

News	2
Comment	18
Lifestyle	20
What To Do	30
Food&Drink	34
Health&Beauty	36
Sport	38



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## Free travel on local trains among inflation relief measures

As well as announcing more help for the general public this week, the PM also unveiled a new windfall tax on banks

The government has said people holding multi-travel tickets for the Cercanías local rail services across the country will get to ride for free for three months from September to December. While precise details have not been given, and single-trip tickets will be excluded, early estimates are that some four million journeys alone could be made without charge over the period on the two lines from

Malaga; to Fuengirola via the airport and to Álora. In a State of the Nation debate this week in parliament, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez also told MPs that he will bring in a surprise windfall tax on bank profits for two years, worth around 1.5 billion euros a year in extra revenue. This is on top of extra taxation planned on energy companies. Bank share prices fell sharply this week. **P16**



Toral atop piles of suitcases in a recent creation to pay tribute to the bravery of Ukrainians. **SALVADOR SALAS**

## An expression of pain through an artist's work

Cristóbal Toral is one of Malaga province's most internationally acclaimed artists. Now, at 82, he currently has a solo, retrospective exhibition at CAC Málaga-La Coracha **P30**

## A-7 road along the Costa is ranked by users as the third worst in the country **P13**

**British Chamber of Commerce announces that UK was biggest investor in Spain in first quarter of this year **P14****

**Think twice before you release an unwanted pet: an expert warns of invasive species threatening wildlife **P22****

**Beachgoers alerted to jellyfish on coast from Manilva to Marbella last weekend thanks to special app **P8****

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The nautical sector in Andalucía, and on the Costa del Sol in particular, is gaining strength thanks to the increasing popularity of sailing. At a time of international uncertainty, berth occupancy is expected to be equal or better than in 2021 this year, and in some cases that means that some marinas will be 100 per cent full. This reflects the growing interest in maritime leisure activities that was sparked after the coronavirus lockdown, when it was seen as a safe way to spend leisure time outdoors.

According to the annual report on the yacht market in 2021 from Spain's National Association of Nautical Businesses (ANEN), the market ended last year with its best figures since 2008, before the massive economic crisis. They show that 7,178 yachts were registered last year, which was 17 per cent more than in 2019 and 33 per cent higher than in 2020.

"We have come out of the Covid crisis stronger; people have realised that sailing is a healthy thing to do. Now the challenge is to retain the loyalty of these new customers, and from the figures so far it looks as if we are succeeding," Manuel Jiménez, the president of Marinas de Andalucía and manager of the marina in Benalmádena told SUR. He also said the growing interest is reflected in the number of people taking sailing courses: 95,000 more registered for these in 2021.

With a 25 per cent growth in yacht registrations for commercial use compared with 2019, the charter market is also doing well. Last year 1,992 yachts were registered for charter, and Andalucía showed the highest market share (21.6%), with registrations increasing by 33 per cent compared with 2019 and 28.8 per cent compared with 2020.

The figures in 2021 were positive, but this year the situation could be different due to international uncertainty. According to ANEN, leisure yacht registrations were about nine per cent lower in Spain at the start of the season than they were at the same time last year. In Malaga province however, registrations had gone up by 16.67 per cent and it has the greatest market share in Andalucía (7.19%).

The rental market is still doing well, though, and has seen a growth of 16 per cent. "Charter companies are reporting positive figures; hiring a yacht with or without a captain is becoming very popular," said Jiménez, who still believes the prospects for this summer are good. "At the moment occupancy levels are around 75 per cent in general, and some marinas will be full this



Puerto de la Duquesa in Manilva. SUR

## Costa del Sol marinas fill up as sailing industry booms

**Peak season.** Leisure ports are recording good figures this summer and expect berth occupancy to be equal to or better than last year, reflecting an increasing interest in all things nautical among visitors of many nationalities

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



summer," he said.

Marinas de Andalucía runs 16 ports in the region, of which eight are in Malaga province. Of the 8,000 berths in total, about 3,700 are in marinas on the Costa del Sol.

### Waiting list

Jiménez also explained that three quarters of visitors to these ports are Spanish. Among foreign visitors, the British are the biggest group, although in recent years there have been more French visitors because of travel restrictions. "German and Scandinavian clients are also important," he said.

That is also the case with

Puerto Banús, where sources said they were expecting a "very positive" summer season with a large number of bookings and there is even a waiting list for berths of certain sizes.

Those most interested in this iconic Marbella marina so far have been British and German visitors, together with others from Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Middle East. There have been more bookings from Americans for this summer, and the Spanish market continues to be buoyant.

Marinas del Mediterráneo is another group which operates marinas in Malaga province, namely Estepona and La Duquesa

### THE FIGURES

# 7,178

yachts were registered during 2021, which was about 17 per cent more than there were in 2019 and 33 per cent more than in 2020.

# 16%

The rental market for yachts, with or without a captain, is maintaining positive figures, and has grown by 16 per cent.

Last year's figures were positive but there is some concern about international uncertainty this year

(Manilva).

CEO Manuel Raigón said occupancy levels so far this year have been similar to last year, and expectations are high for the summer. In Estepona, the largest source markets are Spain, Britain, Germany and Scandinavia.

The majority of clients using La Duquesa marina are British, but there is growing interest from the Belgian market "because they particularly like the area around the town of Manilva", said Raigón.

With plenty of bookings coming in, it looks as though this marina could also be putting up a No Vacancies sign for yachts at times during this summer.

## A record year for qualifications: more than 95,000 new licences granted

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Nautical tourism is continuing to become more popular nowadays and the number of people taking up sailing is on the rise. According to a report by the National Association of Nautical Businesses (ANEN), 2021 was a record year, with more than 95,000 people becoming qualified to sail leisure craft. Specifically, 34,352 new recreational licences were issued in 2021, in addition to almost 61,000 new users who acquired sailing qualifications in Spain last year.

The licence for Patrón de Embarcación de Recreo (recreational boat skipper) is still the one most newcomers go for, and 23,749 were issued last year. Next were Patrón de Navegación Básica (basic navigation skipper) qualifications, with 5,725 being awarded. There were also 3,304 new Patrón de Yate licences, and 1,574 qualified as a Capitán de Yate.

By region, Catalonia issued the most sailing licences in 2021 (8,711), followed by the Balearic Islands with 4,912. In third place was Murcia with 3,957, then Galicia with 2,381 and Andalucía with 2,221.

"There is a lot more interest in sailing now. A large number of people decided to give it a go when the pandemic started and it has been shown to be a safe activity," said Manuel Jiménez, the president of Marinas de Andalucía.

Other figures support this. For example, small boat registrations (up to eight metres) increased by an average of 10 per cent, and continue to account for the largest market share (86%).

Other areas dropped compared with the same period in 2021, especially due to the logistics crisis and a lack of supplies in certain markets. This has mainly affected jetskis, whose registrations fell by 23.7% and motor yachts (down 6.7%). Sailing yachts continue to sell well, and the number of new registrations increased by 6.5%, which ANEN said is also due to sailing being a sustainable activity.

# Malaga province leads the creation of new companies and jobs in Andalucía

The province and the Costa del Sol has the highest growth in the region but over half of new firms only have one or two employees and are 'at risk'

**ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ**



**MALAGA.** The province of Malaga, including the Costa del Sol, is living up to its reputation as the economic powerhouse of Andalucía. The province is heading towards recovery this summer, despite uncertainty over the continuing pandemic, high inflation, increasing energy bills, the rise in the Euribor and the war in Ukraine. These concerns emphasise the need for caution when making predictions, but the figures so far show that the economy is doing well.

The latest figures from the Andalusian statistics office -the IECA- are for employment and compa-

## Businesses in Andalucía

### Number of companies

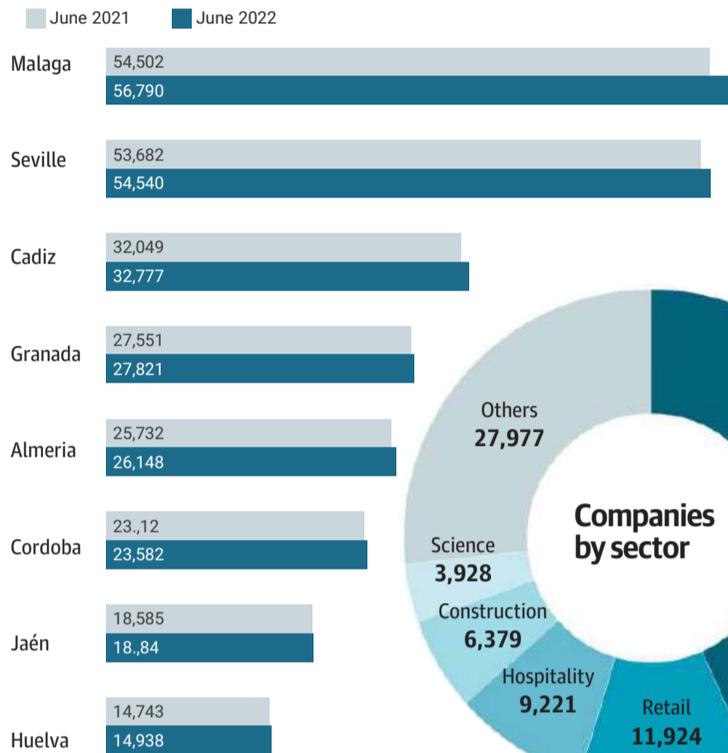
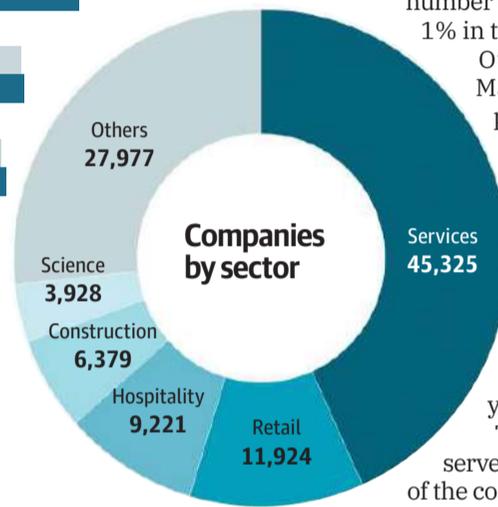


Gráfico: SUR • Source: IECA

nies registered in the Social Security system, and Malaga province tops the list for both.

The figures for the province are double the regional average, if we compare June this year with the same month in 2021. The number of new firms grew by 4%, to 56,790. The average in Andalucía was 2% in the same period, to a total of 242,526. By province, Almeria, Cadiz and Seville saw an increase of 2%, while in Cordoba, Granada, Huelva and Jaén the number of companies rose by just 1% in that year.



Other positive figures in Malaga are related to employment. In the past year the province has gained 48,864 new employees, an increase of 11% and way above the regional average of 6%. This means that nearly three out of four newly employed workers in Andalucía in the past year found a job in Malaga.

The IECA statistics also serve as a reminder that many of the companies in this province

are small: over half (53.11%) have only one or two staff, and 85% have fewer than ten employees.

### Dynamic

"The business environment in Malaga is very dynamic and it has gradually grown and even improved on the pre-pandemic figures," the executive vice-president and general secretary of the Malaga Business Confederation, Natalia Sánchez, confirmed, "but most of our companies are small".

The Confederation is calling for support to be provided so small businesses can increase in size, consolidate their position, be more competitive and create more jobs.

The local secretary of the CC OO union, Fernando Cubillo, pointed out that, in fact, most companies are in a very vulnerable situation. "We mustn't lose sight of the fact that although new companies open, others also close down. And don't forget, most of the self-employed who set up a company have no staff at all," he said.

He attributes this vulnerability to the problem of seasonal tourism and Malaga's reliance on the services sector, as 80% of companies registered with Social Security are in that sector, especially retail and hospitality. These are, in fact, the most active sections of Malaga's business community, followed by a notable distance by the construction sector.

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# Attempt to steal luxury watch in San Pedro is thwarted

Two young people prevented the theft of the timepiece from the victim's wrist as she cried for help during the broad-daylight struggle

IRENE QUIRANTE

MALAGA. It happened in broad daylight in San Pedro Alcántara. Two women were approached in the street by two individuals who hid their faces using motorcycle helmets, masks and sunglasses. The attacker used force to try to steal the luxury watch that one of the victims was wearing on her wrist.

It happened on the afternoon of 6 July, at around 4pm. But the robbery attempt was frustrated thanks to the action of two young people, who did not hesitate to intervene when they heard the screams of the women. Both had fallen to the ground and pleaded for help while one of the thieves continued to pull at the watch of one of them.

While one of the alleged thieves struggled with the woman, the other remained a few metres away on a motorcycle. The two young people who came to the victim's aid scared off the attacker who quickly got on the motorbike that his companion was riding, and both fled the scene, but without



Motorbike fleeing the scene. SUR

the expensive timepiece.

According to SUR sources, the attempted robbery, using the 'tug' method, has prompted a police investigation

On 21 June, three individuals were arrested in Puerto Banús after they attacked a French tourist and yanked his watch, a replica valued at 16,000 euros, from his wrist. They were caught with the help of a taxi driver who followed them and gave directions to the police.



Over 1,000 stolen vehicles have been recovered. CNP

## Vehicles worth over 35m euros recovered, with seven arrests in Malaga

SUR

MALAGA. National Police officers have taken part in a massive operation coordinated by Interpol which involved police authorities in 77 countries. More than 1,000 stolen vehicles have since been recovered and 230 people arrested worldwide.

In Spain, officers arrested 86 people - seven in Malaga, nine in Algeciras, 24 in Alicante, one in La Junquera and 45 in Madrid - and seized 191 vehicles in the same locations. The value

of the recovered vehicles, which had all been stolen within a two-week period, is more than 35 million euros.

The investigation began after routine inspections were carried out at border controls, car dealers, scrapyards and garage workshops. This flagged up a large number of vehicles which had been reported stolen and a huge amount of spare parts ready to be sold on the black market. This led to further investigations into criminal organisations around the world.

### 112 REPORTS



Goods from the police raid. SUR

FUENGIROLA / MIJAS

### Counterfeit goods seized and 15 detained

E.P. National Police officers have seized more than 19,500 counterfeit goods in Fuengirola and Mijas in an operation that led to 15 arrests for alleged crimes against intellectual property. Among those being investigated are two distributors based in Mijas Costa, who marketed the products to retailers in the province. The fake goods seized included bags, swimming costumes and T-shirts of well-known brands which were reproduced without permission.

MALAGA

### Son arrested after body found in sewer

J.C. / I.Q. Police have arrested the adopted son of a woman found dead inside a sewer in the Teatinos area of Malaga city this week. The murder squad investigations place him as the main suspect in the crime, although the case remains open.

The body of Ángela Mérida, who was reported missing on 23 May, was found hidden inside an inspection chamber and had injuries that indicated a violent death.

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

### Drugs hidden in fish and fruit lorries

I.Q. Thirteen people have been arrested by Spanish police for allegedly trafficking hashish to northern Europe hidden in consignments of fish and vegetables being transported in lorries. A Frenchman was arrested in Alhaurín de la Torre, where he lived. According to sources, those detained in Operation Bachata, are mainly of Spanish and Moroccan origin. The other arrests took place in the provinces of Cadiz, Huelva, Seville and Ciudad Real.



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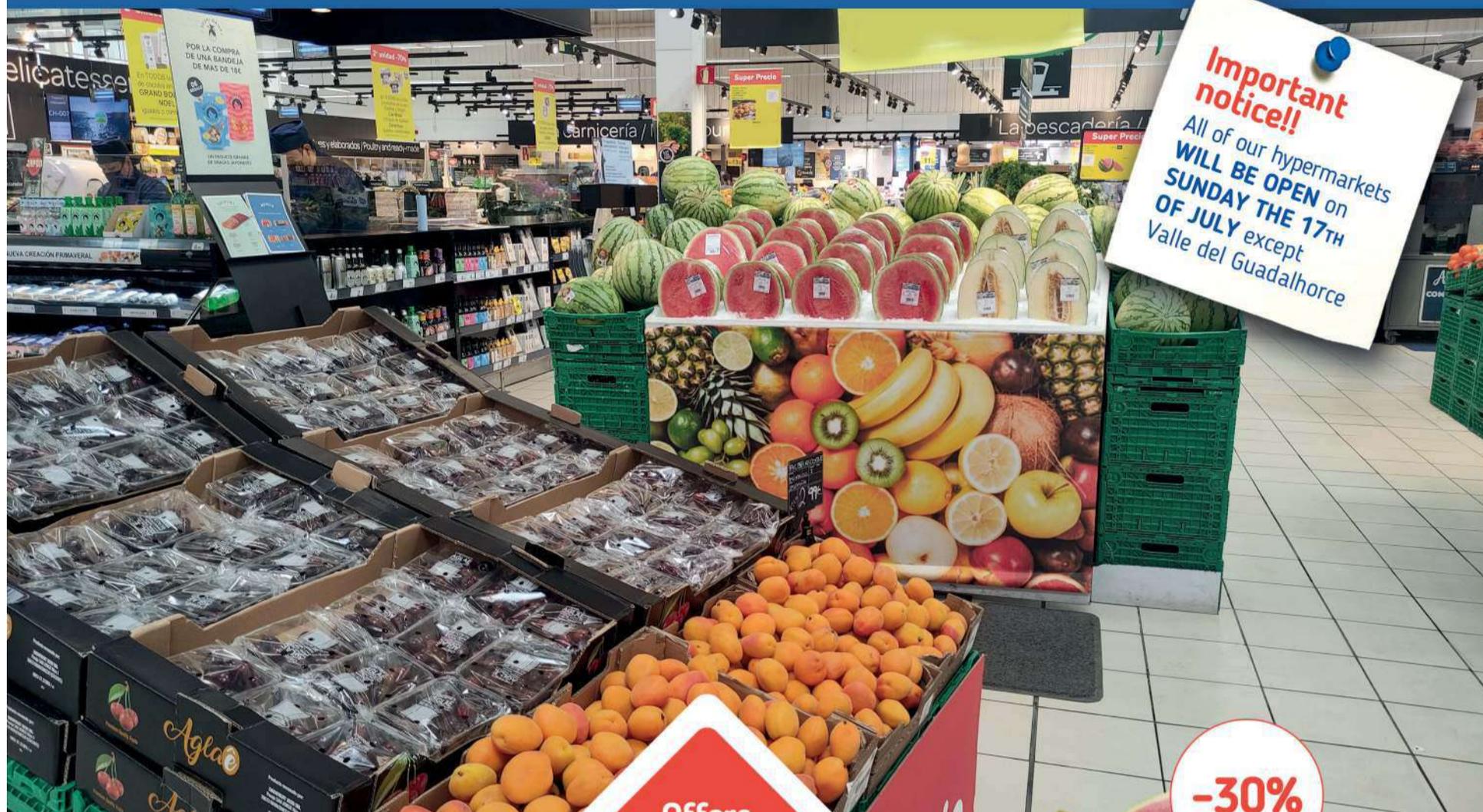
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# Green campaigners concerned over plans to move a chiringuito on Río Real beach

The Junta de Andalucía has confirmed it has received a request but has yet to send officials for a formal inspection

**JOAQUINA DUEÑAS**

**MARBELLA.** An environmental campaigning group in Marbella has complained about the possible “reinstallation of a small chiringuito beach kiosk and sunbed area” on the beach to the west of the mouth of the Río Real river, near to the centre of Marbella.

The group, Ecologistas Malaka, claims that the government had put up barriers in the area some years ago to try to encourage the restoration of some dunes.

Regional government sources, who are responsible for giving permission for any new activity on the site, said a request had been received to move an existing beach bar there and an inspection visit was due by officials.

Ecologistas Malaka have said



The area where the small chiringuito would move to. **JOSELE**

that, if permission were granted, it would go against the central government’s own policies.

Another group that campaigns to protect the Marbella shoreline, Asociación Produnas, said it respected any business that had the relevant permissions but that in general terms it was “not in favour of expansion”.

Ecologistas Malaka said that

premises like these added to the massification and commercialisation of beaches in the area.

The kiosk, which is about 20 metres square, already exists, and the plan is reportedly to move it to the east of some other huts supplying watersports services.

SUR tried to contact the owners of the chiringuito for their comment.



Javier Berlanga, Víctor Navas and Javier Marín this week. **SUR**

## Free travel deal to be extended for Benalmádena residents to more local bus routes

**ANDREA JIMÉNEZ**

**BENALMÁDEN.** The council in Benalmádena has taken steps to make the interurban bus route that crosses the municipality free to all registered residents.

The town hall and the consortium responsible for bus routes along the Costa plan to have the agreement operational in 2023.

