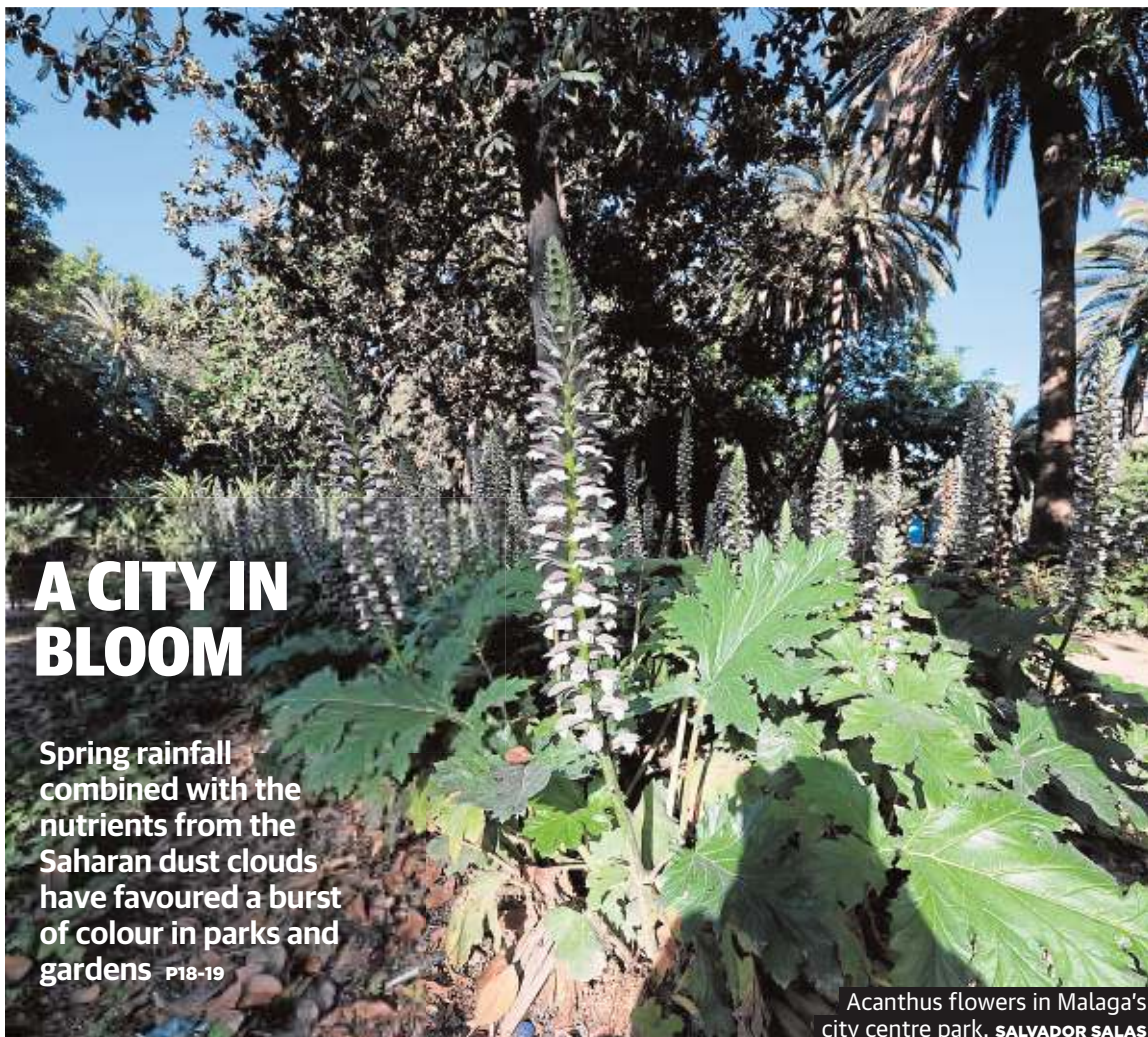




Teba and Benahavís: the two extremes of property prices in Malaga province



A CITY IN BLOOM

Spring rainfall combined with the nutrients from the Saharan dust clouds have favoured a burst of colour in parks and gardens **P18-19**

Acanthus flowers in Malaga's city centre park. **SALVADOR SALAS**

The Marbella area pays for its proximity to the Golden Mile, while Nerja completes the top five

A recent study of property prices in Malaga - both for sale and rent - has confirmed the huge difference between towns in the north

of the province and coastal resorts, especially the Marbella area. While a medium-sized apartment could cost as little as 40,000 euros on average in Teba, a property of the same size in Benahavís is on sale for an average of 286,000.

Average rents also vary greatly, the cheapest being in the Ronda area and the most expensive in Marbella. **P2**

INSIDE

Monkeypox warning in Spain as seven cases confirmed

Experts are studying the outbreak of this illness which has symptoms similar to chickenpox **P16**

Malaga CF edge closer to safety after win in Tenerife

The Blue and Whites could confirm their second division place at La Rosaleda this weekend **P38**

Spain is set to ease rules and allow a negative Covid test or a vaccine certificate for non-EU visitors **P3**

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Teba and Benahavís: the two extremes of property prices in Malaga province

Marbella and the areas around it pay for their proximity to the Golden Mile, while in the north of the province prices are much more affordable

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. If you want a 75m² apartment in Benahavís, currently the municipality in Malaga province with the highest property prices, it will cost more than 286,000 euros to buy. For a little more than that (300,000 euros) you could buy the most luxurious mansion in Teba: the Palacio Marqués de Greñín, in the old town, with its five bedrooms spread over two floors.

There are huge differences in property prices in the province and therefore major differences in the ability to access housing. Few young people could afford to live in Benahavís, Istán or Ojén now - all places that are expensive because of the luxury estates built within their boundaries and their proximity to Marbella's famous Golden Mile.

These three small communities, together with Marbella and Nerja, are the 'top five' for prices per square metre, according to a report from the Idealista website for April.

Benahavís comes first on the list with 3,818 euros per m², after an increase of 12.2 per cent in the last year. Istán is second, because the average price there has shot up 42.9 per cent to 3,704 euros per m². In third place is Marbella, at 3,581 euros, 13.5 per cent more than a year ago.

Prices in all of these three places are at record highs. Nerja, the only town east of Malaga on the list, is fourth, although unlike the others its prices have actually fallen in the past year, by three per cent, to 2,696 euros/m², and fifth is Ojén, where prices have risen by 38.5 per cent in the past year and property will also cost buyers 2,696 euros/m².

At the other extreme of the pyramid of property prices are five municipalities inland in the north of Malaga province: Teba, Sierra de Yeguas, Alameda, Humilladero and Mollina. In none of these does property cost as

much as 1,000 euros per square metre, despite the fact that the average for the province is 2,550 euros.

In all these villages, there are apartments for sale for less than 50,000 euros, and houses for under 100,000 euros.

On average, property prices in Malaga province went up by 10.2 per cent in the past 12 months, but 15 municipalities seemed to escape this trend and prices there actually went down.

Rentals

For those who want to rent, not buy, Ronda is the cheapest place to look. There are properties to rent for 5.5 euros per square metre: for example, a two-bedroom apartment is likely to cost around 400 euros a month. In Coín, Cártama, Alhaurín el Grande, Manilva and Alhaurín de la Torre, rental prices are all below eight euros per square metre.

The Costa del Sol is another story altogether: Marbella is the most expensive place in Malaga province to rent a property, with an average of 12.80 euros per m². In Benahavís, Torremolinos, Benalmádena and Estepona, rental prices are also above the average for the province, which is 10.60 euros/m².

Although the study by Idealista includes small villages for property sale prices, it does not for rentals, because there are so few apartments or houses to rent in them.

Only one place in the province, Cártama, has escaped the general increase in rental prices. There, they went down slightly by 2.3 per cent between April 2021 and April 2022.

Rents in all the other municipalities in the province rose by over 10 per cent, especially in Casares, Estepona, Alhaurín el Grande, Mijas, Marbella, Benalmádena, Fuengirola and Torrox.

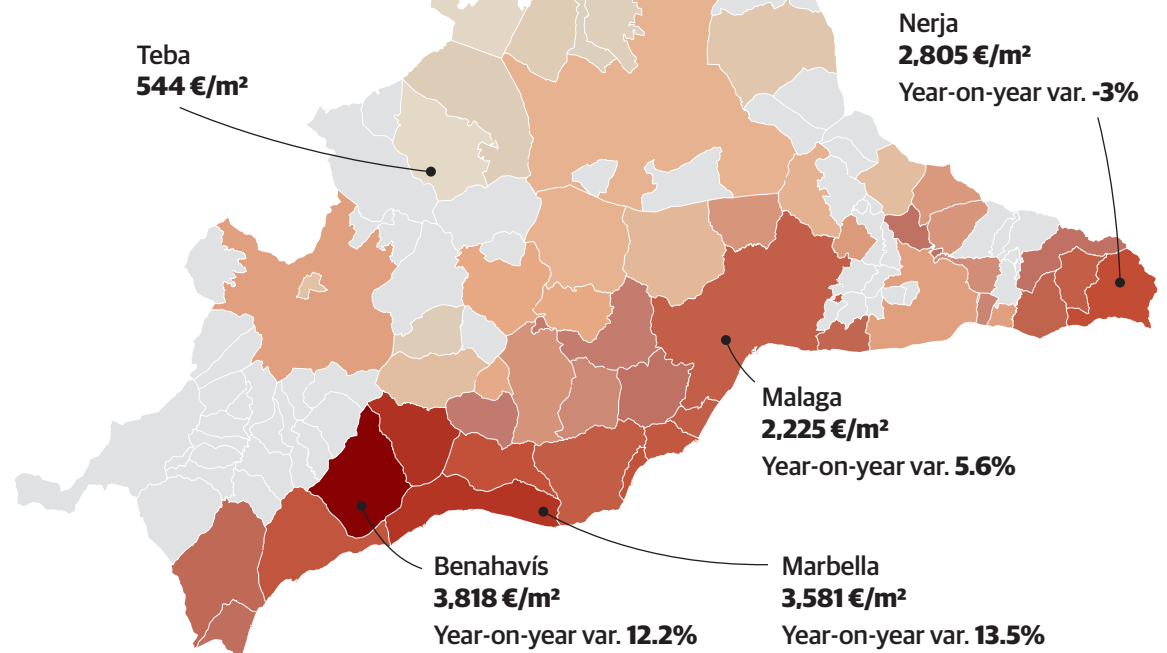
On average, property prices in the province of Malaga went up by 10.2 per cent in the past twelve months

Property prices by municipality in Malaga province

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Data from April 2022, average price

Euros/m²



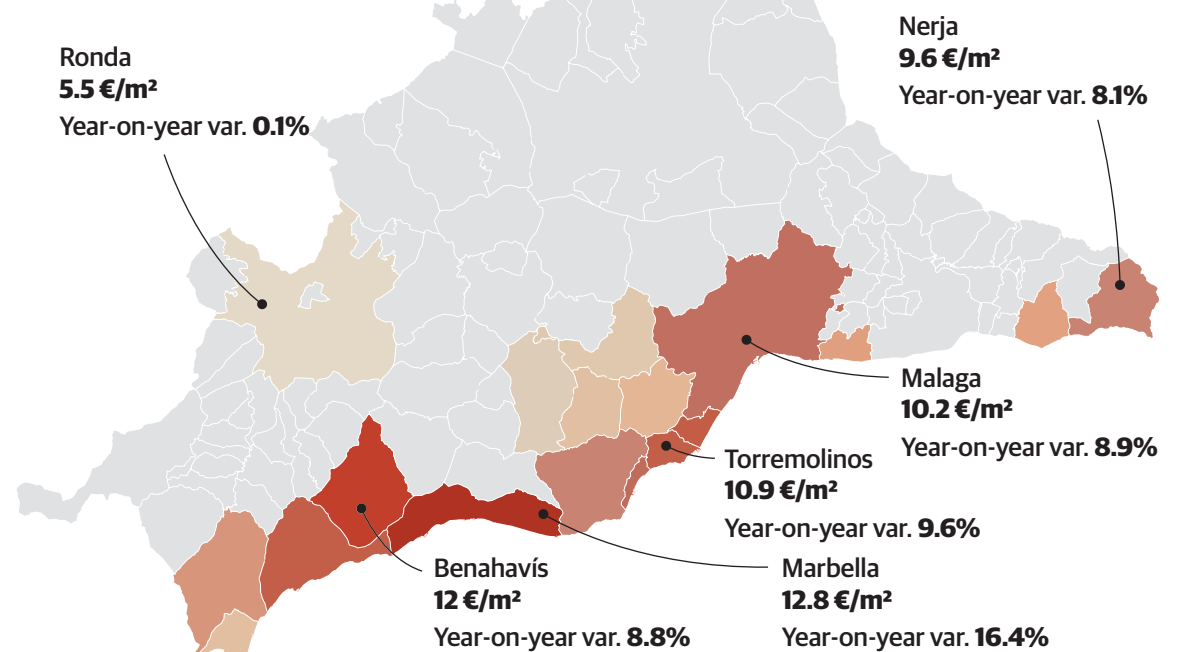
Price according to property size

	50m ²	75m ²	100m ²
Benahavís	190,900	286,350	381,800
Malaga	111,250	166,875	222,500
Teba	27,200	40,800	54,400

PROPERTIES FOR RENT

Data from April 2022, average price per month

Euros/m²



Average rent according to property size (euros per month)

	50m ²	75m ²	100m ²
Marbella	640	960	1,280
Malaga	510	765	1,020
Ronda	275	412.50	550

Source: Idealista, only municipalities with available data

INFOGRAPHIC E. HINOJOSA

Go-ahead given to finish city's cathedral roof after 240 years

When building work stopped in the eighteenth century, Malaga Cathedral was left with no proper sloping roof and now suffers from serious leaks

J. HINOJOSA / N. HESKETH

MALAGA. It is a favourite story to tell visitors to Malaga that the city's magnificent cathedral has lain unfinished for 240 years. Now it looks like church and local authorities have finally reached a consensus to get on with the job - or at least the most urgent part of it.

The part to be added won't be the famous missing tower - which is the origin of the cathedral's nickname of La Manquita (the one-armed lady). Instead, the building will get an outer, rainproof cover to go over the existing roof.

Since the building work halted in 1782, the cathedral has had to rely on a weaker, inner roof covering it from the elements. Despite attempts to patch it up and

find a cheaper solution as recently as 12 years ago, the roof is now leaking dangerously again and threatening the historic building overall.

Experts from the regional government's Culture ministry this week gave the green light to the Bishop of Malaga's plan to put a proper sloping roof over the present structure, as originally planned by the architect in 1764, and solve the water and damp problem once and for all.

The new outer roof will be made of wood and steel, use tiles in honey and cream to match the stonework of the cathedral and have walkways inside to create a new visitor attraction.

Church bosses will now need to find the estimated 10 million euros to go ahead with the roof, although funding is expected to be available from different public authorities. The bishop has said he wants to start as soon as possible and the mayor of the city has promised he will fast-track the planning permission.



Recreation of how the sloping roof will look when finished. SUR



The existing, 'inner' cover which is now leaking dangerously. SUR

Boost for tourism as Spain is set to drop Covid jab requirement for non-EU visitors

SUR

MADRID. Spain will end "in a matter of days" its requirement that all tourists from outside the EU must have a Covid-19 vaccination certificate or face being denied entry.

The news was announced on Thursday this week by the minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Reyes Maroto.

Anyone unable to show proof of vaccination will be able to enter the country with a negative coronavirus test. Maroto said that the measure was "good news" for the tourism sector.

The change will be a boost to tourism from the UK especially, allowing non-vaccinated visitors from there to come in with a negative test.

Visitors who had the original complete Covid-19 vaccines (single dose or two dose) - and, if those were more than 270 days ago, a booster as well - can enter showing their latest vaccination certificate and do not need a test.

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Forest firefighting unit prepares for high-risk season that starts in June

The service has a higher budget and more staff this year, and is about to open a new forest defence centre in Jaén

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The Infoca forest fire service is preparing for the high-risk season which begins on 11 June and continues until mid-October. Infoca, which is run by the Junta de Andalucía, has 4,702 staff this year and a budget of 175.1 million euros.

Most of the budget, nearly 91 million euros, will be used for fighting fires while the rest is for preventive work.

The money assigned is 4.5 per cent higher than last year. Many of the staff are fire fighters, but there are also medical



One of the teams of fire fighters. SUR

personnel, pilots, mechanics and administrative staff.

Infoca is also about to open a new forest defence centre in

the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Natural Park, its 23rd facility of this type in Andalucía.

112 REPORTS

ROAD ACCIDENT

Migrant workers killed in "horrifying" bus crash

A.G. Two people were killed and three seriously injured when a bus taking them to Antequera for seasonal work picking potatoes overturned on the A-8327 at Pedrales, in Seville province, at 6.50am on Wednesday. Another six passengers suffered minor injuries. The police are trying to ascertain why the bus, which had picked up workers from several places, overturned. Witnesses said the accident had been "horrifying".

ENVIRONMENT

Aldi recalls two toxic invasive shrubs

R.M. Aldi supermarket chain has withdrawn two shrubs from sale because they are included in the Spanish catalogue of toxic invasive species. The plants are labelled as Gardenline 'Mariposa Buddleja' and 'Florece abundantemente Polygonum aubertii'. The EAN code for both items is 2004060016702. Aldi says they "do not comply with defined quality standards" and wants anyone who has bought any to return them to one of its stores, where they will be given a refund.



The scene of the hit-and-run and José Carlos with his mother (inset). SUR

CRIME

Two arrested in connection with hit-and-run death outside a disco in Malaga city early on Sunday morning

SUR. Police in Malaga have arrested two men in connection with the death of a 23-year-old outside the Akari disco in Avenida Isaac Peral in Malaga city just after it closed, early on Sunday morning. The victim, whose name was José Carlos, died after being hit by a car which is believed to have deliberately driven into a group of people.

