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# Corruption sentences for two former presidents of Andalucía are upheld

José Antonio Griñán faces a jail term and Manuel Chaves is set to be banned from office

The Supreme Court has agreed with a 2019 sentence from judges in Seville that said two former leaders of the Junta de Andalucía government were involved in a massive fraud scheme with 680 million euros of public money.

José Antonio Griñán, who faces six years jail, Manuel Chaves, who faces a ban from office, and several other former top politicians and officials, including four more who face jail, are likely to keep fighting. The possibility of official pardons from PM Pedro Sánchez, of the same PSOE political party as those found guilty, is also being discussed, and raising eyebrows in the opposition PP party.

The case goes back to the period from 2000 to 2009 when money was given to firms to fund redundancy schemes in return for taking on older workers or helping firms in trouble. Proper financial controls were not followed. **P3**



## Province's foreign residents applauded at Joan Hunt awards

The Diputación and Cudeca came together to recognise the role of the international community in local life. **P4**

**Strikes by Spanish-based Ryanair cabin crew are set to continue into January next year** **P12**

**Concert at end of Torre del Mar feria ends in chaos as 10,000 try to attend with 'few controls' in place** **P16**

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Juanma Moreno, Andalusian president, shares a joke with his regional cabinet ahead of a family photo at their swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday. EFE

#### LIST OF MINISTERS

- ▶ **Presidency.** Antonio Sanz
- ▶ **Education.** Patricia del Pozo
- ▶ **Agriculture.** Carmen Crespo
- ▶ **Planning.** M. F. Carazo
- ▶ **Employment.** Rocío Blanco
- ▶ **Environment.** R. Fernández
- ▶ **Justice.** José Antonio Nieto
- ▶ **Industry.** Jorge Paradela
- ▶ **Tourism.** Arturo Bernal
- ▶ **Health/Consumer.** C. García
- ▶ **Social Integration.** L. López
- ▶ **Education.** José C. Gómez
- ▶ **Economy.** Carolina España

## Moreno unveils his new Andalusian cabinet, with more women than men

There will be 13 ministers in the Junta regional government, up from 11 in the last parliament, and they met for the first time on Tuesday this week

HÉCTOR BARBOTA / SUR

SEVILLE. The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, announced the makeup of his new, majority regional government on Monday this week.

The next day the regional ministers were sworn in at a ceremony in Seville and held their first regional cabinet just ahead of summer recess. Their first big task will be to approve the region's

draft budget for 2023 between September and October. This year's budget - 2022 - was never approved as Moreno had a minority government, prompting him to go to the polls in June.

With a majority of MPs in the Andalusian parliament now from his conservative PP party, Juanma Moreno has been free to choose all his regional cabinet. This time he has opted for 13 regional ministries, up two on last time and with a majority of women at the helm.

The swearing-in ceremonies had already kicked off last Saturday with the president himself taking office at an elaborate event in the open air alongside San Telmo Palace in Seville, the his-

toric building used as the official seat of the regional government. A large cross-party audience had listened to Moreno's address at the early morning gathering before the July sun became too hot.

A clearly happy Moreno announced that "a new period is beginning in Andalucía", in which all opportunities will be taken to place the region among the first in Spain.

**The swearing-in ceremonies had already kicked off last Saturday with the president himself taking office**

Moreno said in his speech that the ornate building behind him was "not a place of privilege, but rather a centre for tenacious work and the constant desire to strive for and with Andalucía".

He added that the purpose of holding the event on the street was to symbolise that he will always be an open and accessible president. "Covering many kilometres" and visiting villages and neighbourhoods, he said, would continue to be his way of governing.

"I have ambition for Andalucía, I want it to be a benchmark of prosperity and well-being, and I have the determination to do whatever is necessary for Andalucía to continue moving forward," the newly-elected president said.

### Malaga has three seats at the top table of the Junta de Andalucía

SUR

SEVILLE. Of the 13 regional ministers, three are from Malaga province. Pleasing the local tourism industry was the appointment of Arturo Bernal as Tourism, Culture and Sports minister. Earlier in his career he ran Malaga city's and then the Costa del Sol's tourism departments. Also from Malaga is Carolina España, Economy minister, and Rocío Blanco, Employment, Self-employed and Enterprise.



Arturo Bernal

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# Supreme Court upholds jail term for ex-president of Junta de Andalucía

José Antonio Griñán was found guilty in 2019 over his part in a huge fraudulent use of public funds for redundancy schemes worth 680 million euros

M. SAÍZ-PARDO / H. BARBOTTA

MADRID / SEVILLE. The Supreme Court has upheld the prison sentence of the president of the Junta de Andalucía from 2009 to 2013, José Antonio Griñán, and the disqualification from office of his predecessor, Manuel Chaves.

On Tuesday this week, Spain's top court confirmed the decision of the Seville High Court that handed Griñán a six-year jail sentence for embezzlement and nine years of disqualification for a continuous crime of prevarication while in power, and nine years also of disqualification for Chaves for the crime of prevarication.

Along with Griñán, the Supreme Court confirmed prison sentences for ex-regional ministers Antonio Fernández, Francisco Vallejo, José Antonio Vieira and Carmen Martínez Aguayo,

**The ERE payments ended up being made via unaudited financial transfers instead of the standard subsidy route**

who were sentenced to between six and eight years in prison.