The mayor of Benalmádena,

Víctor Navas, councillor for Mobility, Javier Marín, and the managing director of the bus consortium, Javier Berlanga, met this week to announce the idea.

Benalmádena residents who are registered on the ‘padrón’ census can already use the council-run 103 bus with a special card supplied by council operator Innoben.

Now the council will work with the interurban buses that travel along the coast so that when the service is in the Benalmádena area, residents can hop on and off at no charge.

The mayor has stressed that the initiative would be possible as the town hall had its accounts in order and was able to invest in the welfare of local residents in this way.

# Axarquía village tightens up water use in effort to avoid cuts

Sayalonga town hall is asking people to install meters and says it will halt supply to properties who exceed their quota or have unpaid bills

**EUGENIO CABEZAS**

**SAYALONGA.** With months of the dry summer still to go, an Axarquía village vulnerable to water shortage has announced measures to control consumption in its rural areas, including the installation of meters, to avoid having to cut off the supply to the village centre itself.

The mayor of Sayalonga, Sagrario Fernández, explained that the town hall will proceed to cut off the supply if users do not pay their bills or use more water than their quota allows. Property owners have been given a period of 15 days to install meters.

Sayalonga is one of the 17 municipalities in the Axarquía that are not supplied by La Viñuela res-



Sayalonga. **E. CABEZAS**

ervoir, but instead through their own resources, receiving its water from the river that flows down from the Sierras Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama from Canillas de Albaida and Árchez.

Fernández said that the measures “are not pleasant for anyone, but the situation is unsustainable and getting worse every year”.



## Hugh Grant series films in Axarquía

Filming for the new Netflix series *Kaos*, which stars British actor Hugh Grant, has been taking place in several locations in Torre del Mar and Vélez-Málaga over the last few days. It is not known whether Grant was in the area.

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

## ‘Get divorced’ billboard taken down

**E. C.** A law firm in Vélez-Málaga has been forced to remove a billboard advertisement that encouraged people to ‘get divorced’ - just 48 hours after it went up - after receiving threats. The slogan read “get divorced” with the message ‘dare to spend the summer as you had planned’ underneath. The firm said they “regretted” the advert.



The ‘get divorced’ advert. **E. C.**

## New foodie website is aimed at active tourists visiting Canillas

**E. CABEZAS**

**MALAGA.** Canillas de Aceituno has been put on the map recently thanks to the scenic El Saltillo walking route, opened in October 2020, and now it wants to attract visitors through its gastronomy.

Traditional dishes in this Axarquía village include kid goat baked in a wood-fired oven and black pudding with onions. As such, the town has launched a website detailing its gastronomic products with the aim of attracting more tourism.

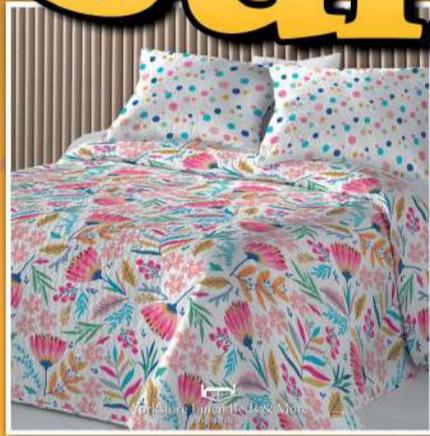
The website, [www.gastronomiadecanillas.es](http://www.gastronomiadecanillas.es), also includes tourist information about the town and seeks to attract visitors interested in good food and inland and rural destinations.

According to Malaga’s provincial authority, the Diputación, this strategy is focused on a target audience of men and women aged between 30 and 65 who have an active lifestyle, surf the internet regularly and are looking for gastronomic experiences to enjoy with family and friends.

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# Repairs to the Costa's beaches at Easter needed 530,000 cubic metres of extra sand

The damage caused by high waves and strong winds just before Easter was so severe that some of the works were not completed until June

IGNACIO LILLO



MALAGA. Storm damage to the Costa del Sol's beaches gets worse every year, and the figures for the repairs that were needed just before Easter this year certainly show that. The government's Coastal Authority has had to use 530,000 cubic metres of sand to get the beaches back into good condition after they were battered by huge waves and strong winds as the tourist season was about to start in April. This was the largest amount of sand needed in the past ten years.

The Emergency Plan approved by the secretary of state for the Environment cost 2.1 million euros and involved repairs to beaches in all 14 coastal municipalities, the government representative in Malaga, Javier Salas, confirmed this week.

Many of the less urgent works began in May and they mainly consisted of reprofiling and levelling the beaches and removing debris, pieces of pipe and vegetation from the sand. Some, how-



Sand being replaced on La Malagueta beach in Malaga city. FRANCIS SILVA.

**Beach stabilisation projects shelved by the previous government are now being dusted off and put into effect, at a cost of 26.8 million euros**

ever, were not completed until the end of June, such as those in Torrox, Malaga, Marbella and Estepona, which had to wait because the Junta de Andalucía had to give

permission for sand dredged from river beds to be used.

Javier Salas also said that the government had reactivated beach stabilisation projects which had been shelved by previous governments, which aim to combat erosion and will cost 26.8 million euros.

They include the central section of Ferra beach in Torrox (6.5 million euros); extending the breakwater between the Malapescuera and Santa Ana beaches in Benalmádena (1.1 million); remodelling the area between

## WHERE THE SAND WENT

► **Manilva.** Playa del Castillo.

► **Casares.** Torre de la Sal and Playa Ancha.

► **Estepona.** El Cristo, Guadalmansa, Padrón, Casasola, Ángel, Punta Plata, Benamara, El Saladillo.

► **Marbella.** San Pedro, El Pinillo, Las Cañas, La Víbora, Las Chapas.

► **Mijas.** Bombo.

► **Fuengirola.** Santa Amalia, Fuengirola, San Francisco.

► **Benalmádena.** Malapescuera, Santa Ana, Torre vigía, La Viborilla.

► **Torremolinos.** La Carihueta, Bajondillo.

► **Malaga.** Guadalmar, Arraijantal, La Malagueta, La Caleta, El Palo, Pedregalejo, La Araña.

► **Rincón de la Victoria.** La Cala, Rincón.

► **Vélez-Málaga.** Chilches, Valle Niza, Valle Niza campsite.

► **Algarrobo.** Algarrobo-Mezquitilla.

► **Torrox.** Ferrara.

► **Nerja.** El Chucho, Playazo and Torrecilla.

the Guadalmina and Guadaiza river estuaries in San Pedro Alcántara (7.4 million); regeneration works between the Venus and El Ancón beaches in Marbella (8.5 million); and regenerating the beach to the west of the Baños del Carmen in Malaga city (3.3 million).

## Jellyfish warning goes out for the western beaches of the Costa del Sol

ROSSEL APARICIO

MALAGA. Jellyfish - which can leave a nasty sting - are back in the waters of Malaga province this summer. In fact, the Aula del Mar marine observatory warned last weekend of a higher concentration of these invertebrates on the western strip of the Costa del Sol via its specialist phone app; Infomedusa. Specifically affected were the beaches between Marbella and Manilva.

The app warned of high concentrations of jellyfish on the beaches of Estepona especially, such as El Cristo, La Rada, Guadalobón and Arroyo Vaquero, where the number of these invertebrates was "high" (amber colour in the application).

On the beaches of San Pedro Alcántara and Manilva, the warning was yellow, with a medium density of jellyfish.

Every summer, the Infomedusa app monitors the situation on all Malaga province's beaches.



A jellyfish on Mijas Costa . SUR

# De CottaLaw

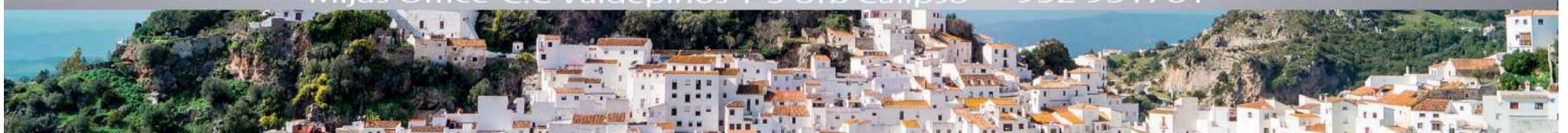
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# New municipal pool for Las Chapas to open by end of 2023

The town hall has put the contract out to tender with a budget of 1.2 million euros and a completion period of eight months

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS / SUR

MARBELLA. Marbella council has put the works for the municipal swimming pool in the Las Chapas area out to tender. The project has a budget of 1.2m euros and a completion period of eight months. The deadline for bids is 27 July. According to the schedule, the facility will be finished by the end of 2023. It will be on land not far from Lidl and Mercadona.

The pool will be 25 metres long and will have changing rooms, parking, and a café, among other



The pool, in the area east of Marbella, will be 25 metres long. SUR

facilities.

Marbella's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz said, "The pool will be covered so that it can be used at any time of the year and not only dur-

ing the summer and there will also be a grandstand with sufficient capacity for spectators. It will offer the services that the residents of this district deserve."

# Several Costa del Sol resorts take action to stop smoking on beaches

Three beaches in Mijas Costa are among 15 which are smoke-free, and Benalmádena is to designate a smoke-free zone in the municipality

T.B. / SUR

MIJAS. Councillors in Mijas have announced that La Luna Royal, El Bombo and La Cala beaches are now smoke-free zones. All three are now flying the 'Playa Sin Humo' flag as well as the EU blue flag for cleanliness and quality.

Although this campaign was begun by the Junta de Andalucía, Mijas council is also keen to make people aware of the need to respect health and the

environment.

Last week, the Junta de Andalucía's health minister, Jesús Aguirre, presented the certificates to the 15 beaches and eight swimming pools in Malaga province which have decided to become smoke-free.

The presentation on La Rada beach in Estepona was attended by a number of politicians, the general manager of the Costa del Sol hospital, Antonio Cansino, and Marcos García Rueda, director of the Andalucía Anti-Smoking Plan.

Meanwhile, Benalmádena council has unanimously approved a dedicated smoke-free area in the municipality and local people will have the chance to say where they think it should be.

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# Iconic Mijas Golf hotel to reopen in August with a new name

The former Byblos Hotel, now La Zambra, used to be considered one of the only places to stay for the elite towards the end of the last century

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MIJAS. The legendary Byblos Hotel in Mijas Golf will be reopening in August, with all the luxury and glamour for which it was always known, under the name of La Zambra. The Byblos originally opened on 31 May 1986 and was considered the only place to stay for the elite and royalty towards the end of the 20th century. It closed on 31 May 2010 after 24 years.

The hotel now forms part of Hyatt's Unbound Collection and has been renamed La Zambra. Its opening is keenly awaited - in fact Forbes magazine has included it as one of the ten most exciting new hotels in Europe this year.

Joost Kruissen, the general manager, told SUR the opening had been delayed by mainly external factors: firstly, the hauliers' strike a few months ago, and secondly, the international situation, which has delayed the delivery of some materials. The works were also held up by the heavy rain in the region in March.

La Zambra has 197 rooms, from classic doubles to premium suites, and also has one spectacu-



La Zambra will have three pools (artists' impression). SUR

lar 125 m2 suite.

The facilities include three swimming pools, two tennis courts, a gym, a yoga and pilates room and a wellness centre, restaurants, a disco, and children's play area. And of course Los Olivos and Los Lagos golf courses, created by renowned designer Robert Trent Jones Senior, are both close by.

**Forbes magazine has included the luxurious La Zambra on its list of the ten most exciting new hotels in Europe this year**

# A&E department at new Estepona hospital is due to open in two weeks

DAVID LERMA

ESTEPONA. The acting Andalusian minister for Health, Jesús Aguirre, said this week that the A&E department at the new hospital in Estepona should open in two weeks. "We are currently contracting doctors for the department; we have appointed seven but need 15 altogether," he said. "Depending on how things go, we believe that in a week or two the A&E department will be able to open."

However, this hospital, which opened a year ago, is still not able to admit inpatients. Doctors from the Costa del Sol hospital would be able to act as supply staff, but "there is an overall shortage of medical staff," Aguirre said.

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**COSTA DEL SOL**

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Paul Blackmoore.

in the hands of the new spouse/partner of the survivor.

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Just give his team a call on 865 756 058 and they will make a convenient appointment for you to chat with him. Where there is a Will - there certainly does now seem to be a way when it comes to keeping the cost of Wills, Powers of Attorney and Pre-paid Funeral Plans down to a sensible level.

**THY WILL BE DONE**

Call Paul on 865 756 058 or visit [www.thywill.co.uk/spain](http://www.thywill.co.uk/spain).



Moreno (left) greets Aguirre in front of regional PP party MPs. EFE

## Andalusian parliament is sworn in

**HÉCTOR BARBOTTA / SUR**

SEVILLE. The new parliament of the Andalucía region met for the first time on Thursday this week at its Seville base. It is the twelfth parliament since regional devolution in 1982 and follows last month's election when the conservative PP party won an overall majority of seats for the first time under leader Juanma Moreno. Only 31 of the 109 regional MPs that sit in the parliament have experience, with the

rest new to the job.

President - or Speaker - of the new parliament will be Jesús Aguirre, who is best known to people in Andalucía for his role as regional minister of Health over the period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“He is a competent and responsible person, able to empathise and talk with everybody,” said acting president of the Andalucía government, Juanma Moreno.

The next stage as Andalucía forms its new government - and following normal procedures - is for Juanma Moreno to be voted in as president of the Junta de Andalucía next week, with the full, new government expected to be operating by 25 July.



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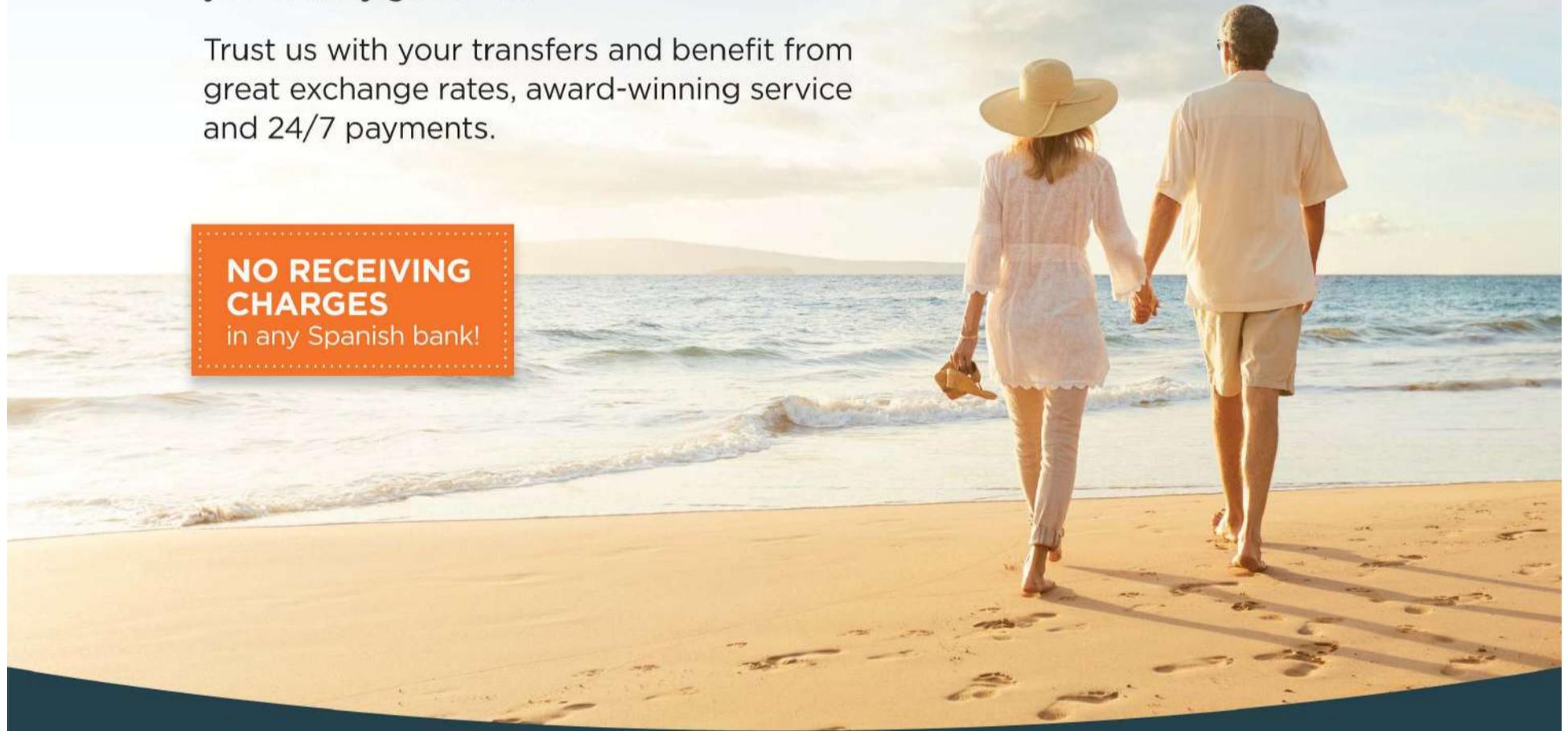
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# Expo 2027 could attract 3m visitors if Malaga wins bid

The city council's feasibility plan has detailed the benefits that hosting the international event would bring to the capital of the Costa del Sol

JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. The city council in Malaga has published the dossier that was presented last month to the Paris-based International Exhibitions Office to endorse the city's bid to host the Expo 2027 exhibition.

The document included some of the main figures of what hosting this event would entail, and revealed the considerable effort that delivering it would require at an economic and logistical level. It also highlighted the benefits that it would bring to the city.

The feasibility plan contained in the dossier explained that the celebration of the Expo under the slogan The Urban Era: Towards

the Sustainable City from 5 June to 5 September, 2027, would cost a total of 859 million euros, including expenses and the necessary investment to build the planned site on land at Buenavista, on the outskirts of the city.

## Giant ring

There an enormous ring-shaped building would be constructed, some 560 metres in diameter, which would house the Expo pavilions around a central space for gardens, three themed pavilions (citizenship, innovation and the environment), restaurants and a theatre with space for 3,000 spectators.

The study indicated that the Expo could generate 321 million euros of revenue, of which 136 million would be from ticket sales.

The dossier estimates that, during the 93 days of the exhibition, 3.1 million visitors could have passed through Expo's gates,



An artist's impression of the proposed Expo 2027 site on the outskirts of Malaga city. SUR

which could add up to some 7.5 million visits, since a repeat visit rate of 2.4 is estimated.

Of the 859 million euros Expo would cost, 602m are set aside for the construction of the site and 256m for operating expenses, including personnel (around 3,000 during the event and some three hundred over several years), marketing and funding for putting on cultural shows.

**It won't be until June next year that Malaga finds out whether it has enough support for its bid to beat the other contenders**

The project would be subsidised by contributions from central government, the Junta, city council and provincial authority - a total of 540 million euros.

Now the plans are on the table, but it won't be until June next year that Malaga city finds out whether there is enough support for its bid to beat the other contenders to host Expo 2027: Thailand, Argentina, Serbia and USA.

## Costa del Sol airport is nearly as busy as before the pandemic

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Airport operator Aena has reported that 8,166,006 passengers transited through the terminals of Malaga Airport in the first six months of this year. This compares to 9,215,246 passengers recorded for the same period in 2019.

The number of landings and take-offs on the runways was also close to what it was before the coronavirus crisis. In this first half of the year, 66,356 flights operated, only 1,819 fewer than those in the pre-pandemic year of 2019, which

was a record year. The figures also show a total of 1,907,290 passengers transited through Malaga Airport last month, which equates to almost 93 per cent of the figure for June 2019.

Aena said it viewed the reactivation of travel between countries as "remarkable". Last month international travel accounted for 83.9 per cent of the airport's activity.

Figures for June show that UK passengers topped the list with 560,091; Germany was in second place, with 128,899 passengers; followed by France, with 114,280.

## Strikes lead to few cancellations so far this week but UK warns to check with airlines first

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Costa tourist industry is unhappy after the British government updated travel advice for Spain in light of problems passengers may face with Ryanair and easyJet cabin crew strikes at Spanish bases. The UK advised worried travellers to contact the airlines direct for more information.

Tourism bosses say it isn't normal nor necessary to flag industrial action that is having minimum effect. Although few flights have been cancelled so far, (the strike effects just Spain-based crew), many have been delayed.

Further industrial action has been called as follows: Ryanair: July 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27 and 28, at ten Spanish bases (Madrid, Barcelona, Girona, Malaga, Seville, Valencia, Alicante, Santiago, Palma and Ibiza).

