independence debate: rather than immediately pledging to find out who or what entity had targeted their colleagues in Catalonia, government ministers were chiefly concerned to extricate themselves from blame.

Ironically, Robles herself then gave a speech in which she almost admitted that the Socialists were responsible for targeting secessionists with the heavy-duty spyware, supposedly only sold to national governments for the purpose of tracking terrorists. Whatever's going on here, one thing is clear: ridden by cloaked spies, Pegasus is flying without authorisation through the homes and offices of Spain's top politicians.



# Ulysses, the dog rescued from the rubbish, needs a new home... again

The family that adopted the young mastiff, originally rescued from a sack where it had been left to die, have had to return the dog to the Malaga animal shelter

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Many readers will remember the story: Ulysses, a mastiff puppy just a few months old, was found in June 2020 inside a sack tied with rope and thrown in a rubbish container in the Puertosol area on the outskirts of Malaga.

The efforts of the Local Police to rescue him, those of the Malaga Protectora animal association to cover the expenses, and the staff at the SOS Catycan veterinary hospital saved Ulysses' life. And the dog became a symbol of the fight against animal cruelty.

## Foster and adoption

When his health had improved and he was able to stand, Ulysses was moved temporarily to the home of Inma Laure, a vol-

unteer from the Malaga association, who offered him a foster home for six months.

In January last year, an Irish couple living in Conil de la Frontera (Cadiz province) adopted the puppy but, sadly, the relationship has not worked out.

The couple invested time and money in several trainers, but were unable to control the powerful animal, which has some behavioural problems due to previous traumas and fears.

Now, Ulysses is back in Malaga, at the home of Samuel León, a professional dog trainer and founder of Tribu Canina, an arrangement that Ulysses' former family continues to contribute towards.

But a new home is needed, said the expert, who offers advice to people who are interested in adopting Ulysses.

"He is a dog with insecurity problems. The nature of his behaviour is fear. When you know his story, you get an idea of the ordeal he has been through: early in life he suffered abuse and abandonment. We have a dog that has had horrible experiences and has not been educated or



Ulysses is back in Malaga. SUR

**According to the expert, the dog suffers fear and insecurity and knows that being aggressive keeps people and other dogs away**

socialised."

Samuel León, who has also been a volunteer for the Protectora since 2015, explains that Ulysses is not really a bold dog, but rather avoids conflict with people and other dogs.

"What happens then? In a family without leadership, little

expertise and little authority, he grows up and becomes strong. Although with me he manages his fear perfectly and avoids any conflict, with inexperienced people he gets braver. He becomes protective and knows that if he gets aggressive with other dogs or with other people no one is going to get close to him, and therefore his bad behaviour is reinforced."

## Respect and trust

The expert trainer has full confidence that Ulysses can find a family in which both sides will be happy.

"He has been with me for a few weeks and at first he was very suspicious and during the first days I had to protect myself when I went into his kennel, as a precaution. Now we have a relationship based on respect and trust and he can walk around the countryside, the city or attend a group class with other dogs, without the slightest problem. We continue to work on his fears to make him as sociable and balanced as possible."

## Free training classes

So what would be the right profile? A family with experience and authority to handle a dog of this size and these characteristics, "and with a little patience".

Samuel León will offer adopters a free individual training class and two months of group classes, "so that they get to know each other and know how to handle him, and therefore we guarantee that from the off that things are done correctly. But the most important thing is to find a home for the big guy!"

## GIBRALTAR



Smereczinski and Cortes. SUR

## TOURISM

### Cruise ship welcomed on inaugural visit to Gib

**SUR IN ENGLISH.** Minister John Cortes was in the Port of Gibraltar on Wednesday to welcome the Le Dumont D'Urville cruise ship on its inaugural visit to the Rock. Cortes, standing in for Tourism Minister Vijay Daryanani, exchanged plaques with Le Dumont D'Urville's hotel manager, Sami Saidi and chief purser, Karina Smereczinski. The ship, carrying 92 passengers and 110 crew members, left later that evening for its next port of call, Malaga.

## RESEARCH

### University to host substance abuse event

**SUR IN ENGLISH.** The University of Gibraltar's Centre of Excellence in Responsible Gaming (CERG) is set to host the 25th European Association of Substance Abuse Research (EASAR) Conference between 12 and 15 May. The association's annual scientific conferences aim to stimulate and strengthen European cooperation with regard to addiction research, assisting in its prevention and treatment and contributing to the wellbeing of the public.

## CHARITY

### Officers set to pull their weight at fun day

**SUR IN ENGLISH.** A team of Royal Gibraltar Police officers will be towing a police van 3.5km around the streets of Gib this Saturday in aid of charity. Eight new recruits will pull the van from Casemates Square at 10.30am before returning around an hour and a half later. The fundraiser forms part of the RGP's annual Family Fun Day organised by the trainee officers and held between 11am and 4pm in Casemates Square.







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# Average spending by foreign tourists is already ahead of pre-pandemic levels

Visitors handed over 1,257 euros in Spain on their holidays, almost 200 more per person than in 2019, although total spending is 15 per cent lower than in 2019

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. In the month of March alone four million foreign tourists arrived in Spain; 71 per cent of the number that came in the same month of 2019, just before the pandemic started.

However, tourists are spending more money this time around: 1,257 euros each on average, which is almost 200 euros more than the 1,068 euros spent in March 2019.

The average daily expenditure grew by 20 per cent to 157 euros, even though the duration of trips by international tourists is eight days this year, 0.5 less than in March 2021, according to data published on Thursday by Spain's Institute of National Statistics (INE).

Despite the figures, total spending remains 15 per cent below 2019 levels, but already exceeds five billion. The total income from international tourists reached 5,069 million euros, an increase of 830 per cent compared to the same month in 2021.

Spain's tourism minister, Reyes Maroto, explained in a statement that this trend will "intensify" in the summer period,



Foreign tourists arriving for Easter talk to their holiday representative at Malaga Airport last month. SUR

with results that "make us optimistic", including more international flights programmed offering more than 29 million seats.

In the year-to-date, total visitor spending has increased by almost 800 per cent compared to last year, reaching 11,853 million euros, which is 3,500 million less than in the first quarter of 2019.

## Brits lead the way

Of the four million foreign tourists who arrived in Spain in March, the largest group was from the United Kingdom.

During that month 826,400 British tourists arrived; 18 per cent of the total. They spent 1,013 million euros in Spain,

## There are more international flights programmed offering more than 29 million seats

representing 20 per cent of the total.

In the first three months of the year, the number of tourists increased by almost 700 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2021, reaching almost 9.7 million visitors, compared to only 1.2 million last year.

After the UK, it was German and French tourists who took sec-

ond and third place, with 608,800 and 457,000 arrivals, respectively.

Among the other countries, the growth compared to last year was notable in Ireland (+2.5 per cent), the United States (1.9 per cent) and the Nordic countries (1.3 per cent).

The main destination of these tourists was the Canary Islands, which registered 33 per cent of total expenditure in March and 1.1 million visitors.

Catalonia was the second most popular destination with 14.5 per cent of total expenditure and 703,000 tourists.

Andalucía saw 15 per cent of total expenditure and 610,000 people.

## Plan to cap gas prices in Spain and Portugal is delayed by a week

SUR

MALAGA. The implementation of Spain and Portugal's plan to lower energy bills by capping gas prices will be delayed for at least another week. The head of Ecological Transition, Teresa Ribera, admitted on Monday that the government was still working with Brussels to finalise the "last details" of the so-called 'Iberian exception'.

On her arrival at the extraordinary council of EU energy ministers meeting last Sunday in Brussels, the minister expressed her confidence that, despite the complexity of the details required to receive the European Commission's final approval, the measure could be approved "next week".

Spain and Portugal have already reached a "political agreement" with Europe to cap the price of gas used to generate electricity at an average of 50 euros per megawatt hour (MWh), which will translate into a reduction in retail prices. The first to notice this would be customers in the variable regulated market (the so-called PVPC), as their tariff is linked to this market.

The reduction achieved by Madrid and Lisbon, which in principle will be applied for 12 months, is considerable compared to the 90 euros at which gas currently moves in the market.

# Consumers' group lists supermarkets with the biggest price rises

Prices have risen by 9.4 per cent in a year, although half of this increase has taken place in the last three months

ISABEL MÉNDEZ

MALAGA. In recent months supermarkets across Spain have been raising their prices, and in some cases also reducing the volume of some items, for example yoghurts. For this reason, the Organisation of Consumers and Users (OCU) has drawn up a report on the chains that have increased their prices the most.

To do this, it has collected the prices of 156 products from the

online shops of Alcampo, Carrefour, Condis, Día, El Corte Inglés, Eroski, Hipercor and Mercadona over several months. The data was collected on a quarterly basis from 20 December 2020 to 8 March 2022, just before the transport strike which caused a temporary spike in prices. The study took prices from 10 different cities.

## The biggest price hikes

Although the rises are fairly parallel, according to the OCU, the biggest increase has been recorded by Mercadona (11.9 per cent) which, together with Eroski and Alcampo, has accumulated increases of over 10 per cent. Mercadona's rise is possi-

bly related to the fact that most of its products are own brand. The other chains were between Día at 8.5 per cent per cent and Hipercor at 9.9 per cent.

The rises were moderate until December 2021 but accelerated in the first quarter of this year, due to the war in Ukraine, the rise in fuel prices and the transport strike.

In the last 12 months, from

## The rises were moderate until December 2021 but accelerated in the first quarter of this year

March 2021 to March 2022, Carrefour with 12.1 per cent and Mercadona with 11.4 per cent are the chains that have risen the most.

Meanwhile, in El Corte Inglés and Hipercor, the increase has been lower: 7.7 per cent according to the OCU report.

Nevertheless, both Mercadona and Carrefour continue to be among the cheapest national chains, together with Alcampo.

The rises affect 84 per cent of the products tracked and can be felt in food prices. Among the most affected are oils (34%), fish (16%), packaged foods (11%) and dairy products (11%).

According to the OCU, if they are maintained they will mean an increase of more than 500 euros a year in the average family's shopping basket.

## Numerous reasons

This worrying increase in prices is due to different factors, which have coincided, according to the

OCU.

One is the escalation of energy prices. As the economy ground to a halt during the early stage of the pandemic and the lockdowns, the production of gas and other fossil fuels was reduced to adjust to the low demand. However, the return to activity drove up the prices of these fuels.

Rising prices of raw materials are also an issue. In recent months these factors have also led to a rise in the prices of raw materials, such as fertilisers used in agriculture, or wheat and oil, which are needed to produce other foodstuffs.

High energy prices have increased costs for farms, livestock and fisheries, as well as for distributors (shops, supermarkets) and manufacturers.

Finally the war in Ukraine has had an effect. Geopolitical tensions have increased the prices of cereals and other products supplied by Ukraine.





THE SPECTRUM IFA GROUP

# LIFE JUST SEEMS TO BE GETTING SO MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE NOWADAYS

**MARBELLA**

**Jeremy Ferguson.** Over the last few years we have seen a quite incredible chain of events unfold. Covid reared its ugly head, and caused a massive change in the way in which we live and travel. During this period of lockdowns and people working from home, spending habits took a massive turn. No one had the chance to go out and spend money in bars and restaurants, go to the cinema or take weekend city breaks, to name but a few.

When things started to go back to normal, we saw big supply chain issues coming to light. Microchips for cars meant new car deliveries became more and more delayed, pushing up the price of second-hand cars. Demand for consumer goods for the home, having gone through the roof, also meant the cost of these items started to rise.

Many companies wound down



Jeremy Ferguson. SUR

production during the covid period, and then all of a sudden were caught short by the sudden surge in demand. You can argue this happened in the fuel industry, as we saw panic buying and massive queues in the UK at petrol stations.

Then, just as we started to look for a hint of normality, with people slipping back into their old spending habits, the war in Ukraine started, immediately hitting the price of fuel, and the one that surprised me, sunflower oil!

All of these factors have meant that the cost of living for all households is increasing at an alarming rate; inflation is with us again, having been dormant for quite a while. The one that has really hit most people here in Spain is the increasing cost of electricity. In December the cost rose from its lowest point by almost 500%, something I have no living memory of happening before. For many people, that is creating a huge dent in their disposable income each month.

Most people I deal with are retired or semi-retired, with their income generated by drawing down from their pensions, and then normally substituting it with drawdowns from investment portfolios and cash savings. At this stage of their lives, I believe, in most circumstances, fear tends to be the driving factor behind their investment decisions, as protecting the money far outweighs trying to get too high a return each year. That makes perfect sense as income streams during retirement have typically ceased, so the 'pot' needs to be looked after carefully. Making plans for how long your funds will last is easy to a degree, when the cost of living simply increases a little each year, but now, with the way things are, the plans that previously seemed sensible will

certainly need a bit of a shake-up. If interest rates rise as predicted, then maybe people will be able to look for their cash in the bank to increase in value by earning some interest, but that is something none of us can predict at the moment. If inflation continues at today's current levels, many people will either have to change their lifestyle, or look to try and increase the annual return on their savings, but by doing that, it typically involves taking more risk, which is completely against where people normally want to be at this stage of their lives.

With the changes we are seeing with outgoings, investment returns, interest rates and inflation, it has never been more important to spend time regularly looking at financial plans, and adjusting assumptions to make sure you have a realistic handle of how things will look going forward. It's not rocket science, and I am here to help if you find it all a little daunting, so please free to get in touch.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Be aware

From time to time letters are published warning readers about “new tricks” being used to steal from unsuspecting victims. As a former 30-year career detective in UK and over 20 years working as a volunteer with the National Police and a couple of years with Guardia Civil, I know there are no new tricks, just some you may not be aware of.