Witnesses have said there was a fierce argument before the incident, and they saw the car mount the pavement and speed up as it approached the group. José Carlos was dragged 30 metres by the

car as it sped off, and three others, including his girlfriend, were injured.

The police say they have identified the driver of the car, and he is accused of one count of murder and three of attempted murder. They also detained a man who was in the vehicle with him, for trying to conceal a crime.

José Carlos and his girlfriend had gone to the disco with friends to celebrate a birthday. People who knew him have paid tribute to him, saying he was a "lovely young man".

DRUG ARRESTS

Three members of international drug gang detained in Torremolinos

E.P. In a joint operation with their counterparts in France, Spanish police have broken up a network which was obtaining supplies of drugs from the Costa del Sol and using the 'go fast' method of hiring a car to take them by road to France at top speed.

Three arrests were made in Torremolinos, and a further six as other members of the gang crossed into France at Irún.



A car used for a 'go fast' run. SUR



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Dozens gathered on the streets of Benalmádena on Tuesday this week to mark Norway's Nasjonaldagen, an annual celebration of the signing of the country's constitution back in 1814.

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Baby goat rescued from the roof of a dog kennel

A one-week-old mountain goat was rescued and reunited with its mother last week after it became trapped on the roof of a dog kennel in the Montecillo Ariza area, in the Sierras Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama natural park. Guardias Rurales (rural police) Manuel Lorenzo and Julio Fernández, along with local police officer Francisco Gallardo came to the rescue when the owner of the land called for help after his mastiff dog kept barking and he spotted the goat on top of the kennel.



Draft project for El Taller de la Amistad residence under way

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Nerja's El Taller de la Amistad Association, which has been helping people with disabilities and special educational needs in Nerja, Torrox and Frigiliana since it was founded in 1996, is set to get its first residence,

with the capacity for 60 residential places.

The new building, which will include a day and occupational centre, will be built on a 5,000 square-metre plot of land located on Avenida de las Palmeras, next to the Pueblo Rocio residential area.

The draft project will be drawn up by the architect Francisco Sánchez, based on the requisites set out in the report written by the town hall architect, Beatriz Pérez.

President of El Taller de la Amistad, Gloria Matutano, told SUR last November: "We want to create a modern residence, not a place where people are 'parked'. We are going to make it open, with supervised housing so that everyone has their own support, at different levels."

HERE AND THERE

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Shopping centre back to pre-pandemic numbers

E. C. The El Ingenio shopping centre in Vélez-Málaga, owned by Salsa Patrimonio and managed by MVGM, has released data that shows that in the last half of 2021, it regained the number of visitors it saw in the same period in 2019, before the start of the pandemic. The figure stands out in comparison with data across the rest of the country, which shows a drop in footfall in shopping centres of around 19 per cent compared with 2019.

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

Local police set up cybercrime unit

E. C. Rincón de la Victoria Local Police has set up a cybercrime unit, with which it aims to protect and provide online security. It has been established following a significant increase in the number of cybercrimes, the most common being scams, fraud, identity theft and cyberbullying. An email address has been set up: ciberpolicia@rincondelavictoria.es, for residents who have been victims of cybercrime or would like further information.



Scientists study the rock art in the Victoria cave. SUR

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

Rock art in Rincón de la Victoria cave thought to be over 30,000 years old

E. C. Scientific investigations are currently being carried out in the Cueva de la Victoria cave in Rincón de la Victoria to date a series of rock art.

The work, which is being carried out by an international research team, will place the Cueva de la Victoria, the El Cantal group of caves and Rincón de la Victoria on the scientific map.

The research group has been

working in the cave since April with the aim of confirming the dates of this cave art, which contains remains from the Archaic, Figurative and Schematic Palaeolithic periods. Scientists believe that the art is more than 30,000 years old.

The results of the analyses will form part of an international research project also involving caves in Cantabria, Asturias, Cáceres and Malaga.

NERJA

Seven companies bid to renovate playground

E. C. After more than a decade closed to the public due to health and safety concerns, the Verano Azul playground in Nerja looks like it is set to get its long awaited revamp. Seven companies have submitted bids for the contract to renovate the facility. A budget of 332,750 euros has been earmarked for the project, of which 80 per cent will be financed by European funds and the remaining 20 per cent by the town hall.



The Verano Azul playground. E. C.

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Should we be concerned about inflation in Spain?

By Chris McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

Inflation has been climbing steadily since last summer, hitting almost 10% in Spain this March.

Although this inflation surge is lasting longer than first anticipated, it is not expected to be long-term. But hopefully people will view it as an eye opener and take this long-term threat more seriously now. We cannot predict what inflation will be in ten or twenty-years' time, but we do know that even low levels can seriously reduce your spending power over time if your money does not grow at the same rate.

Inflation in Spain and Europe

A year ago, in April 2021, Spain's Consumer Price Index stood at 2%. When it hit 9.8% in March 2022 this was the highest rate for 37 years. While much of this is down to high electricity and fuel prices, food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 6.8%.

At least the official 'flash estimate' for April is almost 1.5 points lower at 8.4%, though this still needs to be confirmed. The main reason for the drop was lower fuel and electricity prices. The market price of natural

gas declined and the Spanish government also began subsidising the price of gasoline and diesel. Food prices, however, increased again in April.

Across the EU as a whole the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices was 7.4% in March, with a similar 7.5% estimate for April.

In the UK, the Consumer Price Index hit 7% in March, a 30-year high.

Will inflation remain high?

When prices began rising last summer, that was largely caused by the 'base effect' (inflation the previous year had been unusually low in the pandemic) and supply difficulties as economies exited from lockdowns. However, the crisis in Ukraine then exacerbated the issues, particularly with energy prices escalating.

The short-term outlook remains uncertain, with the ongoing Ukraine war and concerns that renewed lockdowns in China could disrupt supply chains again.

European Central Bank Vice

President, Luis de Guindos, sounded hopeful at the end of April when he commented that the Eurozone close to reaching peak inflation. The Bank expects price pressures to diminish in the second half of this year, although energy costs are expected to keep inflation relatively high.

In early April the Bank of Spain doubled its 2022 annual inflation forecast, from 3.7% to 7.5%. But looking ahead, it expects inflation to ease to 2% next year then 1.6% in 2024. On 5 May, Spanish Economy Minister Nadia Calvino reportedly told the Cercle d'Economia conference that although inflation remains the main concern and there is still high uncertainty, there is some evidence that Spanish inflation will start to slow in the second half of the year.

In the UK, however, the Bank of England recently issued a gloomier forecast. It previously predicted inflation would peak at 8% in April, but now warns it could reach 10% and not till the end of the year. It expects the CPI to fall to 1.3% in three years' time.

In response to inflation, the Bank of

England has raised its interest rate four times since December 2021. Its latest move on 5th May took interest rates to 1%, the highest since 2009 – but still a long way below inflation.

Inflation and your savings and retirement income

No-one is immune from inflation. Planning to protect our savings and future income from the rising cost of living should be an integral part of your financial planning for retirement.

Unless your savings grow each year, they will buy you considerably less as the years go by. As a basic illustration, if you have €50,000 in a current account with no growth, and inflation is 3% every year, after 10 years its value will have fallen to around €37,000. After 20 years it's around €27,500 and after 30 just €20,555. That's a 59% reduction in purchasing power.

You therefore need to invest in assets that can be expected to produce enough growth to keep up with inflation. As we know from the last decade, bank interest rates cannot be expected to do this – in fact, many

savers have been earning negative real rates of return.

While you may become more averse to investment risk in retirement, remember that inflation is also a big risk to your savings. You can reduce investment risk to comfortable levels by obtaining an objective calculation of your attitude to risk, then building a suitable well-diversified portfolio around your risk tolerance, time horizon, circumstances and objectives.

Holding your investment portfolio within an arrangement that is tax efficient in Spain helps protect your capital from unnecessary taxation as well as inflation. Review your financial planning annually to have peace of mind about your future, then get back to enjoying your retirement years in Spain.

HICP/CPI inflation data is at 6 May 2022.

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◀ Members of one of the two crews that work on the Salvamar Alnitak.

ÑITO SALAS

An orange ship that keeps hope alive

They are in a state of constant alert. The calls can come at any time. A small boat with pregnant women and children on board is about to sink; a ship has run out of fuel and has been drifting for hours; a boat is letting in water...orange has become the colour of hope for those in difficulties in the vast expanses of the sea.

The crew of the Salvamar Alnitak maritime rescue ship are more than accustomed to acting in "extreme situations" and being guardians of the ocean. For them, this is not just another job. It is a profession, and a way of life. They are also used to the fact that the weather never makes it easy for them when emergencies occur in Malaga's waters.

Although the members of the two crews can be counted on the fingers of one hand - a captain, two sailors and an engineer - they are able to rise above even the worst storm when it comes to saving lives.

The pandemic, among other consequences, has led to a decrease in the number of people who set off in small boats to try and reach the shores of Andalucía in search of a better life. Even so, last year the Salvamar Alnitak helped around 100 people to reach dry land, as well as attending calls to assist another 450.

"The maritime activity off Malaga is still very intense and everything points to the fact that it will increase; if it isn't for one reason, then it's for another, but here it never stops," says Alejandro Rodríguez, the captain of one of the Salvamar crews.

Rescues. The crews of the Salvamar Alnitak assist with any emergency that happens at sea and not even the worst conditions stop them trying to save lives



IRENE QUIRANTE



▲ Rescues

In 2017 alone, the Salvamar Alnitak rescued more than 1,500 people at sea. ÑITO SALAS

Before the migratory flows were altered by the eruption of the coronavirus, there were years when rescues were continual. In 2017 alone they saved more than 1,500 people from a tragic end in the waters off Malaga.

Day to day life on the orange ship is marked by never knowing what might happen and, above all, having to act fast when something does. Whenever there is a call from the Coordination Centre in Tarifa, and they are given the coordinates, the guardians of the sea mobilise without losing time. "You drop whatever you are doing, so you can be sailing within 15 minutes at the most," says the captain.

Inclement sea conditions

The time it takes to get there, however, always depends on the conditions at sea. The crew know what it is like to try to sail against the current, with waves up to nine metres high and in complete darkness. They are familiar with the knot they get in the stomach every time they find themselves in the perfect storm and the sea makes it impossible to advance.

In the cabin, the crew have company: a picture of the patron saint of sailors, the Virgen del Carmen. Rodríguez jokes that even though he has no religious faith, there are nights when the crew have no alternative but to ask her for help. Especially when they know that people's lives are in danger and the sea is not dis-

Captain Rodríguez: "With time you learn not to take the pain home with you because we have seen everything"

posed to help them get there to save them.

"It is very physical work, but it is also demanding mentally," says Rodríguez. Apart from the inclemencies of the weather, they have to face risks when a rescue is complicated and needs four people to get involved. In the case of Rodríguez, who spent 19 years as a crew member before becoming captain, he has several war wounds from his time as a sailor, although his shoulder bore the worst of many injuries he suffered on board. And despite that, he wouldn't change his job for anything. If there is something that the crew of the Salvamar Alnitak have in common, it is an uncompromising vocation for helping people at risk. "What you feel when you go to assist someone and everything goes well is just incredible happiness and satisfaction," says the captain.

Although there is another side to it. The most dramatic, and one to which there are very few witnesses. It's a reality that the crew of this ship know well. They are aware that the ocean is becoming a mass grave of enormous dimensions, above all for those who try to migrate and reach Europe this way because of the lack of other, legal and safe, alternatives.

"With time you learn not to take the pain home with you because we have seen everything," says Rodríguez. The feeling of helplessness is unbearable when cases end in tragedy. "You can't help thinking that you should have done more, although we do absolutely everything that we possibly can," he says.

As well as assisting people at sea, the Maritime Rescue fleet also monitors compliance with environmental protection measures. If a ship discharges waste into the sea, the crew will take samples so they can be analysed and reports the matter to the Guardia Civil. "Fortunately, people are becoming more aware so there are few cases of contamination of the sea now," Rodríguez explains.

For these people, the sea has to be synonymous with life. And those on the Salvamar Alnitak will stay on constant alert to try to ensure that it remains so.



SIX: packed with colour and diversity heading towards a future of equality

The magazine for the LGBT community, which also has online content in Spanish and English, is published by SUR and is unique in Spain

CLAUDIA SAN MARTÍN

MALAGA. The fourth edition of SIX magazine was launched at an event at the Meliá Hotel in Torremolinos on Wednesday evening. This unique publication for the LGBT community is published in Spanish and has online content in Spanish and English.

This new edition features drag sensation Alma de Soul on the front cover, and, to coincide with the return of Pride to Torremolinos, has interviews with some



The new section was launched in Torremolinos on Wednesday. N. SALAS

of today's best-known drag queens; visits the homes of creative couples; and takes a look at the search for love via dating apps, among other features.

At the launch, Iván Gelibter,

editor and coordinator of this edition, said: "SIX started four years ago as the first magazine dedicated to the LGBT community ever to be published in this country. I can say with pride that

it still is."

Editor-in-chief of SUR, Manuel Castillo, paid tribute to "the special energy" generated by each launch of the magazine: "The aim of SIX is for it to not be seen as extraordinary. It still takes hard work to produce it, but we are determined to continue to win small battles," he said.

Minister for Equality, Social Policies and Conciliation at the Junta de Andalucía, Rocío Ruiz, gave an emotional. "We need a free press, such as this wonderful magazine," and, addressing Manuel Castillo, she said, "I think you are brave people. Human rights can not be negotiated, blackmailed or sold." She also said that Andalucía is diverse and inclusive.

Also at the launch, along with several of the faces from the pages of the magazine were the mayors of Torremolinos and Mijas, Margarita del Cid and Josele González.

The SIX content in English can be found on this newspaper's website (www.surinenglish.com/six).

Many victims of homophobia do not report hate crimes, say groups

I. GELIBTER

MALAGA. The launch of SIX coincided with International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia marking the anniversary of homosexuality being removed from the list of mental illnesses by the World Health Organization in 1990.

This year, LGBT associations from the province met in Plaza Félix Sáenz in Malaga city and read a manifesto calling for more education and an end to hatred and discrimination, as hate speech rose by eight per cent in Andalucía last year. In fact, they pointed out that many people who are victims of this abuse never report it, so the true figures are much higher.



Bank of Spain says pension rises should not be linked to inflation

In its annual report, it has urged government, employers and unions to reach a deal on moderate wage increases to keep inflation down

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. The Bank of Spain is calling for an agreement to limit wage increases to reduce the risk of prices spiralling out of control.

The comments, in its annual report, come amid fears that runaway inflation in Spain (reported as 8.3% in April) may bring with it knock-on effects if companies start to put their prices up and increase workers' salaries so staff do not lose purchasing power.

Although negotiations between employers and unions on wage levels broke down some weeks ago, the bank says that in reality an income pact is already happening unofficially.

Its report says that companies have "very partially" been transferring their costs to the prices of their products since early



Pensioners have not seen their income hit by inflation. AFP

2021, resulting in a reduction in profit margins. At the same time, negotiated salary increases are "clearly lower than the rate of inflation", which means workers are losing purchasing power. This means all sides share the "inevitable loss of income".

Pension rises

The report says this restraint should also include Spanish pensioners, currently the only group that does not lose purchasing

power this year because pensions are updated in line with the rate of inflation. It says there is a need to go back to a separate benchmark scale for pension increases as there was a few years ago.

To increase national income, the Bank of Spain also says a review of the tax system is needed. Among its proposals is an increase in IVA value added tax so the standard rate (21%) is charged on products for which the tax is currently 10% or 4%.

IN BRIEF

FOOD RETAIL

Mercadona continues to invest locally

J. SOTO. Supermarket-giant Mercadona invested 21.3 million euros in Malaga province last year and reduced its CO2 emissions by 2,600 tonnes, according to figures released for 2021. The investment enabled the company to continue growing with an increasingly more efficient and sustainable business model, the firm said.

The investment in Malaga province was mainly to improve some of the Mercadona stores. The group opened two new supermarkets and modernised three others. Altogether, the



Mercadona continues to grow. SUR

company has 85 supermarkets in the province and employs 5,236 staff. Its purchases from local suppliers rose to 882 million euros last year, which was 9% higher than in 2020.

ENERGY BILLS

Gas price cap approved to help electricity bills

E. MARTÍNEZ. Spain's cap on gas prices has finally been agreed. On Friday last week (13 May) the government said it would fix the maximum price at 48.8 euros per megawatt hour.

The minister for Ecological Transition said this will reduce the average price of electricity

from the present rate, which is about 210 euros/MWh, to 130, which is a reduction of about 40%.

"Everyone will notice the difference in their electricity bills," she said, "and it will be automatic. They will not have to do anything to benefit from it."

The cap on the gas price will be in force for one year and is likely to start in around a week. It means the benefits will not be noticeable until mid-June.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

United Spanish Emirates



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and its equally-wealthy neighbours in the Persian Gulf have established close ties with Spain over the last few years. Further evidence of these mutually beneficial friendships emerged this Tuesday, when King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia hosted the Emir of Qatar and his wife at Zarzuela Palace. The Emir had some good news to share over dinner, announcing a five-billion-euro increase in Qatar's investment in Spanish projects over the next few years.

Pedro Sánchez hopes that this cash injection will strengthen his country's economic ties with the Gulf region, which was also the purpose of his appearance at the Dubai Expo in February. It was the first time a Spanish premier had set foot in the UAE since 2011, when Socialist president José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero called in on Qatar, Dubai and Abu Dhabi - also in

a bid to attract more of the Gulf's abundant money and natural resources to Spain.