EasyJet: July 15, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31, at three Spanish bases (Malaga, Barcelona and Palma).

## IN BRIEF



How the tower will look. SUR

## MALAGA

### Port's hotel tower clears planning hurdle

IGNACIO LILLO. Malaga's Urban Planning department has approved the Torre del Puerto project in the city - a luxury 116-metre-high hotel development, funded by Qatari money, planned on the esplanade of the Levante dock. Now the plan must go to a full council meeting and, if it gets the green light, it will then be forwarded to Madrid for consideration by government officials before being passed to the Cabinet for the final decision.

## COSTA DEL SOL

### More police to patrol tourist hotspots

IQUIRANTE. A total of 380 officers, some 158 of them trainees, will reinforce the National Police force in Malaga and on the Costa del Sol under Operation Summer 2022, which is part of the Safe Tourism Plan that the secretary of state for Security implements every summer. Controls will be increased on the roads, at ports, train stations, airports, beaches, hotels and campsites.

## ANDALUCÍA

### Supermarket chain boosts summer staff

SUR. Carrefour has taken on 1,560 extra staff in its stores in Andalucía this summer. Most of the vacancies were for cashiers, counter staff, shelf fillers, e-commerce and technology departments. Nationally, the supermarket chain has taken on 8,000 new people, which is 15% more than last summer. Many of the new employees, mainly young people, were contracted in areas that see a greater influx of tourists during the high season.

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## THE SECRET? IT'S NOT JUST THE PRICE



## A-7 coastal road voted third worst in country

JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The A-7 road that runs along the length of the Costa del Sol is the third worst-rated in Spain by drivers. The section of the road linking Algeciras with Almeria and which crosses the province of Malaga achieved a score of six out of 10 points.

In the Organisation of Consumers and Users (OCU) survey only the AP8, between Irun and Bilbao (5.7), and the AP1, between Vitoria and Irun (5.8) obtained worse results. The OCU data was collected from more than 1,200 people from all over Spain; and the average score for all roads was 6.6. Survey respondents were most concerned by road works, traffic density and the absence of rest areas.

Drivers were asked to rate the condition of the road surface, lane width, signage, crash barriers, junctions, rest areas, road works and traffic flow. In addition, they had to give an overall satisfaction rating.

In general terms, one out of every five users was dissatisfied with the state of local and provincial roads. For drivers the ease of sharing roads with other users (pedestrians, cyclists or scooters) was the most important factor in giving a positive score.

Satisfied survey respondents (24 per cent) outnumber those who are not satisfied (19 per cent), but 57 per cent of those consulted remained neutral. Signage received only 5.6 marks and is an area which the authorities should seek to improve according to the OCU.



The A7 section in Marbella. JOSELE

### What do you think?

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## Malaga health centres forced to cut hours due to shortage of doctors

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Of the 26 health centres in Malaga city, only six will be open in the late afternoon and early evening through the busy summer months. The remaining 20 will only work from 8am to 3pm. The reason for these early closing hours is due to the difficulty of finding doctors to replace those who choose to take their holidays during the peak summer period. Therefore it has been decided to close most of the city's health centres in the afternoons until normality returns on Monday, 19 September.

The Andalusian public health

service (SAS) has problems every year finding suitably qualified medical professionals available to work in its health centres during the summer season, a period in which a large proportion of the workforce take their holidays.

"It is not a question of money, but of a lack of doctors," said the territorial delegate for Health and Families, Carlos Bautista, who described this situation as "historic and recurring," since it has been happening for years.

"The staff need to rest and have vacations," said Bautista, adding that given the impossibility of making all the necessary substitutions, they opt for the closure of health centres in the afternoons.

One of the biggest problems is that many contracts offered are short term. "We have to retain the doctors with long-term contracts, decent pay and better working conditions," said the president of the College of Physicians in Malaga, Pedro Navarro.

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# Britain tops list of investors in Spain in first quarter of 2022

The British Chamber of Commerce presented its study of the amount of investment flowing from the UK at a meeting in Malaga last week

S. CONAGHAN / N. HESKETH

MALAGA. The British Chamber of Commerce for Andalucía presented its 7th Barometer on the Climate and Outlook of British Investment in Spain at a meeting held in Malaga city last week. The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre was in attendance.

The report studies the amount of investment from UK firms in Spain and the outlook for the future. It was good news.

Based on data for all 2021, inward foreign investment from the UK reached 3.3 billion euros, up 17% on 2020 and moving Britain up to be the big-



Francisco de la Torre. SUR

gest investor ahead of the US at the close of the year.

In the first three months of 2022 alone this figure reached 2.5 billion euros, up 347% on the same quarter a year earlier, according to the Chamber of Commerce report.

The exceptional 2022 data was driven by big investments

in the sporting and entertainment sector; British based CVC Capital funds invested in the Spanish football league, LaLiga, earlier this year.

In terms of Andalucía, there were 144.8 million euros of direct investment in 2021 from the UK. The vast majority of that money (89.7%) was directed at the food sector, which received 130 million euros. The rest of investments were made in construction (1.9%), real estate (1.8%) and science and technology (1.8%).

Just over three quarters of UK firms in Spain surveyed expected to increase their investment in the country in 2022, although half said that movement and trade had become more restricted post Brexit, with extra controls.

The aspect of Spain that British investors valued the most was quality of life followed by availability of services.

The worst-rated factors for business were instability in government and weaker support for Research, Development and Innovation from the public authorities.

"The UK is an important country for Spain, Andalucía and Malaga," said Malaga mayor Francisco de la Torre at the close of the event.

more expenditure per year for the average household. The figures disappointed ministers, who said they expected inflation to still be around 9% by year end, before dropping next year.

In terms of monthly changes between May and June, prices shot up 1.9% in just the 30 days of last month, the biggest June increase in Spain since 1977.

Underlying annual inflation in June, which excludes fresh food produce and energy and is a more long-term view, went up to 5.5%, the highest since 1993.

this year, when annual inflation was at 9.8%.

Among the products rising the most in the last 12 months were fuel by 40.7%, and heating (35%). In terms of food, cooking oil has gone up 37%, milk 20% and bread almost 14%.

According to the data, the rise in prices will mean 3,550 euros

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## Bank robbery?



The one-off tax on Spanish banks announced by Pedro Sánchez this week is an attempt to show that his coalition is driven by at least one solid left-wing principle: take from the wealthy to make things better for the less well-off. But the precise justification and the likely effects of this tax bonanza - to which Spanish utility behemoths such as Iberdrola and Endesa will also contribute - are far from clear.

The Socialist leader claims that Spanish banks are already profiting to an "exceptional" degree from the country's historically higher interest rates. According to the Spanish Banking Association, though, recent profits aren't substantially bigger than normal. Even assuming that the government's right on this point, how, if at all, do the increased earnings justify the precise rate of the one-off tax?

Sánchez says that the two-year tax will apply to companies with a turnover of more than one billion. Theoretically, then, it applies to ALL businesses that can "afford" to give the government more money, not just those presented as unfairly gaining from punitive interest rates. When Canada's liberal prime minister, Justin Trudeau, announced a similar one-off tax after winning last September's general election, the country's banks said they had been unfairly singled out. Spain's financial sector could make the same point if the new levy isn't applied to compa-

nies in other industries with comparable turnovers.

Another key question is whether the money raised by this emergency tax will be better spent by the government than it would by the banks themselves. It's hard to see how building extra housing in Madrid and making train journeys free between September and December (?) will have a lasting effect on Spain's poorest households. Would it not be better (in the sense of more streamlined and effective) if the banks themselves redirected the extra money - say into training courses for the unemployed, or to provide cheaper services for their customers?

Share prices in Spanish banks are already tanking, showing the impact of the new tax on the international investment community. This was also one of the concerns expressed by the Canadian financial sector when Trudeau announced his windfall tax.

Banks aren't in the habit of watching their margins being eroded by leftist governments, so they'll recoup their lost profits from somewhere. But how will their reactions in turn impact their thousands of employees and hundreds of thousands of customers? Higher costs for financial services and mass redundancies are two possibilities - and two ways in which this initiative could have an unintended, negative impact on Spanish households.

## Annual inflation rate hits 10.2%, the highest since 1985

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. Annual inflation in Spain reached 10.2% in June, according to government data published on Wednesday this week. It is the highest yearly inflation figure in the country since 1985. May's annual figure was 8.7% and the last figure this high was in March

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# PM announces windfall tax on banks and free local train passes

Pedro Sánchez shored up support for his government from minority left-wing and nationalist parties in this week's State of the Nation debate

PAULA DE LAS HERAS / SUR

MADRID. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez unveiled a raft of new give-and-take measures this week aimed at softening the blow of inflation. The announcements came as part of a State of the Nation debate in the Congreso chamber.

The PM's left-wing allies in his multi-party coalition and friendly nationalist parties rallied round in support of the government despite tensions between them in recent weeks and amid signs they would be looking for more radical concessions from Sánchez in the future in order to maintain their support for him.

Sánchez admitted difficult times lie ahead but said he would do everything to defend "the social majority" and would take difficult decisions that Spain "needs



Pedro Sánchez speaks to MPs. EFE

**Bank shares plunged and the government has promised to try to stop banks passing the tax onto customers**

to be taken".

The new measures include an extra two-year tax on banks, which will raise around 1.5 billion euros a year, in addition to

the tax already announced on major electric, gas and fuel companies on their extraordinary profits in 2022 and 2023. "This government will not allow a lot of people to suffer for the benefit of a few others," Sánchez said.

Bank shares plunged on the news and the government has promised to try to stop banks passing the tax onto customers with higher fees - and so defeating the purpose - although experts said this would be hard to do.

The government is also to give a 100% discount on Renfe rail travel passes for local Cercanías services and on medium distance trains. Until now, the discount has been 50%, but it has been increased to encourage people to use public transport.

Sánchez also announced that students over the age of 16 who already get a grant will now receive an extra 100 euros, payable between September and December this year.

**Bank robbery?**  
Mark Naylor, p14

## Four million autumn trips on Costa Cercanías trains could be free

The fine print of what Pedro Sánchez announced in Congreso has yet to be published. But, taking the government at its word, train travel could be free on Cercanías local trains from September to December this year for everyone holding

an 'abono' ticket - which could be a monthly pass or a multi trip ticket. Train operator Renfe has already said that over four million trips on the routes in Malaga province could be given away over the period that this inflation busting measure is in place on the lines from Malaga to the airport, Fuengirola or Álora.

Ministers want to give people an alternative to their cars,

although the devil will be in the details, and exactly who will benefit isn't clear yet. Single trip tickets are almost certain to be excluded however.

At the same time, the PM has said that pass holders on the slower medium distance trains to Seville and from Antequera to Algeciras will be free. The faster medium distance Avant trains in Andalucía will be at a 50 per cent discount.

## Authorities agree to a fresh Covid booster jab for the over 60s but want to delay it for now

JOSÉ ANTONIO GUERRERO

MADRID. Spain's Ministry of Health and the regional health services have half accepted the European Union's proposal to start immediately administering the second booster dose against Covid-19 to about 13 million people in the country over 60 years of age.

At their meeting on Tuesday this week, Spanish officials and ministers agreed to administer this extra injection to those over 60, vulnerable people and health personnel. But they did not see

it as urgent enough to start doing it now, as recommended by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Those organisations called on Monday to accelerate the vaccination plans against Covid to stop the spiral of infections of the 'seventh wave'.

### Seventh wave

The president of the Spanish Association of Vaccinology, Amós García, told SUR on Monday, "Early autumn is a reasonable time to vaccinate everyone over 60 and immunosuppressed people with the fourth dose; and especially our 80-year-olds."

The decision to delay comes at a time when the incidence rate is 1,225 positives per 100,000 of those over 60. However hospitalisation rates remain low.

## Spain swelters with unusually high temperatures but Malaga's coast avoids the worst

SUR

MALAGA. Even though July is normally sweltering, people in Spain have had to cope with exceptionally high temperatures this week. Red weather warnings were activated again for large parts of the country including Andalucía. The province of Malaga, however, remained cooler.

In Ourense, in the northwestern region of Galicia, temperature boards were showing as high as 49 degrees on Tuesday and some northern regions were having the hottest July



Galicia reached 49C. EP

weather for 50 years.

Emergency services advised vulnerable people to avoid leaving the house.

The unusual heatwave has been caused by a high pressure centred over the British Isles and forecasters said it would start to move away again from this Saturday.

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Professors Clive Finlayson of the National Museum, and John Cortes. **SUR**

## Europe-Africa Bird Migration Observatory Network to be set up in Gibraltar

The new observatories will be on various sites and will focus on interpretation and education, monitoring and research and conservation, rescue and rehabilitation

**DEBBIE BARTLETT**

GIBRALTAR. As all keen ornithologists will know, Gibraltar is an important point on the Europe-Africa migratory routes and it was announced on Thursday, the 50th anniversary of a landmark study on Palaeartic-African bird mi-

gration by the late Reginald Moreau of Oxford University, that the Rock is now to have its own Migration Observatory Network. This will focus on three common themes: namely interpretation and education, monitoring and research and conservation, rescue and rehabilitation.

The observatories will be on sites owned or managed by different bodies, namely the government, the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS), Gibraltar National Museum and Gibraltar Botanic Gardens.

The locations for the network are: Harding's Observation Post (Europa Point); Marine Interpretation Centre (Europa Point), Europa Foreshore; Gorham's Cave Complex including Europa Advance Battery Viewing Platform; Jacob's Ladder; Jews' Gate Field Centre; Parson's Lodge; Windmill Hill Raptor Rehabilitation Centre; Tovey Cottage and the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens.

Professor John Cortes, the Minister for the Environment and a keen ornithologist himself, said he was very excited by the initiative. "Moreau's seminal work is at the heart of my passion for birds and the study of bird migration and I am delighted to be able to take this step and contribute to the history and development of the study of these vulnerable creatures," he said

## Negotiations with EU over Gibraltar's future relationship have continued this week

**D. BARTLETT**

GIBRALTAR. Chief minister Fabian Picardo and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia travelled to Brussels this week on a brief visit relating to the negotiations over Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union.

A statement issued by the government after their return on Thursday said that the remaining areas where agreement needs to be reached are very narrow but nonetheless very important. "Those talks were held in parallel to a stock-take between the UK and EU of the eight negotiating rounds that have taken place so far. The government remains fully committed to secure an agreement which will govern Gibraltar's relationship with the EU and with Spain, its nearest Member State, and discussions towards that objective will be ongoing and take place at different levels," it said.

### IN BRIEF

#### CULTURE

### The Charter Choir on tour in Gibraltar

**D.B.** The Charter Choir from Homerton College at Cambridge university is performing Mass at 12 noon on Saturday at the cathedral of St Mary the Crowned, Eucharist at 11am on Sunday at Holy Trinity Cathedral and Evensong at Holy Trinity Cathedral on the same day at 4pm.

All the performances are free to attend, with a collection afterwards.

#### CULTURE

### Nine local artists to exhibit in Bermondsey

**D.B.** Nine local artists will be representing Gibraltar at a special exhibition in Bermondsey Project Space, in London, in September, as part of the National Week celebrations. The aim is to put the Rock on the artistic map and provide a snapshot of what Gibraltar means to the community. Bermondsey Project Space is a flagship venue for both emerging and established artists.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Cost of living and free rides

I appreciated last week's article (page 2&3, July 8th) on inflation and how much the price of everything, from the supermarket shop to fuel and mortgage repayments, has gone up and keeps going up. Well, actually, I only appreciated it in part; while figures are always interesting (and vital), the information was really just rubbing our noses in the bad news we already know. While our average salaries and pensions have normally been plenty to ensure a comfortable (perhaps not luxury) life in Spain, some of us are now finding that we have to watch our bank balance at the end of the month.

So I was happy to read on your website this week that the Spanish prime minister is taking steps to lessen the effects of the inflation on the country's population. One of these is to make local trains free in the autumn to help the pockets of users and promote the use of public transport. I hope they think carefully about how that is going to be implemented in tourist areas and restricted to the people it is aimed at - that is, commuters, students and other regular users. While I'm sure tourists would appreciate a free season ticket for their stay, please make sure that these extra funds, which the government is finding from who knows where, go to help the local residents who need it.

MARGARET COXON

## Image rights

There are people desperate to gain notoriety, to have millions of followers and become famous, either out of vanity or for the benefits it might bring them. And there are others, already famous, who don't have the slightest inter-

est in promoting their image; in fact, quite the opposite. Image rights are protected by Spanish legislation which consists of the exclusive right anyone has to take, share or publish their own image and to oppose others who do it without permission.

ENRIQUE STUYK

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THE MUSIC MAKER  
PETER EDGERTON

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## Hear my voice

A team of French and Spanish boffins has, as you may have read elsewhere in this esteemed publication, developed a method based on artificial intelligence to detect whether or not somebody has coronavirus by analysing their voice and cough recordings. However, the success rate so far is a rather underwhelming 77%. This means that a quarter of those who have participated in tests were told they didn't have the virus when they did or they did have it when they didn't. Apply those statistics to Spain's current population of 47 million or so, and that would be twelve million wholly deluded people wandering about the place willy-nilly, if it were introduced on a national scale. No, I'm afraid that only a 95% success rate would offer the required credibility for widespread use.

Still, it gets a man thinking. What other, less serious, uses could voice detection technology be put to? Malingerers

would think twice about calling in sick, having practised whimpering pathetically for the previous half an hour.

"Hello, boss I...I feel like death... I can't make it today and, since Thursday's a holiday anyway, I'd better take Friday off just to be sure. Hope to be back by Tuesday. Or Wednesday. Or next month. Or something."

"Hold it right there, García - my spanking new voice-detection machine tells me that what you have is nothing more than a hangover. Hang on, is that bacon I hear sizzling in the background?"

What if the technology went even further and was able to detect how boring we were?

"Hi, it's your new neighbours here. Just wanted to invite you round this evening for a house warming. There'll be Twiglets."

A flashing red light on our phone would tell us that mortgage rate chat is more than likely. Amber means a strong possibility of scrolling through interminable holiday snaps of

the hosts' feet complete with a blue sea background. A green light means you're free to go but don't rule out conversations about cookery programmes you've never seen and never want to see like the Great Twitish Cake Off.

Best of all, perhaps the technology could be used for match-making. Instead of the current apps that allow you to swipe some poor sap from your screen and send them tumbling into a virtual landfill of the wholly undesirable, you could have people actually calling each other and the new gizmo would detect whether they were a good match simply by the way they spoke.

"Hi, this is Ted. I -"  
"Stop right there, Ted, my machine tells me you're forty-three and you've got a skateboard. Next."

"Hi, this is Joe, I -"  
"Stop right there, Joe, my machine tells me you - blimey, you've got coronavirus. Ah yes, this is my dad's old machine."

## IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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MANUEL CASTILLOEditor  
Rachel Haynes  
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David AndrewsAccounts Manager  
Emma Vera  
Commercial Director  
Yolanda QuesadaTHE BOTTOM LINE  
VIOLETA NIEBLA

## Surround sound

There is always someone doing the listening and someone being listened to. Now, eavesdropping is a form of auditory voyeurism that I have been practising since the nineties, when my house had two landline telephones and I would pick up the second one, holding my breath carefully, to listen to my grandmother chatting away with her sisters on the other end.

From the telephone I moved on to the very poor quality walls that have followed

me in all the homes I have lived in and through which I have been able to listen to the neighbours fighting and making up in bed afterwards. These days it still happens to me on the bus, in the shops, on the beach: who hasn't lain down on their towel to listen to what is coming their way (it's not always the lapping waves that we can hear).

I like to be on the side of the listener and, for the moment, I do it alone. But I know there are people who are years

ahead of me. Take those married couples who never say a word to each other when they go out to eat. They ask for the menu or swipe the QR code on their phone, order the food, taste it in a total trance, pay and leave. Total silence, where the waiter is the one who leads the monologue while they nod and end up drawing their signature in the air with their hand to ask for the bill.

I have studied all types. The first thing I thought was they were maybe people who had gone out for dinner just after a row or that they were a married couple who no longer spoke to each other, but liked to eat out too much.

I soon discovered though that it is not necessarily a lack of communication but quite the opposite; they have reached such a heavenly peace that they choose to eat in silence and listen to what is go-

ing on around them.

There are married couples who have been together so long and have eaten out so much that the listening range of their ears can reach as far as the furthest table in the largest restaurant, cutting through the bustle.

Not talking to each other is not related to the use of mobiles either - they aren't on their phones. We might think that they don't talk because they are gazing at each other, but they don't look at each other either.

Sometimes he looks at a point in infinity somewhere off to the left, then he switches to the right and she fixes her gaze on a fixed point on the floor or on the tablecloth. There is no doubt about it; they are listening to the rest of us. They follow every word of our conversations, holding their breath.