There are a few precautions which will afford protection in most pickpocketing attempts. Don't take unnecessary valuable items with you when you go out, never put items of value in easily accessible pockets, especially in loose fitting garments. You will not “feel” an attempt to steal.

If approached by a stranger in a public place, or are jostled, bumped into etc. - very common when getting onto buses, trains, in markets, etc. - be aware they may be intending to steal from you, so where possible keep your distance. And of course it's not wise to put valuable items in handbags, backpacks, bum bags, etc.

Generally, it's better not to take difficult to replace original documents out with you if that can be avoided. Keep copies of all valuable documents, photos of watches, jewellery etc. at home so if you are a victim you will have them to assist police investigations.

I suggest downloading the Alert Cops app so you can easily summon police help or inform them in English of crimes being committed. Also, if you need to report a crime and don't speak Spanish, you can give details in English, French, German or Italian, on 902 102 112, to assist when making the report at a National Police station.

JOHN CARRINGTON

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## Electric dreams

Imagine the scene: a mountain road, a steep uphill climb and a middle-aged baldy chap dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, cycling at nearly twenty miles per hour, leaving many a lycra-clad loser in his wake as he breezes by.

Now, I'm not one to boast, but the chap in question was, in fact, yours truly. Actually, I'm not one to boast because I can't boast - it was an electric bike I was on, undertaking a trial run with a view to maybe buying one. Should any readers be considering doing the same, let me offer a short review of the experience.

First, the plus points. An electric bike means you can pretend you're Eddie Merckx (sorry for going so far back in history but it's hard to think of any cyclist since 1990 who hasn't been besmirched by rumour and innuendo). You can also stick your arms out sideways like a nine-year old and yell “Look, Ma! No hands!” at bemused passers-by.

Secondly, as mentioned above, an electric bike enables you to overtake the puffing and panting Lycra Lads while you munch nonchalantly on a bacon buttie and breath in and out in an ostentatiously regular manner. Of course, this might lead to derisive looks from your rivals, since they consider your choice of transport to be cheating. Worry not, since, normally, the only expression they're actually capable of is one of subdued anguish as their thighs burn to a crisp and their lungs quietly implode.

Another great thing about the electric bike is that some people don't even realise you're on one and are, consequently, profoundly impressed by your physical prowess. Stand by for random proposals of marriage from a wide range of pretty girls as you glide your way about town.

What about the downside? Well, you're cycling for a start. This immediately makes you extraordinarily self-centred as

you're overcome by a sudden urge to ignore all red lights and ride across zebra crossings as if you were a pedestrian. You may also find yourself sporting a vaguely smug expression and looking down your nose at anyone not on two wheels. Including babies.

Also, an electric bike is a constant worry since their economic value/robability ratio is catnip to thieves. Thus, even if you stop for a beer and have the bike locked to your leg, you'll still be convinced of the distinct possibility that a man in a hooped jersey and carrying a bag marked ‘swag’, will spring from nowhere and whisk away your only means of getting home in the blink of an eye.

Frankly, the jury's out as far as this rider is concerned. My plan is to hire an e-bike on a couple more occasions and reach a definitive decision. Actually, I've already reached one - never to buy anything lycra, whatever happens.

## IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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## Tap water, off the menu

I went to a bar and asked for a free glass of water and the controversy began. It's been two weeks since hostelry services all over Spain have been legally obliged to give free water to their clients. This rule already existed in Andalucía, but only really in theory, and was accompanied by a gritting of teeth.

The offending article 18.3 of the waste disposal law 7/2022 obliges all hotel and catering businesses to provide free tap water, although they can continue selling bottled mineral water for those who are so inclined. Tap water is fine, and

with a touch of chlorine to kill any germs or microbes, it hydrates just the same as bottled water. If a little pressure is applied, it can even be added to vermouth, or to remove the Saharan dust that still covers my city.

Some business owners have complained, as can only be expected, as they represent one of the most complaining sectors in the world, closely followed by opinion columnists. They say that handing out free water will reduce their sales. Personally, I'd be very surprised if lots of people suddenly swapped their usual

order of a cold beer, a glass of wine or fresh fruit juice for a glass of tap water. No one drinks wine because they're thirsty. People gather for drinks in bars for the pleasure of it. Euro-thirsty business owners can satisfy themselves by continuing to sell wine for five times its super-market price.

Abroad, which is the place where everything happens, when you arrive at a restaurant, you are served a jug of water and glasses at will, as much as you like.

It is also common to charge for corkage - you can go to a restaurant with your finest bottle of ten-euro wine and only pay for the waiters to open it and for their service.

Hopefully Spain will follow suit. I remember a dismal time when it became fashionable to offer a ‘water menu’, with lots of different options, each one more expensive than the next. I was once even

invited to a water tasting. I declined.

Another element of the controversial ruling also states that restaurants and bars have to allow anyone to use the toilets, customer or not. I recommend thinking optimistically. Anyone who walks into a bar to use the toilet is a potential customer, who might then seize the opportunity to order a beer. Going straight to the bathroom without ordering anything before asking for a free glass of water seems a bit cheeky to me, even if the law and consumer groups allow it.

The source of the outrage might just be that we have grown used to paying for everything, and are just so surprised not to have to. They say that he who pays breathes a sigh of relief. There are also places where they charge you to use the bathroom - mainly abroad. Nobody can get it completely right, but the least we can do is try to make services accessible to everyone.



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# Malaga's aviation museum takes off

**New pieces on display.**  
The site of the Costa del Sol's first airfield is now home to the most important exhibition on the history of civil aviation in Spain

**Early tourism.**  
Local aeronautical engineer Álvaro Rojas alongside one of the aircraft. **SALVADOR SALAS**

**Traffic.**  
An old helicopter used by the DGT authority to monitor roads. **SALVADOR SALAS**

**IGNACIO LILLO**



Malaga city is now known for its long list of museums, and like everything in life, some of the collections receive star treatment and are promoted far and wide. Others are little known, although their cultural value may well be greater. This is the case of the former aerodrome known as El Rompedizo. What was the Costa del Sol's first ever airport is located just alongside the terminal where today private jets take off and land; and, thanks to the work of its members and volunteers, and the

sponsorship of airports operator Aena, it has become home to the most important collection telling the story of civil aviation in Spain. And what makes this extensive collection so significant is a new arrival: a unique piece that can only be viewed here in Malaga: a real engine made for an Airbus A380 (the largest passenger aircraft in the world) donated by its manufacturer, Rolls-Royce, thanks to the mediation of one of the firm's engineers, Álvaro Rojas, who is originally from Malaga. However the city's Museo

Aeronáutico, which received 20,000 visitors a year before the pandemic, mainly school groups and families with children, is home to many more pieces that help visitors understand how flying has evolved. And it starts with several real aircraft, such as those that arrived on the Costa del Sol in the early days of tourism. The old terminal that is now home to the exhibition is in itself a journey through time, taking the visitor back to 1948, barely a decade after the end of the Civil War. A building with a desk, a board-

ing gate, a bar and a tiny control tower from where, when the primitive telecommunications failed, they made signs at the planes with lights. "They say that in the [city's district of] Limonar, someone built a house just like this," said Joaquín de Carranza, the centre's guide and caretaker. Among the gems on display in the outside courtyard, which was once the boarding area, is the plane that brought the first Scandinavian visitors to Torremolinos, the Convair 440 Metropolitan operated by airline Kar-Air (initially known as Karhümaki Airways). The Finns are very fond of this piece of history and every year pilots and cabin crew get together to have a party around the plane, which, in the 1950s, used the very latest technology in air travel. "It

A group of volunteers take care of the maintenance of the museum and act as guides for visitors





▲ **For millionaires.**  
Four tickets from Helsinki to Malaga on this Convair cost the same as a Seat 600 car.  
SALVADOR SALAS



◀ **The latest.**  
An engine from an Airbus A380, the largest passenger plane in the world.  
SALVADOR SALAS

▼ **At the controls.**  
Rojas shows the cockpit of one of the old planes on display.  
SALVADOR SALAS



was very important for Malaga as it was the first plane to use the international airport and the tarmacked runway," said De Carranza.

The journey from Helsinki took three days, with stops to pick up passengers in Sweden.

"They were the 'crème de la crème'; four tickets cost as much as a [Seat] 600 car, so imagine the spending power of those people who came here."

For this visit we're lucky enough to have an exceptional guide, Álvaro Rojas. From inside you can see the structure of the aircraft, which doesn't differ too much from modern ones: a skeleton with ribs and a fine fuselage, "which is only there to maintain the dynamic shape".

The cockpit is also well preserved, with its controls and cables, as are some of the original seats, and the hold with suitcases from the period.

Next to it is a private jet, a Beechcraft operated by Spantex, which brought executives from firms such as Philips for holidays.

The preservation of the pieces is exceptional: "It is all maintained by volunteers from the Friends of the Museum Association (Asociación de Amigos del Museo), some of whom are former pilots, but there are also ex-bus drivers, teachers... They are people who are passionate about aeronautics and contribute what they can in their spare time."

The group has around 100 members, of whom 30 are especially active. Their jobs include working as guides, seeking out and restoring pieces to increase the collection, organising the rooms and even building real flight simulators.

#### Inside a legendary DC-9

In the small control tower, which looks more like a kind of pigeon loft, the controller used a radio, but when this failed, there were alternatives such as a torchlight pointer to make signs in Morse code to communicate the direction in which the pilot had to land.

If that didn't work either, they had to resort to using a flare gun: but with green flares, not red ones.

The next stop is Iberia's legendary McDonnell Douglas DC-9. That plane was called Pedro Alonso Niño, and the museum has preserved the nose, with the complete cockpit and the interior, just as it was when it flew. "All the buttons are there, the throttle and reverse thrust levers, and the circuit breaker panel."

The outdoor exhibition ends with a DC-3, considered "the Land Rover of the air, and is still flying in some African countries after 60 years, as it can land on soil or anywhere".

Spain has few spaces similar to this museum managed by Aena in Malaga: just the Air Museum (Museo del Aire) in Madrid, which is military; and an old terminal preserved in Lanzarote, which is used for protocol purposes. There are some private collections, "but open to the public like ours, there's no other, and what's more it's free," said Joaquín de Carranza. In fact here they receive pieces from airports and collections from all over the country.

And so the visit reaches its final stop, the room that now houses the real Rolls-Royce Airbus A380 engine, and which makes this Malaga museum the only place in the world where a machine of these dimensions can be freely visited. Bringing it here is a feat that has turned a young local engineer into a "hero" among Malaga enthusiasts.

"This is a piece of a different category, something you'd find in a museum in London or Paris," said De Carranza, who remembers when the association "signed" Álvaro Rojas to work as a guide when he was still a student.

"Now that he has gained a professional status he has thought of us. One day he called me and he said: 'I've got an engine for you'... The kid that arrived one day for a visit has given back all the passion that the museum once gave him."

#### SOCIETY SCENE



Hard at work. N. H.

## Press Club members get their hands in the chocolate at Mijas meeting

#### SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. Members of the Costa Press Club (CPC) met at the end of April for a long-anticipated "chocolate and pizza" event.

The meeting, which had been postponed more than once because of Covid restrictions, started in the Mayan Monkey Mijas workshop, where members were first supplied with all the necessary ingredients and instructions to make and decorate their own personalised chocolate bars.

A guided tour of the factory then provided insights into the whole process of making chocolate, from cacao bean to finished product.

A key word at the factory is sustainability, and CPC members were particularly interested to hear how every ingredient is not only natural but is ethically sourced, enabling Mayan Monkey Mijas to be the only chocolate factory in Spain to be recognised by the NGO "Slave Free Chocolate".

After a lively question and answer session and an inspection of the printing press where the company prints its own packaging and labels, the group then moved on to Restaurante La Piedra for pizza.

## The benefits of a 'Strategic Financial Plan' for UK nationals in Spain

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# A keen eye for fashion that respects our planet

**Leon James Patras.** The 44-year-old has used slow fashion to help worthy causes and to highlight the importance of recycling

TONY BRYANT



There are countless expats on the Costa who use their talents to help worthy causes and local charities and 44-year-old Leon James Patras is no exception. Since arriving in Malaga from South Africa five years ago, Leon has used his professional skills to not only raise money for charity, but to also highlight the importance of protecting the natu-

ral resources of our planet. Born in the UK in 1978, Leon's family moved to Zambia when he was just three years old. In 1989, the family then moved to South Africa.

On leaving school, he took a year off, before enlisting on a three-year degree in acting, producing and directing. However, he did not do much professional acting work, instead, he headed into the corporate

## IN THE FRAME



Leon in the Arsenal Inoxis gallery, which will host his charity slow fashion show. W. RADFORD

world, working in the pharmaceutical industry, a business he says he did not particularly enjoy.

Leon's youth and early years in South Africa have been recorded in a series of books written by his mother, Ann Patras, a trilogy which records the family's journey from the UK to Africa and how they coped with their new lifestyles.

Leon decided to come to live in Alhaurín el Grande in 2017, after his parents had retired to the Costa del Sol in 2010.

"South Africa was so far away, and I thought it would be best to make the move seeing as I had no family there anymore. One of the things that appeals to me is that Spain is very similar to life in South Africa. The relaxed lifestyle and the weather are very similar. For me, Spain is like a small piece of Africa in Europe," Leon says, in his distinctive South African accent.

On arriving in Malaga, he began thinking of ways he could use his "energy" to do something he enjoyed. One of his passions is horses, so it wasn't long before he began volunteering at the local horse sanctuary in Alhaurín el Grande.