Zapatero enjoyed moderate success in this respect and by 2019 the UAE placed sixteenth in Spain's foreign investment rankings, with a stock of just over six billion euros. That same year Qatar's stock stood at 2.7 billion euros, so the funds announced this week amount to a 168% increase in the country's pre-pandemic investment in Spain. Serious returns are going to be expected for such a weighty financial involvement.

Details of where and how these extra funds will be spent are hazy, although Qatar wants to cash in on Spain's chunk of

The Emir of Qatar announced a five-billion-euro increase in his country's investment in Spanish projects over the next few years

the EU Covid recovery funds, most of which will be channelled into digitalisation, green energy and car manufacturing. Spain also has an ambitious plan to set itself up as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub for northern Europe and to increase its reliance on Qatar for LNG in order to reduce its dependence on Russia.

It's not just Sánchez, Felipe and Letizia who are on excellent terms with some of the Persian Gulf's most powerful figures. In August 2020, Felipe's father, king emeritus Juan Carlos, fled to Abu Dhabi amidst fraud allegations. Some of these centred on a one-off "gift" of 65 million euros paid to Juan Carlos by Saudi Arabian royalty, allegedly a kick-back for the construction of a rail link between Medina and Mecca, the contract for which went to a Spanish consortium.

With all the financial investigations against Juan Carlos now shelved due to "lack of evidence", the emeritus king is apparently due to return to Spain within the week. The extent to which he's alienated his once-adoring people remains to be seen, but Juan Carlos needn't worry about the loyalty of his allies in the Persian Gulf: relations between the UAE, Qatar and Spain are stronger than ever.

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The museum, in Bomb House Lane. GNM

Gibraltar National Museum Open Day returns on Saturday 21 May

D. BARTLETT. After two years of on-line events, the Open Day at the Gibraltar National Museum returns tomorrow, Saturday 21 May, from 10am to 6pm. It is aimed to coincide with International Museum Day, on the Saturday closest to 18 May. This year's theme, set by the International Council of Museums, is The Power of Museums.

International Museum Day has been celebrated in Gibraltar since 2002 in the form of an open day, which continues to increase in

popularity. It promises to be a fun-filled event with plenty of activities primarily aimed at young people, but also for the young at heart. Children can enjoy face painting, workshops, a treasure hunt and fancy dress competitions. The theme for this year's fancy dress event is simply 'historical'. Participants are asked to register on the day, from 10am to midday.

The Gibraltar National Museum is a fascinating place to visit at any time, and on Open Day it is especially so.

Gibraltar is 'within touching distance of a historic treaty' says chief minister

DEBBIE BARTLETT. Fabian Picardo, Gibraltar's chief minister, updated parliament on the negotiations regarding the future relationship with the EU this week and said that, although "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed", he believes Gibraltar is in touching distance of a historic treaty.

He believes two more rounds of official talks will be needed, with the first beginning in June if all parties can agree dates.

He explained that the complexity of the negotiations are "frankly unimaginable" because they are touching every single aspect of the basic building blocks of the European Union and considering whether and if so how each of those should apply to Gibraltar going forward.

Picardo also stressed that Gibraltar's sovereignty has not come up in the discussions and will not change. "No such thing has been raised or asked of us," he insisted.

IN BRIEF



Welcoming a first visit. SUR

TOURISM

Two cruise ships make inaugural visits

D.B. An increasing number of cruise lines are including Gibraltar on their itineraries this year, and two more ships have made their inaugural stops this week. The first was the Sea Cloud Spirit, which arrived on Saturday 14 May from Malaga, carrying 80 passengers and 75 crew. On Tuesday, Tourism Minister Vijay Daryanani also welcomed the Carnival Pride, with her 1,455 passengers and 888 crew.

CULTURE

Jubilita jubilee celebration on 2 June

D.B. Gibraltar will be celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee next month and in its own special way. June 2nd is the date set for the Jubilita, a one-off food festival which is replacing the popular Calentita this year. The celebrations take place in the Theatre Royal Square, John Mackintosh Square and Campion Park, and event goers are invited to follow a foodie and historical trail through the streets. More info from culture.gi

CHARITY

RGP presents cheque to EV Foundation

D.B. The EV Foundation, a charity which helps families in need on both sides of the border, was presented with a cheque for £6,038.10 by the Royal Gibraltar Police on Tuesday, which was the money raised by the RGP's 2022 recruit class during their Family Fun Day on Saturday 7 May. Nicola Jones, the founder of EV, said the money will make a huge difference to hundreds of people and some will also be used for educational courses.



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IS THERE A 'PERFECT TIME' TO INVEST IN THE MARKET?



Jason Swan - Senior Partner.

MARBELLA

Jason Swan. Attempting to time the market has been proven to be a foolish idea time and time again. It could even cost you a lot of money. When it comes to investing, a long-term, diversified strategy is far more likely to result in positive returns than chasing short-term gains.

Given ongoing global economic uncertainties, the rise in the cost of living and recent stock market volatility, many individuals are wondering if now is a good time to invest. The short answer is yes. The wisest plan is to invest and take a long-term view, rather than worrying about what is going on in the markets today. If you have capital available to invest, then trying to time the market is the worst strategy you can employ.

Risks of trying to time the market

Predicting the peaks and troughs of the market is impossible. Markets can move in either direction unexpectedly and very quickly – this is often the result of an external event that triggers mass buying or selling of assets – a recent example being the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine. Those waiting for the bottom of the market will find that inevitably, this is only known after the event.

Rather than trying to time the

market, you should consider whether investing is right for you. Attempting to time buying and selling frequently results in higher costs of trading.

To be successful, an investor would need to foresee both the best time to buy and the best time to sell. This simply isn't possible and even the most experienced investors don't get this correct.

While staying invested during market fluctuations may be unsettling, having discipline usually yields greater long-term results than pursuing short-term gains.

The importance of diversification

Diversification is about managing risk through investing in a range of different assets around the world – assets most commonly used are cash, shares (equities) bonds and property. A well diversified portfolio will provide access to different geographical regions and sectors of the market. Any portfolio should reflect your attitude to in-

vestment risk and meet your long term goals.

A truly Independent Financial Adviser can help you to construct a portfolio tailored to your specific situation and will provide an ongoing review service to ensure that your portfolio performs well over time and remains suitable.

Establishing a suitable portfolio

When it comes to investing, it's critical to consider your situation, income requirements, goals, and time horizon, as well as your tolerance to risk. It is best to work with a fully Independent and well qualified adviser who can construct a diversified portfolio with the appropriate risk and return characteristics to provide you with peace of mind.

Regardless of current economic conditions, a long-term, diversified investment strategy is essential for safeguarding and growing your portfolio. Your adviser should review your investment portfolio regularly with you, to ensure its ongoing suitability.

Conclusion

Your arrangements for your life abroad should be structured as tax-efficiently as possible. To en-

sure you are making the most of the tax efficient options available, speak with an Independent Financial Adviser that is well-versed in cross border Financial Planning.

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Warning about monkeypox in Spain after seven confirmed cases

The initial symptoms are similar to chickenpox but milder, and experts have said the virus is very hard to catch without very close, prolonged contact

ÁLVARO SOTO

MADRID. Spain's minister of Health, Carolina Darias, has warned the regional governments' health authorities to be on the alert for possible cases of monkeypox virus after seven cases were detected in Madrid. A further 22 suspected cases were being investigated by Wednesday this week.

Madrid health authorities said that the patients were showing good progress and were self-isolating at home. Medical staff are



One of the symptoms is prominent blisters. **WHO**

continuing to investigate the outbreak of the illness which was first reported in the UK earlier this week.

Head of Spain's coordination

centre for health emergencies, Fernando Simón, said on Wednesday, "It is unlikely that monkeypox is going to generate significant transmission although

it cannot be ruled out completely." Portugal and the US also confirmed this week that they had found cases.

The first case found in the UK was of someone who became infected in Nigeria. The initial symptoms are similar to chickenpox but milder. They include fever, headache, muscle pain, back pain, swollen lymph glands, shivering and exhaustion. There may be a rash, which spreads over the body including the genitals.

"We are urging homosexual and bisexual men in particular to look out for any unusual rashes or lesions and get in touch with a sexual health service without delay," explained Susan Hopkins, an advisor to the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA).

Experts said the virus is not only transmitted through homosexual relations, as anyone who comes into contact with infected fluids can catch it, but the risk is minimal without very close contact. The strain found so far in Europe seems to be milder than what is more commonly found in West Africa.

IN BRIEF

ROAD SAFETY

Lower speed limits have reduced deaths

A. NOGUEROL. The 30 km/h speed limit on single-lane urban roads in Spain reduced the number of deaths between May and December last year by 14%, the government's DGT road traffic agency as said. Its figures show that there were 38 fewer deaths than in the same period in 2019.

The new rule came into force a year ago this month. From 11 May 2021, the speed limit on one-way streets in towns and cities has been 20 kilometres per hour; 30 km/h on roads with one lane in each direction and 50 km/h on roads with two lanes in each direction. A survey has shown that 70% of drivers comply with the 30 km/h rule.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Russia tells Spain to remove 27 diplomats

R. M. MAÑUECO. As expected, Moscow has responded to the expulsion of 27 staff of the Russian embassy in Spain by expelling the same number of Spanish diplomatic staff from Russia.

The Spanish ambassador in Russia, Marcos Gómez Martínez, was summoned to the Foreign Affairs ministry in Moscow on Wednesday morning to receive the official notice that 27 of his staff must leave the country within seven days.

Spain is supporting the sanctions imposed by most Western countries after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Large fines for Google and Vodafone over data protection

The Spanish data protection agency has fined the search engine giant 10 million euros and the telephone company almost 4 million

According to government information, the Google fine is related to data handling and the right for people to have old information removed from search engine results.

Vodafone España has been fined over parts of the data protection law that relate to the confidentiality and integrity of personal data.

A spokesperson for Google said that the company was examining the decision and will carry on interacting with regulators over privacy issues in order to reevaluate its practices and find the right balance.

SUR

MADRID. Spain's data protection agency has fined Google 10 million euros and Vodafone España 3.94 million for failing to follow European data protection rules with their users and customers.

King emeritus Juan Carlos returns to Spain for a regatta

The former monarch has been living in self-exile in Abu Dhabi for two years and will meet his son King Felipe in Madrid before going back there

strained in the meantime, King Juan Carlos has had visits from his two other children - Infantas Cristina and Elena - and their families in his time in the Middle East.

Now that the air has cleared a little in Spain, he has returned to take part in a sailing regatta in the Galician town of Sanxenxo, northwestern Spain, at which he has been a regular participant in the past. He is staying with friends in that area.

The king flew into Vigo airport in the region yesterday evening in a private jet, whose route from Abu Dhabi had been eagerly followed online by waiting media. Conservative estimates

in the press were that the private jet had cost 56,000 euros to charter for whoever had paid the bill.

In a communiqué from the Royal household on Wednesday, it was announced that the former monarch - who abdicated in favour of his son in 2014 - will meet privately at the Royal family's Zarzuela palace in Madrid on Monday with King Felipe and also with Juan Carlos' wife, Queen Sofia, who has reportedly not seem him for the past two years either.

Juan Carlos will then return to Dubai the same day, although he has stated that he hopes to return more often to Spain to spend time with friends and family. The government and King Felipe have agreed that Juan Carlos should not stay in publicly funded royal residences on these trips.



King Juan Carlos

SUR

MALAGA. The king emeritus, Juan Carlos, has returned to Spain this weekend for the first time in two years. It follows legal investigations into his financial affairs being dropped; the controversy around them had forced him to go into self-exile in Abu Dhabi.

Although relations with his son, King Felipe, have reportedly been

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Spring in Malaga is especially colourful this year. The copious rainfall in March, April and early May, combined with the calima (dust from the Sahara desert), have caused an explosion of flowers in the city's parks and gardens. For those who are not badly affected by pollen and allergies, a visit to places like the Parque, the Pedro Luis Alonso gardens and Puerta Oscura, the Picasso and the botanical gardens of La Concepción and the university, to mention just a few, is well worth the while to reconnect with nature, before the onset of hot weather starts to wither the petals.

The muddy rain from the calima caused numerous problems in the city, but it also fed the soil with a range of minerals, sulphates and nitrates which are vital for plants.

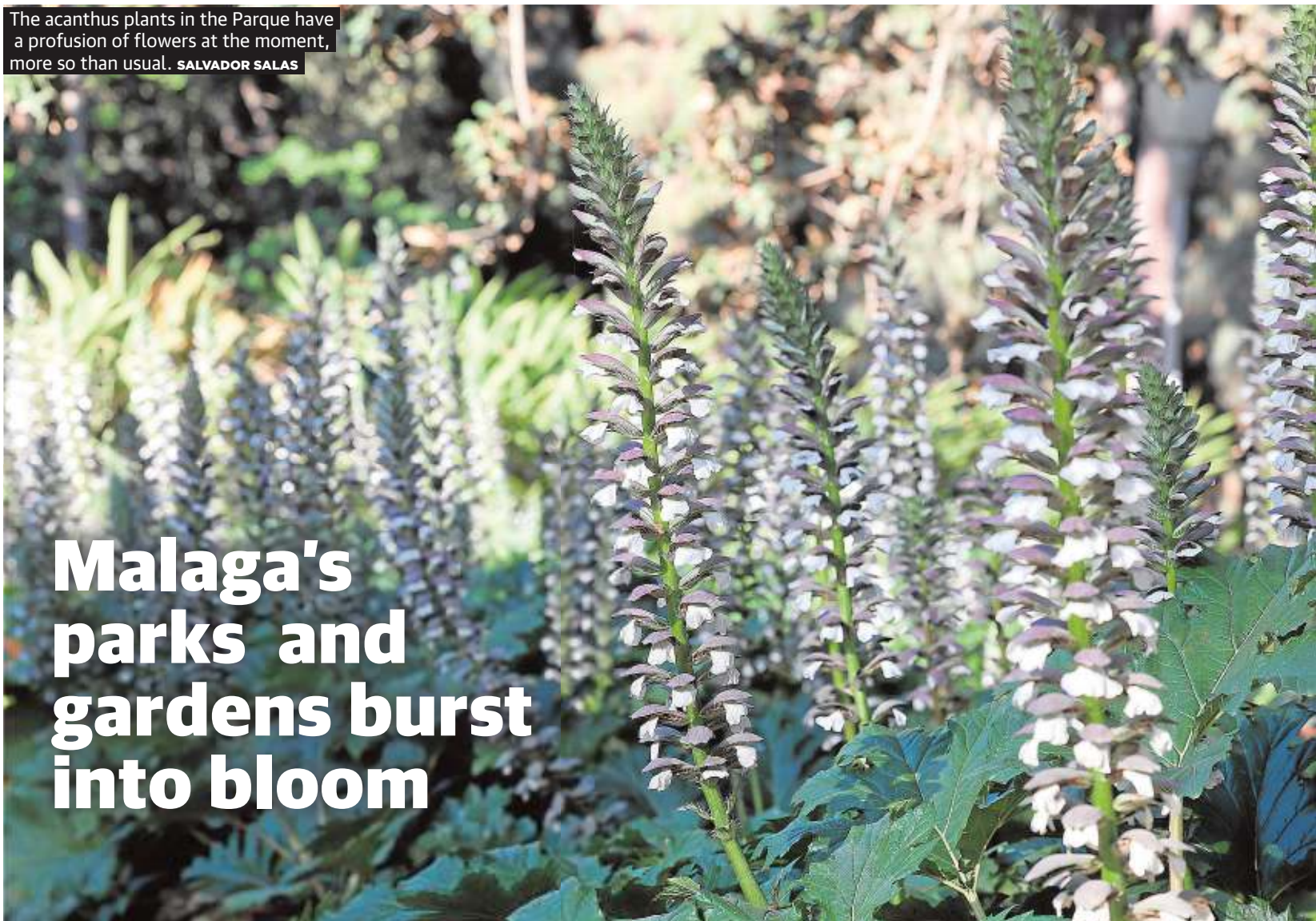
"A lot of elements are needed to create this range of colours in such a short time and the calima provided them," says botanist Enrique Salvo, who is a lecturer at Malaga university. "This flowering, which has happened very quickly, has an extraordinary intensity of colour and for that to happen more than just water and light are needed".

The colours are important, because each one is associated with a group of pollinating insects. White is what beetles and bumblebees see best and they feed, for example, on the large magnolias and end up covered in pollen. The water lilies, one of the most ancient flowers, are also white and can be seen at the moment on several ponds including the one in the university's botanic garden. These plants have an interesting peculiarity which is currently being studied: they have the ability to repel dust.

Order of the colours

The one that Salvo describes as "the queen of flowers", the rose, is also in full splendour at present and there are fine examples all over the city, but especially the rose

The acanthus plants in the Parque have a profusion of flowers at the moment, more so than usual. **SALVADOR SALAS**



Malaga's parks and gardens burst into bloom

Exceptional conditions.
The copious rainfall in March and April, together with the nutrients from the calima, have resulted in a burst of colour and fragrances in all the parks and gardens

IGNACIO LILLO



garden in the Pedro Luis Alonso gardens. This is also one of the most genetically hybrid plants, and nearly 5,000 varieties are known, with different shapes, colours and fragrances. Incidentally, one of those which has won the most awards is called Penny Lane, in honour of the Beatles.

Around the city, but especially in the Plaza de la Merced and the Jardín de los Monos (in La Victoria district), jacarandas are currently covered in violet flowers. Enrique Salvo says this tree symbolises wisdom, which is

why it is often planted on university campuses.

At ground level, the Parque is currently filled with acanthus flowers, a plant whose shape was used for the capitals of Corinthian columns. There are also wallflowers, the wild variety, which grow on natural beaches and are of great interest in a Mediterranean environment because they are precise bio-indicators of environmental quality.

Elsewhere there are wild garlic plants, with their unpleasant fragrance. This is a plant originally

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▼ **Carpet.** The Parque in Malaga has a carpet of different flowers in the shade of the palm trees.