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## IN THE FRAME

## A rock-solid reputation on the Costa music scene

**Lucy Pardoe.** The former professional dancer moved to Mijas in 2016 and has since become one of the coast's most popular rock singers

TONY BRYANT



The expat entertainment sector has a steadfast reputation for coming together in times of crisis and in aid of worthy causes, especially during the recent coronavirus pandemic and the current war in Ukraine.

One singer who has demonstrated a passion for helping others is 38-year-old Lucy Pardoe, a British expat best known for being one half of the Rock of the Ages duo, a show that has earned her the reputation as one of the best rock singers on the coast.

Born in Eastbourne, Sussex, Lucy's venture into the world of entertainment began at the age of two when she began to dance. By the age of ten, Lucy was dancing professionally after training in ballet, tap and modern jazz. She performed around the UK, and also appeared in shows in Mallorca and Italy. However, she would hang up her dancing shoes to pursue a different career.

"I retired from dancing at 28, and seeing as I had also been working in the makeup industry, I thought this would be a good career move," Lucy explains to SUR in English.

Lucy came to Spain in 2016

and settled in Mijas. Her plan was to "just continue working as a freelance make-up stylist", but after meeting her partner, local musician Ollie Hughes, her life would take a different direction.

Although Lucy had had no real experience as a vocalist, her love of the entertainment world led to her applying for a role at the Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola. Although she did not get the part, it was here that she met the singer, Ruth Norris, who persuaded Lucy to form a duo. It was not long before she would also form a band with her boyfriend Ollie.

"Ollie is a rocker and he is an insane guitarist. He played the guitar long before becoming a singer. He had been performing a Robbie tribute for more than 20 years and decided he wanted to do something different. This is how Rock of the Ages came about," Lucy says.

Although not from a musical background, she grew up listening to a variety of different music. Her favourite is country music, but it was Ollie's influence that turned her into one of the coast's most popular rock singers.

The Rock of the Ages show



The incredibly talented singer Lucy Pardoe on stage during the Rock of the Ages show. **SUR**

was initially put together for a charity event, but the couple have gone on to perform it at venues all along the coast.

Another initiative that boosted Lucy and Ollie's popularity was the Rock the Lockdown online concerts, which took place throughout the early stages of the Covid crisis.

The concerts proved to be highly successful, with performers joining in from Spain and other parts of the world.

"This was Ollie's bright idea. However, he comes up with these ideas, but does not know how to make them happen. He is not the best on social media, so it's me who has to make it happen. We had artists from Singapore, Australia, America and the UK, it was absolutely amazing" Lucy says, beaming as she recalls the initiative.

Lucy also endeavours to sup-

**"I think the expat entertainment scene on the coast is amazing. Pretty much all we do on our days off is go to watch other singers"**

port the local artists and venues, although she admits that this is partly fuelled by her love of live music.

"I think the expat entertainment scene on the coast is amazing. Pretty much all we do on our days off is go to watch other singers. It's a mix of wanting to be supportive and because we genuinely enjoy going to see live music.

**Charitable reputation**

The incredibly talented

singer has also earned an admirable reputation for using her talents to raise funds for charity, something Lucy says she "feels good to be part of".

Her latest fundraising appeal took place last Sunday (10 July), when Lucy and several friends participated in a zip-wire flight in Alhaurin de la Torre to help the Operation Great Escape dog sanctuary, an event that raised almost 300 euros.

"The zipline in Alhaurin de la Torre was on my things to do list, so I thought why not do it for charity. These charities do amazing jobs and I just wanted to help in some way,"

"It was a really cool experience but not as scary as I thought it would have been. Skydiving next, for sure," the animated singer concludes, with a smile.



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Nicky Jam attracted the biggest crowd of the festival. JAIME WALFISCH

## Weekend Beach - as impressive as ever

The music event was back with its winning formula after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic

REVIEW  
JENNIE RHODES

The Weekend Beach festival was back with aplomb last week in Torre del Mar. It was hard to imagine that three whole years had passed and its winning formula remained unchanged. The event attracted 135,000 people who came to enjoy live music from Nicky Jam, Lola Índigo, Third World and more for the first time since 2019.

The same relaxed, friendly vibe that organisers and 'weekers' have brought to the event since its beginnings back in 2014 was there again, making it a truly enjoyable four days.

Over 80 artists appeared at this, the seventh festival, and fans of reggae were treated to the unmistakable sounds of veteran Jamaican band Third World, who impressed the

Thursday evening crowd with a mix of reggae fusion - including the obligatory tribute to Bob Marley - and Friday saw British pop / alternative rock band Bastille perform, giving a stellar performance and going some way to please those wanting to hear music in English, after The Hives cancelled at the last minute.

Saturday saw the biggest crowds with 40,000 revellers going to see the likes of Spanish pop rock group Izal, US reggaeton star Nicky Jam and Spanish reggaeton and electropop act Lola Índigo.

"Weekend Beach says goodbye until 2023," said organisers as they advertised next year's dates (5 - 8 July in case you want to get it in your diary). I, for one, will definitely be back.

# Costa del Sol gears up for weekend of festivities to honour the Virgen del Carmen

This celebration has a long tradition in the province of Malaga and each locality will have a slightly different schedule

TONY BRYANT

COSTA DEL SOL. Towns along the Costa del Sol are gearing up for a series of festivities this weekend in honour of the Virgen del Carmen, also known as Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Every 16 of July, celebrations are staged from Nerja to Estepona and will include lavish processions that culminate in the image of the Virgin Mary, decorated with floral offerings, being escorted out to sea by dozens of tiny fishing boats.

This is a special day for many of the towns that were originally fishing villages, as the Virgen del Carmen is the patron saint of fishermen; she is also the patron of the Spanish Navy.

This celebration has a long tradition in the province of Malaga and each locality will have a slightly different schedule, so it is best to check out the websites of the relevant town halls.

Malaga city has several processions. These take place in El Palo (Saturday), Huelin (Sunday) and the district of Pedregalejo (Saturday) and El Perchel (Sunday).

Some towns, like Rincón de la Victoria, Torremolinos (La Carihuela) and Los Boliches, hold a fair to coincide with the celebration.

The Rincón de la Victoria fair



Most towns will hold the maritime procession on Saturday evening. SUR

will be held between 15 and 17 July, with a programme of daytime and night time activities in Plaza Al Ándalus, along with large-format concerts in the municipal auditorium.

The fair in La Carihuela kicked off on Wednesday and continues until Saturday with a variety of entertainment and religious events; while the festivities in Los Boliches, which also began on Wednesday, will continue until Sunday 17 July.

This will be the first time in three years that this popular celebration will be held in its full capacity, although some towns have made slight changes to their schedules.

As in most towns, the main procession in Benalmádena

takes place on Saturday 16, although the procession will embark on a new route along the promenade, which was renamed after the Virgin last year.

Marbella has also introduced an important change compared to previous editions, since the maritime procession will be held in the morning (6.30am) and not in the afternoon: there are also variations in the land procession, which this year will start from the Church of La Encarnación at 8pm.

The main festivities in San Pedro will begin at 7am on Saturday with the Rosario de la Aurora; while a mass will be held at 7pm in Calle La Morera, after which the iconic image will embark on its journey.

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# Invasive species: they came, they conquered, and native varieties suffer

SOLANGE VÁZQUEZ



It's summer, we're planning to travel quite a distance from home and maybe it seems like a good idea to release that little turtle we bought for the children into the river at the village when we get there, because nobody wants to look after it any more. Or the fish we won at the fair. Maybe, in our eagerness to be "ecological" we see some unusual parrots in a park and give them food, or we pick some apparently innocuous seeds to plant in our grandparents' vegetable plot and show the kids how lovely it is to see a plant grow and care for it.

In fact, if we do any of those things we may be committing a colossal error and being less green than we think. Why? Because we are helping species, which are often exotic (not native) and invasive, to implant themselves in a habitat which is not theirs.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, accidental introductions - those which are unintended, or are brought in for commercial other reasons - are the ones that produce "the most successful invasions".

"Not all exotic species are invasive," Joan Pino, the director of CREA (the Spanish ecological and forestry applications research centre) told SUR.

"To be invasive, they must successfully establish themselves in an area - in other words reproduce in it - and then spread and increase in number."

But that is often just a matter of time and that is why experts are warning that a rapid response and prevention are necessary and are almost the only way to prevent these species expanding.

Why do we need to fight them? Because when they "invade" they impact the biodiversity (they take over by eliminating many rivals, for example), the economy (they can affect crops or infrastructure) and even human health (some transmit diseases).

"The generalist species, which adapt easily, win and the native ones, which are more demanding, lose," said Pino.

In other words, being very fussy about food, mating and climate change reduces the chances of survival (something



ILLUSTRATION JULIA FERNÁNDEZ

that also applies to humans). However, playing devil's advocate, he also said the disappearance or decline of a species is not only influenced by "outsiders" but also by climate change and human activity.

Here, we list a selection of invasive species which came to Spain (maybe as pets, or by air or other form of transport without anyone realising, or for commercial reasons...) and have become established.

**1 American crab:** This was brought to Spain in 1930 as a food and ended up "eating" nearly all the native crabs, which are in danger. They were bred for human consumption on a fish farm in the Guadalquivir marshes, but, as they say in Jurassic Park, life finds a way and, after escaping or being released, they spread. The American crab is endangering native species, damaging agriculture, degrading riverbanks and clouding the water.

**2 Tiger mosquito:** It is bigger than the native ones, comes from south-east Asia and was detected for the

first time in August 2004 in Sant Cugat del Vallés (Catalonia). It is believed to have arrived in Spain inside cargo. Now, 18 years later, it is very well-known.

**3 Florida or American turtle:** Oh, what a mess this little pet has made of things! In the 1980s these became fashionable pets all over the world. They first arrived in Spain in the 1990s and in 1997 the EU banned their importation. By then, however, more than one million of them had been sold and, as many people got bored of their turtles, some decided to release them into the wild. That led to their invasion. The consequences? They exclude other native turtles and eat masses of invertebrates, fish, amphibians and aquatic vegetation. And beware - they can even transmit salmonella!

**4 Asian hornet:** "This species arrived less than 20 years ago and it is still extending," said Joan Pino. The Asian hornets feed on many insects in Spain's ecosystem, especially honey bees, and on occasion they attack fruit trees and

vines, as has already happened in some parts of the Catalonia region.

**5 American mink:** Scientists also know when these arrived in Spain for the first time. It was back in 1958 in Segovia, when American minks were brought to breeding farms for the fur industry. But they continually escaped or were intentionally released, so they spread over a large part of the country. Their main victim has been the European mink, which is smaller, less aggressive and easily succumbs to viruses spread by its American "brother".

**6 Zebra mussel:** This species drastically changes the ecosystem. By increasing the level of organic material in the waters, it covers all the ground in its path. It is native to the Black and Caspian seas and was detected for the first time in 2001 in Catalonia, although it spread rapidly to other regions. It causes considerable damage to hydraulic infrastructure (amounting to about two million a year in the Ebro river basin).

**7 Argentine parakeet:** "This green bird is one of the most successful invasive birds in the world. It originated in South America and a lot were sold as pets, so we believe some were bought by people here in Spain and they either escaped or were deliberately released. This country has the second-highest number of Argentine parakeets in the world, around 20,000. And they are a problem. They compete for food with our native species and they feed on the eggs and chicks of other birds. In Barcelona alone there are six species of parrots in different phases of expansion," said Joan Pino. Large, built-up areas are also popular with "invaders" such as magpies and gulls, he explained.

**8 Pampas grass:** Plant species also invade, not just animals. One example is Pampas grass, which is widespread in Spain. It comes from South America and displaces native species. Another example from the world of flora? The water hyacinth: it reduces the oxygen level in the rivers and affects both flora and fauna.



The concert at the English Cemetery. SUR

# British and Spanish music fills the English Cemetery

The Malaga Municipal Band concert featured music by composers from both countries

LIZ PARRY

MALAGA. Malaga's Municipal Band gave its annual concert in the English Cemetery last Sun-

day, playing a programme of British and Spanish music in consonance with the venue. Conducted by Francisco Miguel Haro Sánchez, the band played selected pieces by Elgar, William Walton, Asins Arbó, Giménez and Marquina. The Municipal Band's next concert will be in the Gibralfaro castle on 24 July at 9pm.

## ANDALUSIAN BIRD WATCH PETER JONES

# A mythological musician

The Andalucía Bird Society recommends looking out for the *Western Orphean Warbler* this month

A good a place as any to start with this brief article is to note the name change to both the common and scientific names, so I present to you in all its glory the Western Orphean Warbler *Curruca hortensis*, already split from what had been previously classified as a subspecies the Eastern Orphean Warbler *Curruca crassirostris*, they are both now considered as two separate species. What on earth would we do without the meddling muddlers of the taxonomy and nomenclature experts we have in our birding world?

The Western Orphean Warbler *C. hortensis* is a typical warbler of the genus *Curruca*. It occurs in summer around the Mediterranean, through western Europe and extending into regions of northwest Africa, it is a migratory bird and winters in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a rare vagrant to northern



Western Orphean Warbler. P. JONES

and north-western Europe.

These birds are most commonly found in open woodlands and Dehesa type habitats, although they can sometimes frequent bordering olive groves as well as some gardens. The English name refers to the mythical musician and singer Orpheus and *hortensis* is latin for garden, so those names are descriptive to its very distinctive melodious song and its sometimes association with gardens. They tend to favour a bush or tree for nesting and can lay up to six eggs and like most

warblers are insectivores.

At 15 to 16 centimetres long this is one of the largest of the warbler family and despite their large size, they are most easily located by their distinctive song as they are typically skulking in their habits and can be difficult to spot. When you do manage a sighting note that adult males have a plain grey back and whitish underparts. The bill is long and pointed and the legs black. The male also has a dark grey head, black eye mask, and white throat. The iris is white. Females and immatures have a paler head and buff underparts; their grey back has a brownish tinge. The iris is dark in young birds.

I hope you get to see and hear these wonderful summer visitors to our region.

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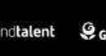
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# A 130km journey that led to answers

**Autism.** After John read an article in this newspaper about artist Helen Purdie, who was confirmed autistic as an adult, he got in touch about his own suspicions

JENNIE RHODES



John (not his real name), a British resident living on the western Costa del Sol had always suspected that his approach to life and particularly “everyday stuff” was different from that of other people.

In fact it was during the Covid lockdown in 2020 when, like many people, he had more time on his hands, he began to take stock of his situation.

“I had decided I was going to try to get to the bottom of what was going on with my life, or more accurately what was going on with me, which I now realise had been going on all my life,” John, 53, explains.

“Why did others seem to have an easier time with day-to-day stuff and why did I have an all-

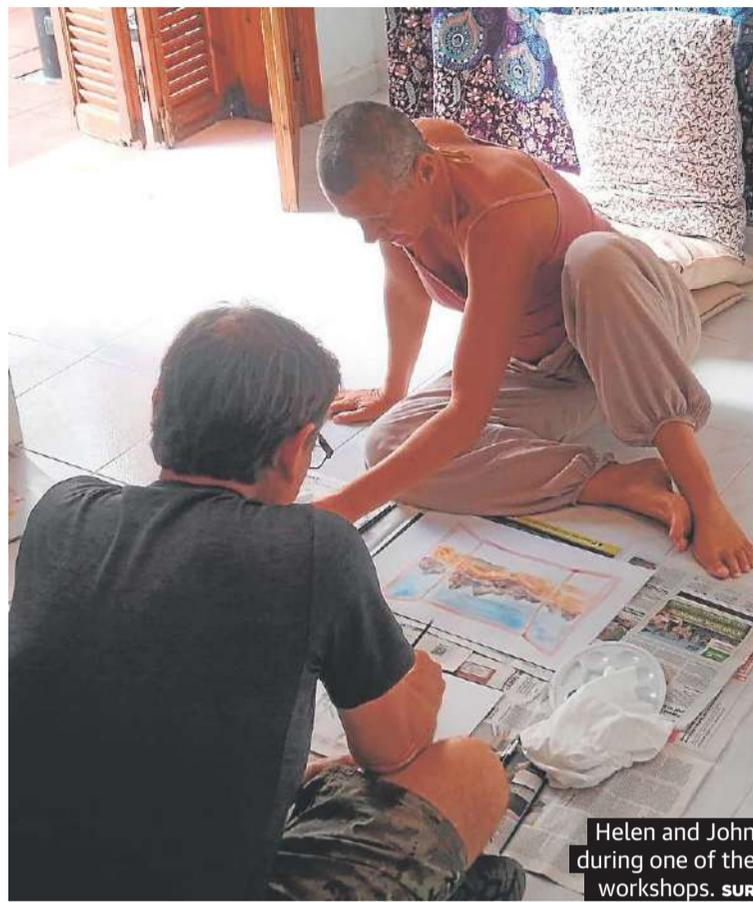
or-nothing attitude to tasks no matter how big or small?” he asked himself.

“Why did I struggle with social situations and yet, despite lots of interests and hobbies, why were they mainly pursued solo?”

He’d tried seeing a specialist in Malaga, but was told his symptoms were depression and was given medication for it: “I left the meeting feeling pretty hopeless.”

Here in Spain and in the UK it is estimated that one in 100 people (children and adults) are on the autistic spectrum. That is approximately 450,000 people in Spain and 700,000 in the UK according to the Confederación Autismo España and the UK’s National Autistic Society respectively.

While autism in children is



Helen and John during one of the workshops. SUR

identified quite easily nowadays, it was not picked up in many people in the past.

### A long-held suspicion

There are many, like 52-year-old Torrox resident Helen Purdie, who were not confirmed as autistic until they were adults.

Helen was 46 and the confirmation came after eight years of doctor’s and psychological appointments and a long-held suspicion of her own that she might be autistic.

The artist has since become passionate about helping other people, and in particular adults

who are autistic and runs online and face-to-face workshops in Spain and the UK. “I want to show people how they can be supported and those around them can get support,” she says.

Thanks to an article published in SUR in English about Purdie’s art exhibition last November, John got in touch.

“This is where a SUR in English article saved the day. The article made mention of Helen wishing to create an autistic workshop and support group as she had done previously in Sheffield,” John explains.

“So what did I do? Nothing - for six months I thought about it. I now laugh realising how much that length of procrastination sums up a particular autistic trait and definitely one of mine,” he admits.

However, John did eventually get in touch and made the 130-kilometre trip from his home on the opposite side of the province every Friday for a month.

Despite one or two “I can’t do this” moments, which Helen will explain from first-hand experience is another typical autistic trait, he feels that he’s finally on the right track.

### More information and support:

UK: [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk); Spain: [www.autismo.org.es](http://www.autismo.org.es); Helen Purdie: [www.helenpurdie.co.uk](http://www.helenpurdie.co.uk)

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## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

15 JULY 2000

# Malaga city councillor assassinated by ETA

The Basque separatist group was responsible for the shooting of PP politician José María Martín Carpena in front of his wife and daughter

**O**n 15 July 2000 the Basque separatist group ETA was behind the shooting of Malaga city councillor Martín Carpena outside his home in Calle Martínez de la Rosa.

The victim, along with his wife and daughter, was leaving the house on his way to an official engagement when a young man approached him and opened fire.

The assassin, Jon Igor Solana Matarrán, had been lurking in the neighbourhood for some



Martín Carpena.

time, waiting for his opportunity.

After shooting Carpena four times, Solana Matarrán fled the scene and disappeared. Carpena died before emergency services were able to reach him.

As the news of his death spread, numerous colleagues arrived to comfort the family who had witnessed the killing. Among them were the ex-mayor of Malaga and then Spanish health minister, Celia Villalobos, who was in the city to attend the same event that Carpena had been on his way to.

José María Martín Carpena had been a city councillor for the Partido Popular at Malaga city hall since 1997 and was involved in projects centred around the development of the Carretera de Cádiz and Puerto de la Torre



Mourners at Martín Carpena's funeral at Malaga cathedral. **sur**

districts.

Malaga's sports arena to the west of the city opened a year after Martín Carpena's death and it was named after him. Its full name is Palacio de Deportes José María Martín Carpena and the venue has since seen a number of important sports and cultural events; it is also home to Malaga's

Unicaja basketball team.

In 2018 Elton John performed there and in 2020, the Spanish equivalent to the Oscars, the Goyas, took place in the stadium, making it the first time ever the ceremony was held outside Madrid.

Three days after Carpena's death, the then deputy secre-

tary general of the Andalusian branch of the PSOE (Socialist party), José Asenjo, narrowly escaped death when a 1.5-kilo bomb was placed under his car but failed to detonate.