"I started helping out at ARCH, and after about three years, a position became available for a general coordinator, which I was offered. When I joined the organisation, the charity was being run well, but because I have a background in quality management, I wanted to put a few new proc-

**Leon has used his professional skills to not only raise money for charity, but to also to highlight the importance of protecting the natural resources of our planet**

**His first fashion show in Alhaurín el Grande in 2019 focused on steampunk, a style that encompasses a keen eye for intelligently-placed details**

esses into place," he explains.

Leon also wanted to get back into theatre production, so he began searching out local amateur theatrical groups, like The Andalusian Performing Arts Society (TAPAS), and The Occasional Performers Society (TOPS), with whom he collaborated on several projects.

**Promoting recycled fashion**

Although he says he is not a designer, being someone who is fashion conscious and also someone who cares deeply about the planet, Leon began using his production skills to host slow fashion shows.

Slow fashion encompasses an awareness and approach to fashion that considers the processes and resources required

to make clothing.

Leon's first show took place in a warehouse in Alhaurín el Grande and was dedicated to steampunk, a style that consists of a combination of Victorian clothing and rough industrial aesthetics that encompasses a keen eye for details.

"The steampunk show came about because I had a 40th birthday party and we needed a theme. I decided on steampunk because I really like the look and feel of it. The party went down so well, it gave me the idea to do my first steampunk show in 2019," he says.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Leon is now getting ready to present his second show, a charity event in aid of Cudeca and ARCH, which he will host at the Arsenal Inoxis gallery in Alhaurín el Grande on Saturday (tomorrow).

Apart from raising funds for charity, The Slow Fashion Show aims to encourage shopping at local charity shops, where the materials for the new show are almost exclusively sourced.

He has organised the show with a friend, Lisa Howard, who Leon says makes "phenomenal steampunk outfits".

"I have had a lot of help with the show, and I could not have done this on my own. We have come up with some great designs that are all made from second-hand clothes. I want to emphasise that we can't just keep throwing clothes away just to buy new fashions. We might be able to afford it, but the planet cannot," Leon concludes.

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READERS' PHOTOS



ANTHONY BONNER

Angels' trumpets

SUR in English reader Anthony Bonner sent in this photo of a white Brugmansia, commonly called angels' trumpets. Another, very similar plant Datura shares the same name but has upright flowers and is usually annual or biennial (Brugmansias live for many years). Datura also has distinctive, spiny seed capsules. Both are poisonous.



MONICA SIMCOX

Gardens in small spaces

"Who says you can't have flowers with just a terrace?" Monica Simcox has made the most of her small space by planting up boxes and containers to suspend from her balcony.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

GARDENING  
Candytuft

The genus Iberis has around 30 to 40 species native to Asia, Africa and Europe. It is commonly called candytuft and is a popular plant for rock gardens, borders and containers. Iberis is a member of the Brassicaceae family (cabbage) and the genus consists of various annuals, perennials and sub shrubs. Most are tolerant of poor soils and short periods

of drought and will flower in full sun or partial shade. All have nectar-rich flowers which attract lots of important pollinating insects into the garden. The word Iberis comes from the Greek word meaning 'from Spain' and the common name candytuft is said to relate to Candia, now Heraklion in Greece. C a n -

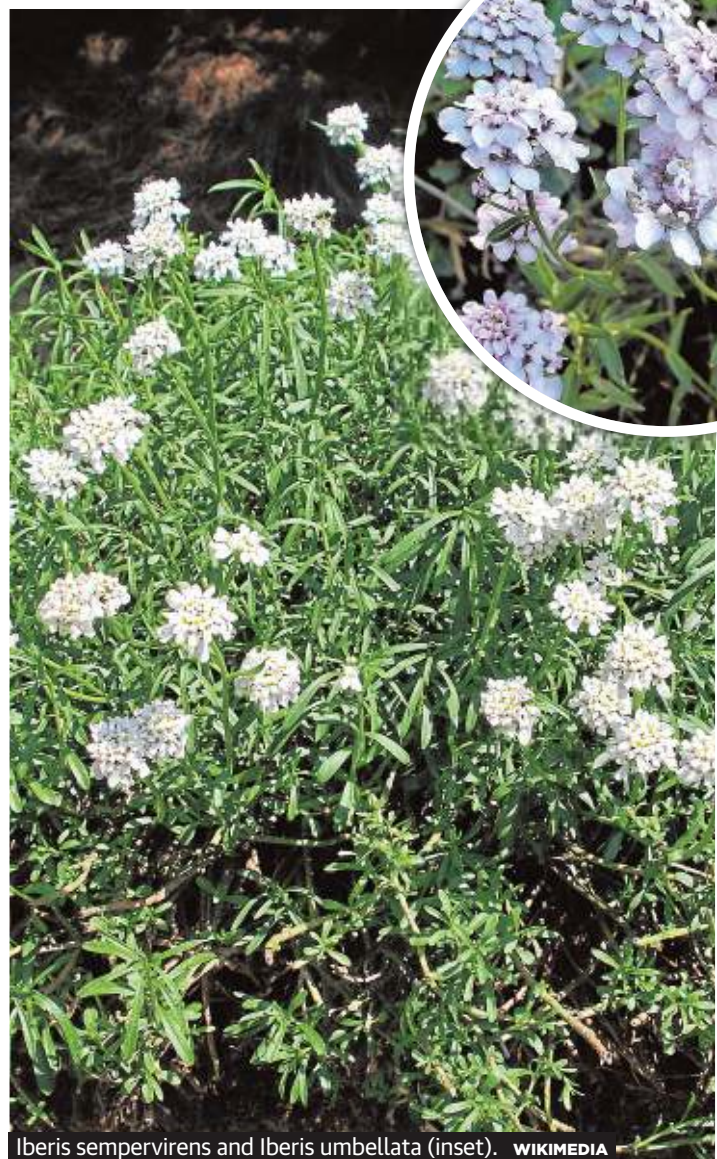
dytuft usually starts flowering in early spring and will continue through the summer until autumn. It has average tolerance to drought and will benefit from regular watering during the driest months. The species most commonly found in garden centres are: Iberis gibraltarica which has pink, lilac or red tinged flowers and forms a mound up to about 15cm high. It is ideal for coastal locations and will withstand salty air.

Iberis umbellata has white, pink or purple flowers which are slightly scented. It prefers cooler locations.

Iberis sempervirens or evergreen candytuft will form a mound of glossy, dark-green vegetation up to 30cm tall and has clusters of unscented, white flowers with a small yellow 'eye'. This last species is probably the hardiest and develops quite woody stems. All varieties benefit from a good, hard trim immediately after flowering and can be cut down to about 10cm. The pruning will help to keep the plant vigorous and compact and will promote lots of new growth.

Stems that touch the ground may root and these can be cut off and replanted. Alternatively, candytuft grows well from seed.

In colder, inland areas Iberis may need to be protected from especially cold weather and particularly frosts.



Iberis sempervirens and Iberis umbellata (inset). WIKIMEDIA

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SUR in English





Janis Beernaes. The Mijas Costa resident on a visit to his home country, Latvia. **SUR**

## War in Ukraine: 'It's like déjà vu for me'

**Janis Beernaes** survived the occupation of his country, Latvia, and later deportation. This week he has travelled back from his home in Mijas Costa to celebrate the day of the Restoration of Independence

**ALEKK M. SAANDERS**



The destructive Second World War and the totalitarian occupation regimes of the USSR and Germany with their repressions were the most terrible period in Latvia's 20th century history. The constitution of Latvia as an independent country came into force in 1922, but this short-lived independence was lost in 1939, when the Soviet Union and Germany divided Eastern Europe into 'spheres of influence' and occupied independent coun-

tries under a secret protocol known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop (also Stalin-Hitler) Pact.

The current situation in Ukraine is like déjà vu for 75-year-old Latvian Janis Beernaes, who has lived in Mijas Costa for decades. He flew to Riga this week to be there on 4 May, the Day of the Restoration of Independence from the Soviets. It's a special day for him, and it's doubly important now to remember what happened after his country's occupation.

"On 17 June 1940, Latvia was occupied by the USSR, and systematic repression was carried out in the country against citizens who were considered dangerous or disloyal to Soviet power. It was not important to prove if you were guilty or not," Janis told SUR in English.

"More than 7,000 people were arrested in Latvia in a year and deported for political reasons. In 1941, the Baltic countries were invaded by Nazi Germany which was just as brutal as the Soviet regime. So my small country became a target for re-dividing Europe and its purification; about 70,000 Latvian Jews were systematically exterminated," Janis added.

From 1944, the Soviet occupation regime was re-established on Latvian territory, although the population actively resisted it. Soon, the people faced another wave of new political repression and mass deportation.

"I was born in 1947 and the largest punitive action happened on 25 March 1949: 42,195 people were deported from Latvia to Siberia and other remote areas of the USSR. They were mostly women and children. My mother, with four children, including me, a two-year-old baby, was housed on a Siberian collective farm. I remember that the local people were nice to us. They realised that when the politicians compete, it is the ordinary people that suffer," Janis explained.

It has been estimated that between 140,000 and 190,000 people suffered or died during the first Soviet occupation in Latvia. Some 200,000 people either escaped or emigrated.

"Additionally, Latvians who had been conscripted into the employment service or other armed forces, remained in Germany after the war. The reason was simple - they feared repression at home. As a result, after WWII Latvians formed large communities in Germany, Swe-

den, the USA, the UK and Australia. Most of my relatives moved to Belgium, as we have Belgian roots," Janis added.

His family's property, a farm that was expropriated during the Soviet occupation, was given back in the 90s, empty of all staff and animals. Janis started spending summers in Latvia to restore the family estate where everything reminded him of his family and the atrocities they suffered.

### Fear against pride

War has now broken out again in Europe, about 925 kilometres from Latvia. The Russian invasion of Ukraine affected Janis Beernaes a lot: at the very beginning he stopped sleeping and still takes medicine for anxiety.

"It is like déjà vu for me. My memories from childhood were recalled immediately, and I lost sleep. I felt unwell and shed tears whenever I watched news from Ukraine. Fear seized me. I belong to the generation that had to live in fear. Most of my life I was told what not to do, rather than what I would like to do," Janis said.

"Totalitarianism is horrible and it's a pity that we have allowed it to exist in Europe again, in the 21st century," he added.

Janis is now seeing how people on one side are defending themselves in fear against a proud people with a desire to conquer.

"Now it is obvious that instilling 'pride' and promoting national dignity may cause what we are experiencing right now. Pride is such a thing that it first easily turns into a sort of self-righteousness, and then also easily converts into a mixture of self-pity and aggression. We are facing this horrible aggression right now. It seems that the 'Big Brother' is annoyed and angry that small countries like Latvia, for example, are more wealthy and successful now," he added.

"We should not repeat the mistakes for which my country paid such a high price."



Paulo (L) arrives in Malaga. **SUR**

## Kind-hearted youngster completes half-marathon walk in aid of Ukraine

**TONY BRYANT**

**BENALMÁDENA.** A kind-hearted youngster from Malaga completed a half-marathon sponsored walk on Saturday in aid of the people of Ukraine.

Paulo White Muñoz, a 20-year-old who suffers with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), came up with the idea after witnessing the war in Ukraine unfold on television.

Clad in the colours of Ukraine, Paulo, who was accompanied by his father, Carlos and family friend Graham Hill, set off from Benalmádena at 10am and arrived at their destination in Malaga just after 2pm, where a group of well-wishers were waiting.

The caring youngster, who attends the Universidad Laboral Malaga, set up a JustGiving page with the hope of raising 1,000 euros. He has so far raised more than 630 euros, although the page will remain open throughout May in order to try and hit the target.

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TELLING TALES

PETER EDGERTON

The long journey home

There was just enough rain on the wind-screen to require use of the wipers but not quite enough to let them move freely without emitting a teeth-grinding squeak at every beat. John gripped the wheel a little too hard and peered wearily at the road ahead. These weren't the happiest of times. Beth stared gimlet-eyed at her phone, employing it as some kind of imaginary electronic shield, trying to process her wildly chaotic thoughts.

It was an atmosphere heavy with tension, each of them in their own world, each trying to see a way forward through the morass, each hoping desperately that the other wouldn't speak. As Beth continued tapping at something wholly inconsequential on her phone, her mind began to drift back, down along the decades to when she'd first met John, to when a gleaming future stretched out before them, to a time when they'd shared dreams, desires and, above all, passion. Truth be told, many of the goals they'd set themselves in those heady days had, in fact, become a reality; they'd been blessed with three beautiful children and had earned enough from his driving and her part-time teaching to buy a run-down farm house on the outskirts of town which they'd lov-

ingly converted into a family home. For all of that success, however, the spark that had burned so brightly in the early years, had long been extinguished. Maybe it was achieving so much of what they had wanted that had dulled their desires, or maybe it was simply the passage of time. Either way Beth knew that they both needed to face the truth - it was over.

John's mind was also in overdrive, although he was

battling with the rather more prosaic task of how to pay the bills. He hadn't been able to bring himself to tell his wife just how bad business had been. She'd given up her job recently, dedicating more of her time to taking care of the home and had just let him get on with things, not paying much attention to the accounts, presuming they were doing fine as usual. They weren't doing fine, though, not at all. In fact, they'd defaulted on the last two mortgage payments and the current month was heading the same way. Each time John imagined broaching the subject, he felt a cloying knot in his stomach and his grip on the wheel tightened further.

Eventually, after a forty-minute journey that seemed like an eternity, they pulled up in front of the farm house and Beth stepped out into the late evening drizzle, turning her collar against the deceptively cold breeze and leaning in towards John's window.