SALVADOR SALAS



▼ **Comandante Benítez.** The statue is framed by the violet flowers of the jacaranda trees.

SALVADOR SALAS



▲ **The queen of flowers.** The roses in the Pedro Luis Alonso gardens are looking fabulous at present.

SALVADOR SALAS



▼ **Puerta oscura.** Another garden ideal for a stroll to admire the flowers.

SALVADOR SALAS



from South Africa, which is one of the few regions on the planet to share the Mediterranean heat.

"In this case, like geraniums and money plants and others from there, wild garlic has adapted perfectly because the climate is almost the same," Salvo explains.

The lilies and St John's lilies, with their bright yellow and orange tones, remind us of the natural flowering order of plants, depending on their colour. The first to flower are, in fact, the yellow ones. Then come white, blue, violet and pink, as spring advances, and this is associated with the insects each plant wants to attract. That's the theory, anyway, because in practice this year the timescale of colours has merged and many plants have flowered at the same time.

The hibiscus, with their wide variety of colours, can be found in many places including La Concepcion garden. These flowers have evolved to the point that their colour changes during the day in order to attract different pollinators.

Thanks to its privileged

climate, Malaga can boast of having plants from all over the planet, starting with the ones which the merchant bourgeoisie of the 19th century cultivated in the Parque and La Concepción garden. Among the most striking is the bauhinia, better-known as the orchid tree due to the shape of its flowers.

"If we look at them under infrared light, we can see that they contain a series of signs to show the insects how to reach the grains of pollen," says Enrique Salvo.

Even without leaving Malaga, there are fruit trees in their wild state to be seen, including apples and, above all, pomegranates.

Salvo says that recent genetic studies of pomegranate trees have shown that the first one to be cultivated in Europe was grown in the village of Casarabonela.

And, of course, there are a multitude of aromatic plants which are used in cooking and for making perfumes, such as sage, thyme, rosemary, lavender, fennel, marjoram, etc.

The summer heat is beginning now in Malaga city, and this explosion of shapes, colours and fragrances will disappear before long. That's why this is the perfect time to take a walk among the parks and gardens and enjoy the spectacular show that Nature has provided for us this year.



The orchid tree is one of the most unusual species in Malaga. SUR

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Tourism concerns

Two further points that Manuel Butler (SUR in English, May 13th) needs to consider in order to increase earnings from tourism and boost sustainability on the Costa del Sol:

First, an important part in the infrastructure that welcomes, supports and attracts British tourists is played by the resident expatriate community. Not only do they provide many services that make tourists feel at home, but also, as consumers, they support the tourist infrastructure all year round. Since Brexit, the bureaucracy in Spain has seemed to delight in inflicting petty inconveniences on British residents; this cannot be in the interest of Spain, particularly on the Costa del Sol.

Second, the municipalities need to explain clearly and publicly what the rules are on waste disposal and make them easy to follow. Even Spanish residents find them confusing and cannot explain them readily to visitors. **DAVID PAUL**

Motorhomes

With reference to your article on campers at Martín Carpena [the sports arena in Malaga], I was unfortunate to be one of those moved on in the night from here; I admit I didn't read the signs.

It was not freeloading, I was having radiotherapy at Carlos Haya hospital as I live an hour inland, this was perfect for me along with the Metro, it couldn't have been better.

I agree there was a rougher element living on there (I'm not a snob), so we were moved on to the Los Patios

area, which is now banning motorhomes, also I think because of the ones living there, but all they've done is blocked the lay-bys around the area and it looks scruffy.

Malaga council are missing revenue here, or Repsol if they own the land, I would willingly pay 2 or 3 or 5 euros for 24 hours parking and also shop in Mercadona or Carrefour.

May I also praise the health service, as I am now cancer-free, thanks to Carlos Haya. Yes, I am resident in Spain, I pay my taxes here and have a Spanish driving licence.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

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The game of the name

Maria and Antonio are, according to the official data, the most common given names in Malaga for females and males respectively. Meanwhile, for newborn babies, Martina and Manuel are currently parents' first choice. All four names listed are more than worthy of their popularity in my opinion, offering, as they do, a sense of reliability and gravitas to the people concerned. Contemplating this rather interesting information over a steaming cup of coffee this morning, I found myself considering the heavy responsibility parents have when bestowing a moniker on their offspring. The name we're given at birth will accompany us for the entirety of our lives - it's no wonder that new parents find themselves knee deep in baby name books, searching frantically for the perfect option.

Most people I know suit their

names but occasionally we'll be thrown a curve ball when being introduced to someone at a party.

"Hi, it's very nice to meet you. My name's Tarquin."

"Nice to meet you, too, Tarquin. Tell me - what's it like working in the media?"

"I've got no idea. I clean sewage systems for a living."

Whatever somebody is called, it inevitably leads to them being pre-judged. If, for example, someone introduces herself as Tabitha you might reasonably expect her to own a random selection of horses and spend her free time air-kissing strangers at dinner parties. In reality, she may well work in the local tyre factory but, quite understandably, that would never be your first guess. Our preconceptions are conditioned by experience and, all too often, reality TV programmes.

That's why if we want to offer

our children the best possible start in life, it's essential they're given good, solid names. Call your son John and he could just as easily turn out to be a plumber or an eye surgeon; nobody is going to stare at him incredulously however he introduces himself. For girls, I would suggest Elizabeth is the best option because, apart from being a beautiful name in itself, it has so many abbreviated versions that your daughter will be able to glide through her days like an enchanted chameleon, changing from Beth to Betty or Ellie to Lizzy whenever the whim takes her.

Of course, if everyone called their children by the same two names, classroom mayhem would soon follow, so you might also want to consider a couple of equally reliable but, at the same time, vaguely exotic choices. Like Maria or Antonio, for example.

PACHI

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THE BOTTOM LINE
ALEKK M. SAANDERS

Eurovision renaissance

This year's Eurovision song contest will definitely go down in history as a revolutionary one, for Spain and the United Kingdom.

Last year's event in Rotterdam was synonymous to "inspiration". After depressive pandemic times, Eurovision 2021 gave us all a wave of joy and hope. This year, at the Eurovision song contest in Turin, inspiration happened again - especially for Spain and the United Kingdom.

Last Saturday, UK and Spain were left in

shock after the nations came in second and third place, respectively. Shock? Because these two countries have got accustomed to finishing at the bottom of the table. For example, last year's UK entry, James Newman, scored a total of zero points from each country's panel of judges, as well as in the public vote. It was the second time in a row that the UK came last in the contest.

The explanation of that disaster was the usual one: the British see this event as a farce. Additionally, the UK's tortuous de-

parture from the European Union was partly considered as an act against Europe, and a united Europe paid them back. Anyway... a year later we saw a new UK at Eurovision. Probably, after Brexit and a year of sobriety, the United Kingdom wanted to declare that the country is still with Europe: on an island but closer than the heartily accepted and quite successful continent of Australia. Incidentally, the jury of this 'sister' country (in comparison to plenty of European ones) didn't give any points to the UK representative, Sam Ryder.

Without Australian support, Sam was in the lead after the jury voting. The country usually has offered some nondescript act with apparently no proper selection criteria. This time it seems that TikTok helped the UK to choose its representative. Particularly during Covid lockdowns the 32-year-old singer from Maldon in Essex shot

to fame online. His Space Man at the contest was really skyrocketing, and managed to bring Eurovision glory to the UK.

It also appears that Spain finally woke up after a long sleep, thanks to Chabel. The Spanish singer of Cuban origin made true "Chabel" sound, and not just as a fashion brand, managing to impress both the jury and the audience. The Spanish act came in third, the country's best result since Lady, Lady by Bravo in 1984.

As we see, for Spain and the UK, it has taken decades to abandon the status of typical Eurovision failures. This year could be called the Eurovision Renaissance of Britain and Spain. Hopefully, this year's success will be repeated and become a tradition. And who knows, probably, Torremolinos will really host Eurovision 2024, of course, if another "Chabel" wins the contest next year.



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IN THE FRAME

The couple making holidays accessible for all

Accessibility. Hannah and Adrian Stone have run Las Piedras in the Axarquía for 20 years, having worked in the care and travel sectors

JENNIE RHODES



Hannah and Adrian Stone have run Las Piedras hotel in Alcaucín, in the Axarquía, for 20 years. The couple, originally from South Wales, came up with the idea of running a hotel catering specifically for wheelchair users and people with learning disabilities, having worked in the care sector and had experience of taking people with restricted mobility away on holiday.

They identified a gap in the holiday market and had seen firsthand the lack of easily accessible accommodation and tourist attractions.

The couple have recently collaborated with the team who organised a bus from Nerja to bring back a group of Ukrainian refugees, hosting them for a week-end when they first arrived and before they went to longer-term accommodation.

The pair had also lived abroad – in fact they met when they were both working at a ski re-

sort in France – so the idea of starting their new venture in a foreign country wasn't an obstacle. Although, despite being "fairly nomadic", as they describe themselves, they didn't know the south of Spain at the time.

Hannah's parents were renting a house in Torrox Pueblo and the couple came to stay. It was while they were there that they started to look around for possible properties. Driving back from a skiing trip to the Sierra Nevada one day, they drove past an old building on the Zafarraya road just outside Alcaucín village. The property in question had been the Hotel Montecarlo and then later Bar Camara but had been abandoned for 15 years.

"Older locals have told us that they remember coming here to dance. We think it was a very communal place for the neighbours in this area as it's outside the village," explain Hannah, 46 and Adrian, 52.



Adrian and Hannah Stone outside Las Piedras hotel. J. RHODES

It took the couple, along with a host of volunteers, one year to get the place ready for their first guests. They had their first bookings at Christmas 2003. "We learned how to build that year. People were staying in tents and lots of beer got drunk," the couple reflected, laughing and in awe of what they managed to achieve. "I was so concerned I couldn't sleep," Adrian says, revealing that this first group was actually the people he had previously worked for in the UK and with whom he had stayed in contact.

Just to add to the pressure, they found out at the same time that Hannah was pregnant with their first child. "We've always

"We'd just done a lot of renovation work to the place, confident that 2020 was looking good in terms of bookings"

been faced with a certain level of challenge," Hannah says, laughing off the situation. The couple now have two teenage children.

Since then the hotel has gone from strength to strength and the company has been able to offer full package holidays, including fully adapted vehicles to pick guests up from the air-

port and organise trips to all of the tourist attractions in the area, from the Alhambra, to city visits and the local beaches. "If there's a festival, or Easter processions, then we'll take people to see them," says Adrian, adding that accessibility has got much better in Spain, as it has in the UK and other parts of the world over the years. "The accessible beach in Torre del Mar is fantastic now," he comments.

Covid-19

Like the rest of the hospitality industry, Covid-19 hit Las Piedras hard. They went from looking forward to a good 2020 with plenty of bookings to none, overnight. "We'd just done a lot of renovation work to the place, confident that 2020 was looking good," the couple explained. They even had guests staying when Spain went into lockdown who they had to help to get back to the UK when their flights were cancelled and nobody knew what was going on.

However, used to the "trials and tribulations" of the industry, the couple adapted to the new situation quickly. Along with another staff member, Hannah started up a catering business, taking home-cooked food to people in the surrounding villages.

When things started to open up again they began offering lunch and afternoon tea at the hotel and continued with the catering. They also opened up the hotel to the mainstream Spanish market.

The couple say they are beginning to see bookings picking up from their original client base and are hoping that things will start to return to normal now that restrictions are being lifted in Spain and the UK.

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◀ **In the dog house.**
Mitch and Kelly locked in
their kennels. **SUR**

Animal charity carers in dog house

A dog's best friend. Two carers at the ACE refuge were locked in kennels for 24-hours to highlight the despair animals experience in confinement

TONY BRYANT



Two volunteers at the ACE dog shelter in La Cala de Mijas came up with a unique idea to raise awareness about the plight of the abandoned animals forced to live shelters. Mitch and Kelly asked to be

locked in kennels at the shelter for 24 hours in order to highlight the despair that millions of dogs and cats that have been abandoned experience while confined to a cage. The lock-in, which was Mitch's

idea, took place last week, when the two animal lovers spent a day in separate cages, with no home comforts other than a blanket, a bucket and toilet roll, and a bowl from which to eat, although they did enjoy the luxury of a spoon. Mitch, who is from Belgium, and Kelly, from Rotterdam, usually finish their duties around 5pm, but on this particular day, the couple were locked up for the night with the animals.

Loneliness and boredom

Kelly said that what struck her most was the "silence" when her colleagues had gone home, something the "animals endure every day". "Loneliness, boredom and longing for attention, this is what the animals experience day after day. For me it was only 24 hours,

but who knows how long for them? It really brings you down to earth," Kelly explained to SUR in English.

The ordeal certainly struck a chord with animal lovers, because by the time the couple were released from their confinement, their plight had raised more than 7,500 euros to help ACE feed and look after the hundreds of abandoned and unwanted animals currently in their care.

"I wanted to raise people's awareness about the confinement suffered by the millions of dogs that have been abandoned and are now in shelters. The way that animals, even after all the turmoil and pain of being abandoned, still keep daring to hope for something better is truly a miracle. Something we humans can learn a lot from," Mitch said.

Fabienne Paques, the president of the charity - which since it was founded in 1999, has rehoused more than 13,000 dogs and cats - praised the two volunteers for their "dedication" to the plight of confined animals.

"No animal is born to be locked up in a cage. We are all free souls, and the ones who take them under their wing should love and protect them for life. Dogs that were once loved by their owners but, for whatever reason, were unceremoniously dumped, now spend their lives behind bars competing for every bit of attention they can get from a volunteer or carer," she declared.

Expat community saddened after Age Care "force of nature" dies

T. BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The expat community in the Fuengirola/Mijas area have been saddened by the death of Carol Frost, a popular British expat who died on Sunday.

Well-known for her charitable and caring nature, Carol was one of the longest serving members of Age Concern, the charity for which she volunteered her skills as treasurer for more than seven years.

Born in Torquay in 1942, Carol spent most of her life in London, although she moved to Fuengirola in 1985.

After retiring, Carol and her husband, David, joined Age Concern in 2015.

Described by friends as a "force of nature and friend to all", her phenomenal work ethic steered the charity safely through the pandemic.



Carol Frost, 1942 - 1922. **SUR**

Adintre swings open its doors to inform the public of its services

T.B.

FUENGIROLA. Adintre, the Fuengirola-based charity that operates a soup kitchen in conjunction with the Red Cross, will host a series of open days from Wednesday 25 until Saturday 28 May to inform the public of the services it offers to the local community.

Founded in 2001 by Joyce Gyimah, Adintre provides assistance to needy families in the Fuengirola/Mijas area.

Joyce, who was recognised for her tireless work during the Gala de Voluntariado 'Rocio Alfaro' in Fuengirola on Monday, rallied the support of the local community during the pandemic, and she is now also helping many Ukrainian families who have arrived in the area since the war began.



Exclusive Auction House MOGHdami

The renowned **AUCTION-HOUSE-MOGHDAMI** in Marbella is used to a full room, but now the majority of the bids come via the internet.

Instead of 200 people, only about 20 now sit in the room at **AUCTION-HOUSE-MOGHDAMI**. Auctioneer Dirk Boll sits at the front, surveying the proceedings.

In the back of the room, bids are taken in the traditional way over the telephone. What looks like a reduced audience is deceptive - most of the bidding now takes place online. During the four-day auction, the auction house expects up to 3,000 bidders, via internet alone.

For the **AUCTION-HOUSE-MOGHDAMI**, internet bidders are nothing new. In addition to room bids and telephone bids, the auctioneer has been accepting bids via the Internet for a long time. However, due to the Corona Virus, many more people are registering online than usual. Bidders from the USA, China, Australia and Russia are among them. "This can take a lot of preparation", he says. "We have a specialist teams who looks after the technical side," explains the manager.

The screening of new customers alone takes a lot of time. "There are new customers who want




a high limit of between a quarter of a million up to 1 million euro, and we have to run through checks," says the manager. "We check whether other auction houses can provide a reference or whether securities can be transferred in advance".

But purely virtual participation, in an auction, is also demanding for the bidders. Especially the assessment of how much someone should bid is not easy. That is why the company only auction objects in top condition, with a certificate of authenticity and a recognised expert's certificate. Dirk Boll observes that Corona has not harmed


the desire to buy. "On the contrary, people are willing to spend money. But what is missing is the atmosphere. Before, we would have had 200-250 people, from all over the world, here for an auction of these characteristics. That is lively and also exciting for the auctioneer. The shift to the internet makes the atmosphere less electrifying."

But there are still duels among the bidders via the internet. The signal for a new bid sounds every second. A hand-knotted Persian Nain Habibian silk carpet is auctioned for 115,000 €, a stamp "Rayon One" for 130,000 €, etc.





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DENISE BUSH

READERS' PHOTOS



MARÍA HILLEN

Floral cover-up

Mandevilla boliviensis or white dipladenia is a woody-stemmed vine native to Bolivia and Ecuador. The photo above was sent in by María Hillen who says she planted it to cover the pipework to an air-conditioning unit.



ANN PENNINGTON

Arabic influences

This photo of this property belonging to reader Ann Pennington has a distinctive Al Andalus feel and this is enhanced by the garden planted with drought defying yuccas, jacarandas and palm trees.

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
Golden alyssum

Aurinia saxatilis (synonym A. saxatile) is a carpet-forming perennial native to Asia and Europe where it is found growing on rocky outcrops and in poor soils. It is a member of the Brassicaceae family (cabbage) and will light up your garden with glowing yellow flowers from mid to late spring.