Asenjo was also leaving his home with his wife and daughter, this time in Malaga's Cerrado de Calderón neighbourhood when the incident took place.

### LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

<b>Terrorista</b>	Terrorist
<b>Vasco</b>	Basque
<b>Asesinar</b>	To assassinate
<b>Disparar</b>	To shoot
<b>Concejal</b>	Councillor
<b>Víctima</b>	Victim
<b>Joven</b>	Young
<b>Esperar</b>	To wait
<b>Merodear</b>	To lurk
<b>Barrio</b>	District/Neighbourhood
<b>Ayuntamiento</b>	City/town hall
<b>Deportes</b>	Sport
<b>Secretario</b>	Secretary
<b>Testigo</b>	Witness
<b>Huir</b>	To flee
<b>Responsable</b>	Responsible
<b>Compañero</b>	Colleague
<b>Noticia</b>	News

**i Bilingual crossword inside back page**

The magazine for the holiday season in southern Spain / July 2022

# Summer's here

Making memories in Andalucía

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DENISE BUSH



## GARDENING

# Phyla nodiflora

Native from the northern regions of South America to the southern US, this little plant has become naturalised in many temperate and tropical parts.

Phyla nodiflora, synonym Lippia nodiflora, is a member of the Verbena family and is commonly called frog fruit, sawtooth, turkey tangle and match weed. Here in southern Spain it is known as lipia and is currently

the plant of the month at Malaga's La Concepción Botanical Gardens.

The flowers look very similar to those of another member of the verbena family, Lantana. They form in small clusters of pink and white petals around a purple inflorescence from mid spring until the autumn.

When the petals drop,

the inflorescence is left and the appearance is similar to a match, hence the common name the matchflower.

It is fast growing and only reaches around 15cm in height. It spreads easily and forms a dense mat of vegetation, the stems rooting into the soil as they creep along. This makes it ideal for fixing soil on slopes and for covering large areas of dry soil plus it can withstand a fair amount of foot traffic so can be used as a lawn.

Once established it is reasonably drought resistant, although for really lush growth it will need regular watering during the hottest months. However, allow the soil to dry out between watering as it does not like to be waterlogged.

It needs plenty of natural light; in shade it will not flower. The flowers are rich in nectar and attract bees and other pollinating insects.

The small elliptical leaves have serrated edges and are used in traditional Indian medicine in poultices for burns, boils, ulcers and swellings. The fresh leaves are also made into a tea to treat gastric problems, colds and fevers.

Propagation can be carried out from seed, cuttings taken in spring or autumn, or by division.

The genus name Phyla comes from the Greek word for clan or tribe and the specific epithet nodiflora comes from Latin and means flowers that emerge from nodes.



A lawn of Phyla nodiflora and close up of flowers. WIKIMEDIA

## READERS' PHOTOS



JOAN MABEY

### Staghorn fern

Joan Mabeey sent in this photo of a staghorn fern (Platycerium) and says, "My staghorn fern has gone mad since I bought it as a small specimen." Staghorn ferns are epiphytic ferns; they grow on the surface of other plants and absorb nutrients and water from the air.



ROSALIND CAPLAN

### Summer survivor

This photo of a vibrant Fuchsia was sent in by Rosalind Caplan who says, "This is surviving the really high temperatures on the terrace. It gets early morning sun and shade the rest of the day, plus loads of water."

## 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).

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ture. Unfortunately it can have quite a strong odour, is difficult to clean and is attractive to some insects, especially termites. Seagrass and jute are not suitable for areas of heavy foot traffic and are best in bedrooms and living rooms.

**Coir**

Coir is made from fibres from the husks of coconut shells. It has a lovely, warm golden brown colour. Although not as hardwearing as sisal it can make a stylish addition to a living room adding both sophistication as well a rustic touch.

**Cleaning**

All natural fibre floor coverings are highly absorbent and any spillages should be blotted well and then the area left to dry completely or the drying process can be speeded up with a hairdryer. Stains can be removed using commercial dry cleaning products or try using a half white vinegar, half water solution.

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for any room in the house, as well as stairs and hallways and is available in various colours and textures.

**Jute and seagrass**

Jute and seagrass are cheaper to produce and therefore cheaper to purchase but they are not as hardwearing as sisal. Jute is much softer and has a tweedy look and rich tex-

**Sisal**

Sisal is made from the Agave sisalana plant and is one of the most durable natural floor coverings. It is suitable

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# Cristóbal Toral: a witness to his time

**Tireless.** Now 82, the painter is still keen to progress. His paintings and sculptures are a reflection of the world he sees around him, which he says often causes him pain



REGINA  
SOTORRÍO



Cristóbal Toral walks around the room before the opening of his exhibition. He gives a few last-minute instructions and even gives the glass which covers one piece a wipe with a handkerchief. This day is bringing him “enormous satisfaction”, and he wants everything to be perfect because at the age of 82, he is making another debut. This is the first solo exhibition in Malaga city by this artist from Antequera, an ambitious retrospective of half a century of creation which does justice to one of the province’s most internationally acclaimed painters. After visits to the Guggenheim in New York, the Pompidou in Paris, the Sofía Imber in Caracas and the Reina Sofía in Madrid, among others, Toral’s suitcases have stopped off at the CAC Málaga-La Coracha, organised by the council’s culture department.

More than 100 cases take centre stage in an installation created specifically for this exhibition, which is curated by Sebastián Gámez: dozens of them, superimposed in blue and yellow, the colours of the Ukrainian flag. “It is a tribute to the bravery of the Ukrainians and the five million people who have had to leave their country because of an autocrat,” says Toral. But this is not the only



piece he has created in 2022: Putin’s barbarity has inspired him to portray that population in transit at the station, or walking the streets of a devastated land.

Toral never rests, he is “obsessed” with painting. “I work at the same pace as I did 40 years ago, in fact I would say a bit faster now, because time is running out,” he says. That’s why he is now seeing things differently, and progressing, he says. “You always have to do better.”

He speaks calmly about death. “That’s how life is. You’re born in one place and disappear in another and in-between there’s a journey. Everything has a beginning and an end,” he says. In fact *The Last Journey* is the title of one of the sections of this display, with paintings that recall Arnold Böcklin’s *Island of the Dead* and a striking sculpture: a fully wrapped body lies in a coffin surrounded by shoes that marked his steps, postcards

to show where he has been and photos of people he admired, like the one of Paul Newman. Ahead, heaven does not await him; space does. “The end is cosmic, a planetary and unknown journey,” he says. “I wanted to be an astronaut, but then I became a painter instead,” he says, with a huge smile.

But make no mistake, Cristóbal Toral is proud of what he has achieved, of having been able to create works from zero. In the last part of *A Creative Adventure*, he shows some of the drawings he did as a teenager in the hut where he lived in Antequera. He hadn’t the slightest knowledge of art (he didn’t

**The exhibition can be viewed at CAC Málaga-La Coracha (Subida Coracha, 25) until 13 September**

## Ukraine

Piles of suitcases in this exhibition inspired by the war in Ukraine. **SALVADOR SALAS**

## Kidnap

This painting of the Pope being kidnapped aims to demonstrate the threat from Jihadists. **S. SALAS**

even have a chair), his life was all about working in the countryside, until those drawings were seen by some hunters who came to ask for some water. They recommended to his father that he should sign up for the school of arts and handicrafts in Antequera and there, at the age of 19, he began his journey around the world: from Antequera to Seville, Madrid and New York, always with his suitcase on his back. The one which has been in his paintings since the start.

“The painter is witness to his time, and there have never been so many suitcases or luggage as in our time. I myself have been a participant in this world of emigration, moving from one place to another,” he says.

Displacement, exodus and waiting are constant in his painting, sometimes disturbing, sometimes painful. Because Cristóbal Toral is hurt by the world and he shows it in works which are tremendously realistic and raw. Like *La Gran Avenida*, with bodies scattered on the ground, surrounded by luggage. A painting over three metres tall, “inspired by the Balkans War in 94, but it could be a scene on TV news today,” he says.

A few metres away, *El secuestro del Papa Benedicto XVI* introduces visitors to the threat of jihadism

with a powerful image of Ratzinger cornered by two assailants with their faces covered. Apart from its message, the technical precision of the work (look at the Pope’s hands) is only achievable by a very few.

This figurative artist, anchored in reality but open to the avant-garde, admits that he has always gone his own way, outside movements, generations and groups of influences.

“I have always felt very alone, like a sniper. And I’m proud of it,” he says. He has never kept quiet. “I have even openly criticised certain situations in the world of art, and paid the price for that,” he remarks. But he insists that artists have to exercise their freedom and says that is what he has tried to do. And that is something that can be seen in this exhibition of 70 works, most from his own collection, which runs until 13 September.

Has he ever dreamed of there being a Cristóbal Toral museum? “That is the nicest thing that can happen to a painter, because when they disappear, unless their heirs control the situation, there is a danger that their works end up all over the place. To have a museum in Malaga or Antequera, my places, would be a huge reward,” he says.

EXHIBITIONS

**Calavera Padre**

**MARBELLA.** Until 30 September. Playa Padre Beach Club. A total of thirteen contemporary artists will be decorating thirteen giant skulls designed by José Pinero. Each artist will demonstrate their own imagination in the final decoration.

**Manuel Fernández Jimenez**

**MIJAS.** Until 18 July. Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas. A selection of paintings are on display by this artist.



Roberto Otero, Picasso Museum

**Malaga Picasso Museum**

**MALAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín. **Picasso Visto por Ortero.** A selection of around 60 photographs from the Roberto Otero Foundation. Roberto Otero took photos of Picasso as he went about his everyday life and

during his painting. There are also some of his notebooks in which he recorded conversations he had with the artist.

**Paula Rego.** Until 21 August. Nearly 90 works make up the exhibition by Portuguese artist Paula Rego. It includes large oil and pastel works as well as smaller formats and collages. [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org).

**Museo Picasso Casa Natal**

**MALAGA.** Until 2 October. Plaza de la Merced. The Japanese artist Yukimasa Ida is exhibiting a series of works including sculptures, paintings and drawings dedicated to Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

**HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Exhibition**

**GIBRALTAR.** Until 22 July. Gustavo Bacarizas Gallery, Casemates. Free. To mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Organised by the Gibraltar National Archives. A full programme of events: [www.culture.gi](http://www.culture.gi)

**Museo Ruso**

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

**La Razón de los Sueños. Las Formas y las Fronteras.** Until October. The Russian Museum is hosting an exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture by many famous artists.

**Ventana Abierta.** Until 29 July. The association Ventana Abierta will be exhibiting works created by participants of the Arteterapia (art therapy) programme.

**Centre Pompidou**

**MALAGA.** Muelle Uno. <https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/UnTiempoPropio>. Until 15 October 2023. The new semi-permanent exhibition includes over 100 works by various artists such as Picasso's sculpture Girl With A Skipping Rope, sculptures by Philippe Starck and Hans Brockhage as well as works by Braque, Derain, Jean Coctain, Henri Matisse and Picabia among many others.

**La Arquitectura Japonesa desde 1950: Espacios Plurales.** Until 19 September. Since 1950, the Japanese architectural scene has hovered between references to the West and immersion in Japanese culture. Japanese architecture has acquired a remarkable singularity and visibility all over the world.

**Centro de Arte Contemporáneo**

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

**Ben Sledsens.** Until 11 September. An exhibition by Belgian artist Ben Sledsens. It consists of 16 works in varying formats representing fictitious events inspired by the artist's imagination and everyday life.

**Erik Parker.** Until 28 August. An exhibition by German artist Erik Parker called Easy Freedom.



Erik Parker, CAC Malaga

**Málaga Contemporáneo**

**MALAGA.** Until 16 October. Museo del Patrimonio Municipal (MUPAM). A semi-permanent exhibition which travels through the changes in art in Malaga from the 1950s up to present day. Over 130 works are on display. The works of Brinkmann, Peinado, Barbadillo, Chicano, Stefan, Chema Cobo, López Cuenca, Diego Santos, Chema Lumbreras, Bola Barrionuevo, Alvarado, Calleja, Carlos Aires, Verónica Ruth Frías, Puche, Noelia García Bandera, Julio Anaya, Victoria Maldonado and Paloma de la Cruz are included in the exhibition.

**Estival: Artistas Discolos**

**MALAGA.** Until 29 July. La Casa Amarilla., C/Santos. This will be the fifth contemporary art exhibition held by Casa Amarilla. <http://www.estivalmalaga.com/>

**Tesoros Sobre Seda**

**MALAGA.** Until 4 September. Archivo Municipal, Salas Mingorance. The exhibition Tesoros Sobre Seda, Ensoñaciones Orientales (Treasures on Silk, Oriental Dreams) is aimed at bridging the gap between the East

and the West through art. On display are works on black silk in the shape of a T, similar to a kimono, by 30 Spanish and Japanese artists, all of whom live in Spain. The exhibition was devised by Fumiko Negishi and Carlos Muñoz.

**Carmen Thyssen Museum**

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

**Real(ismos).** Until 4 September. Real(ismos) is the new temporary exhibition at the museum. It consists of over 80 works, paintings, sculptures, etchings, photos and drawings by artists such as Dalí, Miró, Picasso and Mallo.

**Letters.** Until 25 September. The Thyssen museum is exhibiting 34 letters written by artists such as Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Pissarro, Degas, Manet and Lucien Freud among others, alongside some of the most important artworks.

**Negra es la Noche.** Until 25 September. The new temporary exhibition is a selection of works by three artists, José Gutiérrez Solana, Pancho Cossío and Francisco Boses. The works illustrate the sordid side of daily life in Spain with marginalised groups of people, retrobrates and down-and-outs. [www.carmenthyssen-malaga.org](http://www.carmenthyssen-malaga.org)

**Museum Jorge Rando**

**MALAGA.** Until 26 September. C/ Cruz del Molinillo. [www.museojorgerando.org](http://www.museojorgerando.org)

The Jorge Rando museum is celebrating its seventh anniversary this year and has a special exhibition entitled Soldados by Jorge Rando. The new exhibitions at the Jorge Rando are Años jóvenes de un viejo maestro (1st part) and Ein ukrainisches Requiem, the latter painted this year by the artist. [www.jorgerando.org](http://www.jorgerando.org)

# Nerja Cave international music and dance festival returns

The all Spanish programme includes Pablo Alborán from Malaga and pop, soul and reggaeton sensation Ana Mena from Estepona

JENNIE RHODES

**NERJA.** The Festival de Música Cueva de Nerja is back for the 61st time, with an all-Spanish programme including the popular Malaga singer-songwriter Pablo Alborán, Israel Fernández, Víctor Manuel, Ana Mena from Estepona and Rosario Flores, who will be closing this year's event.

All the concerts will be held in the Manuel de Campos auditorium in the gardens next to the cave. It was agreed in 2019 to stop holding performances inside the cave for preservation reasons.

The new auditorium can host 2,445 people, which is more than was previously possible when concerts were



Ana Mena performing in Madrid last year. SUR

held inside the cave.

Pablo Alborán will open the festival on Thursday 21 July. He will be followed by flamenco singer Israel Fernández on Friday 22 July and veteran singer Víctor Manuel will give his concert on Saturday 23 July.

On Thursday 28 July it will be the turn of 25-year-old

pop, soul and reggaeton singer Ana Mena from Estepona and Flamenco singer Rosario Flores will close this year's event on Saturday 30th July.

All concerts will start at 10.30pm.

For further information and tickets visit: [www.cuevadenerja.es](http://www.cuevadenerja.es)

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EXHIBITIONS

**CAC Vélez-Málaga**

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** C/ Félix Lomas. Until 31 August. An exhibition by Jaime Pimentel, escultora Axarquico

**Caroline Krabbe**

**NERJA.** Until 17 July. Museo de Nerja. A selection of ceramics and large format drawings by artist Caroline Krabbe will be on display.

**Leonor Hernández**

**TORROX COSTA/EL MORCHE.** Until 28 July. Bio Beach Club Restaurant. The artist from Zamora but based in Torrox, Leonor Hernández, presents her exhibition Collages.

**José Cabrera**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** From 19 until 30 July. Sala Exposiciones La Galería. Around fifty pieces by the local artist will be on display.

**Excellence Art Gallery**

**JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA.** Until 31 July. Palacio del Virrey Laserna. Attendance to the inauguration of the international collective exhibition Palacio del Virrey Laserna XIII at 9pm by email: info@excellenceartgallery.com or call 642219129. Dress code required. Many of the artists will be at the inauguration which will have TV and media coverage.



La Luz de la Alpujarra, La Alpujarra

**Adrian Ensor**

**GRANADA.** Until the end of the summer. Casa Natal Federico García Lorca, Fuente Vaqueros. Free. Renowned black and white photographic print artist Adrian Ensor is exhibiting photos of Lorca.

**La Luz de la Alpujarra**

**ALPUJARRA.** Until 31 July. Eco Tourism Centre Alquería de Morayma. An exhibition of watercolours by Annabel Keatley and Paul Armitage.

MUSIC AND DANCE

**Museum concerts**

**MALAGA.** Free. Museo Carmen Thyssen. **16 July, 9.30pm.** Mastretta Trío. **22 July, 9.30pm.** Paila Bilá & Joan Masana. www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org/ **La Térmica.** **15 July, 9.30pm.** Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra. https://www.mientrada.net/

**Louie Louie Bar**

**ESTEPONA.** Estepona port. **15 July, 11pm.** Tremendoors. Doors tribute act. **15 July, 1am.** We Are Not Djs. **16 July, 9.30pm.** KP Band. **16 July, 12am.** Karma. **16 July, 1am.** Dj LeFox. **23 July, 10.45pm.** Rob Sas Band. **6 August, 10.45pm.** Rob Sas Band. www.louielouierockbar.com/

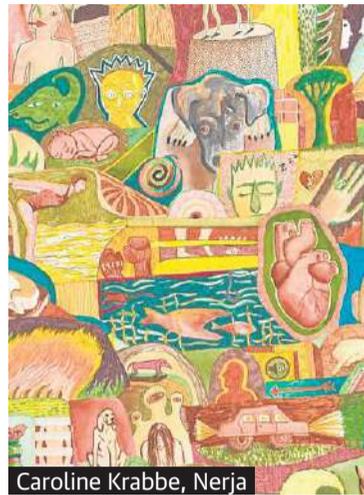
**Jazz in the CAC**

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. **20 July, 9pm.** Noire Rhythm Bros.

**Jazz en La Costa**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** From 19 July, 10pm. Parque El Majuelo. **19 July.** Makaya McCraven. **20 July.** Mulatu Astatke. **21 July.** Daymé Arocena. **22 July.** Kenny Garrett. Sounds From The Ancestors. **23 July.** Michel Portal MP85. **24 July.** José James. www.jazzgranada.es

**Beat concerts**



Caroline Krabbe, Nerja

**MALAGA.** From 15 until 30 July. Teatro Echegaray.

A series of concerts by performers such as Arco, Twanguero, Ariel Brínguez, Pancho Varona, Los Malagatos and Çantamarta, will take place Fridays and Saturdays until the end of this month. Genres include pop-rock, guitar solos, urban rhythms, Afro-Cuban jazz and folk music. Tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com, www.teatroechegaray.com and www.unientradas.es

**Finca El Portón Jazz**

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** Every Friday at 10pm throughout July. **15 July.** Chicuelo' & Marco Mezquida. **22 July.** Aaron Goldberg Trío with Michael Mayo. **29 July.** Hermeto Pascoal & Grupo More details and tickets: www.mientrada.net or call: 952411043

**Hugo Toscano**

**ESTEPONA.** 15 July, 9.30 pm. Parque Botánico Orquidario. Hugo Toscano, founder and ex-guitarist of the Spanish group Elefantes will be in concert.

**Joven Orquesta Barroca**

**MALAGA.** 16 July, 8pm. Auditorio Edgar Neville. The concert is dedicated to the work of Henry Purcell, King Arthur. With the Joven Coro de Andalucía choir. Tickets: www.entradas.mientrada.net/janto/?Nivel=Evento&idEvent

**Pablo Milanés**

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** 16 July, 10pm. Finca El Portón, C/Juan Carlos. Cuban singer and composer Pablo Milanés will perform a varied programme of music including jazz, rumba, son and bolero.