"How much is that?"  
"Er, twenty-seven sixty, please." His voice was little more than a whisper. She handed him thirty, noticing for the first time his taxi licence and smiling wryly.

"John Whyte? That's actually my husband's name, except it's 'White' with an 'i', not a 'y'. Well, thank you

very much, John Whyte. Keep the change. Good night."

She took out her keys and headed for the front door of her

home. Tonight, she was going to tell him.

John drove back into town, hoping for one last fare. The rain was falling more heavily now, allowing the wipers to glide smoothly and silently over the wind-screen. He gripped the wheel a little harder. Tonight, he was going to tell her.

It was an atmosphere of tension, each in their own world, each hoping desperately that the other wouldn't speak

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## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

6 MAY 1999

# Key vote enables funding of Malaga's new congress centre

The construction of the exhibition centre allowed Malaga to host trade fairs and events, expanding the city's international reach

On 6 May 1999, at a meeting of Malaga city hall's Commission of Economy and Finances, the vote was passed in favour of constructing the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos de Málaga (FYCMA), Malaga's main exhibition and conference centre which has become one of the city's key assets. The vote enabled the project to receive 800 million pesetas (nearly five million euros) in funding from the European Union, an essential

subsidy within the initial 2.8-billion-peseta budget (17.3 million euros).

A wide variety of events have been hosted at the FYCMA in the 23 years since its construction, ranging from motorbike shows to the 24th Innovation and Tourism Fair in February 2022, which united over 250 European companies, and played an integral role in boosting Malaga's reputation as a technology hub.

The centre also served as a Covid-19 vaccination centre in 2021, and in April opened a reception and assistance centre for Ukrainian refugees.

Celia Villalobos, the mayor of Malaga at the time, was worried about losing the funding from the European Union after the opposition, made up of the



The congress centre, under construction and complete. **sur**

left-wing IU, Socialist PSOE and Grupo Mixto, initially withheld their vote of support for the project. However, eventually the PSOE and Grupo Mixto backed the PP-run local government, giving the plan the go-ahead.

Despite its high cost, Villalobos was adamant for the pro-

ject to go ahead, given that it would bring Malaga city into the network of trade fairs and other important events, boosting the city's reputation and economy.

Francisco de la Torre, today's mayor but then the mayor's first deputy and Urban Planning

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Congreso     | Congress/Conference |
| Conferencia  | Lecture/Talk        |
| Feria        | Fair                |
| Exposición   | Exhibition          |
| Economía     | Economy             |
| Comercio     | Trade               |
| Empresa      | Firm                |
| Construcción | Construction        |
| Proyecto     | Project             |
| Superficie   | Surface             |
| Arquitecto   | Architect           |
| Vanguardista | Avant-garde         |
| Desarrollo   | Development         |
| Auditorio    | Auditorium          |
| Visitante    | Visitor             |
| Ocio         | Leisure             |

councillor, said that with the funding, construction could begin that same year.

The centre was inaugurated in 2003 after its final cost had more than doubled the initial budget. Covering an area of 60,000 square metres, the centre includes 19,500 square metres of exhibition space, with a visitor capacity of 20,000. It also boasts an auditorium and function rooms.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



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# Yukimasa Ida's work reflects Picasso's essence

**Japanese.** The artist becomes the first Asian to be invited to hold a solo exhibition at the Casa Natal Picasso

CRISTINA PINTO



**Y**ukimasa Ida visits Pablo Picasso is the new temporary exhibition at the Museo Casa Natal Picasso, Malaga. The exhibition consists of 43 pieces: 30 canvases, nine sculptures and four drawings by the Japanese artist. They are displayed

alongside four of the famous Malaga artist's lithographs which give meaning to the dialogue that Yukimasa Ida initiates with Pablo Picasso in his creations. The young Japanese man (born in Tottori, Japan in 1990) becomes the first artist from Asia

to be invited to hold a solo exhibition at the Casa Natal.

He uses thick brushstrokes to create paintings with a noticeable relief to the naked eye. These raised empastes can also be seen in the designs of the handbags that the young artist designs for

Yukimasa Ida with Picasso's statue in the Plaza de la Merced.  
**SALVADOR SALAS**

the haute couture firm Dior.

In addition to the portraits of the Malaga-born artist, Yukimasa Ida's work carries hints of Picasso in the form of doves and bulls. Of the nine sculptures, seven are wooden and two are bronze. The latter two, 'Picasso' and 'Head of Picasso', show the face of the artist, while the wooden ones evoke a sense of primitive and African art.

## A different language

Yukimasa Ida has his own language of expression and, in spite of looking straight at Picasso's work in this exhibition, he does not lose its essence. His main theme is time, the concept of the "unique moment" and the continuous updating of the "now". During his visit to Malaga to present his exhibition, the Japanese artist was very appreciative: "It is an honour for me to present my work in the place where Picasso, the greatest artist of the 20th century, was born. It is also an honour to be the first Japanese to exhibit here," admitted Yukimasa Ida.

The inauguration was attended by the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, the artist Yukimasa Ida and the Ambassador for Japan Hiramatsu Henji, among other officials.

Yukimasa Ida's visit to Pablo Picasso can be seen in the temporary exhibition hall of the Casa Natal until 2 October. Numerous details of Picasso's works and personal life are hidden in this exhibition, such as the reinterpretation of a photograph of Picasso with his sister Lola when they were little. "It has been an emotional process, creating pieces from Picasso's works," concluded Japanese artist Yukimasa Ida.

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Bookings can be made by the website [www.blevins-franks.com](http://www.blevins-franks.com), by contacting [events.spain@blevins-franks.com](mailto:events.spain@blevins-franks.com) or freephone 900 670 047.

## Dates:

**Nerja.** 17 May, 11am. Parador Nerja.

**Marbella.** 7 June, 11am. Hotel Meliá Don Pepe.

**Fuengirola.** 9 June, 11am. Hotel IPV Palace.



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EXHIBITIONS

Casa de las Terejinas

**ESTEPONA.** Casa de Las Tejerinas. **María Pilar Anarte.** Until 11 May. A selection of paintings entitled Impresiones by Seville artist María Pilar Anarte.

Spring Art

**PUERTO BANÚS.** Until 9 May. Melía Marbella Banús Hotel. A collective of international artists are exhibiting a total of 28 works on the walls of the hotel. The exhibition has been organised by the Excellence Art Gallery.



Retornos de la Desbandá

**BENALMÁDENA.** Until 22 May. Centro de Exposiciones. The exhibition consists of 56 black and white photographs taken by Norman Bethune, a Canadian surgeon who joined the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War as a volunteer doctor. In February 1937, he helped the people of Malaga to flee to Almeria, treating the sick and the many who were wounded by aircraft machine guns during the desperate march. Thousands were killed or died on the journey.

Kjell Sporrøng

**ESTEPONA.** Until 3 June. Lobby of the Estepona Hotel & Spa Resort. Artist Kjell Sporrøng will be exhibiting a collection of his abstract paintings, entitled Summer Exhibition By

The Sea.

Art Resurrection

**MIJAS PUEBLO.** Until 13 May. Studio 33, Urb. Doña Pilar local 8, ctra. a Mijas Pueblo. A reflection on current art movements and how past ones resurface.

Mingote (Breve) Historia de la Gente

**MALAGA.** Until 30 June. Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja. The Unicaja Foundation is exhibiting a collection of 250 drawings by newspaper cartoonist Mingote. They reflect human conflicts, poverty, nature, art, culture and education among other topics, often in a humorous way.

Motorbike exhibition

**MALAGA.** 13-15 May. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos. An exhibition of motorbikes and all products and accessories related to them. [www.eventosmotor.com](http://www.eventosmotor.com)

Malaga Picasso Museum

**MALAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín. **Paula Rego.** Until 21 August. Nearly 90 works make up the exhibition by Portuguese artist Paula Rego. It includes large oil and pastel works as well as smaller formats and collages. **Cara a Cara: Picasso y Los Maestros Antiguos.** Until 26 June. Works by El Greco, Francisco Pacheco, Giovanni Battista Caracciolo, Cornelius Norbertus Gijsbretsch, Bernardo Lorente Germán, Diego Bejarano and Zurbarán will displayed alongside those of Picasso to demonstrate links between his works and those of the old grand masters. [www.museopicasso-malaga.org](http://www.museopicasso-malaga.org).

Centre Pompidou

**MALAGA.** Muelle Uno. **Un Tiempo Propio.** Until 15 October 2023. The new semi-permanent exhibition includes over 100 works by various artists such as Picasso's sculpture Girl With A Skipping Rope, sculptures by Philippe Starck and Hans Brockhage as well as works by Braque, Derain, Jean Coctain, Henri

Matisse and Picabia among many others. <https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA.

**Phil Frost.** Until 22 May. The American artist Phil Frost is exhibiting for the first time in Europe. Plotting Upon the Passage of Time is curated by Fernando Francés and consists of a selection of paintings on canvas, wood and reclaimed doors, which have been produced over the course of his artistic career from 1997 to the present day. His work is rooted in sensations, perception, environment, memory and imagination, arising from tumultuous emotions through a meditated and calculated process. In his works, the artist includes glued objects such as toy cars, small stones, bottles with buttons or cans, among other items.

**Julian Schnabel.** Until 12 June. The exhibition: Schnabel and Spain: Anything Can Be a Model for a Painting, consists of twenty-three paintings by the American artist with abstract and figurative elements.

**Charles Sandison.** Until 24 July. The CAC is presenting a video created by British artist Charles Sandison entitled Rage, love and despair (2003). The content of the video reflects the emotions of rage, love and despair through coloured words that float across the screen and collide.

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



Motorcycles, Malaga

Cristóbal Quintero. Until 19 June.

The exhibition: '99 cosas' (99 Things), is a selection of paintings in different formats and techniques from the last five years of Quintero's artistic career. In a single painting he combines features from different periods in the history of art.

Triple exhibition

**MALAGA.** Ateneo de Málaga, C/Compañía 2. La Voz del Hierro from sculptor and singer Joseba Gotzon in the Sala Pérez Estrada; La Punta del Iceberg. Obras de la colección O, with works by Montserrat Soto and Daniel Canogar among others in the Antesala; and IDA. Fotografías en Torno al Film de Pawel Pawlikowski in the Espacio Frank Rebajes.

**Pedro Zamora.** Until 27 May. The artwork in "What I would paint if I could paint" is made from old book covers, as this artist turns trash to treasure.

**Svetlana Kalachnik.** Until 3 June. "My world across the line" depicts rural Andalucía through the eyes of this Russian artist.

Galería JM

**MALAGA.** C/ Duquesa de Parcent, 12. Patchworks is the latest exhibition at the JM Gallery. It is the work of Tete Álvarez, who delves into his interest in unravelling the role played by images in the construction of the public, political and social sphere.

Fernando de la Rosa

**MALAGA.** Until 29 May. Museo del Patrimonio Municipal (MUPAM). Malaga artist Fernando de la Rosa is exhibiting Paisajes del Tiempo, a fusion of paint and collages of photos.

Málaga Contemporáneo

**MALAGA.** Until 16 October. Museo del Patrimonio Municipal (MUPAM). A semi-permanent exhibition which travels through the changes in art in Malaga from the 1950s up to present day. Over 130 works are on display. The works of Brinkmann, Peinado, Barbadiello, Chicano, Stefan, Chema Cobo, López Cuenca, Diego Santos, Chema Lumbreras, Bola Barriónuevo,



Charles Sandison, CAC Málaga.

Alvarado, Calleja, Carlos Aires, Verónica Ruth Frías, Puche, Noelia García Bandera, Julio Anaya, Victoria Maldonado and Paloma de la Cruz are included in the exhibition.

Estancias del Alma

**MALAGA.** Until 24 June. Archivo Municipal, Salas Mingorance, Works by siblings Carlos and Verónica Díaz de Bustamante Loring are being exhibited in the Salas Mingorance of the Archivo Municipal building. Carlos has 24 pieces including three-dimensional works, some of which come from private collections and some which were created especially for the exhibition. Verónica is an artists and fabric designer and she has 25 pieces including oils, acrylics and pencil drawings.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

**MALAGA.** C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday. **Real(ismos).** Until 4 September. Real(ismos) is the new temporary exhibition at the museum. It consists of over 80 works, paintings, sculptures, etchings, photos and drawings by artists such as Dalí, Miró, Picasso and Mallo. **Juana Francés.** Until 19 June. One of the greatest Spanish artists of the twentieth century, Juana Francés was a pioneer of abstract art and a founder member of the El Paso group. Her works are on display in the Sala Noble. [www.carmenthyssen-malaga.org](http://www.carmenthyssen-malaga.org)



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## MUSIC AND DANCE

## Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

**NERJA.** Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Gra-nada.**13 May.** Ana Cisneros Trio.  
www.ventana-abierta.es Call:  
690073871

## Birthday concert

**ESTEPONA.** 6 May, 8pm. Centro Cul-tural Padre Manuel. Free.

A series of performances from local musicians and groups to mark bari-tone David Geary's 80th birthday.

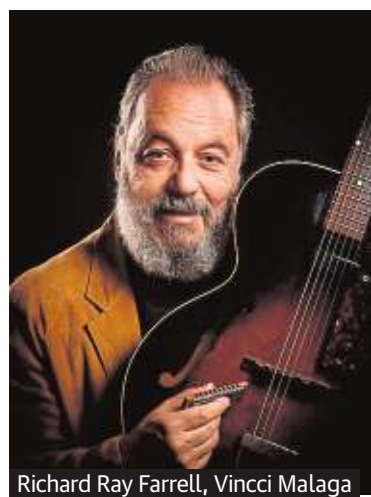
## Festival 2022

**BENALMÁDENA.** Auditorio de Benalmádena.

Tribute acts organised by The Festival of Legends.