Reaching between 15 to 30cm high, it will form a spreading mound of grey-green foliage up to 45cm across. Common names include golden alyssum (the flowers resemble those of alyssum), golden-tuft madwort and basket of gold. Golden alyssum is drought-resis-

tant once established and needs a free-draining soil; overwatering is the biggest danger with this plant. A good location would be a spot where it receives plenty of sun in the morning but some shade in the afternoon. It does not grow well in humid environments.

Its mounding habit makes it ideal for rock gardens, planting on slopes and in containers and raised beds where it can cascade over the side. The bright panicles of flowers are a significant source of nectar for pollinating insects and will be produced for around four to six weeks.

Although cutting back after flowering will keep it compact, it is not really necessary, neither is fertiliser as it thrives in poor soils.

The seeds produced after flowering has finished may self-sow around the garden and can be used to create more plants by sowing in the autumn. Tip cuttings taken in spring can also be used to produce new plants.

There are several cultivars: A. saxatilis Variegata has striking grey-green leaves edged with cream and grows up to 22cm high and the variety Citrinum has lovely lemon-yellow flowers and can reach up to 45cm tall.

A smaller form is A. saxatilis Compactum, a dwarf variety which may only grow to 20cm tall.



Aurinia saxatilis and close-up of flowers (inset). WIKIMEDIA/FICKR

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

20 MAY 2018

World Bee Day is celebrated for the first time

The Beekeepers' Association of Malaga marks the occasion with series of events at the honey museum in Colmenar

The first celebration of World Bee Day took place on 20 May 2018, having been unanimously approved by the United Nations General Assembly in New York in December 2017.

The day was adopted to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development.

The idea first came about in September 2014 when the president of the Slovenian beekeepers' association,

Boštjan Noč, was listening to the radio.

"A world day was mentioned and I found myself wondering why there wasn't a world day dedicated to bees, given the fact that every third bite we consume depends on bees and they have become increasingly endangered," he explains on the World Bee Day website (worldbeeday.org).

"At least once a year, the world should be made aware that there would be no life without bees,"

Noč goes on to say.

He proposed 20 May, the anniversary of the birth of a teacher of modern apiculture, Anton Janša.

Noč's proposal got the approval of the EU and then the UN and three and a half years later, World Bee Day



A guided visit to an apiary organised by Colmenar's honey museum. E. C.

was established.

Malaga is home to many beekeepers and is well-known for its wide variety of honeys, which include avocado, rosemary and chestnut.

The Association of Beekeepers in Malaga has created a seal of quality for Malaga honey so that the origin, quality and prop-

erties are guaranteed to the consumer.

The University of Malaga has organised events in previous years to mark World Bee Day, including presentations and workshops on beekeeping.

This year, the Malaga Beekeepers Association is organising various activities on 22 May in

LANGUAGE
FOOTNOTE

Abeja	Bee
Apicultura	Beekeeping
Apicultor(a)	Beekeeper
Miel	Honey
Colmenar	Apiary
Colmena	Beehive
Sostenible	Sustainable
Desarrollo	Development
Consumir	To consume
Aguacate	Avocado
Romero	Rosemary
Castaña	Chestnut
Calidad	Quality
Taller	Workshop
Medioambiente	Environment
Concienciar	To raise awareness

the Axarquía village of Colmenar, whose name means 'apiary'. There will be competitions, workshops and other entertainment. The village is home to the Museo de la Miel (honey museum) and the headquarters of the association.

For information about Malaga honey, and World Bee Day visit: www.mieldemalaga.com.

Bilingual crossword inside back page



Protest in Madrid in 2020 over bee populations. EFE

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EXHIBITIONS

Art Gaucín

GAUCÍN. 27-29 May, 3-5 June, 11am-7pm.

This will be the 16th open studios, after a two-year break due to the pandemic, and 20 artists are involved. A wide range of work and paintings, sculpture, photography and ceramics will be on display. A map of Gaucín showing locations of the studios will be available at the tourist office in Gaucín, at bars and restaurants and in artists' studios.

La Pasarela

MÁLAGA. 20 May, from 6.30pm.

Fashion E-Business School, Avda. Juan Sebastián Elcano 125.

A fashion show by the Fashion E-Business School will include different styles and trends reflecting modern designs as well as from the 60s. Call or email for an invitation: 632371237 / infoscuelaturismo.com.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MÁLAGA.

Phil Frost Until 22 May. The American artist Phil Frost is exhibiting for the first time in Europe. Plotting Upon the Passage of Time consists of a selection of paintings on canvas, wood and reclaimed doors, which have been produced over the course of his career from 1997 to the present day.

MUSIC AND DANCE

La Cochera Cabaret

MÁLAGA. Avda de los Guindos.

20 May, 10pm. Sonido Internacional

21 May, 9pm. Raúl Nuñez.

22 May, 8pm. Julia Medina.

Tickets: www.lacocheraentradas.com/

La Posada

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

20 May. Dani Harp & Willy Preacher

27 May. Rosa Ruiz & Foki.

www.tallerblues.es

Museum concerts

MÁLAGA. Free.

Museo Carmen Thyssen.

27 May, 7pm. Escolanía Orfeón Universitario de Málaga.

Louie Louie Bar

ESTEPONA. Estepona port.

20 May 11pm. Extremoduro tribute group Deltó.

Aromas of poetry and music fill the streets of Vélez-Málaga

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

The three events will feature recitals from local and national poets as well as live performances from local bands

JENNIE RHODES

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. From this evening, Friday 20 May, and into June, Vélez-Málaga will be hosting Damas de Noche - Aromas of poetry and Music in the street'.

The name of the outdoor poetry and music event is inspired by the aromatic night blooming jasmine, which flowers at this time of year.

In total, there will be three dates, the first of which will take place on Plaza de La Constitución this evening, Friday 20 May, starting at 8.30pm.

The event will feature the poet Juan José Téllez, who has also worked as a journal-



Luis Garcá Montero will be participating in the poetry recitals. EFE

ist on numerous newspapers and written several short story books as well as poetry. The author has won a number of awards for his work.

He will be accompanied by local authors Cristina Cobo Hervás and Juan A. Molina Gómez and live music will also be provided by Dúo Takiq.

The second date will be Thursday 2 June, with the participation of Juan Manuel

Villalba, who recently published his poetry collection.

The final reading will be with one of Spain's most well-known national poets, Luis García Montero, who is president of the Cervantes Institute. The date and venue is still to be confirmed. The events will be accompanied by live music from local groups. For further information visit the town hall website: www.velezmalaga.es.

20 May, 1am. We Are Not DJs.

21 May, 9.30pm. The KP Band.

21 May, 12am. Algeciras band El Flaco.

21 May, 1am. DJ Le Fox.

www.louielouierockbar.com/

Rob Sas

ESTEPONA. 21 May, 18 June, 10pm.

Upstairs Melodía, Benavista.

Rob Sas is a veteran musician and singer of British Rock of the 80s and has played alongside the John Coghlan Band (ex Status Quo); Nick Simper (Deep Purple) and Lindsay Bridgewater (Ozzy Osbourne) among others. He has just returned from touring the UK with his Deeper Purple band.

Christy's Irish Gastro Pub

FUENGIROLA. Every Thursday. C/Ollería.

20 May 8.30pm. Rogues in Brogues, traditional Irish music. More info on



Café del Mundo, Nerja

Facebook or call: 655 896 698

Bennie & The Jet

FUENGIROLA. 21 May, 7.30pm. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipation.

The Zing Dúo present a tribute to Sir

Elton John. Tickets from salonvarietes.com or 952474542

Cathedral organ concerts

MÁLAGA. 25 May, 2, 9 June, 8pm. Málaga Cathedral. Free.

Three concerts covering a wide repertoire of Spanish and European music.

La Térmica

MÁLAGA. 20 May. Gardens of La Térmica.

2-4pm. Funk and disco from the 70s and 80s as well as jazz, Hip Hop and R&B by DJ La Vida de Jaime.

9-11pm. DJ El Cuerpo de Disco holds a Boogie Session.

Carmen Thyssen Museum concerts

MÁLAGA. 22 May, 12pm. Museo Carmen Thyssen.

Students from the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Málaga will be

in concert to celebrate the Día Internacional de los Museos.

Alameda festival

MÁLAGA. 20-21 May. La Amarguilla Industrial Estate, Alameda.

The festival will include bands such as Green Valley, Antilopez, El Duende Caballero, SFDK, Juanito Makandé, Mala Rodríguez and El Canijo de Jerez among many others. Camping is free. Tickets: www.wegow.com More information: www.alamedafestival.com

Oh See! Málaga

MÁLAGA. 20-21 May. Auditorio Municipal de Málaga Cortijo de Torres.

Málaga's Indie festival takes place over two days. Full details of bands and activities, ticket sales etc: www.ohseemalaga.com

Los Seres de Mar

NERJA. 28 May, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.

Elisa Urrestarazu saxophonist and Cornelia Lenzin, pianist, dedicate their music to women composers such as Amy Beach's Berceuse; Paule Maurice's Tableaux de Provence, inspired by Provençal folk music and Ida Gotkovsky's Brilliance. Tickets from the Casa de Cultura or email: villadenerja@nerja.es

Café del Mundo

ANDALUCÍA. Various venues.

26 May, 9.30pm. Hotel El Palacio Santa Paula, Granada. Tickets from Festival Discos, C/Príncipe 7 (Plaza Bib-Rambla).

27 May, 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja, Nerja. www.mientrada.net www.ticketentradas.com

Break Dance

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. 21 May, 7pm. Plaza de la Constitución.

Un Show de la Calle includes performances and workshops on break dance and graffiti. Entry free.

Eboni Quintet Klezmer

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 26 May. Cultural space Museo de Vélez-Málaga, MVVEL.

A concert to commemorate Los Gálvez de Macharaviaya. mvvel@velezmalaga.es

Dance show

MARBELLA. 28 May, 8.30pm. Las Mariposas.

REA Danza collective will perform 'El Paradisum', representing the inner passions of various characters from



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FLAMENCO

Flamenco in Progress

TORROX. Teatro Municipal Villa de Torrox.

22 May, 7pm. Rocío Márquez and Bronquio - Tercer Cielo.

Tickets 5€: www.mientrada.net

Flamenco show

ESTEPONA. 20 May, 9.30pm. Peña Flamenca de Estepona, C/ Fuerzas Armadas.

A flamenco show with vocals by Fabiola Santiago, dancers Vanesa Ramírez and José Ruiz and percussion José Fernández. For more information and bookings call 952803183 or 683141136.

THEATRE AND OPERA

Thespa

FUENGIROLA. 25 May, 7.30pm.

Masonic Hall, Edificio Bougainvillea, Los Boliches.

The first performance will be a famous monologue from "Shirley Valentine" performed by guest, Sheila Mellor, from International Theatre Studio. Followed by a two-course meal. Then "Sea View Suite", a short play written by a Thespa member, Michael Edwards. Bookings: thespa-booking@gmail.com
Information call: 604174300



Il Trovatore, Malaga

10th edition of the popular Ruta del Rock gets under way in Torremolinos

TORREMOLINOS

The six-day live music festival will present more than 40 bands at various bars, restaurants and hotels in town

TONY BRYANT

Torremolinos will become the epicentre of live music this weekend, when the 10th edition of the Ruta del Rock gets under way.

Organised by the cultural department of the town hall and the Friends of Jammin Cultural Association Torremolinos, the six-day live music festival will present more than 40 bands and singers - ten of which are from Torremolinos - at various bars, restaurants and hotels in town.

A wide variety of musical genres will be represented, including soul, funk, reggae, jazz, pop, rock and flamenco

The twice-yearly music festival has gained momentum since it began in 2015, and this edition will present more bands than ever before, while nine more venues will participate in the initiative.

Among the venues participating in this edition of the

festival are Bar Amsterdam, Restaurante Colonia, Cervecería Twister, Branigans Pub, El Caballo Andaluz, The Galloping Major and the Hotel Barracuda.

Indoor and alfresco gigs

The festival gives bars and restaurants a chance to promote live music without the usual shackles of the entertainment laws. Bar owners can opt for the concerts to be held inside their establishments, or alfresco on their terraces.

The festival will be held from Friday (today) until Sunday 22 May between 5pm and 10pm, and will continue the following weekend at the same time.

Performance times are staggered in order to give music fans the chance to enjoy the different acts on the route.

Some of the province's most popular bands will perform on the circuit, which will incorporate establishments in the town centre, Carihuela, Playamar, Los Álamos and Bajondillo.

These will include Antonio Manzanera, who performs music associated with his father, Mazanita, one of Malaga's most celebrated Rumba singers; and The Silver Beats, a tribute to The Beatles.

Many musicians from the



El Trio del Saco will perform at the Ruta del Rock festival. SUR

local expat music circuit will perform at the festival, including Suzette Moncrief, one of the coast's most renowned singers of soul, jazz and rock.

Others will include the celebrated guitarist and singer, Switch; and the Soul Sisters, a trio from Benalmádena who reproduce the hits of some of soul and Motown's most formidable performers.

These will be joined by Malaga rockers, The Money

Makers, a group that performs music from the 1950s to present day; Stereo 80, a tribute to the groups of the eighties, including The Police, Bon Jovi, Queen and Guns N' Roses; and El Trio del Saco, a powerful rock and blues outfit celebrated for their renditions of Jimmy Hendrix and Gary Moore classics.

For a full schedule of the festival, see www.torremolinocultura.es

Il Trovatore

MALAGA. 27 May. Teatro Cervantes. Verdi's Il Trovatore with baritone Juan Jesús Rodríguez, the Orquesta Filarmónica de Málaga and the Coro de Ópera de Málaga (choir). Tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com

CHARITY

Run for epilepsy

MALAGA. 22 May, 10am from Puerto de Málaga. The EpikTour Málaga 2022, 'Ponle Fin Al Estigma' (put an end to the

stigma) is organised by the Spanish Epilepsy Federation, will cover a distance of five kilometres and will be connected by a video link to virtual races of 5 and 10kms, elsewhere in Spain. Registration and more information: <https://fedeepilepsia.com/>

Concert for Pat's Rescue

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. 21 May, 7pm. La Risa Lauro Golf. 10€ With Roy Potter (Frank Sinatra) and guests. Tickets from Pat's Rescue Retreat shop, Papelería Cristina or call: 683422464

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CHARITY

Raising funds for Dementia support group
FUENGIROLA. 24 May, 7pm. Occidental Hotel. 25€.
An evening of clairvoyance with spiritualist medium Steve Holbrook. Tickets: +44 7979145353 or +34 610774408

FIESTAS AND FERIAS

Romería San José
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 21, 22 May.
The annual Romería starts with mass in honour of San José in the church in Triana, the procession will then head to Finca Ponderosa. The romería finishes at midnight with a the traditional Salve Rociera with the Coro Romero de El Trapiche followed by a concert by María Cortés.

Romería San Isidro
CAMPANILLAS. 22 May.
There will be a traditional procession of decorated wagons, horses and their riders, from 10am leaving from the Portales de la Victoria and arriving at Calle Budapest around midday. The town hall has arranged various activities including choirs, live music and dancing. There will also be several competitions with cash prizes.

Feria de Primavera
ANTEQUERA. 26-29 May.
The annual agricultural fair returns this year with pure-breed goat competitions, cheesemaking and tasting

as well as a gastronomy fair with products from in and around Antequera. There will also be live music, bars and lots of riders and their horses.

Ronda Romántica
RONDA. 26-29 May.
Processions, children's activities, horse shows, music and dancing and a bull fight with Javier Orozco mark the return of the traditional festival which takes Ronda back to the era of bandits, muleteers and romantic travellers. www.rondaromantica.net.

JUBILEE EVENTS

Jubilata Food Festival
GIBRALTAR. 2 June, 6pm. Various venues.
Each venue between Theatre Royal Park and Campion Park will have food stalls. Entry to the festival is free, but tickets in advance are cheaper: the entire eight courses including a special Royal cocktail for £30. www.BuyTickets.gi. Vegan also available. Contact: Instagram: @CalentitaFood; Facebook: /Calentita Festival

Jubilee street party for APAA
FRIGILIANA. 28 May, from 2pm. Splash Bar. Tickets 10€.
Food, drinks and stalls as well as activities to raise funds for APAA animal charity. Free glass of cava on arrival.

Jubilee Party In The Park



Ronda Romántica

MIJAS. 5 June, from noon. Butibamba park.
Performances from Uncle John's Disco, Laura Ellen, Paige Lefley, the Costa Soul Singers, Drang Drummers, Stagecoach and A Touch of Class among others. Ration books (for cake) available from the Lion's Shop in Mijas. People are encouraged to wear clothing from the 50s and 60s.

Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch
RIOGORDO. 5 June, 2-6pm. El Otro bistro and bar, C/Virgen de Gracia.
El Otro in association with the AAR animal refuge are hosting a traditional English buffet lunch with entertainment by Miss Fortune. Tickets 15€ booked in advance from El Otro Ríogordo or at the AAR stall at Trapiche Market.

Jubilee Afternoon Tea
NERJA. 5 June, 3pm. The Beer Garden, Avda Mediterráneo. 12€.
The afternoon tea will raise funds for the CAS animal charity. It will include homemade sandwiches and cakes and unlimited tea and coffee. Live music. Tickets from the CAS shop.

Cudeca Jubilee lunch
FUENGIROLA. 2 June, 12.30pm.
Vinea restaurant, Paseo Marítimo Rey de España, Los Boliches. 20€.
The event includes a three-course lunch with vegetarian option and entertainment from A Touch of Class. 5€ from each ticket goes to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. Reservations: 951 530 498 / 653916588 / 619444184

Jubilee street party
CÁRTAMA ESTACIÓN. 5 June, from 1pm until 5pm.
The TAPAS choir will be performing as will Helen Rush and Bobby Bergquist. Prize raffle and 1950s-theme quiz. People are encouraged to wear fifties style fashion. A percentage of funds will go to the FAHALA centre and to Ukraine Aid.