**Matagallar Rock**

**COLMENAR.** 16 July, from 11.30pm. Municipal swimming pool. Spanish band Jarillo Lata will be in concert as well as Sombra doble, Corazón oxidado and Magical Mystery Tour with "The Beatle Tribute"

**Festival del Sol**

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 6 August. Explanada del Cerro. To promote tourism in the town, the town hall has organised a festival of concerts and activities for all the family. More information and tickets: www.giglon.com

**Maggio Musicale Fiorentino**

**MARBELLA.** 20 July. Marbella Arena. The Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Orchestra and chorus, conducted by Zubin Metha, will be giving a monumental performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Tickets: www.the-encore.live/es, www.elcorteingles.com and www.entradas.com

**Theme tracks from films**

**ESTEPONA.** 24 July, 9pm. Plaza del Reloj. Film tracks played by the Municipal Band.

**Starlite**

**MARBELLA.** Until 3 September. Auditorium of the Casa de Cultura. The line-up for this year's edition of Starlite Occidental includes performances by Diana Ross, Sara Baras, Rapahel, Malú, Simple Minds, Christina Aguilera, Ara Malikian, Andrea Bocelli, Plácido Domingo, Jessie J, Ozuna, Myke Towers, Alan Parsons, Chucho Valdés and Vanesa Martín (1 July) among many others. Tickets and a complete programme of events: http://starlitemarbella.com/es/

**Homerton College Choir**

**GIBRALTAR.** Various venues.

**16 July, 12am.** Festal Mass, Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned. **17 July, 11am, 6pm.** Eucharist / Even-song at the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

**Noches de Gibralfaro**

**MALAGA.** Until 30 July, 10pm. Castillo de Gibralfaro. Every weekend this month there will be concerts in the Castillo Gibralfaro. The music will cover a variety of genres including flamenco, classical and jazz. There will be a special bus from the city centre. The full programme and details of tickets: https://unientradas.es/alcazabaygibralfaro/public/janto/

**Sophie Festival**

**TORREMOLINOS.** Until 28 August. Palacio de Congresos de Torremolinos. Electronic music festival taking place every Sunday for nine weeks. Includes artists such as Paul Kalkbrenner, Apollonia or Jamie Jones. www.sophie.es

**Festival of Classical Music**

**ESTEPONA.** 20-23 July. Various venues. The Festival de Música Clásica Ciudad de Estepona aims to bring classical music closer to everyone. **20 July.** Plaza del Reloj. Piano recital by Paula Coronas. **21 July.** Castillo San Luís: The Astrea Quintet. **22 July.** Auditorio Felipe VI: Gala for the finals of the VIII Certamen Este-



Beat concerts, Malaga

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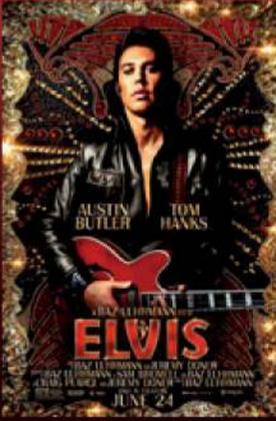
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**FLAMENCO**

**Flamenco show**

**ESTEPONA.** 15 July, 9.30pm. Peña Flamenca de Estepona

A flamenco show with vocals by Rosa Lineros, 'toque' by José Fernández and dance by Ana Fernández and Miguel Infante. For more information or reservations, call: 952803183 or 683141136

**Flamenco Stars**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 15 July, 9.30pm. *Garçons de Castillo de la Herradura.* Estrella Morente will be in concert. [www.almunecar.es](http://www.almunecar.es)

**Flamenco show**

**ESTEPONA.** 19 July, 9.30pm. *Plaza Antonia Guerrero.*

Students of the Peña Flamenca de Estepona dance school will be performing.

**Cabildo Flamenco**

**ARCHIDONA.** 19-22 July. *Various venues.*

The four days include conferences and talks as well as flamenco performances which will take place in the Instituto Luis Barahona de Soto every evening from 11pm.

**Flamenco dance shows**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** *Various venues.*

**20 July, 10pm.** With dancers Teresa Barbero and Christina Pagés and guitarist Rubén Lara. Peñón del Santo esplanade.

**FIESTAS AND FERIAS**

**Fiestas patronales**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** *Until 15 August.*

The fiesta is in honour of the patron saint, the Virgen de la Antigua.

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** *Until 17 July.*

Feria en honor a Nuestra Señora Virgen del Carmen. [www.rinconde-lavictoria.es](http://www.rinconde-lavictoria.es)

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** *From 15 until 17 July. Los Marineros district.*

This small district of Almuñécar honours their patron saint with a festival in her name, Virgen del Carmen. v

**MORE IDEAS**

**Fashion Show**

**PUERTO BANÚS.** 15 July, 8.30pm. *Avda de Lola Flores.*

The fifth edition of the Marbella Fashion Show will feature summer fashions by national and international designers. Tickets: [www.mientrada.net/evento/marbella-fashion-show](http://www.mientrada.net/evento/marbella-fashion-show)

**Málaga Jam Weekend**

**MALAGA.** 29-31 July. *Polo Nacional*



Homerton College Choir, Gibraltar

*de Contenidos Digitales, Tabacalera.*

The Tabacalera is the venue for the Málaga Jam Weekend, the biggest venue in Spain for the Global Game Jam, an opportunity for enthusiasts of videogames to get together. Register: [www.malagajam.com](http://www.malagajam.com).

**ORIGINAL VERSION FILMS**

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last-minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

**Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor**

**MALAGA.** *Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León.* Tel: 902902103. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es).

**Minions: The Rise of Gru:** 14.00, 14.40 (Sun), 16.50 (Sat-Thurs); 17.15

(Fri); 22.15 (Tues).

**Jurassic World Dominion:** 16.20 (Tues).

**Lightyear:** 17.55 (Tues).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 12.15 (Sun); 16.15, 19.10, 21.36 (every day); 00.00 (Fri, Sat, Wed).

**Elvis:** 12.20 (Sun); 21.55 (Tues).

**Top Gun Maverick:** 13.35 (Sun); 19.20 (Tues)

**Yelmo Cines, Rincón**

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** *C/ Arroyo Totalán.* Tel: 902220922. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 21.00 (Tues).

**Top Gun Maverick:** 21.10 (Tues).

**Elvis:** 21.55 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Vialia**

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

**Elvis:** 12.45 (Sun); 21.55 (Tues).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 13.00 (Sun); 22.10 (every day).

**Minions: The Rise of Gru:** 13.55 (Sun); 21.45 (Tues).

**Cinesur Miramar**

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

**Minions: The Rise of Gru:** 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 16.30 (every day) .

**Elvis:** 20.50 (everyday except Mon).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.45 (Fri, Sun, Tues-Thurs), 19.15, 21.45 (every day except Mon).

**Black Phone:** 22.00 (Tues).

**Lightyear:** 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.20 (every day).

**The Gray Man:** 17.00 (every day).

**Jurassic World Dominion:** 19.30 (Tues)

**Elvis:** 21.55 (Tues).

**Cinesur Ingenio**

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

**Jurassic World Dominion:** 16.20

(Tues).

**Minions: The Rise of Gru:** 11.55 (every day).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 18.40 (every day).

**Elvis:** 19.30 (Tue).

**The Gray Man:** 20.30 (Tues)

**Opera from Madrid: Nabucco:** 21.00 (Fri).

**Cine Albéniz**

**MALAGA.** *C/ Alcazaba, 4.* Tel: 902360295. [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com).

**Opera from Madrid: Nabucco:** 21.00 (Fri).

**Elvis:** 18.00 (every day), 21.00 (Sat-Thurs).

**Benediction :** 20.10 (every day)

**Red Dog**

**PUERTO BANÚS.** *Avda Julio Iglesias.* <https://reddogcinemas.com/>

**Elvis:** 17.00, 19.50 (Sat, Sun); 19.00 (Mon-Thurs).

**Lightyear:** 12.00 (Sun); 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (every day).

**Minions, The Rise of Gru:** 12.00 (Sun) 15.00, 16.45, 18.30, 20.15, (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 18.45, 20.30 (Mon-Thurs).

**Sonic the Hedgehog 2:** 12.00 (Sun).

**The Bad Guys:** 12.30 (Sun).

**Top Gun: Maverick:** 22.40 (Sat, Sun); 21.50 (Mon-Thurs).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 15.00,

17.20, 19.40, 22.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15, 19.30, 21.45 (Mon-Thurs).

**The Gray Man:** 15.50, 17.40 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.20 (Mon-Thurs).

**Cine Abierto**

**MALAGA.** *Until 29 August. Various venues.*

A total of 128 projections, 40 Cine Albéniz (at 11am), 34 on beaches and 23 in parks (at 10.15pm). Cine Albéniz needs a ticket, the rest are free.

<https://festivaldemalaga.com/cine-abierto>

# Kenny Garrett to headline Almuñécar's Jazz en la Costa

The festival will run from 19 to 24 July in the El Majuelo park with Makaya McCraven, Michael Portal, Julio Mulato Astatke and José James performing

**JENNIE RHODES**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** The thirty-fifth Jazz en la Costa festival will begin on Tuesday 19 July in Almuñécar's El Majuelo park (Granada province), with drummer Makaya McCraven, one of the most interesting names on the new jazz scene. He will be performing tracks from his latest album, *Deciphering the Message* (Blue Note, 2021), which is influenced by Art Blakey, Horace Silver, Hank Mobley, Kenny Burrell and Eddie Gale.

Wednesday 20 July is a unique opportunity to enjoy Julio Mulato Astatke and on Thursday 21 July jazz, R&B and Afro-Cuban music will fill the park with the original sound of Daymé Arocena; billed as one of the most exciting young artists on Cuba's contemporary music scene. She will be performing



Kenny Garrett will be performing on Friday. SUR

songs from her latest album *Sonocardiograma*, which premiered at the Jazz Plaza Festival in Havana.

On Friday 22nd, Kenny Garrett - a Grammy Award winner and honorary doctorate from the Berklee College of Music in Boston who has collaborated with Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Chick Corea and Pat Metheny - will be taking to the stage. Garrett is considered as one of the most important saxophonists in modern jazz.

Michel Portal will be performing on Saturday 24 July and is considered a legend of

European jazz. The French composer, clarinetist, saxophonist and bandoneon player will perform for the first time in Almuñécar along with his quartet which includes the pianist Bojan Z.

On Sunday, 24 July jazz and soul singer José James will close the festival. He will be returning to Almuñécar, after his successful performance in 2019. This time he will be presenting his new album: *No Beginning No End 2* (2021).

For more information and tickets visit the festival website: [www.jazzgranada.es](http://www.jazzgranada.es)



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# Traditional gazpachuelos: home-made creativity

**Versions.** There must be a thousand different methods of making this soup, which has made its way from a family favourite to the interpretations of top chefs

**ESPERANZA PELÁEZ**

**G**azpachuelo is, in all certainty, the best-loved dish in the substantial repertoire of Malaga cuisine. There are others which are better-known and, if I may so bold as to say so, might taste better, but this is the one that everyone loves," said the much-missed Manolo Maeso, professor, chef and founder of La Carta Malacitana. He made the comment in Fernando Sánchez's book *Gazpachuelos de Malaga* (2018) and it explains the prominence the dish has gained in the past 20 years, from a staple recipe at home and in traditional restaurants to those specialising in signature cuisine.

The book by Fernando Sánchez includes 101 versions of gazpachuelo, from domestic to haute cuisine, ancient to the avant-garde of the present day. The only thing they have in common is explained in the foreword by food historian Jesús Moreno: "Mayonnaise features in every recipe in this book because without it, it isn't gazpachuelo," he wrote.

In his book *La Cocina Popular de Malaga*, the culinary bible of the province, historian and food writer Fernando Rueda defines gazpachuelo as "hot gazpacho, especially in winter, a recycler of leftovers and therefore simple, wise

and appreciated". The third edition, revised and expanded, of the 'red book' (2018), only includes one recipe called gazpachuelo. Rueda, who likes a variety of products all mixed together, offers the most popular version, with potatoes, prawns or white fish and egg whites cooked in water, and a mayonnaise made with the yolks and vinegar or lemon juice slipped in to the soup. This is the version in the photo accompanying this story, made by Mariano Rodríguez Sánchez at the M de Mariano restaurant in Malaga.

But Rueda warns that in rural areas there are other versions, including the most simple: cooked egg white and bread

soaked in a broth which is then mixed with mayonnaise and heated, stirring all the time, until the texture is thicker but not solid.

In the book, Fernando Rueda talks about the earliest published recipe he has been able to find. It dates back to 1931 and appears in the book *La Cocina Original Española* by chef José Gómez González, the owner of the Hotel Giralda in Malaga. He referred to it as gazpachuelo or egg soup. Gómez González defines it as "a very simple mayonnaise soup with hot water and some thin slices of bread". That is more or less the same as the first official definition

of the term, which Rueda also includes in his book. That comes from the 1922 edition of the *Diccionario de la Academia Usual*, which says: 'Gazpachuelo (m) Diminutive of gazpacho. //And. Hot soup with eggs, the yolk beaten and the white cooked, dressed with vinegar or lemon'. ('And.' is short for Andalucía).

Despite the tradition and popularity of gazpachuelo in Malaga, it is not exclusively from this province. Under this name or others, such as egg soup, it is documented in other Andalusian provinces, in Extremadura and, further north, in Aragón. In French Provence

there is a very similar fish soup, called 'bourride'.

But there is no doubt that Malaga claims gazpachuelo as its own. In many other places such a popular and much-loved dish would probably have a guild which would declare only one version of the dish to be acceptable and valid. But fortunately in Malaga there has never been anything to stop each family having their own version and enjoying it a certain way, and the Malaga Observatory of Gazpachuelo and Russian Salad (OMERG), the nearest thing to a guild, is dedicated to discovering and sharing different versions of the dish. It's a good way of keeping it alive.

The most interesting thing about gazpachuelo is that, like the gazpachos, which are the same family (Fernando Rueda points out that 'gazpachuelo' is a rather derogatory diminutive of the word 'gazpacho'), there is an enormous variety in ingredients and ways of eating the traditional versions. So many, that this multitude of family or local variants can compete in imagination and success with the interpretations of numerous chefs, present and future. In this case, just creative, ordinary, anonymous people.

In the book *Gazpachuelos de Malaga* we find more than ten traditional recipes which differ from the majority versions: gazpachuelos of fresh fish on the coast, including the famous Sopa Viña AB, a version created by adding a



If it doesn't have mayonnaise, it isn't gazpachuelo. **SUR**

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## Like gazpachos, there is an enormous variety in ingredients and styles of gazpachuelo

splash of amontillado sherry to the gazpachuelo. Nearly all these surprising recipes are from chefs in restaurants in inland areas of the province, or, better still, their mothers and others who do not cook professionally.

One example is bread gazpacho, called 'gazpachuelo de Riogordo' in the book, because that is where it is from. It includes potatoes, boiled eggs and a green pepper to give flavour to the stock.

"In rural areas of Malaga, gazpachuelo has always been a vegetable soup: a potato, a pepper, an onion and a tomato. You cook the whites in the water and, once it has cooled, you add the mayonnaise, which is only made with the egg yolks, and top it with pieces of bread," explains Fernando Rueda.

Sometimes the difference is in the way it is eaten. Fernando Sánchez includes a recipe for gazpachuelo with cod, egg and orange, which is also from Riogordo, which is eaten in two parts: "First we take the soup to the table with the poached egg and a bit of potato. Then we bring out a second plateful with potatoes, cod and the

chopped orange," he says. This is known as 'mojete' and the same is done with many other hot and cold gazpachos to scrape the bottom of the pan and pad the helping out a bit by adding bread to dip in it.

Some ingredients and accompaniments underline the relationship between gazpachuelo and gazpacho. "Gazpacho is a dish made with bread, oil, vinegar and garlic. Gazpachuelo was originally a hot gazpacho with egg added," says Rueda.

The egg gazpacho which Fernando Sánchez refers to at Venta Los Atanores in Valle de Abdalajís is eaten with olives and wedges of onion. The one at Venta Pedro in Casabermeja, a potato and cod gazpachuelo, has added asparagus, a common ingredient in hot 'porrillas' and other gazpachos. Some even include chips. This shows that these are dishes made the way a family likes them, to the fashion of the time, and using whatever ingredients are available.

In the chapters dealing with gazpachuelos in rural areas, Sánchez also includes a version with meatballs, which comes from Colmenar and was known to his family, and the section dedicated to gazpachuelos made with game has three containing partridge: one from the Montes de Malaga and two from Antequera.

## Online shopping a la Española

ANDREW J. LINN



It's all the rage: grocery shopping on the internet. No queues at checkout, no searching for items on shelves, no stress. But national traits come into play, and while northern Europeans vote overwhelmingly in favour of online shopping, in the south we are more divided.

The giant of online shopping, Berlin-based Gorillas, fresh from raising a billion euros half a year ago, just announced it was laying off 300 employees and exiting some markets, notably Italy and Spain.

In future, Gorillas will focus on Germany, the Netherlands, UK and USA, which account for 90% of current revenue.

The \$64,000 question of course is why did investors, after previous failures in this sector, believe that consumer habits would change overnight?

Indeed, why were German investors prepared to assume that southern European shop-

pers were ready to abandon traditional food markets and family-run shops in favour of the impersonal world of online shopping?

One little true story encapsulates the different mentalities at play. Some years ago, a British student staying as a paying guest in an Andalusian household became concerned that the elderly widowed lady of the house hauled herself off to the central market six days a week.

Anxious to make her life easier, he got her a fridge. But the daily outings continued, and the fridge stayed empty except for a few tins.

What he had not realised

**While northern Europeans are in favour of online shopping, in the south we are more divided**

was that the daily trip to the market was a social event and had more to do with having a coffee with other housewives than buying food.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Izado Blanco selección

As usual, the impeccable Izadi bodega has come up with a very interesting and affordable wine, a Rioja made with all the white grapes grown in the region, from Garnacha to Torrontés. Some are from old vines. A truly fascinating blend and very drinkable. Around 11 euros.







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# One orgasm, so many benefits

**Climax.** Those small bursts of pleasure produce hormonal, vascular and neurological changes... a 'gift'

SOLANGE VÁZQUEZ

A piece of advice: having multiple orgasms will not give us superpowers or turn us into people immune from all health problems, but - hey - it can help to improve our physical and mental health. How is it possible that those small bursts of pleasure can produce such notable changes in us?

Some of the most reputable scientists and specialists of to-

day, such as Carlos Beyer, Barry R. Komisaruk, Beverly Whipple and Sarah Nasserzadeh, have described orgasm as one of the most complicated biological processes we know, but it turns out that this works in our favour (something pleasurable without contraindications!).

We asked two experts to list the main benefits of orgasm, which in the majority of cases

apply to men and women. This is what they said:

### Stress reduction

Oxytocin, a hormone which is secreted during orgasm, regulates physiological processes which are closely related to emotions. "It is one of those involved in controlling anxiety and reducing stress," said Rosa Navarro.

### Burns calories

As above, as it is a physical activity in which our cardiovascular system speeds up, it also helps to burn off calories.

### Cardiovascular improvement

You don't need to be a sexual athlete but there is scientific evidence that cardiovascular fitness improves in people who have regular orgasms. "The release of certain hormones causes an increase in the heart rate and activates the circulation. It also relaxes the artery walls," said Santiago Frago, a member of the governing board of the Spanish Federation of Sexology Societies and co-director of the Amaltea Sexology Institute of Zaragoza.

### Improved immune system

"Orgasms also increase the production of antibodies involved in protection from viral infections," Rosa Navarro, a sexologist at Diversual, told us. And

that is not the only effect of the chemical bomb which is generated when we have an orgasm, because it also produces "a type of natural antihistamine", Santiago Frago added.

### Better sleep

"People normally sleep better after orgasm," Navarro said. They release natural opiates which act as sedatives.

### Pelvic floor

During orgasm a series of intermittent contractions of the striated muscles of the pelvic floor and uterus occurs. "This is very good to prevent, for instance, incontinence problems in women and vaginal atrophy due to the increased blood flow in the area when an orgasm takes place," said Navarro, who also pointed out that the endorphins released during orgasm have an analgesic effect which also reduces menstrual pain.

### One orgasm "calls" another

"The more we stimulate ourselves and learn what we like most and how to achieve it, the more likely it is that we will be able to reach orgasm," Navarro also explained.

### Prevents cardiac illnesses

The whole encounter itself is a physical activity, so if it occurs with a certain frequency it helps to prevent some cardiac illnesses.

### Protects against cancer

Orgasm doesn't just prevent cardiac illnesses. The release of hormones such as oxytocin has proven to have a protective ef-



fect in the long term against the development of cancerous cells.

### Improves the skin

"Although it might seem unlikely, orgasms really do make the skin look younger, it's true," said Rosa Navarro.