**7 May, 9pm.** Beatles vs Rolling Stones

Tickets: www.elcorteingles.es/entra-das/



Richard Ray Farrell, Vincci Malaga

## Cabaret

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** 7 May, 9pm. Tea-tro del Carmen.

The musical Cabaret has been adapted to the stage. Tickets: El Pósito and the tourist office in Torre del Mar. Online: www.giglon.com

## Jazz, rhythm and blues festival

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** 14 May, 9pm. Tea-tro del Carmen.

Performances by Mama Paula Blues band, The Custom Blues band and Escarlata O'Hu. Tickets from Delega-ción de Cultura.

## The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**MÁLAGA.** Various venues.**6 May, 8pm.** Teatro Cervantes. Pieces by Dvorák and Bruckner.**12, 13 May, 8pm.** Teatro Cervantes.

# Night of nostalgia to shake, rattle and roll Benalmádena auditorium

The show will recreate the music of Elvis, Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Ray Charles

## TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** The popular Festival of Legends cycle of concerts continues at the municipal auditorium in Benalmádena on Saturday 28 May, with a night dedicated to the music of some of rock and roll's most characteristic performers.

Elvis and Friends is a unique show that will reproduce the greatest songs of the King, and also Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Ray Charles.

Organised by Ocio Music, the show will present two of the coasts most well-known expat musicians; along with Buzz D'Angelo, winner of six national tribute awards for his incredible ability to reproduce the music and stage presence of Little Richard and Ray Charles, among others,

Buzz has been a musician all his life and he has toured Europe and the UK support-



Bobby Bergquist performing his Buddy Holly tribute show. SUR

ing iconic artists like The Commodores and Gladys Knight.

He will be joined by Mark T Connor, whose legendary tribute to Elvis has become a favourite along the coast.

Bobby Bergquist, a young singer and guitarist who began performing at venues all over the province at the age of 15, will take over the role of Buddy Holly. This talented youngster, who performs in several different bands in the

province, not only looks like his hero, but possesses an incredible knowledge of his music and the ability to recreate it with ease.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 9pm (doors open at 8pm) cost 20 euros in advance or 25 euros on the night.

Reservations are advised and can be made by phone (633647260) or www.event-brite.es/e/elvis-friends-tickets-277447371557.

Pieces by Miralles and Mahler.

**Chamber Music cycle.** In the auditorium of the Museo Picasso Málaga, 8pm.

**17 May.** Malaga Philharmonic sextet. More information: www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com Twitter: @filarmonimalaga or Facebook: www.facebook.com/Filarmonica-Malaga.

## La Posada

**MÁLAGA.** Vincci Posada del Patio, Pasillo de Sta Isabel. Every Friday, 8.30pm.

**6 May.** Richard Ray Farrell.

**13 May.** Iris Oboe  
www.tallerblues.es

## Louie Louie Bar

**ESTEPONA.** Estepona port.

**6 May 11pm.** RockingerZ. Garage rock band from San Pedro.

**6 May, 1am.** DJ LeFox.

**7 May, 11.30pm.** The Habituales Rock band. On The road Again.

**7 May, 1am.** We Are Not DJs.  
www.louielouierockbar.com/

## Zenetianos

**MÁLAGA.** 8 May, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.

The 'crooner Andaluz', Malaga-born Zenet, will be in concert with invited guests yet to be announced.

https://www.teatrocervantes.com/

## Live music at Da Bruno

**MARBELLA.** Da Bruno Sul Mare. Paseo Marítimo.

**The Jersey Boys.** 11 May, 9pm  
Book a table: www.dabruno.com/es-sul-mare or call: 952903318

## El Molino de Cajiz

**CAJIZ.** 7 May, 8pm. El Molino de Cajiz.

Musical improvisation with Santi

Mabad (clarinet), Mark Hewins (guitar), Roberto Bellatalla (cello), Kamil Korolczuk (electronic), Javier Carmona (percussion). Email: elmolinodecajiz@gmail.com Call: 672731117

## MiraMiró

**MARBELLA.** 8 May, 12pm. Teatro Ciudad de Marbella.

The dance company Baal will be performing a show for young children and adults that concentrates on the colours and shapes of Joan Miró's works.

## FLAMENCO

## Flamenco show

**ESTEPONA.** 6 May, 9.30pm. Peña Flamenca de Estepona, C/ Fuerzas Armadas.

A flamenco show with vocals by José Manuel Fernández and various dancers. For more information and book-

ings call 952803183 or 683141136.

## Proyecto de Tablao

**BENAGALBÓN.** 7 May, 9pm. Auditorio Centro de Folclore.  
A flamenco show.

## Noches de Flamenco

**MÁLAGA.** 7 May, 8pm. Colmao de la Peña Brevia, C/Ramón Franquela.

Flamenco by Carrete de Málaga group with along with Luisa Chicano (dance), Delia Membrive (vocals) and Luis 'El Salao' (guitar). Reservations: 687607526

## CHARITY

## ARCH

## Collective Calling Spring Fair

**SAN PEDRO DE ALCÁNTARA.** 8

May from 12pm. Restaurante El Gamonal, Av Lorenzo Morito Moreno.

The event includes an organic food market and Zootherapy for kids.

Gaianos, a holistic and ecological social club, will be bringing some petting animals for children and live shows with the Isla Rose Dance Academy and singer Paula Rigel. A raffle will be held to raise money for Collective Calling's projects in Spain and Tanzania. Tickets Adults 65€

(includes 13€ donation) and children under 15 30€ (includes 5€ donation) call or WhatsApp: 711 006 961

www.collectivecalling.org/spring-fair

## Slow Fashion Show

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** 7 May. Art-senal Inoxis art gallery.

Apart from raising funds for Cudeca and ARCH charities, The Slow Fashion Show aims to encourage shopping at, and donating to, local charity shops, where the materials for the show are almost exclusively sourced. Organisers are calling for designers to participate in the show, which will have



The Jersey Boys, tribute concert.

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The laboratory in the Guadalhorce hospital. A. JIMÉNEZ

## Fighting cancer from the Guadalhorce

**Laboratory.** Researchers at the Cártama hospital will analyse more than 2,000 samples over three years to develop new therapies for prostate and bladder cancer

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

One of the latest new facilities at the Valle del Guadalhorce Hospital in Cártama is a laboratory where a research project, which will analyse more than 2,000 samples over three years, is already under way. With a budget of three million euros, the aim is to find new genetic or immunological biomarkers to develop treatments to combat prostate and bladder cancer.

On the first floor of the hospital is the Translational Research Group in Genitourinary Oncology, a laboratory belonging to the Biomedical Research Institute of Malaga (Ibima-Bionand Platform) and the Urology Unit of the Hospital Virgen de la Victoria (HUVV).

Using innovative techniques, the researchers analyse the ge-

netic and immunological profiles of patients diagnosed with prostate and urothelial bladder cancer from national hospitals and other European countries. They try to establish new biomarkers and identify new therapeutic targets to generate diagnostic and patient selection tools, with the aim of redirecting treatments towards "more personalised" medical care.

The laboratory works closely with other hospitals and especially with the Anatomic Pathology Unit of the HUVV and the Biobank of the Andalusian public health service for the management of patient samples for research projects, an essential part of its work. They also collaborate with national and international

experts from Ibima, the Spanish National Cancer Research Center (CNIO), the Research Institute Hospital 12 de Octubre, the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam (NKI), Erasmus Medical Center (EMC) in Rotterdam, the Curie Institute in Paris and the universities of Erlangen and Norfolk.

By studying the cell biology and immunology of a tumour, the team, coordinated by Elisa Matas, seeks to identify new markers for bladder cancer that will make it possible to redirect patients towards personalised treatment. "Bladder cancer is the fifth most common tumour in Spain," said the researcher.

She underlined the importance of making advances towards personalised care, since the lack of biomarkers in this type of cancer does not allow identification of the most beneficial therapy for individual patients.

Matas leads a novel line of research based on the study of a new signaling pathway of the immune response against the tumour. This could lead to an innovative therapy against bladder cancer. As she pointed out, immunotherapy treatments against cancer, based on the destruction of the cancer cells through the activation of the patient's immune system, have "revolutionised" the landscape of uro-oncology. "Immunotherapy has a lot of potential; it is the future of cancer treatment."

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

## SOBER AND HAPPY: MY LIFE WITHOUT ALCOHOL OR ANXIETY

**Going from a life filled with alcohol and drugs, feeling like he had no future and no hope, Clifford, 25, talks about how his life now has meaning and purpose; his family says the difference is like night and day**

**COSTA DEL SOL**

**AA.** "My name is Clifford and when I came into Alcoholics Anonymous, I thought my life was over. I used cocaine regularly and was in debt to the tune of hundreds of euros, owed to bars, clubs, friends and my dealer. I suffered from extreme anxiety, made worse by the drugs, so I drank alcohol constantly to cover it up.

I never looked after my personal hygiene, and people told me I was greasy or that I smelled (which was true), but rather than

do anything about it I would go off on benders for days at a time to try and make myself feel better, often waking up after 3 or 4 days in a random stranger's house or getting picked up by the police. I lost relationships, homes, jobs and family due to my alcoholism.

My closest friend died from alcoholism, and I used drugs and alcohol for a week straight to try and deal with the feelings and emotions around it. My family could no longer deal with me; I was 25 years old and I had no future and no hope. My boss told me about Alcoholics Anonymous and suggested they might be able to help.

From the second I set foot in AA my life changed for the better. Admittedly, when I went along to my first AA meeting my initial impression was - these people are nice, really nice, what do they want from me? It was the most welcomed I have ever felt. I was so distrusting, but that is what AA is like. At the end of the meet-

ing three people gave me their phone numbers and told me to call them anytime of the day or night, and they meant it!

There were people from all walks of life, male, female, and nonbinary. I was amazed that all these people were alcoholics yet looked so NORMAL! My first time talking about my experience and my life was surreal! The people listened and genuinely cared; I had never experienced this before, and it felt like a weight was lifted almost immediately.

In just six months my life has transformed completely. I found a crazy bunch of people who constantly make me laugh and who will love and support me through anything. I have real friends now. My family says the difference in me is like night and day. My life has meaning and purpose, I don't need to fill it with alcohol and drugs, and I don't need to feel awful every day. I now wake with a heart full of gratitude, happy to be sober.

Whatever idea you may have



of AA in your head, get rid of it because it is not what you expect at all. It is life-changing and it makes me happy to be alive every single day!"

There are meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, with friendly people who will understand, held daily throughout the Costa del Sol. Meetings are free to attend, and anyone who thinks they may

have a problem with alcohol is welcome.

**AA COSTA DEL SOL**

**English-speaking AA helpline:**  
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**Website:**  
**www.aacostadelsol.com**



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# Is it healthy to eat three meals a day?

ANDREW J. LINN



Everyone has their favourite meal of the day. For some it is breakfast, others dinner, and others may prefer tea (or merienda in Spain).

But is eating three meals a day the healthiest option? For most of recorded history, our ancestors survived on one meal a day. This was not out of preference, but because it was more practical and there

wasn't much food around anyway.

These days, we are told to breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dine like a pauper. This doesn't quite fit with the lifestyle in northern Europe and the USA though, where dinner is a time for the family to sit down to eat together, even if it's just in front of the telly.

Dieticians now advise us to

fast for 12 hours, which normally involves dining early and breakfasting late. This gives our digestive system time to rest, thereby reducing inflammation, something that is always to be recommended.

An early dinner widens the fasting window, and is something Spaniards would be advised to do. Although, to be fair, in Spain lunch has always been the main meal of the day, with dinner being more of a snack before bed. A longer fast reduces blood sugar levels in cells, which in turn can prevent diabetes.

Keeping blood glucose at correct and regular levels requires two or even three meals a day. Early breakfasts

**Fasting for 12 hours a day gives our digestion time to rest, reducing inflammation**

are not so good, because they reduce the number of fasting hours. In this way, the Catalans are on the right track with their midday tortilla, accompanied by a glass of or beer. We are not talking about tapas here, rather pre-tapas, a sort of midway meal that many know as brunch. Perhaps, they invented brunch without being aware of it!

## WINE OF THE WEEK

**Hito Rosado**

It's coming up to rosé wine time as the days get warmer, so well-known bodega José Moro's Cepa 21 has launched a delightful Ribera del Duero at the right price. Very well balanced and a touch of sugar at the end. Around nine euros.



# Drowning sorrows in Malaga for over a century

**One of the first. The family-run Quitapenas bodega was founded in 1880, and currently produces 35 wines that are popular all over the world**

JUAN SOTO

When El Huertecillo, a restaurant in El Palo, was founded at the end of the 19th century, it was incredibly popular with travellers and locals alike. At the time, life was difficult for thousands of people whose livelihoods had been destroyed by the phylloxera disease which had infected most vines in the province. Francisco Suárez Pineda's family business was one of the few that survived and it became a regular meeting point for people making the journey from Malaga to Almeria. "We'll meet where we can drown our sorrows," they would say.

Over one hundred and forty years later Bodegas Quitapenas (literally 'take sorrow away') re-

mains, and is one of the oldest bodegas in the city. The current owners, the fifth generation of the Suárez family, are modernising the business in order to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

Bodegas Quitapenas was founded in 1880, although the family had been part of the world of wine since 1825, when Ramón Suárez and his wife María Aguilar, inherited some vineyards in Cútar in the Axarquía.

Some of the first wines they produced included Moscatel Extra, Quitapenas, Montes and Málaga Lágrima. These were often served with rabbit stew and rice.