MORE IDEAS

Gibraltar Museum open day
GIBRALTAR. 21 May, from 10am.
The Gibraltar National Museum is holding an Open Day to celebrate re-opening of the museum and International Museum Day. A range of activities include face-painting and a treasure hunt as well as a 'historical' fancy-dress competition. Entrants for the fancy dress need to register before 12.30pm on the day.

Theatrical English Cemetery Tour
MÁLAGA. 27 May, 6pm, 7.30pm. 10€
Hear about the history of this fascinating monument and some of the stories of those who are buried there. Tickets: info@eventosconhistoria.com, call: 667428233 or sending a Bizum to 674022580. More information: www.eventosconhistoria.com

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SUR in English advises calling cine-

mas to check for any last-minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor
MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness: 13.30, 16.15 (Sun); 19.00, 21.45 (Fri-Sun); 19.30 (Tues); 20.30 (Mon).
Operation Mincemeat: 12.35 (Sun); 19.45 (Tue).
Northman: 19.15 (Tues).
The Outfit: 17.15 (every day).
Copshop: 22.05 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón
RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness: 19.00 (Fri, Sun); 19.30 (Tues); 20.30 (Mon, Thurs).
Operation Mincemeat: 19.40 (Tues).
The Outfit: 20.10 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia
MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
X: 21.55 (Tues).
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness: 12.15, 17.15 (Sun); 16.45 (Sat); 17.20 (Fri, Wed); 19.30 (Tues); 20.00 (Fri, Sun, Wed).
Operation Mincemeat: 12.30 (Sun); 19.50 (Tues).
The Northman: 22.05 (every day except Thurs).
The Outfit: 19.40 (Tues); 21.50 (Fri, Mon, Wed); 22.35 (Sat, Sun).
Copshop: 22.25 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar
FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.
Operation Mincemeat: 12.00, 16.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.50 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
The Outfit: 12.00, 15.50 (Sat, Sun), 17.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
Copshop: 12:20, 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.10 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
Doctor Strange: 12.00, 16.00, 18.35, 21.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.45, 19.25, 22.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
Downton Abbey: 12.05, 17.00 (every day).
The Purple Rose of Cairo: 20.00 (Tues).
A Few Good Men: 20.00 (Thurs).

Cinesur Ingenio
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.
Operation Mincemeat: 12.05, 16.30, 16.45 (every day)
Copshop: 12.30, 15.4, 16.50 (every day).
The Outfit: 12.20, 16.00, 17.00 (every day).
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness: 20.40, 21.20 (every day)

Cinesa
MARBELLA. La Cañada Commercial Centre.
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness: 12.30 (Sat, Sun); 21.30 (Fri, -Wed); 20.10 (Mon-Wed).
Operation Mincemeat: 21.45 (Mon-Wed).
Copshop: 16.05 (Mon-Wed).
Firestarter: 15.45 (Mon-Wed).
Top Gun: Maverick: 18.30, 21.40 (Thurs).

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What you up to?

Listening to Viewpoint on TRE it's getting heated

What they talking about?

Ukraine of course, you should join the debate

BTW tune into the Lawyer later – I sent in a question re Spanish Wills

Oh good, I'll listen out for it

Did you hear the Citizens Advice Bureau on Post-Brexit issues last week?

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COSTA DEL SOL

If you had asked me a few years ago about travelling by petsitting, living in people's homes, while housesitting like a friend, I wouldn't have believed you. Now I can't travel any other way. That's how much I enjoy this form of travel. It's friendly, it's safe, I get to care for lovely pets and I have also made some terrific friends along the way.

Housesitting in exchange for free accommodation

My name is Lamia Walker, and I was once a corporate executive, with an expense account, business meetings that enabled me to travel and stay in hotels around the world.

Having been a pet owner and homeowner myself, I used to find it a challenge to organise pet care and housesitters to live in my home

for security whenever we went on holiday as a family.

Then a friend from Australia told me about housesitting for strangers. She looks after their home, pets and garden for free while they were away, sometimes for up to six months at a time! In exchange, they offer free accommodation. It's an exchange of services or good old-fashioned barter!

HOW TO JOIN

Register online:
www.Housesitmatch.com

Safe and secure

It occurred to me as she was talking that in the years I searched for paid petsitters, and housesitters to care for my home, I could have organised something similar.

So, I started Housesitmatch.com but added ID and police checking of all the house and petsitters who registered. We also ask homeowners to do an ID check to keep our network safe and secure. My feeling is that if I use the network, and I feel safe, then all our clients will feel safe too.

Travelling by housesitting?

Ever thought of using your home or pet care experience to help you travel? You too can exchange your experience for free accommodation, by housesitting while the owners are away. Such exchanges are organised through our Housesitmatch.com online network.

Housesitter Bragi

Bragi, a security guard from Iceland, started housesitting when

he turned 60, as a way to escape the winters in his country, and in preparation for retirement. He loves to visit warmer climates.

What does it cost?

The housesitters care for the pets and home for free; in exchange they stay in the owner's home without paying rent. They pay for their own travel to get to the sit and for their own upkeep. It's a fair exchange. There is a small annual registration fee.

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What makes HouseSitMatch unique?

We are a managed site and facilitate police and background checks. It helps us maintain a high bar for online safety.

Trustpilot testimonials give HouseSitMatch 4.8 out of 5: "excellent rating".



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THURSDAY 26, "ALEJADOS"
"LOS REBUJITOS", FRIDAY 27
SATURDAY 28, "JUANLU MONTOYA"
"MARISOL BIZCOCHO", SUNDAY 29



Warning signs

ANDREW J. LINN



Do we choose restaurants for the wrong reasons? Although we have access to reliable restaurant guides, it is still normal to wander from one doorway to another, reading the menus posted outside. Deciding to eat in an establishment based on such cursory investigation is probably the worst method of choosing.

There are restaurants that prepare the dishes in their kitchens, and those that farm out all the preparatory work, so the published menu is no indication of what to expect. We would be shocked if we could see inside the 'kitchens'.

Most are little more than machine rooms with fridges, freezers, microwaves, plate warmers and washing-up ap-

pliances.

The actual cooking areas are almost non-existent.

The freezers are the main feature, as these store the packs of flash-frozen, ready-cooked, dishes that many restaurants and fast-food places rely upon.

A good restaurant should have a single page menu featuring something like four sal-

ads, two soups, four or five appetisers, eight main courses and five desserts.

When we come across vast menus with dozens of choices, we need to start worrying.

Not even the most capable chefs can work with a 50-item menu, regardless of the size of the work force, so the conclusion must be that the food is not freshly cooked, or not cooked on site; ('dark kitchens' come to mind).

Multiple fried dishes is also a give-away, as even in the best places these may have been prepared months in advance.

Nor should we applaud fast service, as nothing happens quickly in the best kitchens.

When we come across a vast menu with dozens of choices we need to start worrying

WINE OF THE WEEK

Bodega 202 Crianza 2007

Despite what some wineries would like us to believe, classic Riojas have never gone out of fashion. This fine example will not load the glass with wood taste, rather that of fruit, and just the right touch of minerality.

Around 14 euros



A Malaga sandwich wins over the French

Typical local food. A Costa-del-Sol-born entrepreneur is opening two restaurants in Bourg-en-Bresse and Modane after his success with a food truck in the Alps

JUAN SOTO

The 'campero', a popular sandwich in bars across Malaga province, has jumped the Pyrenees and seduced the French public thanks to a local entrepreneur who has turned this grilled bun, typically filled with cooked ham, cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise, into a way to earn his living.

The entrepreneur in question is Daniel Rojas, who emigrated to France from Malaga with his parents while very young and was not willing to give up a link with his homeland. Rojas is based in Saint-Michel-de-Maurienne, a small village in the Alps where he runs a food truck, and is about to open two restaurants in the towns of Bourg-en-Bresse and Modane.

The business adventure of this Malaga native began in 2017

when he opened the food truck in a village popular with skiers. Little by little his fame spread thanks to word of mouth and he is now planning to expand to nearby towns.

The first physical location of Campero's (the company name) is scheduled to open this month in Bourg-en-Bresse, a town known throughout the world for its many Michelin stars. The second one will open in July in Modane, on the Italian border.

But Daniel doesn't want to stop there and would like to conquer the whole of France: Paris, Cannes....

Expansion after Covid

Originally, the company started out as Paco Campero, but the entrepreneur decided to change the



The restaurant on wheels is in Saint-Michel-de-Maurienne. **SUR**

The first physical location of Campero's will open this month in Bourg-en-Bresse. The second will open in July in Modane

name after it was forced to close by the pandemic, and he began thinking of extending the brand through a franchise. The restaurant that will open during July will be run by a franchisee (the chef he had in Saint-Michel-de-Maurienne before closing due to Covid).

Daniel Rojas recognises that the great leap that the company is going to make was cooked-up during the pandemic; time that

this professional took advantage of to study and improve the recipe of his products. Now - he says - eating a campero in his place is almost the same as doing it in any bar in Malaga, although the views are not the same.

The opening of his first physical premises has also encouraged him to expand the menu and offer other typical Malaga products, such as baked potatoes, molletes and tapas. He has even bought a traditional oven from a craftsman in Jaén. As if that were not enough, the first establishment will be crowned with Malaga, Andalusian and Spanish flags.

Of the camperos, he says that it is a product that everyone who tries it likes. "Many people think we cook pizzas, but when they come in and stay, they go home very happy. Daniel takes the time to explain to customers the history of the sandwich and of his hometown. "In France there is no one else who makes them," he boasts.

Without blushing, he explains that the French "go crazy when they try it". He especially recalls a visit last year by a woman who has a very popular cooking blog in France and who said the campero was a marvel for the taste buds. "Here they make a lot of hamburgers, kebabs and paninis, but people are tired of always eating the same thing and are discovering a part of Malaga," says Daniel.



Charity walk raises 26,000 euros for suicide prevention

Hundreds across the Costa del Sol and Gibraltar showed support for Darkness into Light, an initiative supporting people struggling with mental health and suicide

LILY FARRANT

MALAGA. The Darkness into Light charity walks held earlier this month have been hailed a great success by organisers. Over 580 people across the Costa del Sol and Gibraltar laced up their walking boots and raised 26,000 euros. The money will be donated to Pieta, an Ireland-based organisation supporting those in suicidal distress or engaging in self-harm.

The walks begin before dawn and end as the sun rises, representing hope and support for people struggling with mental health or suicide.

Last year, Darkness into Light raised €7,500,000 internationally

for 30 mental health charities in different parts of the world.

Representatives of the organisation explained that they have noticed a huge shift in awareness regarding mental health, possibly because the pandemic has made the past few years especially difficult. They said that suicide rates have risen at a devastating rate, but that there are efforts to support those in need, emphasising that no one should suffer alone.

Increased support

The global Darkness into Light campaign is influencing an increase in mental health care and suicide prevention services. On the Costa del Sol there have been some impressive advances.

The Cicerón programme at the Costa del Sol hospital was launched in 2020 to offer intervention through specific psychotherapy. They also provide intensive follow-ups for patients who exhibit suicidal behaviour, guaranteeing continued care after discharge and helping the early detection of sui-

cidal tendencies. In addition, psychological support is offered to survivors (the relatives of those who have died by suicide).

Estepona town hall has facilitated the creation of a day centre for those with mental health issues. Soon, this will be staffed by Darkness into Light's charity partner on the Costa, Afesol Salud Mental, who will help run a suicide prevention clinic. They also offer suicide prevention services and support for those affected by suicide

in La Cala de Mijas, as well as general mental health care.

The government recently announced a new 024 national suicide helpline available throughout all of Spain, to all nationalities. This is an important step, as representatives of Darkness into Light explain that suicide had not been properly addressed by the government previously.

Praise


Cathy Drummond, from Pieta in

Dublin, praised Darkness into Light's work, telling the story of a young man who had planned to end his life, but with support from the initiative, decided not to.

"As far as I'm concerned, that's it. It has literally saved someone's life and hearing that just made me so thankful to be a part of this movement," she said, adding that "We'll never know how many people Darkness into Light impacts like that young man, but I'm sure there are many, many others."



Darkness into Light charity walkers on the Costa del Sol on the beach at dawn. **SUR**



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The liver cries for help. Poor diet now causes more hepatic damage in Spain than alcohol abuse

FERMÍN
APEZTEGUIA



The evidence that our diet is poorer than before is growing day by day. One of the latest to come to light is to do with the worsening functioning of the liver, which is an essential organ in the human metabolism. It acts as a powerful purifier that drains and cleans the blood, processes the nutrients in the body and plays a vital role in the digestive system.

Traditionally, liver failure has occurred through abusive consumption of alcohol, which is something that favours not only tumours but the need for a transplant, but that has changed now. These days, what destroys more

livers is not what we drink but a sedentary lifestyle and the way we eat, which is increasingly unhealthy and far from the beneficial and recommended Mediterranean diet.

Fat is the main source of energy in the human body, as José María Mato of the CIC bioGUNE research centre explains. He has recently led an international study which has discovered the existence of at least three types of fatty liver disease. The finding is extremely important because this is an illness for which, at present, there is no specific treatment.

The ones that are used are therapies adapted from other illnesses such as diabetes, which have proven to be more or less effective. The findings from the research centre make it possible to determine for which type of patient the different molecules

currently being tested for this disease will be most effective, and for which there would be no sense in using because they would do no good.

Like diesel

The calorific performance of the liver is, says Mato, eight kilocalories per gramme, which is the same as diesel.

“The evolution of the human species has selected fat as a source of energy because it really is a very energetic substance,” he says. The liver receives it from adipose tissue, processes it and then uses it to fuel the rest of the organism. With five per cent of fatty material, a liver functions like a Swiss watch, it works like clockwork. So what is the problem? It is that a sedentary lifestyle and poor diet mean that many people - in the western world - have livers with



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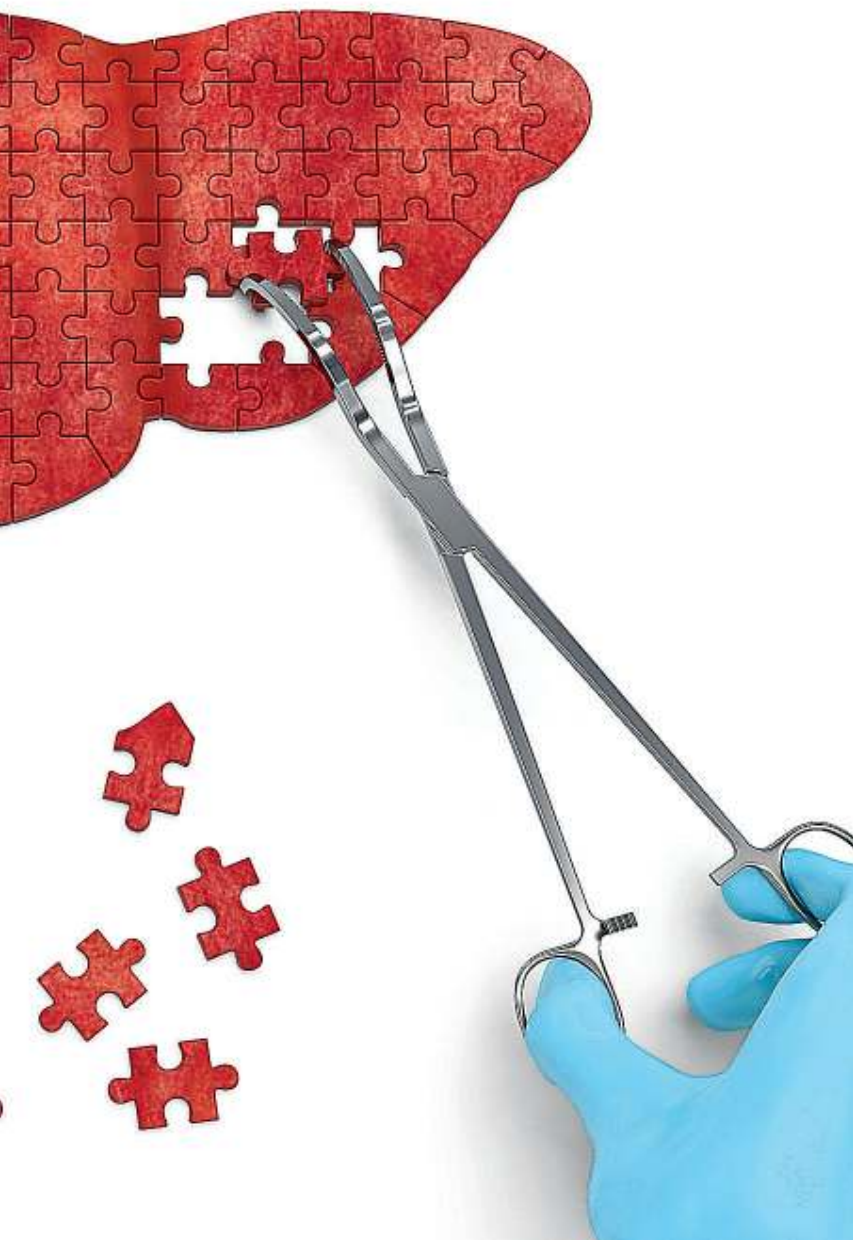
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"10 per cent, 20 per cent and even 40 per cent of fat and more," he explains.

Fat is actually necessary for life. "Birds accumulate fat in the liver before they start long migrations," Mato says. But we humans are giving our livers too much 'oil' and that is making them deteriorate gradually. Little by little, and what is worse, silently, showing no symptoms. Normally, when someone finds out that something is wrong, it is because it really is a problem.

First, an excessive accumulation of fat causes what experts call hepatic steatosis. These are small accumulations of 'sebum' which might not cause a problem but can also cause inflammation of the tissue, and that is when the problems start. Inflammation favours the appearance of fibrosis (scars from tissue which is losing functionality) and can also be a preliminary step towards cirrhosis or a liver tumour.