## OSTEOPATHIA HÄNDEL



## New Opening Osteopathia Händel

### TORRE DEL MAR

**Agnes and Jörg Händel.** Since 2 June 2022 there is a new physiotherapy practice in Torre del Mar!

It was much too cold and grey for us in the north of Germany. So we, my husband Jörg and I, Agnes, moved back to Spain. After a long search and weighing up options, we decided on the most beautiful place on the Costa del Sol: Torre del Mar.

30 years ago I completed my training as a physiotherapist in Germany. After that, I also qualified as a manual therapist and chiropractor.



I soon realised that there are many people with jaw problems, which led me to further training in CMD (Cranio-Mandibular Dysfunction), as well as in

organic and cranio-sacral parts of the body.

It was then obvious to combine all areas and do an osteopathic training. And in order to be able to work freely without a doctor's prescription, I then completed the further training as a physiotherapeutic non-medical practitioner.

Because my husband could work better in Spain as a diving instructor, we went to Catalonia in 1999. We worked in Empuriabrava near Roses until 2012. Working in four languages is a lot of fun and a great challenge.

Unfortunately, we had to move back to Germany for family reasons. Of course, I immediately opened my own practice and, together with Jörg on reception, ran it until 2020.

However, anyone who has experienced the Spanish warmth and friendliness starts to miss Spain and, of course, the better weather.

After one year of renovation work, our practice is now ready in our own house.

If you want to visit us, you can find us at Calle Levante 29 in the eastern part of Torre, directly after the Paseo Larios.

Kind regards from Agnes and Jörg Händel.

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ILLUSTRATION DANI MAÍZ

## So, if we don't reach a climax, does it mean that's bad for us?

"There is pleasure beyond orgasm," said sexologist Santiago Fraga who stressed the myths built up around the subject

**S. VÁZQUEZ**

The fact that orgasms have benefits for physical and mental health doesn't mean that those who don't enjoy them for whatever reason have a handicap or a problem because they can't obtain the benefits.

"It's good to have orgasms, yes, but there have been a lot of myths built up around them," warned Santiago Fraga.

These range from "mathematical" parameters such as how many you have or whether or not you are multiorgasmic, to finalistic ones: the question "Didn't you come?" for exam-

ple. This is something which has done us all a disservice, he said.

Why? "There is pleasure beyond orgasm! They are not synonymous: pleasure is long term and orgasm is only a moment," said Fraga.

What does he mean by that? "That people shouldn't be obsessed with reaching orgasm because, in fact, that's the easiest way to kill them off," he explained.

So he believes simple skin-to-skin contact is enough to bring numerous benefits, for all ages and in areas that have nothing to do with sex.

"Babies need it in order to develop properly, teenagers who are never touched or kissed get angry, adults feel sad and elderly people... well, they become ill," he said.

Sexologist Rosa Navarro said, "Neither sex nor orgasms are needs that have to be satisfied. Sexual activity isn't something we only do out of the need to have an orgasm. There are phases beforehand and afterwards that also trigger beneficial responses in our bodies."

**Simple skin-to-skin contact brings numerous benefits for all ages**



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Five new Malaga payers were officially presented on Thursday at La Rosaleda. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

## Malaga eye up more improvements to the squad

After bringing in five new players, the Blue and Whites are focused on signing essential reinforcements before the next phase of their pre-season preparations

### BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. After the first two weeks of preparations, which included the first training sessions of the pre-season and the arrival of some six new signings, Malaga's plans for the upcoming league campaign are now between 60 and 70 per cent complete.

But the Blue and Whites still have several more signings planned after securing the backbone of the new and improved team, and strengthening the squad depth before starting the second phase of their pre-season plans on 20 July, with a ten-day training camp at an Estepona hotel.

### PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

#### Malaga v:

**Hull City.** 16 July, 6.30pm at Marbella Football Center.

**Cadiz.** 23 July, 7pm at Marbella Football Center.

**Almeria.** 29 July, 7pm at Barceló Montecastillo (Jerez).

**Xerez.** 30 July, 8.30pm at Estadio Municipal de Chapín (Jerez).

Malaga want to officially confirm forward Álex Gallar, who they have already agreed personal terms with, though they are waiting for him to sort his contract with Girona.

#### Further defensive solidity

The club's other priority is to sign another high-quality defender who is solid and more mature, characteristics that falls in line with their other signings, as head coach Pablo Guede will look to play with three centre-backs.

So far, Juanfran has come in to claim the right-back position and Bustinza has proven to be useful in several defensive positions; while Juande, Andrés Caro and Peybernes remain from last season, though the latter has been told by the club that he can leave, so another defender must be signed, with Jonás Ramalho currently in the running to come to the team.

Rubén Yáñez has also been approached by Malaga in order to give goalkeeper Manolo Reina some competition for the upcoming season. Yáñez is willing to move to the Costa del Sol club, but must be allowed to leave by Getafe.

## La Rosaleda stadium could be a 2030 World Cup venue

### BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. As Spain and Portugal's joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup continues to take shape, Malaga city is in the running to become one of the 14 hosts for the football tournament thanks to La Rosaleda stadium, which would need to undergo a series of major upgrades.

The venue will need to be remodelled and improved in order to comply with Fifa requirements and it is one of the options currently under consideration by the Spanish Football Federation.

The Federation organised a meeting this week at its Las Rozas headquarters at which representatives of the Andalusian regional government and the city council were present to further push Malaga as a host city.

La Rosaleda will need to see big changes. It currently has space for 30,000 spectators and can increase its capacity by at least 10,000; but to stay in line with Fifa's requirements it would need to reach 45,000 seats.

The other difficulty Malaga might face is the need to have at least 5,000 car parking spaces around the ground. The city would also have to fork out on new accesses to the stadium and build other infrastructure. These changes have already been studied by the city council, the provincial authority and the regional government.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER Commentator, ESPN

## Let us eat cake

It's hard to understand how FC Barcelona are able to spend so much when they have a billion-euro debt

It's like FC Barcelona are going on a supermarket sweep, stuffing their basket with expensive items, knowing the credit card will max out when they reach the tills.

The club has a 1.2 billion-euro debt and asked its players to take wage cuts and deferrals so it could operate last season.

Now I'm reading how Raphinha has been signed for 58 million, Lewandowski is at the top of the shopping list at €40 million, and Azpilicueta has a contract waiting for him. On top of this, they have unveiled the free transfers Kessie and Christensen, both on big wages.

Dembélé is also said to be ne-

gotiating to stay with the club instead of seeking his fame and fortune elsewhere.

To be honest I'm just bamboozled. This is a club who lost the services of Messi, their greatest ever player, when they couldn't afford his wages. Several of the senior players agreed to a lighter pay packet to help balance the books.

My understanding of a complex situation is that for every four euros of income they would only be allowed to reinvest one euro as the rest goes towards balancing the books and meeting regulations.

The only player who is capable of raising a decent transfer

fee is Frenkie de Jong. Manchester United have been heavily linked and a fee in the region of 80 million has been mentioned. That appears to be a very generous bid for a man who has struggled to establish himself in La Liga; I suspect his market value is half of that.

Even if they did persuade his old Ajax boss Erik ten Hag to pay the fee, only 20 million should be reinvested.

Barça are claiming some monetary wizardry to wipe off 600 million of the debt. They boast of two fresh "financial mechanisms" to "refloat the club's finances".

President Joan Laporta has



FC Barcelona president, Joan Laporta. ALEJANDRO GARCÍA / EFE

likened his club to a Formula One car. He reasoned that he's inherited a vehicle that had run out of fuel with a seized engine. He said: "We tried starting the car up, but it wouldn't move. The car can leave the pits and return to the front row of the grid to compete and win again."

I fear there is too much smoke and mirrors. They have been selling anything and everything. The sacrosanct front of shirt sponsorship went years ago and now the Nou Camp will have a sponsors prefix.

Basically, the new idea is to sell off future income to pay off current debt. It's like paying off your credit card debts by taking an advance on your wages, but blowing the wages every week on lobster and champagne.

Someone on Twitter likened it to lending your pal a few quid to tide him over, only to discover he's gone on the lash and will wake up with a hangover. I'd like to explain how it all works but I'm not sure any person can.

# Spain lose to Germany and risk an early Euro 2022 exit

Germany showed their worth as they finished first and qualified despite La Roja's dominance, who need at least a draw in their final game

JOSÉ MANUEL ANDRÉS

MADRID. Spain picked up their first defeat at the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 tournament as they were defeated 2-0 by Germany on Tuesday night. The German side have now qualified as group winners, while La Roja need at least a draw in their final group stage match to book their place in the quarter-finals.

The Spanish side did more than enough to deserve at least a goal against the most successful nation at the tournament, as Germany showed their class and put up an almost impenetrable wall which Spain could not get past.

Head coach Jorge Vilda, who knew just how good an opponent they were about to face, opted for

a more conservative approach to the match, but being careful to not stray too far away from their possession-heavy style of play.

He looked to reinforce the midfield by placing Laia Aleixandri alongside Patri Guijarro, who usually controls the middle of the pitch on her own. Sheila García, who has been in form, won her place in the Spanish attack next to Lucía García, who in turn was replacing Esther González.

## Too much to handle

Germany showed their usual, on-pitch virtues of physicality, quick transitions and a vast superiority in set pieces. That's how they opened the scoring within the first five minutes, by forcing goalkeeper Sandra Paños into a mistake that gifted Klara Bühl with an open goal, which she easily slotted home.

The second blow for Spain came towards the end of the first half as energy levels began to drop. From a corner kick, Germany showed their might as a



Germany's Klara Bühl scores the first goal of the match after a Spanish goalkeeping error. EP

cross was beautifully met by Alexandra Popp's powerful header to double the German's lead and give them a huge psychological boost for the rest of the match.

The German side threatened

**La Roja next face Denmark on Saturday at 9pm in the final match of the group stage; they need at least one point to get through**

to score again in the second half, but Spain weren't frightened off. Instead, they patiently chipped away at their opponents' defence, hoping to pull one back, but the group winners were comfortably soaking up the pressure.

Spain still found their chances to score, as the way they set up for the second half meant that there were a lot of passes placed between the German lines.

The clearest opportunity came for Lucía García thanks to a well-placed pass from Guijarro, with

the striker opting to go around the goalkeeper and shooting from a more acute angle, which resulted in the shot going just wide.

In the end, Spain couldn't break Germany's defence, despite dominating possession and having their fair share of chances.

The match finished 2-0 and La Roja will next face Denmark on Saturday at 9pm in the final match of the group stage. Vilda's side need at least one point to make it through, as their goal difference is superior.

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ELENA MARTÍN



**H**ealth comes first. That is something we have heard all our lives, but it has taken a global health crisis to finally convince us that it's true. Every day, more people are becoming concerned about their physical and emotional wellbeing and decide to lead a healthier lifestyle. This is especially noticeable in terms of diet, but also in the world of fitness.

The pandemic obliged gymnasiums to adapt to current needs, not just with regard to safety measures but also the activities they offer.

Two chains, Metropolitan (which has 21 clubs in Spain) and Basic Fit (with 53) have given SUR an idea of what people are doing to keep fit in 2022.

#### Strength training

Strength is a sign of longevity in the adult population. "Stimulating the muscle tissue favours hormone secretion and regulation and it also enhances bone density, which reduces the risk of fractures," said Francisco Pascual, who is responsible for the fitness sections of the Metropolitan clubs.

It also improves posture, reduces the impact in case of falls and facilitates mobility.

Both clubs believe demand for strength training will increase this year, but the way it is done will change.

"The attention now tends to be on free weights and func-

tional strength training. You don't need a lot of weights or heavy equipment to get in shape, bodyweight interspersed with smaller weights works well," said the experts at Basic Fit.

#### High Intensity Intervals (HIIT)

This consists of working very intensively at short intervals. For example, in series of 30 seconds of work followed by 10 seconds of rest.

"This is very popular because it is effective at burning calories; the body needs more energy to recover during the rests so it has to resort to its energy reserves of stored fat," explained Francisco Pascual.

#### Combination of disciplines

To obtain even better results, the ideal is to combine aerobic (cardio) with anaerobic

(strength) training, these experts said. The first helps to improve cardiovascular capacity and burn calories. The second strengthens the muscles and boosts endurance. They also advise finishing with a stretching session to gain flexibility.

#### Outdoor and group activities

Gyms will also be expanding the outdoor training they offer this year, such as hiking, cycling or running, and those that can will have outdoor training areas for supervised activities.

Most of these are done in a group, because it can be more fun to train with other people, even when masks and social distancing are needed.

"Group activities enable people to socialise, increase motivation, contribute to working as a team and create a feeling of a

community," our sources at the clubs said.

#### Personal training

Supervision by a personal trainer who designs a fitness programme to match our aims and availability is becoming more popular now. It helps people to get the most out of their training and also minimises the risk of injury.

Recently, the idea of an online personal trainer came into being as well. These personal online coaches, or POCs, have gained large numbers of followers because of the pandemic and the lockdowns.

#### Mini-training

This consists of short but intensive training sessions, which can be done at home or during a break at work. For example a

HIIT or Tabata workout, or even an indoor cycling workout.

#### A workout for the buttocks

The benefits of having toned buttocks are not only aesthetic but also have a positive effect on sports performance and everyday life. It helps to improve balance and can reduce back pain.

#### Virtual training

These sessions became popular during the lockdown and they are even more in fashion now. "Technology makes it easier to plan training sessions to suit the consumer and it means that gym classes can be adapted to fit into their timetable instead of the other way round, although in-person training sessions are always more fun," they said at Basic Fit. An interesting alternative is the idea of hybrid training, which involves a combination of classes with online sessions.

#### Mindfulness

Mental health is also gaining muscle, one could say. "Mindfulness can be used during yoga and pilates classes, or you can do guided meditation to combat stress, connect the mind and the body and reach full wellbeing," said Basic Fit.

#### Training apps

These are also useful when it comes to doing sport. They register our activity, enable us to see how we are progressing and help us to achieve our targets. Some gyms have their own, like Basic Fit and Metropolitan, and there are also plenty of independent ones to be found in the app stores of the different operative systems (iOS or Android).

## Fitness trends of the moment

### Mini training sessions and online, outdoor and group activities are now very popular



Damián Quintero and María Torres pose with their silver medals. **SUR**

## Double silver for two Malaga karatekas

Damián Quintero and María Torres took second place in their karate categories at the 2022 World Games

**MARINA RIVAS**

MALAGA. Local karatekas Damián Quintero and María Torres have both achieved another podium finish at a worldwide tournament over the weekend at the 2022 World Games held in Birmingham (USA).

Quintero previously took silver in kata (the formalised sequence of movements that show offensive and defensive postures) at the World Karate Championships in November, while Torres took first place in kumite +68kg (sparring) to seal her maiden victory.

### Top contenders

Quintero started the tournament off as top seed and was the outright favourite to win. However, despite a good performance in the group stages and in the semi-finals, the Spaniard's kata was not better than the one performed by Kazumasa Moto, who was the winner.

The outcome took the Torremolinos local by surprise. "There are factors you cannot control. Anyway, that's still another medal coming home to Spain," he said, attempting to see the positive side of the silver medal.

"It's my fifth time in a world final, with three finals in the World Championships and two finals in the World Games, to which I can add three world medals in team events. I'm proud of my work and eager for more," he said.

Torres came into the World Games with the hope of making

her way back onto the podium after a difficult period and she didn't disappoint. She won all her battles convincingly and with her hard work coming to fruition as she booked her place in the final.

But her opponent for the gold medal, Sofia Berulsteva, was simply too good for the Malaga local, and she was defeated with ease by the Kazakh. "I have enjoyed this tournament to the maximum, it was a very special championship for me, I felt incredible," Torres said after the final.

## Davidovich breezes past Sousa in first round of Swedish Open

The Costa del Sol tennis player continued his fine form by defeating the Portuguese veteran 6-4 and 6-2 without conceding a break

**PEDRO LUIS ALONSO**

MALAGA. Alejandro Davidovich (ranked world number 37) continued his form following his Copa del Rey victory last week with a first round win against veteran player Joao Sousa (ranked 60th) at the Swedish Open on Tuesday afternoon. The

Spaniard won the match 6-2 and 6-4 without conceding a single break.

The Rincón de la Victoria local only suffered in the eighth game of the first set, where he overturned a 40-0 deficit and four break points, the only ones he conceded in the whole match.

This performance only confirms Davidovich's maturity as a player, as he was able to overpower a veteran that has won multiple tournaments on clay and who, at one point, was ranked 28th in the world.

Sousa hardly achieved any winners against the Rincón lo-

cal, whose only moments of trouble came at the expense of small mistakes that were never enough for his opponent to take advantage of. Davidovich steamrolled Sousa in the second set with no trouble.

Davidovich now has a double challenge ahead of him that will test just how far he's come in recent weeks. At the time of going to press, the Spaniard was facing off against Sebastian Sáez (ranked 34th) in the Swedish Open's round of 16. He would then face Dominic Thiem (ranked 339th) in today's semi-final.



Alejandro Davidovich in his match against Joao Sousa on Tuesday. **JOHAN LILJA**

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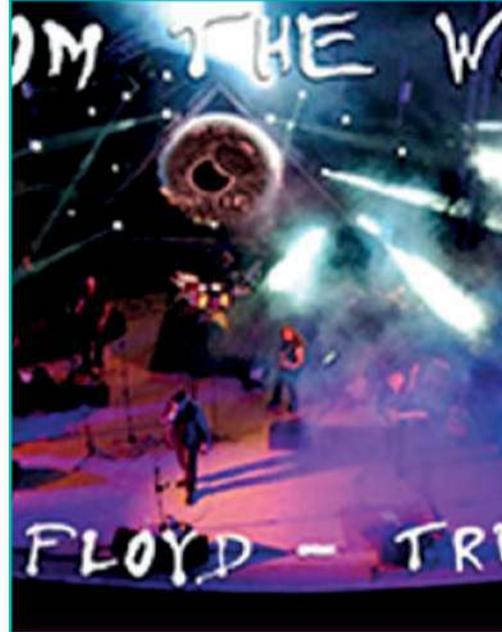
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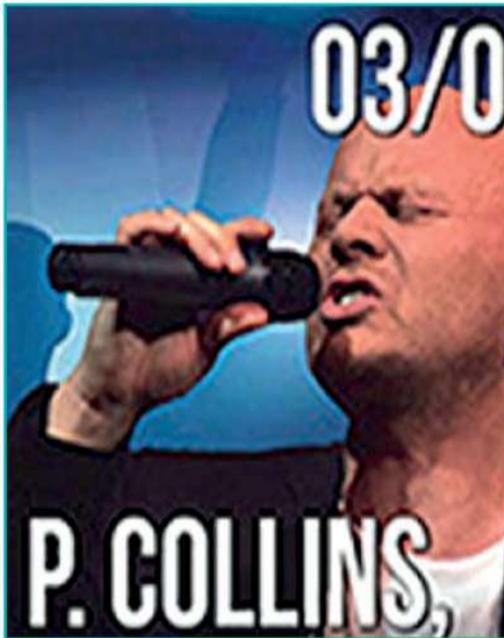
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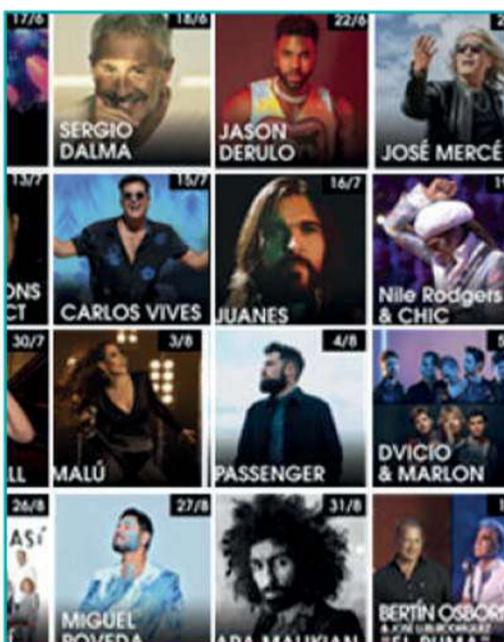
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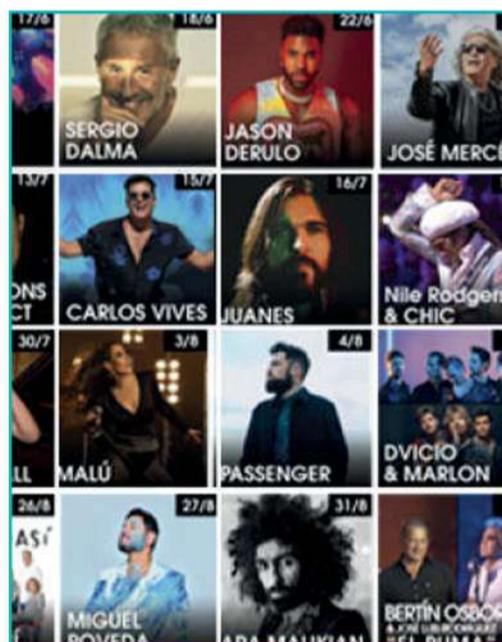
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Medical	061	Town Hall	952589300	Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401
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<b>Belgium</b>	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019	<b>Austria</b>	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	646060972
<b>Denmark</b>	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797	<b>Finland</b>	Calle Córdoba, 6, Malaga	952212435
<b>Norway</b>	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
<b>Canada</b>	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346	<b>Greece</b>	Dr Manuel Perez Bryan, Malaga	95225689
<b>Germany</b>	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591	<b>Iceland</b>	Calle Marín García, Malaga	952661200
<b>Sweden</b>	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383	<b>Philippines</b>	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952771850
<b>Ireland</b>	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108	<b>Hungary</b>	Av. de Velásquez, (Crce aeropuerto) Malaga	952236966

**THE STARS**



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Something that seemed so promising might temporarily take a nosedive. But this isn't the end of the story by any means.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
It may not seem possible as the week starts out, but let faith override any temptation to give up, or worse, let others persuade you not to try.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Are you a creative or incurable romantic? If so, Mercury and the Sun head into charismatic Leo. Get ready to enjoy life, Aries!