The fame of their wines began to grow, and in 1940, they started to bottle them and make liqueurs

and spirits. Given the high demand, the Suárez family opened several taverns around Malaga, two of which are still currently open, in Calle Marín García and Calle Sánchez Pastor in the city.

They explain that Bodegas Quitapenas is frequented by "100,000 people a year" and that "it is the city's second most visited location, after the Alcazaba". Due to this fame and recognition, they have continued to expand their capacity for production, as well as for the ageing and storage of wines. This led to the development of their headquarters in the city in 2004.

## An innovative vocation

Currently, Bodegas Quitapenas is located in the San Julián district. It has seven production zones and creates almost 35 different varieties of wine. Víctor Suárez explained that the company's vocation has always been innovative, creating high quality products to cater to their buyers. "We're constantly developing, making better wines for our customers who expect a little more from us every year," he said.

As part of this constant search for quality, this year they will market a tempranillo red wine with just a year in the bottle, for the first time. They hope to make it available to customers by the end of the year.



Víctor Suárez in the San Julián bodega. SALVADOR SALAS

On a business level, they have also begun to provide tours of the facilities, to host events such as business meetings and birthdays, as well as searching for new export partners.

Despite this, Víctor Suárez acknowledges that business has been hit hard by the pandemic, and they are trying to recover with resourcefulness and dedication.

"We were going at 200 miles an hour and then came up against this wall that stopped us in our

tracks," he said. Given that they mostly work with bars and restaurants, they were only just kept afloat by exports, which they ship to various places, including Panama, the Dominican Republic and Poland. "We export everywhere in the world, except for some Arab countries," he stated.

The Suárez family want the business to keep growing, so that Malaga residents and visitors can keep drowning their sorrows with them for at least another century.

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# Costa del Sol Malaga chalk up their second Copa de la Reina trophy win in just three years

The team achieved the feat by convincingly beating Atlético Guardés 26-33 in northern Spain

## MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol Malaga handball team won the Copa de la Reina for the second time in three years after defeating Atlético Guardés 26-33 in the final on Sunday. It wasn't the match-up that many were expecting, as the Andalusian side caused an upset by knocking out tournament favourites Super Amara Bera Bera in the semi-final.

The Panthers themselves couldn't believe their achievement, but they have won this trophy now twice since 2020, a feat that not many in Spain believed possible. It's proof that the club's success has only just begun and that the unprecedented treble they have won was no fluke.

The side, managed by Suso Gallardo, was by no means the favourites to win the Copa. Rocasa Gran Canaria, who have been CS

Malaga's Achilles heel in recent years, were unable to beat them; Elche, the previous winners, didn't show up for their semi-final match; and Atlético Guardés couldn't tap into the adrenaline of playing in their first-ever cup final.

CS Malaga dominated the final, grew into it, felt comfortable with how they were playing and convinced thousands of viewers how good they actually are by lifting their second Copa de la Reina.

## Pivotal moment

The Andalusian team's mentality changed completely after beating Rocasa Gran Canaria in the quarter-finals. The fear of being beaten by the Canarians did show in some segments of the game, but their victory gave them a massive confidence boost that carried them to the final.

The energy that Gallardo's side had in Sunday's final was unlike anything they'd ever seen and had increased after the tournament favourites were knocked out. CS Malaga captain Sole López was crucial during the final's first half,



The Costa del Sol Malaga team celebrate their Copa de la Reina success. SUR

injecting her side with confidence and proving deadly in front of goal, scoring six times. The team then believed that a win was possible and they didn't break away from their style of play: a solid defence that pushed high up the pitch,

which gave the fastest players the space to exploit the opposition goal.

In the final moments of the game, both teams felt the fatigue of playing three games in two days, but CS Malaga remained superior.

With the score being 26-33 and Atlético Guardés unable to make a comeback, the smiling Malaga players burst into cheers and tears once the game was over.

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# Malaga leave it too late against Las Palmas and edge closer to relegation

With some major defensive errors, the Blue and Whites were back to their worst version and only reacted when they went 2-0 down

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. Malaga returned from the Canary Islands empty handed after an error-stricken night saw them lose 2-1 to a very good Las Palmas team last Friday. The Blue and Whites were vastly inferior to their hosts, who dominated throughout the whole game and only showed weakness when the Andalusians pulled back a late goal.

Head coach Pablo Guede knew of Las Palmas' quality, and decided to try to neutralise them by using three centre-backs in a 5-4-1 formation, which would shift to a 3-4-3 when Malaga were in attack. On paper, it was a solid plan, as it would deny the hosts the chance to play in their usual manner. But the Blue and Whites barely lasted 25 minutes before conceding the first goal of the match, with their defensive line proving to be much too slow for the swift trio of Canarian attackers.

Knowing that things weren't going to plan, Guede wasted no time in making changes, and took off Peybernes at half-time to bring on



Malaga's Febas, the team's only goalscorer, runs with the ball against Las Palmas. AGENCIA LOF

Febas, arguably the team's most in-form player.

Too little too late

The swap worked, and Malaga came alive in the second half, though Las Palmas quickly caught on and made their own substitutions to cover the gaps that were opening up, and the Canarians were soon dominating the visitors once again.

The hosts would seemingly kill the match off with ten minutes to go as they doubled their lead through Jesé, but the Blue and

After an error-stricken night against Las Palmas, Malaga made it clear that they are still far from safety

Whites found some untapped energy and pulled a goal back with five minutes left thanks to a brilliant move down the left by Febas.

An equaliser came tantalisingly close in the dying minutes through a close-range header from Rob-

erto, but the Las Palmas goalkeeper did well to clear the ball off the line.

Malaga will be disappointed to come away with nothing from the match, but the feeling is that they seemed to have taken a step back from their other performances under Guede. This defeat is a reality check, as it's clear that the club is still not safe from relegation.

Moving on

Guede showed his annoyance about the final result and talked

SECOND DIVISION

Results - Gameweek 38

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

League table

| Team              | P  | W  | D  | L  | GF | GA | PT |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1. Eibar          | 38 | 21 | 11 | 6  | 56 | 40 | 74 |
| 2. Almeria        | 38 | 22 | 7  | 9  | 60 | 32 | 73 |
| 3. Valladolid     | 38 | 20 | 9  | 9  | 62 | 42 | 69 |
| 4. Tenerife       | 38 | 19 | 9  | 10 | 51 | 31 | 66 |
| 5. Girona         | 38 | 19 | 7  | 12 | 54 | 39 | 64 |
| 6. Real Oviedo    | 38 | 16 | 15 | 7  | 50 | 34 | 63 |
| 7. Ponferradina   | 38 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 54 | 48 | 60 |
| 8. Las Palmas     | 38 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 51 | 46 | 58 |
| 9. Cartagena      | 38 | 16 | 4  | 18 | 55 | 55 | 52 |
| 10. Ibiza         | 38 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 49 | 49 | 51 |
| 11. Burgos        | 38 | 14 | 8  | 16 | 38 | 37 | 50 |
| 12. Huesca        | 38 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 45 | 37 | 50 |
| 13. Leganés       | 38 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 43 | 46 | 49 |
| 14. Zaragoza      | 38 | 10 | 19 | 9  | 33 | 39 | 49 |
| 15. Lugo          | 38 | 9  | 19 | 10 | 43 | 47 | 46 |
| 16. Mirandés      | 38 | 13 | 7  | 18 | 49 | 58 | 46 |
| 17. Sporting      | 38 | 10 | 11 | 17 | 40 | 45 | 41 |
| 18. Malaga        | 38 | 10 | 11 | 17 | 34 | 55 | 41 |
| 19. R. Sociedad B | 38 | 9  | 10 | 19 | 38 | 53 | 37 |
| 20. Amorebieta    | 38 | 7  | 16 | 15 | 42 | 55 | 37 |
| 21. Fuenlabrada   | 38 | 5  | 14 | 19 | 34 | 57 | 29 |
| 22. Alcorcon      | 38 | 4  | 10 | 24 | 32 | 68 | 22 |

about how they should "forget" about the game against Las Palmas. "We didn't have a good first half; we couldn't do what we wanted to and we allowed Las Palmas time on the ball," Guede said. "In the second half we were in the game and we had the ball more. Our goal came at the right time; the problem is their second [goal], that one hurt us."

Malaga's next game is against Real Oviedo, who are in promotion places and in great form, at La Rosaleda this Saturday, 7 May at 6:15pm.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER Commentator, Sky Sports

## Old dog, new tricks

Real Madrid are kings of Europe for a reason

It's still not dawning on people that we are witnessing one of the great club teams of all time! My son said to me: "You can't write about Real Madrid, Ancelotti, and Benzema again, Dad." I'm sorry, kid - you are going to have to suffer here.

In a week when Carlo Ancelotti claimed a league title in his fifth different major European league, he also guided a team to his fifth Champions League final as a coach. He outmanoeuvred Pep Guardiola. Benzema proved my weekly assertion that he's the best player on the planet correct. He extended his total of Champions League goals to 15 this season.

This Real Madrid team doesn't play poker. They just throw their cards on the table

face up. Most clubs keep their team a secret until the last possible second of the UEFA deadline. Real announced their side on social media two hours before a game. "Here, beat that."

The side rarely changes anyway. It's always going to be the same ten. The 11th man is a choice between Fede Valverde, Marcos Alonso or Rodrygo, depending on form and circumstances. On this occasion, the more durable Valverde started and 21-year-old Rodrygo was introduced when the legs of veteran Toni Kroos began to tire.

The brilliant Brazilian weighed in with two last-ditch goals to trigger extra time. Complaints about away goals being decisive suddenly disappeared

amongst the English media. With the title sewn up, it's just a case of sparring with their Liga opposition until the final in Paris at the end of the month.

Liverpool remain the favourites. But they have to give sweat, blood and tears in their Premier League slog to edge City and there's also the FA Cup final.

Jurgen Klopp's team eventually beat Villarreal but the Yellow Submarine hit them with a couple of torpedoes. Sadly, the key players weren't 100% for Unai Emery. It's not a coincidence that Liverpool's goal came just after the hour mark when legs began to tire and any bumps, bruises or strains took a toll.

Already Liverpool fans are underestimating Ancelotti and his players. Just as those from Paris, West London and the Eastlands of Manchester did to their cost this season. Sorry, son: this isn't the final installment for Real, Ancelotti and Benzema.



# Davidovich bested by powerful Hurkacz at the Madrid Open

The match was resolved in a third-set tiebreak, as the Rincón local fell to his opponent in the capital while being on the backfoot all afternoon

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Alejandro Davidovich (ranked 29th) was knocked out of the Madrid Open on Wednesday afternoon, losing to Hubert Hurkacz (14th) 4-6, 6-4 and 6-7 (5), with the match being decided on a third-set tiebreak. Despite the home crowd putting pressure on the Polish tennis player, Davidovich's opponent ultimately prevailed thanks to the strength of his serve.

The Rincón de la Victoria local has let slip another tightly contested match in 2022, a year in which he is learning ways to keep his cool in moments of truth that will help him in the coming months of his career. The Andalusian was especially motivated to play in the Madrid Masters, with a draw that would have seen him face off against Djokovic.

But Davidovich found himself exiting in the round of 32. As in last week's game against Harris in Estoril, it was a case of calmly warding off a constant stream of 220km/h serves from his opponent, but that meant that Davidovich's eye was off the ball, and



Davidovich serves during the match against Hurkacz. EFE

he never took the strides to overturn his constant point deficit.

The match was affected by a light drizzle which eventually led to a 25-minute stop, as both players were concerned about sliding and injuring themselves. Davidovich was down 3-4 but 30-0 up, though Hurkacz showed no mercy and wrapped up the first set, denying the Spaniard a chance of breaking his serve.

## Countering the setbacks

The Rincón local continued his shaky start and got himself into a jam in the second set and broke Pole's serve on his seventh attempt, eventually closing the second set 6-4, though it took him a while as he was 5-1 up at one point.

Davidovich had the win snatched from him in the last set.

The Spaniard was able to avert a lot of mishaps: he reacted well to going 1-3 down with a counterbreak; he avoided a first matchball with an ace; and he was also 1-3 down in the tiebreak.

There was a key moment when the tiebreak went 4-3 in Davidovich's favour that saw Hurkacz reviving his chances of winning, as the Andalusian blew his chance of a minibreak. Twenty minutes after the first matchball came the second, and this time the Pole did not fail with an indisputable serve that saw him wrap up the match.

Davidovich will now travel to Italy for the Rome Masters. He will be unseeded and will have to go through a qualification round, though he could make it straight through if someone pulls out due to an injury.

# El Oso miss the title in Mediterranean Cup debut

The Marbella-based football team were unable to defeat HIS Rosà in the final of the competition held in Verona, Italy

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. El Oso CF (The Bear), a football team based in Marbella, were narrowly beaten in the Mediterranean Cup Under-11s final by Italian side HIS Rosà on Sunday. Although they just missed out on the title, the team and their coaches were proud of their achievement, especially as they were one of the younger sides to take part in the event held in Verona, Italy.

It was a long weekend and tournament for the El Oso youngsters. The side took part

in eleven games played on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They faced three teams from Italy, and one side each from France and Egypt. El Oso won five of their first seven games and drew twice.

The Bears thrashed IS Brescia 7-0, a convincing win aided by a Vladimir Budantsev hat-trick. The team followed that game up with 5-2 victory over Mougins BIS.

A final three points against Egyptian team SAS Alexandria would have put the Marbella club at the top of the table, but a draw meant they finished second.

But they still booked their place in the Group A winner's final, which was played on Sunday morning in front of 500 spectators. But it wasn't meant to be, and the youngsters were beaten by HIS Rosà 2-1.