It is to be hoped that nothing so dramatic occurs. "Non-alcoholic fatty liver is very common and becoming even more so, but it only causes problems in exceptional cases," says Delia D'Avola, a specialist at the Hepatology unit at the Clínica Universidad hospital in Navarra. The problem is that the exceptional is becoming more frequent. In developed countries it affects 20 to 30 per cent of the population and as much as 70 per

Non-alcoholic fatty liver can cause cirrhosis and cancer, but the patients die of heart attacks, strokes and thrombosis

cent or more among people with obesity or Type 2 diabetes. It is currently the most common liver disease, more than that caused by alcohol consumption or chronic hepatitis.

Everyone drinks sometimes

The patients most at risk of getting this are, in fact, those who are obese, and they account for 90 per cent of cases, according to a recent report from the Catalan Digestology Society. Diabetes is present in 75 per cent of those affected,

and excess cholesterol and triglycerides, the most common type of fat in the human body, in 30 per cent. "Our body contains more than 200 different types of fat," says José María Mato. "The challenge we are facing is that there are no pure non-alcoholic patients, or very few. Everyone, from a certain age, consumes some alcohol, even if only with meals and at weekends".

However, most patients do not die of liver failure but from heart attacks, strokes and thrombosis. The alteration in the fats which cause this condition favours the formation of clots which end up triggering vascular complications. This is the reason that non-alcoholic fatty liver has become in recent years the principal subject at conferences about liver diseases. "It is a real challenge nowadays," says Delia D'Avola.

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Malaga players celebrate scoring the team's second goal against Tenerife. AGENCIA LOF

Malaga win in the Canaries and are close to safety

With a well-executed game plan, the Blue and Whites defeated Tenerife 2-0 and are now three points away from avoiding the drop

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. The best version of Malaga reappeared in the Canary Islands as they defeated fourth-placed Tenerife 2-0. The Blue and Whites carried out their head coach Pa-

blo Guede's gameplan to perfection to seal three points, with the team now just one win away from securing their place in the second division for next season. Malaga were superior in every aspect against their hosts, and they didn't seem to hesitate at any moment. Goalkeeper Dani Martín's performance was crucial, and each player's efforts to deny Tenerife's advances were noticed. The Blue and Whites wasted no time in scoring, breaking the

deadlock in the 8th minute. Ismael Casas, who before the game was expected to be replaced by Víctor Gómez, put in a perfect cross which Vadillo smashed home with a header. The Malaga players' movement

Malaga could secure safety by winning their next game, which is at 8pm on Saturday at La Rosaleda

could have generated even more chances, but they were too imprecise and got ahead of themselves too often. The Andalusians' first half defensive plan worked to perfection, with the only hiccup coming in the 47th minute, as Dani Martín saved a point-blank shot. Other than that, Malaga held their own by keeping long spells of possession of the ball.

Second-half resilience

Guede didn't want to take any risks and took off Víctor Olmo who had been booked. Malaga once again got the second half off to a frenetic start, and before Tenerife could implement their changes, their visitors had scored a second. Luis Muñoz, back from his seven-month spell on the sidelines, took a shot after some brilliant joined-up play but was denied, however Febas slotted home the rebound to double Malaga's lead.

The Blue and Whites didn't stray away from the script: they played the ball out from the back, and players moved around to create space. This gave them yet another chance to score, but Casas' shot hit the post. That prompted Tenerife to make a triple substitution, and the game changed completely. Malaga were now on the backfoot for the remaining half hour. They struggled to keep possession and they became more inconsistent, as well as giving away more corners and free-kicks.

SECOND DIVISION

Results - Gameweek 40

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

League table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Almería	40	24	7	9	65	32	79
2. Eibar	40	22	11	7	59	44	77
3. Valladolid	40	22	9	9	66	42	75
4. Tenerife	40	20	9	11	52	33	69
5. Real Oviedo	40	16	17	7	53	37	65
6. Girona	40	19	7	14	55	42	64
7. Las Palmas	40	17	13	10	54	46	64
8. Ponferradina	40	17	12	11	57	51	63
9. Cartagena	40	16	6	18	56	56	54
10. Ibiza	40	12	16	12	50	54	52
11. Burgos	40	14	9	17	40	41	51
12. Huesca	40	12	15	13	46	39	51
13. Leganés	40	12	14	14	45	49	50
14. Zaragoza	40	10	20	10	36	45	50
15. Mirandés	40	14	7	19	53	59	49
16. Lugo	40	9	20	11	45	51	47
17. Sporting	40	11	12	17	43	47	45
18. Malaga	40	11	12	17	36	55	45
19. R. Sociedad B	40	10	10	20	40	56	40
20. Amorebieta	40	8	16	16	43	58	40
21. Fuenlabrada	40	6	14	20	38	60	32
22. Alcorcón	40	5	10	25	35	70	25

But Dani Martín saved the day with two brilliant saves and the Blue and Whites eventually saw the game out as the team kept its shape until the end to take a crucial win. Malaga will next play against Burgos at La Rosaleda at 8pm on Saturday, a key game that could secure Malaga's place in the second division next season. The Blue and Whites need just two points to make it official, so a defeat could still be valid as long as both Real Sociedad B and Amorebieta also lose.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER Commentator, ESPN

Final day fixture chaos

With a lot left to play for on the last day of the season, including a European spot and a relegation battle, following match times has been a task



Only the executives at La Liga headquarters can explain the logic of who plays when and why on the final weekend of the Spanish season. I've received calls from television producers in Africa and America this week asking me to make sense of the kick-off times on the last matchday. Ironically, my answer is the same: "It's probably for you – the foreign TV markets." The plan was for the games to kick off simultaneously on Sunday. Now, they are spread over three days and five different kick-off times. The two Friday night fixtures,

one Saturday game and a Sunday offering of Elche versus Getafe have nothing hanging on them. The late games on Sunday feature the big teams, but only the 3rd / 4th place needs to be decided along with the matter of who represents Spain in the Conference League. Real Betis have missed out on a Champions League place, but will have the consolation of a spot in the Europa League. Cross-town rivals Sevilla are in the major European competition for the third year in a row. Yet there are still stories circulat-

ing that coach Julen Lopetegui may leave in the summer. His busy agent could be the reason the club may not be completely content. Their football also became stale with just four wins in the last 17 games. At the top end of the table, the only real question to be answered is "who finishes 7th?" to claim the Conference League spot. Villarreal have a one-point advantage over Athletic Bilbao. Villarreal play Barca and have to better Athletic's result against Sevilla. All the drama is at the bottom end of the table. Levante and



Mallorca scored a late winner to improve their odds of safety. EFE

Alaves have already dropped. Mallorca looked favourites to join them until a 92nd-minute winner against Rayo Vallecano. Cadiz were delighted to tie with champions Real Madrid, but discovered they'd fallen into the relegation zone as a result of the Mallorca result. The other club that is in danger is Granada; Aitor Karanka has overseen a major improvement since taking over in April. Yet a loss to Real Betis leaves

them with an uncertain future. The equation can be simple or complicated. It's easy if Granada beat Espanyol as that ensures they stay up. Otherwise, it becomes complicated: Cadiz go to already-relegated Alavés, while Mallorca are at Osasuna. Cadiz and Mallorca have 36 points and Granada have 37. If they all finish on 37 points then a mini-league kicks in and only those with a doctorate in mathematics will understand the possible outcome.

Frankfurt beat Rangers in the heat of Seville

After a gruelling game against the Glaswegians, which ended with a penalty shoot-out, Frankfurt were crowned Europa League winners

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. Eintracht Frankfurt won the Europa League final in Seville on Wednesday night following a gruelling match against Rangers at the Sánchez Pizjuán stadium. The German side picked up their second European title after the game went to a penalty shoot-out. This was Rangers' second lost final in this competition in recent years, after finishing runners-up in 2008.

It was a highly-contested game in the Andalusian capital, with Eintracht eventually coming out on top thanks to Santos Borré's penalty, which was enough to win. The German side also booked their place in next season's Champions League group stage, while

Rangers just fell short.

Eintracht denied Giovanni van Bronckhorst's side - which suffered from nerves when it really mattered, namely Aaron Ramsey's missed penalty in the shoot-out - the chance to complete what would have been a fairytale journey for Rangers. The Glaswegians would have gone from liquidation, and starting from scratch in the fourth division of Scottish football in 2012, to winning a major European trophy in the space of a decade.

Everything on the line

Rangers' journey in the Europa League was an epic quest, which began in the summer after narrowly beating Alashkert to make it to the group stages while still under the management of Steven Gerrard. The Scottish side impressed in the latter phases of the competition, defeating two German giants in Borussia Dortmund and RB Leipzig, though they couldn't beat a third in Eintracht. And the final was no different.



Kevin Trapp saves Aaron Ramsey's penalty. REUTERS

Van Bronckhorst proposed a very sturdy gameplan to neutralise the opposition, as the Light Blues were patient, physical and composed, compared to Eintracht's 'blitzkrieg' approach of constant pressure, speed and high balls, though weak once inside the box.

Off-pitch trouble

The battle between Eintracht's Filip Kostic and Rangers' James

Tavernier provided some of the game's best moments, in stark contrast to some of the off-pitch trouble between a small number of supporters in Seville.

Goals

Kostic, who has a rocket of a left foot, was constantly darting up and down the wing, though his perfectly placed crosses often failed to meet any of his teammates. And Rangers took advantage of their opponent's mistake to open the scoring, as Joe Aribo found himself one-on-one with Kevin Trapp to slot home the first goal of the night.

Eintracht pulled one back thanks to Santos Borré just over ten minutes later, and from that point it was a war of attrition. Neither side was willing to take any risks, which led to a much slower game of football.

Trapp was the eventual hero for the Germans, as not only did he save Ramsey's penalty in the shoot-out, but also pulled off an outstanding, point-blank save in the second-half of extra-time that would have given Rangers the win.

Luck was on Eintracht's side in Seville, and it wasn't meant to be for the Glaswegians.

Rangers and Eintracht fans were seen enjoying themselves prior to the match throughout Andalucía, many of them in Malaga.



Rangers fans in Malaga before Wednesday's final. SHAY CONAGHAN

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SPORT IN PHOTOS



▲ **Flying high during the GWA Wingfoil qualifiers.** The GWA Wingfoil Qualifying Series, held in Torremolinos last weekend, produced its first winners. After a lack of wind on Saturday meant that the competition had to be postponed, it resumed on Sunday and offered up a thrilling spectacle to all those who were present on the Costa Lago beach to watch this qualifier for the world cup. **MICHEL MARTÍN**



▲ **Amateur futsal team wins Copa del Rey.** BeSoccer UMA Antequera celebrated winning the Copa del Rey in an open-top bus through the streets of the town in the north of Malaga province. The club defeated top-flight side Viña Albali Valdepeñas 3-2 in Jaén on Sunday. Against all odds, the amateur futsal team, who play in the second division and are based in Antequera, have completed one of the province's biggest sporting feats. **ADG**



▲ **Ana Peláez continues her form with a fifth-place finish in Bangkok.** The Malaga golfer only played in the tournament because of her surprising win at the Madrid Ladies Open. She's now eighth in the overall rankings. **EFE**

► **Malaga Genuine: an outstanding host.**

LaLiga Genuine, a football competition whose participants are part of the intellectually disabled community, was played in La Rosaleda stadium last weekend. A total of 18 teams took part in 27 matches in the second phase of this competition.

MALAGA CF



▲ **Ronda's famous 101km race returns.** La Legión's gruelling 101-kilometre event, a mountain bike and running race through Ronda's Serranía, was held for the first time since the start of the pandemic on Saturday. Over 9,000 participants took part in the event, with a route that passed through the area's mountain towns. **VANESSA MELGAR**

28 MAY
BENALMÁDENA
PROMENADE
c/ Torrevigia

WALKING TO GIVE END OF LIFE CARE

Route 5 Kms
11:30am

Route 10 Kms
10:30am

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Kids to Adults
1:15pm

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4pm

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SUR offices:

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ing corrections to advertisements as and when deemed necessary, and to classify correctly any advertisement. Although every care is taken to ensure the correct publication of advertisements, regrettably mistakes do sometimes occur. If there is an error in your advertisement, notify your agency or agent at once as SUR in English can only accept responsibility for ONE insertion published incorrectly. We would like to advise advertisers that no free insertions will be

given when the advertisement/material received is not suitable for print media.

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Please be advised that it may not be possible for your website or email address to be printed on one line. If it will not fit, advertisers and readers alike should bear in mind that a hyphen will be inserted at the end of the first line to indicate that the email address continues on the line below.

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SUR

in English



SUR in English, the leading communications group in Malaga province, is looking for **ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS**

The ideal candidate should be a person with initiative; they also should be dynamic, organised, diligent, a good communicator and used to working in a team.

The post will involve looking for prospective clients, sales and advising clients on advertising with SUR in English.

REQUIREMENTS: experience in sales

WE ALSO VALUE:

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Applicants invited to interview will be notified by 24th June.

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WENDY Marbella Nursery requires an assistant. Tel: 695550196, email: wendykinderergarten@gmail.com

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MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Azamara Quest	23/05	Gibraltar	Ibiza	08.00	18.00
Costa Luminosa	25/05	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Marella Discovery 2	26/05	Gibraltar	Cartagena	08.00	17.00
Clio	28/05	-	-	08.00	23.00
Enchanted Princess	29/05	-	-	07.00	18.00
Viking Mars	31/05	Cartagena	Leixoes	08.00	19.00
Mein Schiff Herz	03/06	Alicante	Lisbon	04.00	23.00
Azamara Pursuit	03/06	Cartagena	Gibraltar	08.00	22.00
Azamara Quest	06/06	Barcelona	Cadiz	08.00	19.00
Seven Seas Voyager	09/06	Cartagena	Casablanca	07.00	18.00
Valiant Lady	09/06	Gibraltar	Ibiza	08.00	20.00
Mein Schiff 2	09/06	Barcelona	Gibraltar	08.00	22.00
Mein Schiff Herz	10/06	Gibraltar	Cartagena	04.00	23.00



DISTRIBUTION CALL CENTRE

Contact the SUR in English distribution call centre for any queries relating to the delivery and distribution of SUR in English.

This service is available every Friday from 9:00 to 13:00, so for all your distribution enquiries in English call 952 649 669, in Spanish 952 649 720.

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SUR in English

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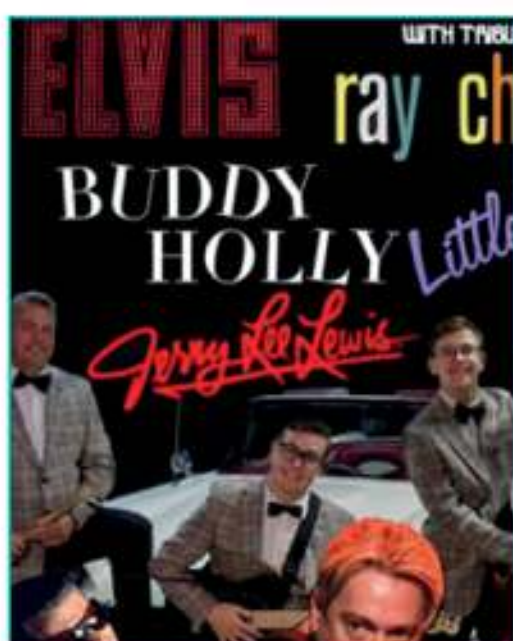
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UNTIL 30 JUNE
Red Dog Cinemas
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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Experiencing delays? These may be a mild inconvenience. You'll find a way to overcome such matters through sheer willpower.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Finances may have shown signs of improvement, with Jupiter bringing better opportunities your way. This trend will continue for some while yet..




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Your energy levels could soar next week and you'll feel ready to take on any challenge. A bold move might see you happily leaving your comfort zone.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Valiant Mars moves into your sector of psychology and spirituality this week, enhancing your determination to live life to the full.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
As Mars joins buoyant Jupiter and Venus in your social zone, you'll be the life and soul of any party. If you do have a goal, there is no better time to jump in and make it happen.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
If you've already taken advantage of Jupiter's expansive presence to buoy up your career, this week brings the chance of further breakthroughs.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
You're primed for adventure, and as Mars moves into Aries you'll be looking for exciting opportunities that leave you feeling alive. Get ready to step through a new door.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
You'll be happy to pull the levers of power to your advantage. And if you do, you might come away with an arrangement or deal that suits you perfectly.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
There's plenty of potential to rekindle red-hot passion, or to experience an instant attraction. If you need the courage to say something, you'll have no trouble getting your point across.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
It's time to streamline your affairs so that you can spend more of your days fulfilling your dreams. As Mars enters your lifestyle sector, you'll have plenty of energy.