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
If one project is coming to an end, you might need to make cuts to bring it to a successful conclusion. As the focus shifts to your home zone, take a step back.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
If obstacles keep showing up, back off for a while and reassess in a few days. You may find a way has opened up for you. Going to an event or occasion this weekend? You'll have a ball.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
The Quarter Moon in your sector of ambition midweek could bring matters to a dramatic head, leading to a decision that might resolve a matter for good.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
You might realize what you've let yourself in for by early next week and feel overwhelmed. It's not too late to do something. Talk to those involved and a solution can be found.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Mercury and the Sun oppose Pluto, so emotions can swirl around, and there may be a touch of jealousy or other powerful feelings showing up.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Here comes an interesting week, with a Quarter Moon highlighting a situation that may have blown up a couple of days ago. You can either take action or hope that it will simply go away.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
You and another may not see eye to eye, and you could feel quite uptight about a situation. Midweek might be make or break in this regard.

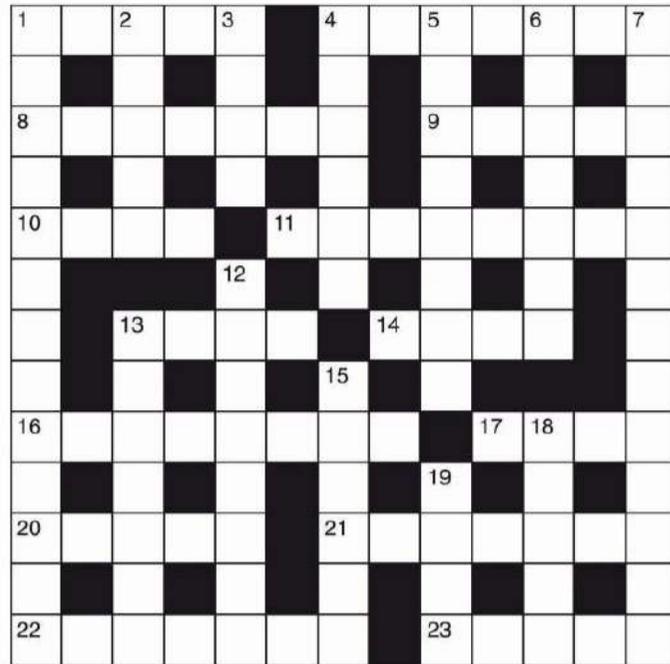


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
If there's something you want, you'll likely go all-out to get it. Powerful forces can make it almost an obsession, and the first half of the week may be dedicated to making it yours.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
It may help to give someone some leeway, as tense energies suggest they could give up on you if you don't. It's better to be upfront about what you want and why.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11523**



**Across**

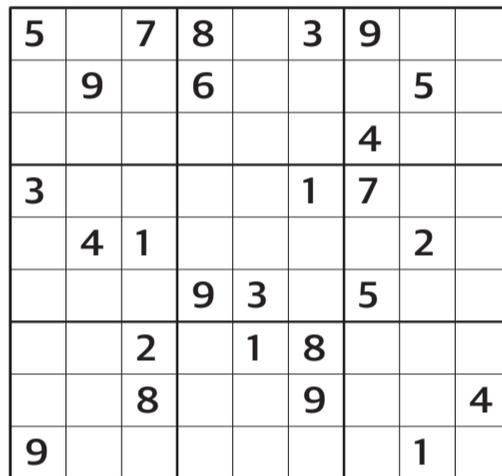
- 1 Frozen, like eels, we hear! (5)
- 4 It could be claimed to be a mathematical point (7)
- 8 Oil change needed after journey to Libyan location (7)
- 9 It's an advantage when fixed (5)
- 10 See 3 Down
- 11 Uniform charge for a maisonette? (4,4)
- 13 One endlessly cherished concept (4)
- 14 Not bound to be uncharged (4)
- 16 Give a hint that's very personal (8)
- 17 To speak indistinctly is an insult (4)
- 20 A bird surrounded by other ones (5)
- 21 Charge for freight - mind the label is inside (7)
- 22 Pellets restyled for service establishments (7)
- 23 Seafood was malodorous (5)

**Down**

- 1 What criminals who take the loot unpenalised do (3,4,4,2)
- 2 Gamble about it being a non-clerical group (5)
- 3 and 10Ac Ray Wood's redesigned the portals (8)
- 4 Bores a medico with maladies (6)
- 5 Bagpipe parts for the church choir (8)
- 6 Mother's wise to do some toning up (7)
- 7 Describing faultless correspondence? (6-7)
- 12 This provides an electrical connection for part of the airport (8)
- 13 Right in time, maybe, for the intervening period (7)
- 15 Heaps of smokers (6)
- 18 Permission to make a bequest (5)
- 19 Back among first-rate cultural pursuits (4)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

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



**THE WORDPUZZLER**



Can you identify the Old Testament figures from the anagrams listed below?

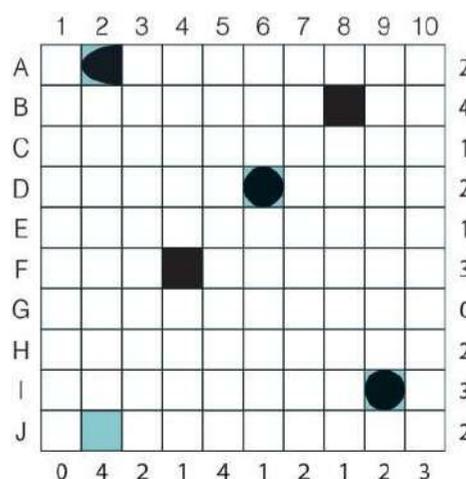
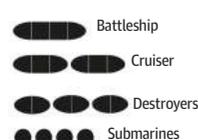
- 1. Hano
- 2. Maad
- 3. Nomass
- 4. Usea
- 5. Hurt
- 6. Inca
- 7. Sosme
- 8. Bojac
- 9. Acias
- 10. Honja

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**

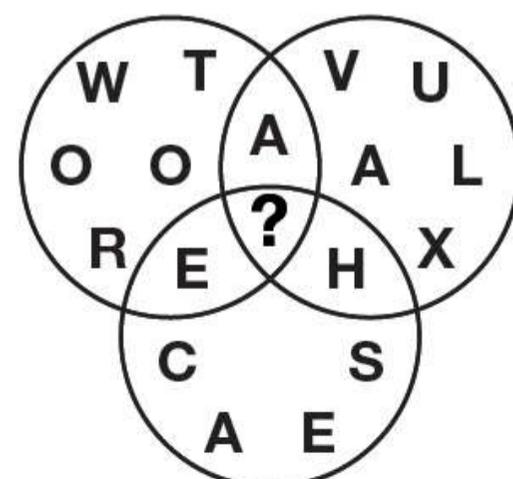


**BATTLESHIPS**

**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 and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.

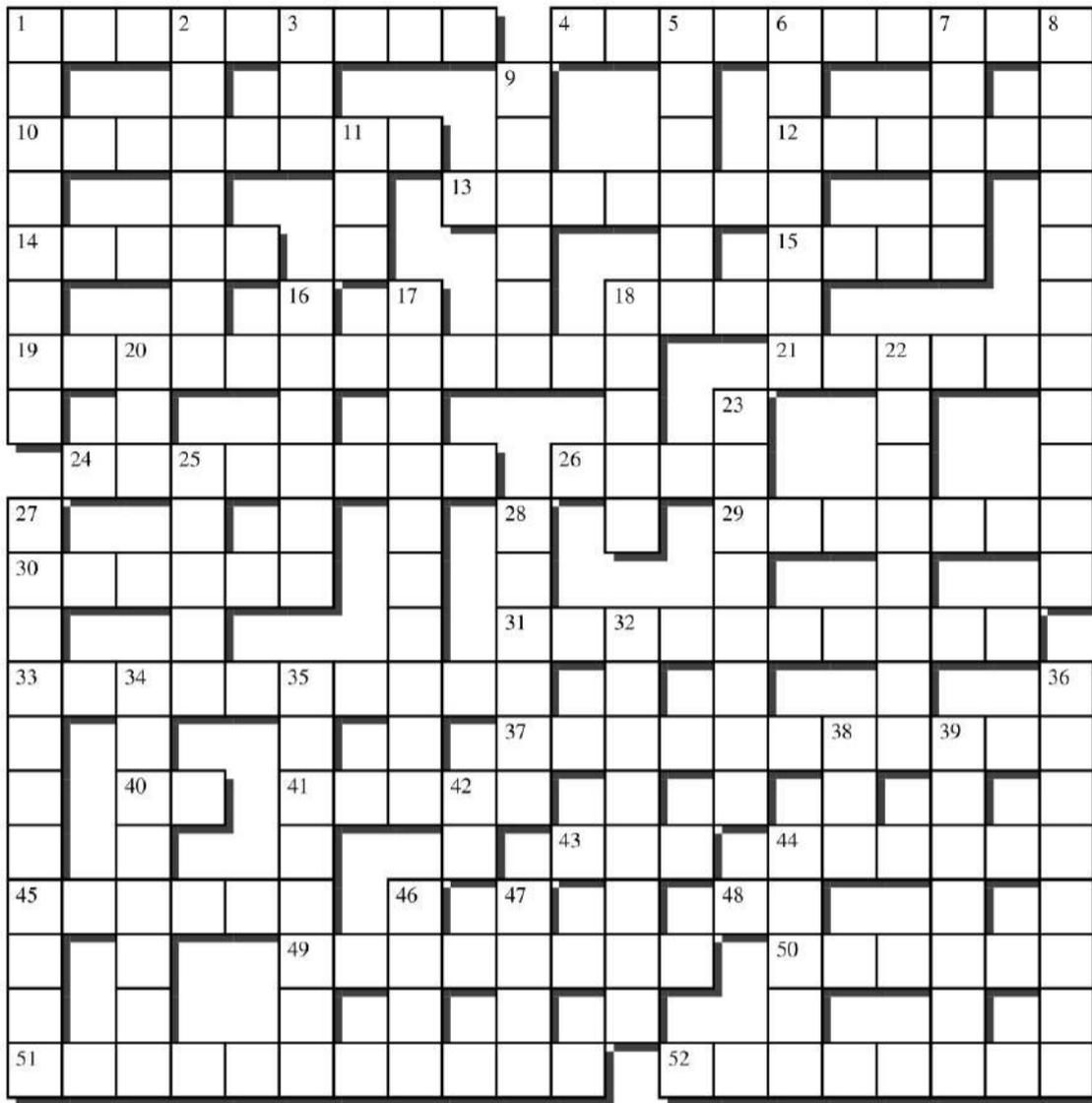


**CIRCLEGRAM**



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



Across

- 1) Ceremony (9)
- 4) Secretary (m) (10)
- 10) News (8)
- 12) Panic (6)
- 13) I'll sleep (7)
- 14) Success (5)
- 15) Challenge (4)
- 18) Jewel (4)
- 19) City hall (12)
- 21) They break (6)
- 24) Sports (8)
- 26) Pawn (4)
- 29) Victim (7)
- 30) State (6)
- 31) Colleagues (10)
- 33) Ancestor (m) (10)
- 37) Terrorists (11)
- 40) If (2)
- 41) Scourge (5)
- 43) One way (3)
- 44) Ovens (6)
- 45) It exists (6)
- 48) My (2)
- 49) Cathedral (8)
- 50) Garden (6)
- 51) Responsible (11)
- 52) To shoot (8)

Down

- 1) Councillor (8)
- 2) They exist (7)
- 3) I smelled (3)
- 5) Code (6)
- 6) To wait (7)
- 7) Noise (5)
- 8) Opportunity (11)
- 9) They cry (6)
- 11) Garlic (3)
- 16) Neighbourhood (6)
- 17) Silenced (m) (10)
- 18) Young (5)
- 20) I used (3)
- 22) Lies (8)
- 23) Sent (m.pl) (8)
- 25) Toll (5)
- 27) To disappear (11)
- 28) Neckline (6)
- 32) To lurk (8)
- 34) Witnesses (8)
- 35) They appear (8)
- 36) To assassinate (8)
- 38) Gone (m) (3)
- 39) Fork (7)
- 42) Your (2)
- 44) Sons (5)
- 46) Another (f) (4)
- 47) Councillor (4)

QUIZ

What is a baby llama called?

- 1. kid 2. llamelet 3. cria 4. calf



What family do Llamas belong to?

- 1. Camelidae 2. Equidae 3. Cervidae 4. Procyonidae

Which of the following is the odd one out?

- 1. alpaca 2. guanaco 3. vicugna 4. cacomistle

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

What's happening where you are?

At SUR in English we are proud of our reputation for publishing a wide variety of Spanish news of interest to our readers, and as part of the SUR media group we have access to all the best and most reliable sources. Another part of our remit is to publish all the local news concerning the English-speaking community in Andalucía, and for that, we have several sources including our team of roving reporters and you, the reader! We often get calls asking the question "Can you mention this in SUR in English?" The "this" can be anything from an art exhibition to an event in aid of charity, a change in church service times, or a dolphin washed up on the beach. The answer to all of these is "yes". If it is of interest to our readers we can mention it, and if it is a big story we can send one of our team of journalists to write about it. Contact us at [surinenglish.su@diariosures.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosures.es) or on Twitter at @SUR\_English or Facebook @SURenglish

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Answer:** Cria  
**Of interest:** Female llamas (dams) usually carry just one cria, twins are rare. The gestation period is around 350 days and the birth normally occurs while the llama is standing up, and in daylight.  
**Answer:** Camelidae  
**Of interest:** Llamas are one of six species in the Camelidae family which includes camels (bactrian and dromedary) alpacas and vicuñas (vicuñas). The vicugna is the smallest member of the family.  
**Answer:** Cacomistle  
**Of interest:** The cacomistle is a nocturnal mammal related to the racoon. All the others are all members of the Camelidae family.

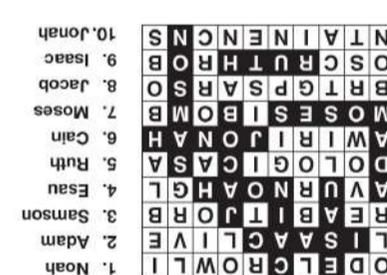
Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Waterloo, Vauxhall, Chelsea, all London bridges.

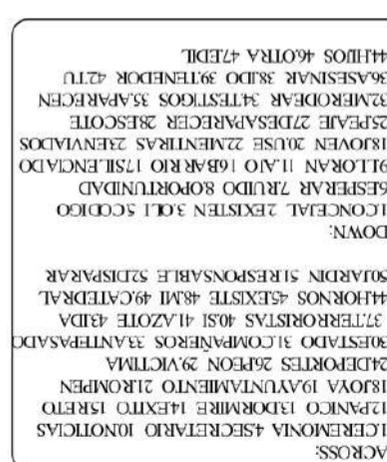
Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Gelid; 4 Decimal; 8 Tripoli; 9 Asset; 10 Ways; 11 Flat rate; 13 Idea; 14 Free; 16 Intimate; 17 Slur; 20 Heron; 21 Cartage; 22 Temples; 23 Smelt; Down: 1 Get away with it; 2 Lathy; 3 Door; 4 Drills; 5 Chanters; 6 Massage; 7 Letter-perfect; 12 Terminal; 13 Interim; 15 Stacks; 18 Leave; 19 Arts.

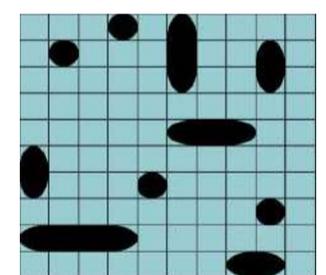
Wordpuzler solution



Language Crossword



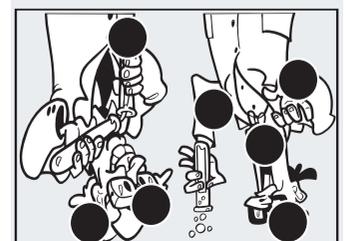
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



# Renovation process starts on the medieval Cortijo de las Mezquitas

## CAMPILLOS

The main building at this property, which houses a ninth century mosque, is what is left of a farmhouse that was built in the 16th century

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



The council in the inland town of Campillos has launched a project for the renovation of an important medieval building that is in danger of collapse due to its poor condition.

The main building of Cortijo de las Mezquitas is a 16th century farmhouse that was built over a ninth century mosque. It is due to its history as a mosque that the property acquired its present name.

Cortijo de las Mezquitas was declared a Site of Cultural Interest by the Junta de Andalucía in 2008 and, given its poor condition and the serious risk it runs of falling down, the council has now begun the process to restore it.

"We are looking at a historic building which is part of our heritage and is about to suffer irreversible deterioration unless urgent action is taken," explained town planning councillor Diego Lozano.

With the collaboration of the Junta de Andalucía's culture department in Malaga, maintenance work started to be carried out at the Cortijo de las Mezquitas in 2020. This included the replace-



The team of archaeologists and architects studying the mosque, which dates back to the ninth century. SUR

ment of the perimeter fencing and repair of the main entrance door to prevent vandalism.

## Excavations

A team of archaeologists and architects has now begun the process of analysing the stratigraphic sequence of the architecture of the mosque in order to carry out future investigations and excavations of the site.

The work is part of a project on Islamic landscapes in southern Andalucía led by Dr Angelo Castorao Barba, an archaeologist from the Polish Institute of Archae-

ology and Ethnology-Academy of Sciences.

The rest of the team are María de los Ángeles Utrero Agudo, Pedro Gurriarán Daza, José Ignacio Murillo Fragero and Irene Caracuel Vera.

Utrero explained that the methodology they are using is known as "archaeology of architecture".

"We try to study a building from an archaeological point of view to understand how it evolved. In other words we want to know when it was built, how it changed over time, how those changes

meant that features had to be modified or new ones added, and that way we can discover how it came to be the way we see it today," she said.

During the initial phase of this project, Campillos council contributed by arranging the accommodation for the research team and helping with auxiliary tasks such as clearing undergrowth from the areas of the site which are to be studied and providing generators so they have light where needed, among others.

Dr Castorao Barba has explained that the next phase of this pro-

ject will involve studying the area around the building and seeing if there are any other remains of interest.

## Next phase

"The idea is to investigate not just the mosque itself but also its surroundings, to get a clear picture of this as a stratigraphic site and its historic sequencing," he said.

The team of archaeologists and architects will be carrying out a new stage in the project in October, and this is likely to consist of the start of excavations and more conservation works.

In the meantime, the town hall commissioned a new conservation report and this has confirmed the news that the building is in danger if no action is taken. It said that new problems had been found with some of the structural features and these could lead to the collapse and ruin of very significant medieval sections of the property.

## New problems

"Continuous study of the building shows that there are living lesions to the structure and these are rapidly becoming more severe," the report said.

To cover the cost of the consolidation and protective works which need to be carried out, Diego Lozano said that the council is assigning 30,000 euros from this year's budget and will set aside more funds for this purpose in 2023.

"We are very worried about the state of the mosque and, by providing a sum of money this size, we can make sure it doesn't collapse," he said.

"We need to be responsible when it comes to our heritage and history, and we have advised the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Culture that we are prepared to take charge of carrying out all the conservation works necessary to protect this Site of Cultural Interest, and to seek public financing so we can guarantee its future."

# ATLAS

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OF MALAGA

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