## A strong performance

Despite not being able to win the tournament on their first attempt, El Oso can be proud of their performance overall. The team ended second and level on points to HIS Rosà in their group, with the Italians finishing ahead on goal difference.

El Oso also netted an impressive 25 goals - eight of which came at the feet of Vladimir Budantsev, who finished as the under-11s top goalscorer - while only conceding seven.



Vladimir with his trophy. SUR



DEPORINTER

# Women's cycling tour of Andalucía skirts the Costa

The first Vuelta Ciclista a Andalucía Elite Women, a three-stage cycling race across the region, took place this week. The 120km-long second stage saw cyclists start from Malaga city and race through Alhaurín de la Torre, Estación de Cártama, Pizarra, Álora and Coín (including two ascents) before finishing in Mijas Pueblo.

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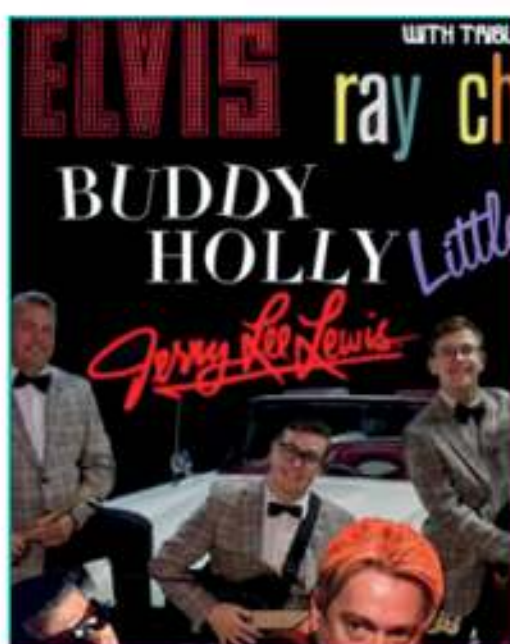
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| National Police          | 091       |
| Local (municipal) Police | 092       |
| Medical                  | 061       |
| Fire                     | 080       |
| Guardia Civil            | 062       |
| Sea Rescue               | 900202202 |
| Crime report             | 902102112 |

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|------------------------|-----------|
| Samaritans in Spain    | 900525100 |
| Alcoholics Anonymous   | 600379110 |
| Age Care               | 952933409 |
| Age Concern (Estepona) | 722606347 |

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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
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|---|-----------|

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|                         |           |
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| Taxi Service            | 952802900 |
| Tourist Office          | 952802002 |
| Town Hall               | 952801100 |
| Foreign Residents Dept. | 952809031 |

FUENGIROLA

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| BusStation              | 952475066 |
| Taxi Service            | 952471000 |
| Tourist Office          | 952467625 |
| Town Hall               | 952589300 |
| Foreign Residents Dept. | 952589440 |

MALAGA

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Bus Station     | 952350061 |
| Railway Station | 902240202 |
| Taxi Service    | 952345693 |
| Tourist Office  | 951926020 |

MARBELLA

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Bus Station             | 955038665 |
| Taxi Service            | 952774488 |
| Tourist Office          | 952768760 |
| Town Hall               | 952761100 |
| Foreign Residents Dept. | 952768760 |

MIJAS

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Town Hall              | 952485900 |
| Town Hall Las Lagunas  | 952473125 |
| Taxi                   | 952478288 |
| Tourism Office         | 952589034 |
| Foreign Resident Dept. | 952589010 |

NERJA

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Bus Station | 902422242 |
|-------------|-----------|

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Taxi Service           | 952520537 |
| Tourist Information    | 952521531 |
| Town Hall              | 952548400 |
| Foreign Resident Dept. | 952548401 |

TORREMOLINOS

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
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| Taxi Service            | 952380600 |
| Tourist Office          | 952371909 |
| Town Hall               | 952379400 |
| Foreign Residents Dept. | 952374231 |

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|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Bus Station             | 902450550 |
| Taxi Service            | 952441545 |
| Tourist Office          | 952442494 |
| Town Hall               | 952374231 |
| Foreign Residents Dept. | 952442494 |

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|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Bus Station    | 952503162 |
| Taxi           | 952540016 |
| Town Hall      | 952559100 |
| Tourist Office | 952541104 |

GIBRALTAR

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| General emergency          | 199/112(mobiles) |
| Fire/ambulance (emergency) | 190              |
| Tourist Office             | (00350) 20074950 |
| Taxi                       | (00350) 20070027 |

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

| Ship             | Date     | From      | Next port  | Docks | Sails |
|------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------|-------|
| Norwegian Escape | 06/05    | Cadiz     | Alicante   | 07:00 | 18:00 |
| Carnival Pride   | 06/05    | -         | -          | 07:00 | 16:00 |
| Le Bougainville  | 06/05    | -         | Palma      | 08:30 | 20:00 |
| Clio             | 08/05    | -         | -          | 08:00 | 23:00 |
| Costa Diadema    | 08/05    | Marseille | Cadiz      | 09:00 | 19:00 |
| Le Bellot        | 08-09/05 | -         | -          | 13:30 | 01:00 |
| Valiant Lady     | 09-10/05 | Gibraltar | Ibiza      | 09:00 | 15:00 |
| 7 Seas Splendour | 10/05    | Barcelona | Casablanca | 07:00 | 17:00 |
| Aidastella       | 10/05    | Palma     | Cadiz      | 08:00 | 18:00 |
| Vasco da Gama    | 11/05    | -         | -          | 08:00 | 20:00 |
| Costa Luminosa   | 11/05    | Funchal   | Madeira    | 08:00 | 14:00 |
| Sea Cloud Spirit | 13/05    | Valencia  | Gibraltar  | 08:00 | 18:00 |
| Costa Fascinosa  | 13/05    | -         | -          | 08:00 | 14:00 |
| Azamara Quest    | 14/05    | Cartagena | Gibraltar  | 08:00 | 22:00 |
| Norwegian Star   | 15/05    | Cartagena | Cadiz      | 07:00 | 17:00 |




CONSULATES


|                      |   |           |                     |  |           |
|----------------------|---|-----------|---------------------|--|-----------|
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| <b>USA</b>           | Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola       | 952474891 | <b>Italy</b>        | Alameda Principal, 35, Malaga              | 902502512 |
| <b>Belgium</b>       | Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella              | 951516019 | <b>Austria</b>      | Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga                | 646060972 |
| <b>Denmark</b>       | Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga                       | 952211797 | <b>Finland</b>      | Calle Córdoba, 6, Malaga                   | 952212435 |
| <b>Norway</b>        | Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola | 952667955 | <b>Saudi Arabia</b> | Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga | 952310358 |
| <b>Canada</b>        | C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga              | 952223346 | <b>Greece</b>       | Dr Manuel Perez Bryan, Malaga              | 95225689  |
| <b>Germany</b>       | Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga                    | 952363591 | <b>Iceland</b>      | Calle Marín García, Malaga                 | 952661200 |
| <b>Sweden</b>        | Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga                | 952604383 | <b>Philippines</b>  | C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga          | 952771850 |
| <b>Ireland</b>       | Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola                    | 952475108 | <b>Hungary</b>      | Av. de Velásquez, (Crce aeropuerto) Malaga | 952236966 |




THE STARS




**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
If you have a skill, you might want to share your knowledge by teaching others, which you'll enjoy. Pluto inspires you to find closure on a lingering issue.




**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
A more relaxed perspective means you'll be able to take advantage of opportunities as they show up. You may be inspired to start a side business.




**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Good fortune comes your way when you take the lead and step fearlessly into uncharted territory. As you dive into new experiences, you'll realize how much you're capable of.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
You'll find that taking up spiritual practices such meditation or mindfulness can help remove old fears and give you faith in yourself.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
You'll be ready to reframe your long-term goals and wishes, and make them bigger and bolder. Moving in new circles could pave the way for golden opportunities.




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
This is a peak time for expanding the scope of your professional life, getting a better job or seeking a promotion. Your confidence will be high and you'll be ready to take on board new challenges.




**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
You'll be ready to explore your potential and jettison any limiting beliefs. Remember too that all that glitters is not gold. Don't believe everything you're told.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
As Jupiter begins its journey through a secretive zone, it can positively influence many hidden areas, which include finances, business, taxes, loans and your overall psychological state.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Your love life and other relationships can benefit from Jupiter's move into Aries. Teaming up with others could bring some wonderful opportunities.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
This is an excellent time to develop a daily routine that will enable you to reach your health and work goals. Be strong Scorpio, you can do it!

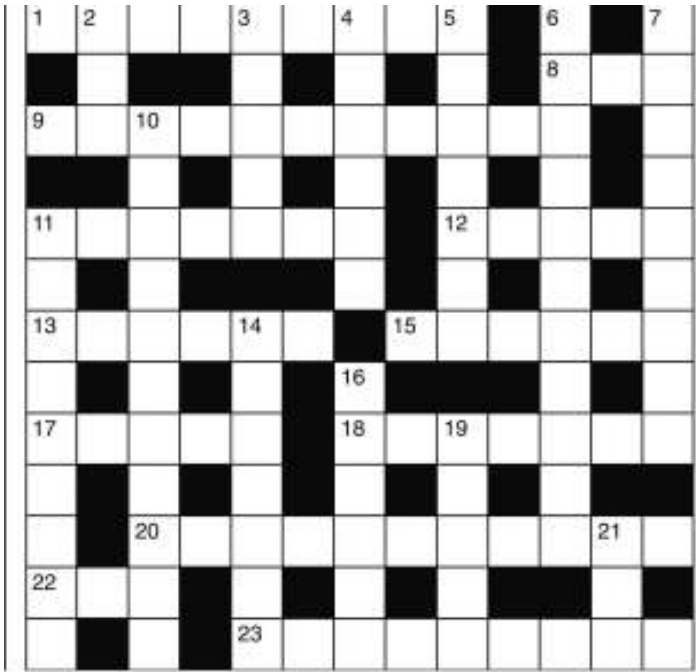


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
The coming months can find you in an adventurous mood, and willing to explore interests that may have some risk attached. This could be a time of romance and lively encounters.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
As Jupiter moves into Aries and your home zone, you may want to expand your property by building an extension or converting the loft. It's time to let go of anything that isn't working out.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11513



Across

- 1 Panics about a sailor making biscuits (9)
- 8 I am quiet, but a little devil (3)
- 9 Separate branches of a tree? (11)
- 11 Commercial lines can be unfavourable (7)
- 12 A line about a foreigner (5)
- 13 One who visits and gives a name (6)
- 15 Note the bird-dog (6)
- 17 Rub out a quarter on time (5)
- 18 What the reporter says to create an effect? (7)
- 20 Where the market's interest lies, theatrically? (2,3,6)
- 22 Hands in some notes (3)
- 23 A fatal hurricane suddenly destroys hope (9)

Down

- 2 False statement that is written by a learner (3)
- 3 One sitting on a case? (5)
- 4 Reduction allowed for piece of meat (6)
- 5 Price of stocking could be so great (7)
- 6 Hoping one prospers could make aspirations come true (7,4)
- 7 Dogs getting people out of jail? (9)
- 10 Sailor undergoing assessment for seamanship? (5,6)
- 11 Many cheer destruction of a great foe (4-5)
- 14 Chosen to sit when standing (7)
- 16 In which you may see a remake of 'Ice man' (6)
- 19 A football field of note (5)
- 21 The French love this man (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

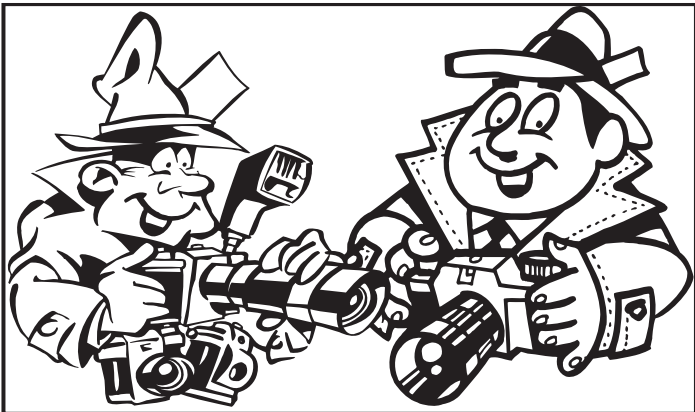
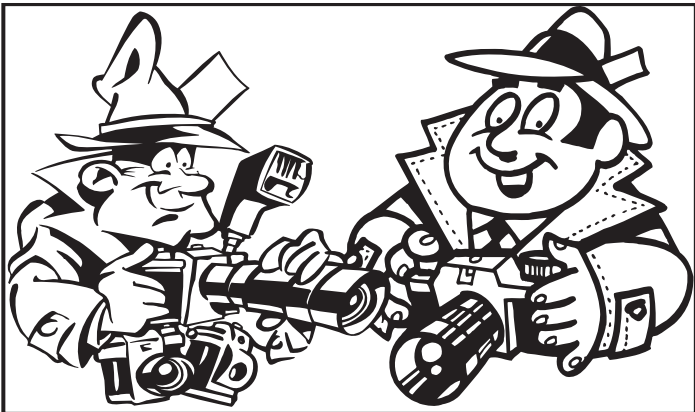
THE WORDPUZZLER

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | O | S | P | I | B | D | R | A |
| C | A | L | M | A | J | O | R | I | D |
| A | M | K | I | B | R | J | E | S | I |
| L | O | U | N | G | E | A | S | T | V |
| P | N | W | O | I | D | M | S | O | I |
| O | K | I | R | C | W | I | P | N | N |
| W | E | T | C | H | A | L | E | T | G |
| R | Y | O | B | O | I | L | E | R | E |
| I | E | L | O | R | M | A | D | O | N |
| O | J | U | M | P | A | W | L | E | T |

Can you identify the words that may precede 'suit' from the clues listed below?