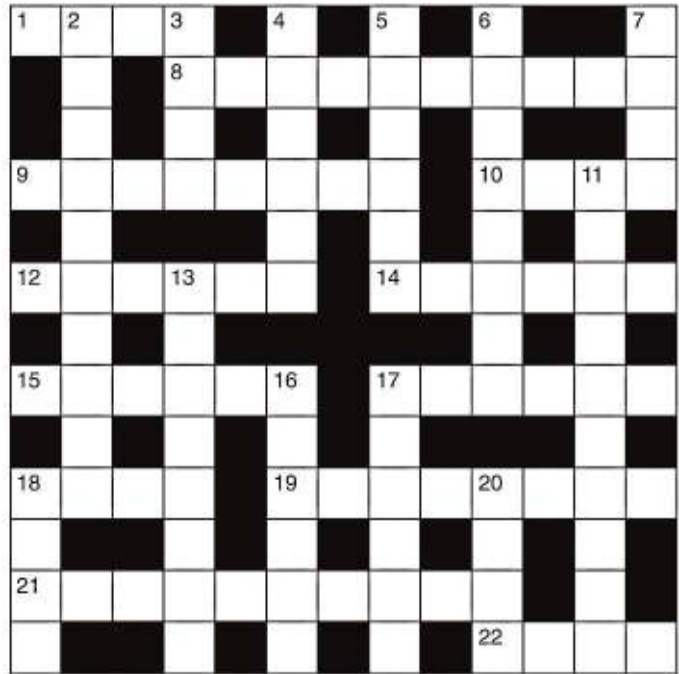


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Although Mercury's rewind phase could cause some delays, the positive energy and optimism that is now showing in your chart can see you tackling any difficulties with grace and ease.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Your home zone is emphasised but your sense of adventure could encourage you to explore other locations. You may also be ready to give your place a major makeover.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11515



Across

- 1 Takes off topless cloaks (4)
- 8 Postman's apparel providing physical protection (4,2,4)
- 9 Attributed to a writer in the present era (8)
- 10 They are produced by those who weld houseboats, we hear (4)
- 12 Cable needed for disconnected washer (6)
- 14 Specifying the main change in new garments, initially (6)
- 15 Describing available assets of £51? (6)
- 17 Where MiG starts one disastrous raid! (3-3)
- 18 & 20 On Blow in the face (8)
- 19 Mates who get rather upset (8)
- 21 Embellishment for last month's speech? (10)
- 22 Confound a mild expletive (4)

Down

- 2 Convincing enough to supervise a new arrangement (10)
- 3 A mark that's left on most of the neckwear (4)
- 4 Gas poker (8)
- 5 Wait a bit - don't let go (4,2)
- 6 Mummy was treated in this way (8)
- 7 We hear the members will provide charitable gifts (4)
- 11 Open seat to be resolved - they stand for election (10)
- 13 Solid container required for resonator (8)
- 16 Exclude from the public house? (6)
- 17 Reminiscence of me in French seal (6)
- 18 Don't reveal what gets tanned (4)
- 20 See 18 Across

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

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

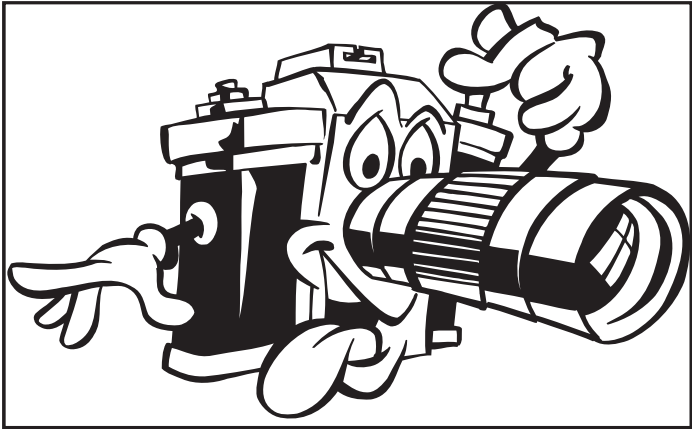
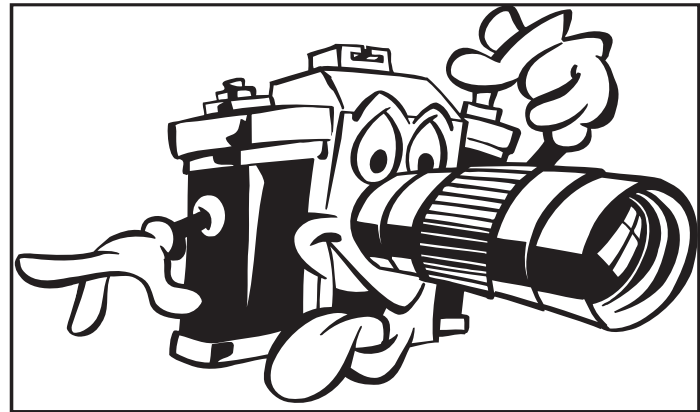
THE WORDPUZZLER

C	O	O	P	C	O	R	M	O	B
O	D	D	R	O	D	E	O	D	E
P	E	M	O	D	E	T	D	E	A
R	H	O	D	E	S	T	E	R	B
B	O	D	E	N	L	O	M	L	O
O	D	E	X	Y	O	R	P	O	D
D	E	S	P	O	D	E	O	D	E
E	C	T	O	D	E	G	O	D	E
T	H	O	D	E	R	O	D	E	B
M	O	D	E	L	O	D	E	N	O

Can you identify the words that contain 'ode' from the clues listed below?

- 1. Sing Swiss-style
- 2. Riding display
- 3. Self-effacing
- 4. Wear away
- 5. Communication device
- 6. Greek island
- 7. Residence
- 8. Porcelain
- 9. Cipher
- 10. Ideal

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



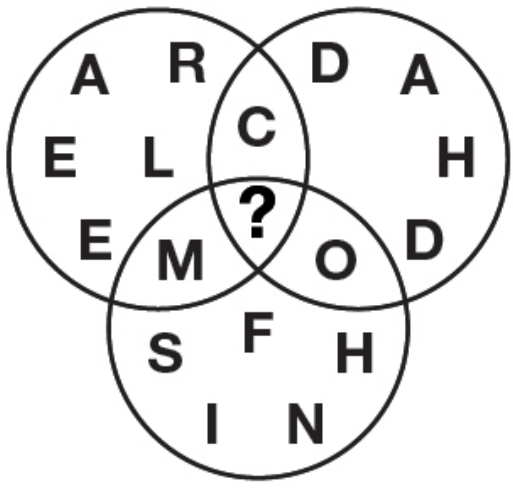
BATTLESHIPS

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

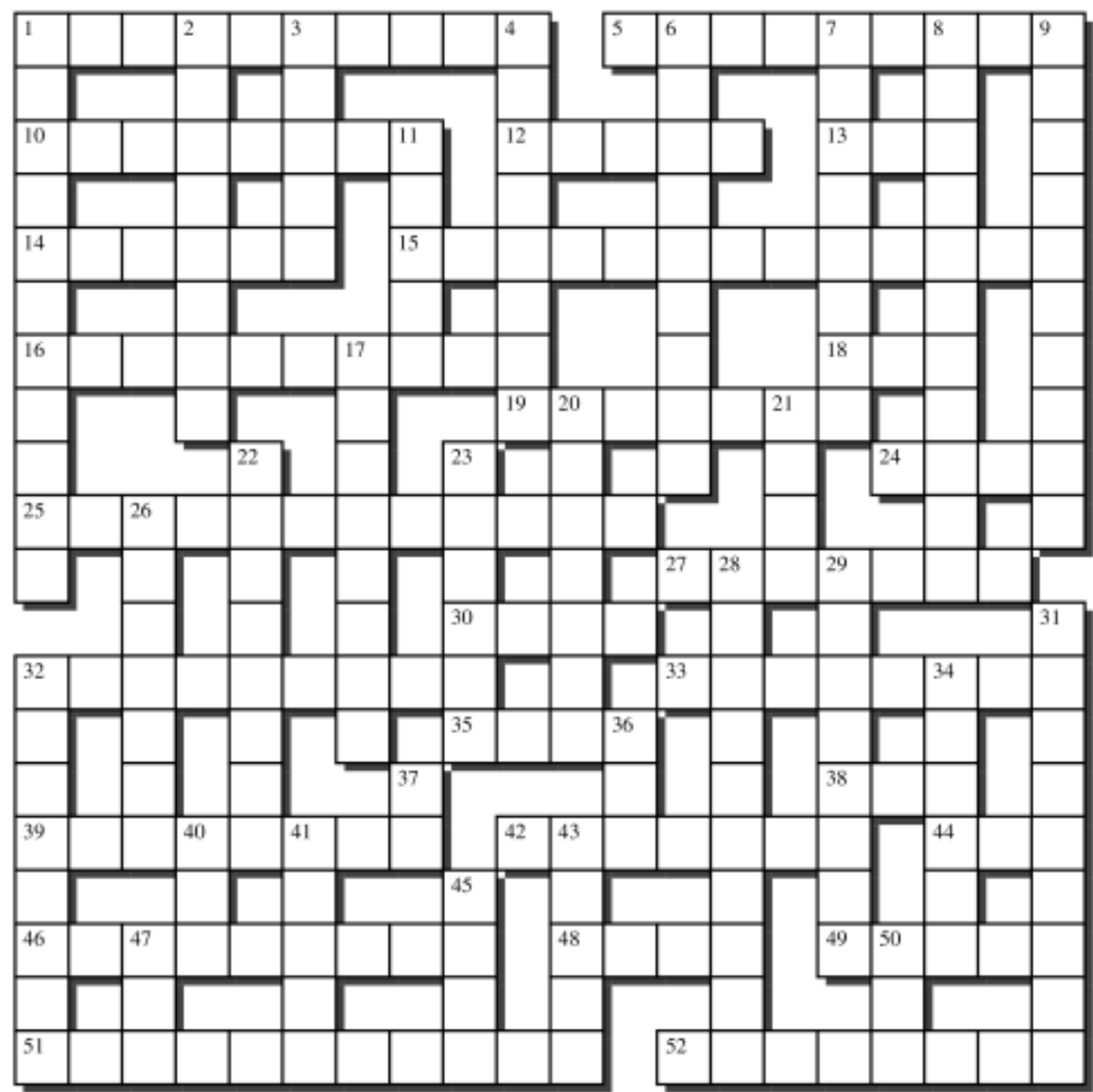
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A											3
B											3
C											0
D											2
E											1
F											4
G											1
H											2
I											3
J											1
	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	4	1	3	

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) Beekeeping (10)
5) Approved (m.pl) (9)
10) Workshops (8)
12) I think (5)
13) Mine (f) (3)
14) Nursery (6)
15) Environment (13)
16) Development (10)
18) The (f.pl) (3)
19) Orange (7)
24) Honey (4)
25) Explorers (12)
27) To mix (7)
30) Age (4)
32) Beekeeper (m) (9)
33) Avocado (8)
35) Waves (4)
38) I'll go (3)
39) Neoprene (8)
42) Quality (7)
44) I read (3)
46) Slipper (9)
48) They were (4)
49) They donate (5)
51) Surprised (f) (11)
52) Apiary (8)
- Down
- 1) Activities (11)
2) Beehives (8)
3) Long (m) (5)
4) Accordion (8)
6) Screens (9)
7) Light bulb (8)
8) He diagnoses (11)
9) Sustainable (10)
11) Simile (5)
17) Orphanage (8)
20) German (f) (7)
21) Judge (4)
22) To consume (8)
23) Rosemary (6)
26) Danger (7)
28) Getting fat (10)
29) Clarity (8)
31) To mention (9)
32) Threats (8)
34) They appeal (6)
36) Sun (3)
37) I (2)
40) Pick (guitar) (3)
41) I edited (5)
43) Bee (5)
45) I went out (4)
47) By (3)
50) She hears (3)

QUIZ

From which country did Finland gain independence in 1917?

1. Sweden 2. Lapland
3. Norway 4. Russia



Which of these languages is not officially recognised in Finland?

1. Swedish 2. Finnish 3. Russian
4. Sami

What animal appears on the Finnish coat of arms?

1. reindeer 2. bear 3. eagle
4. lion

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

Royal encounters anyone?

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations are fast approaching (3 to 5 June) and at SUR in English we're hoping that our readers will help us mark the occasion. A chat around the news-room has revealed that most Brits have a royal family story in their family.

Perhaps we haven't all met Her Majesty in person, but we may have seen her from afar, had some sort of royal communication or an encounter with another member of the royal family.

We would love to hear your stories. Perhaps you attended an awards ceremony, garden party or function at which she was present, saw her sweep past during an official engagement or perhaps you even received a telegram or letter?

So please tell us about your royal encounter and send any relevant photos by email to surinenglish.su@diariosur.es, or contact us via Twitter (@SUR_English) or Facebook.

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Russian
Of interest: Finnish is the first language for 90% of Finns, but a minority speak the country's other official language, Swedish. Sami is recognised as a minority language in Finland.
Answer: Lion
Of interest: The coat of arms of Finland depicts a crowned lion on a red background. Created in the late 16th century, the lion is shown brandishing a sword and trampling on a sabre.

Circlegram

The letter represented by the haddock, monkfish, all types of fish.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Apes: 8 Coat of mail: 9 Ascribed: 10 Arise: 12 Hawser: 14 Naming: 15 Liquid: 17 Mid-air: 18 Head: 19 Somewhat: 21 Decoration: 22 Dash: Down: 2 Persuasive: 3 Scar: 4 Jabber: 5 Hold on: 6 Embellish: 7 Arms: 11 Candor: 13 Soundbox: 16 Disbar: 17 Memoir: 18 Hide: 20 Wind.

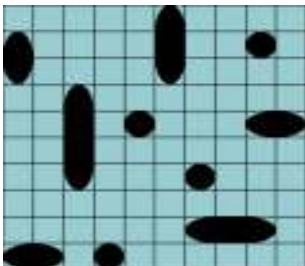
Wordpuzzler solution

1. Yodel	O	P	C	O	R	M	O	B
2. Rodeo	O	D	R	O	D	E		
3. Modest	P	E	M	O	D	E	T	E
4. Erode	R	H	O	D	E	S	T	E
5. Modern	B	O	D	E	N	L	O	M
6. Rhodes	O	D	E	X	O	R	P	O
7. Abode	D	E	S	P	O	D	E	
8. Spode	E	C	I	O	D	E	R	O
9. Code	T	H	O	D	E	R	O	D
10. Model	M	O	D	E	L	O	D	E

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. CULTURA 2. PARADISOS 10. TALLERES
12. PINO 13. IVA 14. VIVERO
15. MEDIOAMBIENTE 16. DESARROLLO 18. LAS
19. ANIMA 20. BEL 25. EXORADORES
27. MUEZCLAR 28. DAD 29. FLECTOR
30. GUACATE 30. LAS 30. RE 30. NEOPRENO
32. CALIDAD 40. EL 42. PATILLA 48. RAN
49. DONAN 51. SORPRENDIDA 52. COLUMENAR
DOWN:
1. ACTIVIDADES 2. COMIDAS 3. ALARGO
4. ACCORDION 6. PATILLAS 7. HOMBILLA
8. DIAGONOSTICA 9. SOSTENIBLE 11. SIMIL
12. ORNAMENTO 30. ALMENA 31. UZ
22. CONSUMIR 23. ROMERO 24. PERALCO
26. NEGOCIANDO 26. CLARIDAD
31. MENCIONAR 32. HENAZAS 34. MELAN
36. SOL 37. VO 40. IVA 41. DITE 42. BELLA
45. SALI 47. POR 50. VE

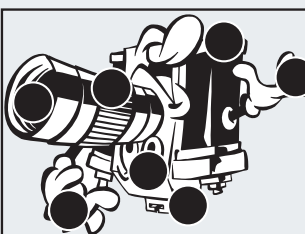
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



After Spain's best Eurovision finish in years, crowds packed into Madrid's iconic Plaza Mayor to welcome Chanel. Her performance was a last-minute addition to a concert organised by a radio station as part of the city's San Isidro festivities. She sang SloMo, the song that catapulted her to third place in the international entertainment contest.

The square was filled to its maximum capacity and hundreds of people had to stay outside as 'Chanelmania' is born.

Chanel took to the stage at sunset and the atmosphere in the square was electric. She wore sunglasses because, according to her, she had conjunctivitis from all the tears of joy and emotion. "We feel like winners in our hearts," said Chanel, admitting that it was "incredibly difficult" to make it to Turin. "Thank you for getting on board with SloMo," she told the crowd who were eagerly awaiting her performance. Her supporters were diverse, spanning all ages and waving the LGBT flag, the trans flag, and the national flag.

Carmen, a 30-year-old from Madrid, came to watch the singer with her girlfriend. They are both long-time fans of Eurovision and were celebrating Chanel's third place in Chueca, Madrid's gay neighbourhood, with friends. "It's the equivalent of a football World Cup final for straight people," she said with a laugh.

Criticisms and insults

In less than five months, Chanel Terrero has gone from being unknown to being the big musical revelation of the year. Her solo career didn't start easily. After winning the Benidorm Fest, the



Chanel performs SloMo.

E.P. / RICCARDO RUBIO

Spain's new sweetheart wows in Madrid

Eurovision. After landing third place in Eurovision, Chanel was welcomed by crowds in Madrid, where she performed SloMo in the Plaza Mayor

J. MORENO

artist closed down all her social media to protect her mental health from the criticisms and

insults from people who didn't support her victory. Even political parties such as Unidas Po-

demos or the CC OO trade union group at the RTVE broadcaster called for her win to be cancelled

so that she wouldn't make it to Eurovision. Now, after her success in the competition, even the harshest have to admit: Chanel is a star that Europe has fallen in love with.

"Honestly, I work for myself and for my team, not for anyone else. I don't work for bad energy, I work for a positive environment and to do good things. If people have stopped criticising me, it's happened naturally," defended the singer, who entered Spanish Eurovision history by becoming the most supported representative with a total of 459 points. She received 231 from the international juries and 228 from the phone votes.

"Fear never made history"

"This has been incredible. We gave it our all and we're proud.

I encourage anyone who feels in their heart that they want to take part, to just do it! Fear never made history. Art must always prevail," said Chanel, who praised the winners from Ukraine, Kalush Orchestra. "I think it's wonderful that they won. We've supported them from the start. They're incredible."

At 31 years old, the singer has sown the seed for a promising career. Before Eurovision, Chanel performed in musicals such as El Rey León (The Lion King) and El Guardaespaldas (The Bodyguard). She also dabbled at acting in TV series such as Águila Roja. The singer feels connected to her roots in Olesa de Montserrat (Barcelona province), and dedicated the success of her family, who supported her and accompanied her to Turin.



▲ Chanel rehearses for the Eurovision final. **SUR**

SINCE 1978



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