- 1. Living room
- 2. Submerging
- 3. Child
- 4. Water-heater
- 5. Attire
- 6. Leap
- 7. Officer
- 8. Moist
- 9. Primate
- 10. Statute

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



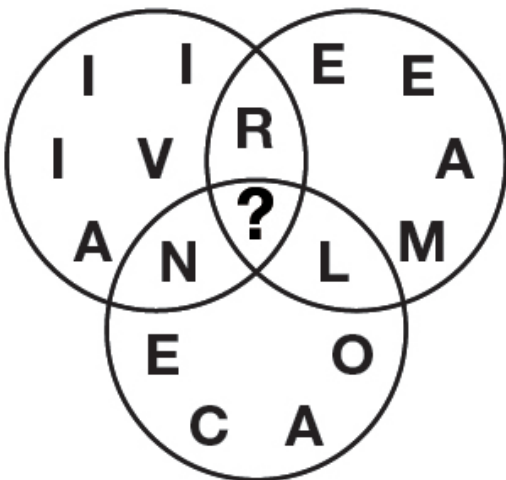
BATTLESHIPS

**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.

- Battleship
- Cruiser
- Destroyers
- Submarines

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

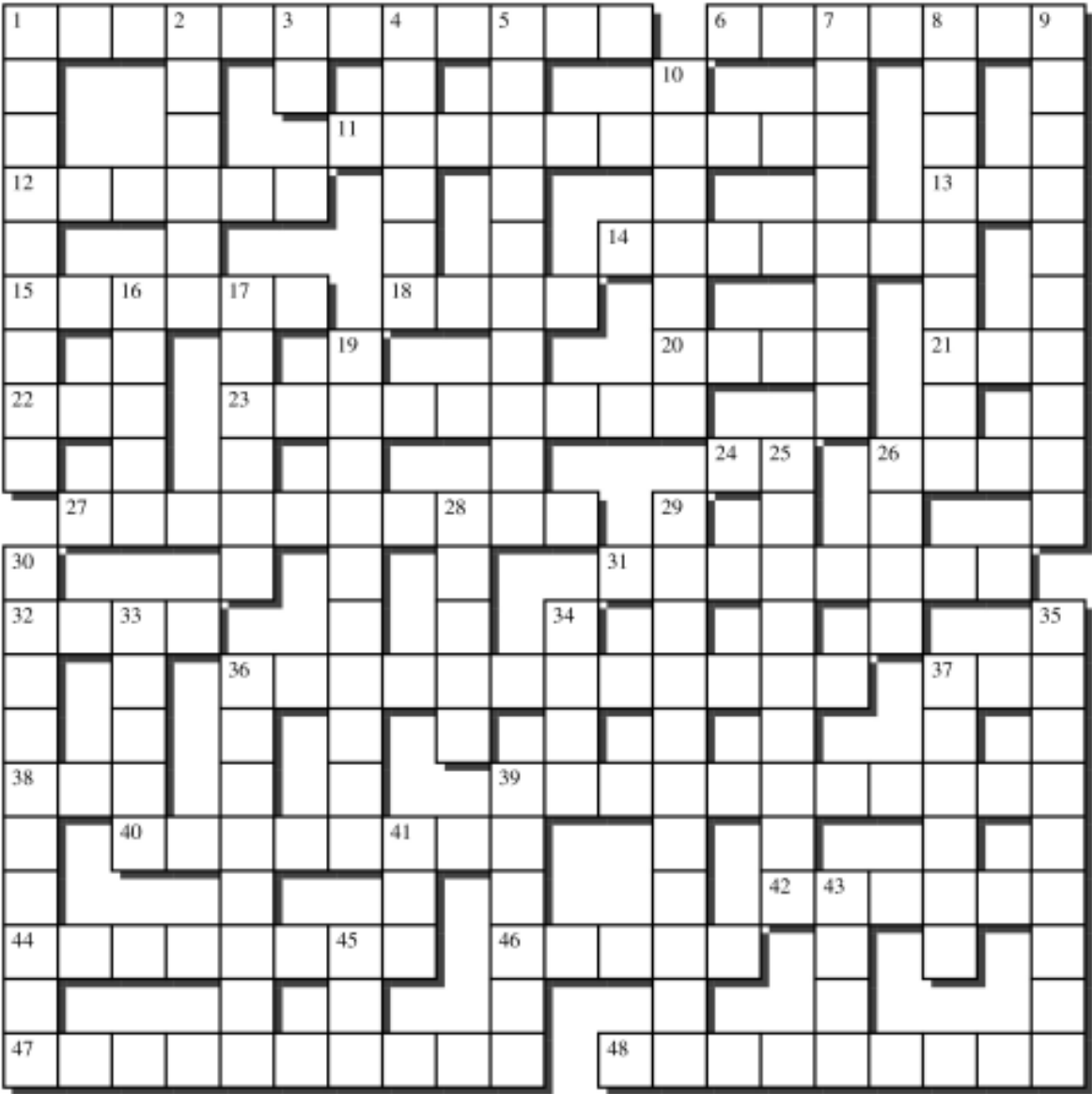
CIRCLEGRAM



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



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



- Across

  - 1) Construction (12)
  - 6) Events (7)
  - 11) Development (10)
  - 12) Waffles (6)
  - 13) Foot (3)
  - 14) Beautiful (m) (7)
  - 15) Style (6)
  - 18) Blue (4)
  - 20) I was born (4)
  - 21) Like that (3)
  - 22) To hear (3)
  - 23) Garland (9)
  - 24) It goes (2)
  - 26) Almost (4)
  - 27) Exhibition (10)
  - 31) Sold (m.pl) (8)
  - 32) Rich (f) (4)
  - 36) Avant-garde (12)
  - 37) She laughs (3)
  - 38) Gone (m) (3)
  - 39) Lecture/Talk (11)
  - 40) Artisan (m) (8)
  - 42) I offered (6)
  - 44) Trade (8)
  - 46) Fin (5)
  - 47) Obviously (10)
  - 48) Projects (9)
- Down

  - 1) Congresses (9)
  - 2) I smiled (6)
  - 3) D (musical note) (2)
  - 4) Bill (6)
  - 5) Opened (m) (10)
  - 7) Economy (8)
  - 8) Season (9)
  - 9) Surface (10)
  - 10) Modern (f) (7)
  - 16) Thorax (5)
  - 17) Achievements (6)
  - 19) Visitors (10)
  - 25) Auditorium (9)
  - 26) Each (4)
  - 28) Stroke (5)
  - 29) To disinfect (11)
  - 30) Architect (m) (10)
  - 33) Canoe (5)
  - 34) I believe (4)
  - 35) Metallic (f.pl) (9)
  - 36) Victory (8)
  - 37) To relapse (6)
  - 39) Courage (6)
  - 41) Hoop (3)
  - 43) Phase (4)
  - 45) I'll go (3)

QUIZ

Which is the capital of Moldova?

1. Balti 2. Chisinau 3. Rabnita  
4. Tiraspol



When did Moldova join the North Atlantic Cooperation Council?

1. 1988 2. 1992 3. 1982  
4. 1990

What is the currency in Moldova?

1. leu 2. reuble 3. dinar  
4. grivna

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Answer:** Chisinau  
**Of interest:** Chisinau is the political, administrative, economic and cultural centre of Moldova. Its name comes from the Romanian word chisla noua, a spring on the corner of Pushkin and Albisoara streets around which the original city was built.  
**Answer:** 1992  
**Of interest:** Moldova is constitutionally a neutral country and joined NACC in 1992. It maintains a close relation with NATO.  
**Answer:** Leu  
**Of interest:** Like the Romanian leu, the Moldovan leu is subdivided into 100 bani. The name of the currency originates from a Romanian word which means 'lion'.

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is D. Viridian, emerald, celadon, all shades of green.

Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Rapjacks; 8 Imp; 9 Generations; 11 Adverse; 12 Alien; 13 Calf; 15 Beagles; 17 Erase; 18 Impress; 20 In the stais; 22 Men; 23 Deathlow; Down: 2 Lie; 3 Juron; 4 Cutlet; 5 Storage; 6 Wishing well; 7 Springs; 10 Naval rating; 11 Arch-enemy; 14 Elected; 16 Cinema; 19 Pitch; 21 Leo.

Wordpuzzler solution

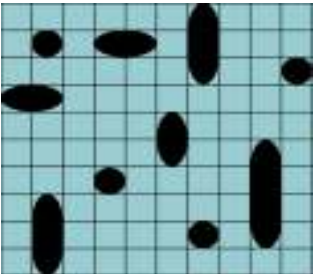
|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Lounge | C | A | L | M | A | J | O | R | I | D |
| 2. Diving | S | T | O | S | P | I | B | D | R | A |
| 3. Minor  | A | M | K | I | B | R | J | E | S | I |
| 4. Boiler | L | O | N | G | E | A | S | T | V |   |
| 5. Dress  | P | N | W | O | I | D | M | S | O | I |
| 6. Jump   | O | K | I | R | C | W | I | P | N |   |
| 7. Major  | W | E | T | C | H | A | L | E | T | G |
| 8. Wet    | R | E | O | B | O | I | L | E | R | E |
| 9. Monkey | I | E | L | O | R | M | A | D | O | N |
| 10. Law   | O | J | U | M | P | A | W | L | E | T |

Language Crossword

**ACROSS:**  
1. CONSTRUCCION 4. EVENITOS 12. ALIEN 13. CALER 15. BEAGLES 17. ERASE 18. IMPRES 20. EN LAS CALLES 22. HOMBRES 23. DEATHLOW 24. LIE 25. JURON 26. CUTLET 27. STORAGE 28. WISHING WELL 29. SPRINGS 30. NAVAL RATING 31. ARCH-ENEMY 32. ELECTED 33. CINEMA 34. PITCH 35. LEO

**DOWN:**  
1. CONGRESOS 2. SONREI 3. ARE ACUENTA 4. ECONOMIA 5. KEMORADA 6. SINAGUARDIA 7. SERIE 8. JUDO 9. ANAGRAMA 10. ALFABETICO 11. CORRECCION 12. ALFABETICO 13. ALFABETICO 14. ALFABETICO 15. ALFABETICO 16. ALFABETICO 17. ALFABETICO 18. ALFABETICO 19. ALFABETICO 20. ALFABETICO 21. ALFABETICO 22. ALFABETICO 23. ALFABETICO 24. ALFABETICO 25. ALFABETICO 26. ALFABETICO 27. ALFABETICO 28. ALFABETICO 29. ALFABETICO 30. ALFABETICO 31. ALFABETICO 32. ALFABETICO 33. ALFABETICO 34. ALFABETICO 35. ALFABETICO

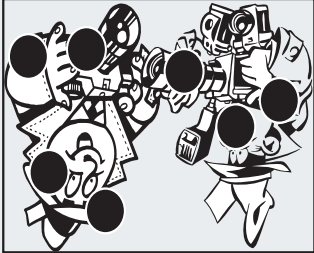
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences







Plaza del Santo Cristo, 1959 and 2019. A picture of the square which nowadays is very popular with tourists. **TICO MARTÍN**

# A photographic journey through Marbella past and present

## MARBELLA

Photographer Tico Martín fuses old images of Marbella with modern ones to show how the town has changed over the years

**JOAQUINA DUEÑAS**

MARBELLA. Walking through the centre of Marbella you can catch glimpses of what the town was like in times gone by. But, as time passes, memories of how life used to be, even just a few decades ago, fade away. Now though, the town's

past and present can be explored side-by-side through the work of Escolástico Martín Jiménez, better known as Tico Martín, in his exhibition at the Hospital Real de la Misericordia until 22 May.

The retired banker is a member of Fórum Fotográfico, the association that is organising the exhibition. Tico is already known in the town for his photographic 'fusion', and on display are 40 of the almost one hundred works he has produced using this technique.

"It's about fusing the past and the present of a particular place in one photograph," he explained.

In the exhibition there are several prints from the 1950s, and



The photographer with some of his work on display. **JOSELE**

others from the beginning of the twentieth century, such as one showing the transformation of Calle Enrique del Castillo, where the well-known Gómez y Molina jewellery shop is located today.

"Here there was some sort of bar, which in the 1940s turned into a social kitchen for children," he said.

The images also show how some other places have remained practically the same, such as the "ice factory" which, as Tico points out, "is still the same, as you can see from the 1959 photo taken by a German journalist who visited the town a couple of times, and who left us with traces of the Marbella of the 50s with images of charismatic places."

Tico has a collection of photos of the town from the end of the nineteenth century to the present day. "I choose photos if I think it's possible to take one from the same perspective now," he said. "Then it's easy. I put one photo over the other, leaving a glimpse of the modern part so that you can see the changes the town is undergoing."

"The challenge is taking the photo from the same perspective. To do that, I print the old photo out on paper and I look at the street through my camera. It's difficult to know what lens was used to take the old one, but it's usually a 50 millimetre or a 25. I use a 24-70, and have adapted as much as possible so that the two photos align."

One of the areas that has changed most drastically is Puente Málaga and Avenida Nabeu, where there used to be a fountain, as seen in the photo from the 1950s. It was removed in the 1960s, and no trace remains of it today.

Old fashioned clothes, horses and wagons passing through the town centre, the evolution of businesses that started off as small shacks and old cobbled streets feature in the exhibition. Some people who have always lived in Marbella may even recognise some of the faces on display in this journey into the past.

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