Seville High Court found in 2019 that both former presidents were "fully aware of the blatant and patent illegality" of the fraudulent allocation of public funds by the Andalucía government. This involved a layoff and redundancy programme (known as an ERE in Spanish) worth 680 million euros from 2000 to 2009 that was riddled with corruption and malpractice.

## Judges' split decision

Griñán was very close to escaping jail. Two of the court's five judges disagreed with the ruling, considering that the court should have upheld Griñán's appeal for acquittal on the charge of embezzlement.

The Supreme Court also heard the appeals of others who had been condemned in the original trial, adjusting some of their sentences.

As yet, those given custodial sentences won't enter jail while the full legal process is seen out.

Back in 2019, Seville High Court declared that in 2000 the Andalusian regional government and its ministry of Employment had set up a system of public aid for companies that agreed to take on jobless people close to retirement age and also companies in crisis.

However, the ERE payments linked to this ended up being made via unaudited transfers instead of the standard subsidy route which is subject to controls and scrutiny.



Manuel Chaves and José Antonio Griñán in court in Seville during the original trial in 2018. EFE

## A pardon from the government is a possible option for Griñán

SUR

MADRID. The Supreme Court's ruling that a Socialist former president of Andalucía should go to prison has understandably been centre of attention this week among rival political parties on the national stage.

José Antonio Griñán's lawyer has said he will explore every possible avenue to avoid actually going to jail while talk increases of Socialist Prime Min-

ister Pedro Sánchez possibly pardoning those involved in the mammoth fraud scandal of some of their crimes.

Speaking on a visit to Poland this week, Sánchez did nothing to dispel the rumour that pardons could happen. They are "being made to pay for the sins of others" he said, explaining that the fraud had not benefited the culprits personally nor his PSOE political party.

For the moment, Griñán's law-

yer looks to be thinking of a three-stage approach: calling for the sentence to be overturned for an abuse of basic human rights, an appeal claiming the case is unconstitutional and finally, a request for a pardon, which would need to be made at the most within 15 months, when a new general election is due.

The opposition PP party, mindful that criticism of corruption had brought down its previous government in 2018, asked Pedro Sánchez to consider a vote of no confidence in himself.

The Andalucía fraud, "was the biggest case of systematic corruption in the recent history of our country," the PP said.



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The award winners line up with representatives of the Diputación, Cudeca and town halls on Wednesday evening. **MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ**

# International community recognised at first Joan Hunt awards ceremony

Cudeca and the provincial authority have created the prizes to highlight the contribution of Malaga's international residents

**JENNIE RHODES**

MALAGA. Cuban musician Chucho Valdés; Finnish firm Lumon; the village of Canillas de Albaida; Dr Yusuf Hamied; Bodegas Bentomiz; British consul Charmaine Arbouin and the British consulate; and this newspaper, SUR in English, are the seven winners of the first Joan Hunt Awards, which were presented on Wednesday.

The ceremony took place at the home of the Diputación, Malaga's provincial authority, and began with a video looking back at the life of the late Joan Hunt, Liverpool-born founder of the palliative care foundation Cudeca.

It was almost a year ago that the Diputación and Cudeca had discussions to reach a common goal: the Joan Hunt Awards, to recognise the contribution of the inter-



Dr Yusuf Hamied was thanked. **M.F.**

national community towards making Malaga a better place to live.

Under the theme of Joan's "lovely garden", each of the prizewinners was presented with a bunch of sunflowers, the flower that forms part of the Cudeca logo, as well as a silver sunflower award.

The Joan Hunt Award for Culture went to Cuban musician Chucho Valdés, whose thank you speech was streamed from Italy, where he was about to give a concert. Valdés described himself as "as a Cuban 'Malagueño'" and spoke about the work he had done with Joan Hunt and Cudeca.

The Joan Hunt 'Sabor a Málaga' award went to Bodegas Bentomiz, a Dutch-run company based in the Axarquía village of Sayalonga, for its contribution to the Malaga wine industry and introducing the local wines to a wider international audience.

The prize for communication went to this newspaper, SUR in English. Accepting the award, editor Rachel Haynes paid tribute to Joan and the close collaboration over the years between SUR in English and Cudeca.

The municipal initiative award went to Canillas de Albaida town hall as an example of integration between Spanish and foreign residents. Mayor Jorge Martín Pérez said that he was picking up the prize on behalf of "all of the residents" for their work to put the village on the map and for the group of volunteers who work at the tourist information office to promote the area.

The award for business development went to Finnish glazing firm Lumon, which has had a presence in Malaga for almost 30 years.

The British consulate in Malaga was also recognised. Collecting the award, British Consul Charmaine Arbouin thanked the authorities and NGOs based in the province for supporting the consulate in its work.

Finally, the most applauded award of the evening was handed to Dr Yusuf Hamied, the scientist and businessman who is renowned for his pioneering work with Aids patients.

On accepting the prize, which was presented by the president of the Diputación, Francisco Salado, Dr Hamied said that he and Joan Hunt had "developed a deep bond" when they first met in 2010.

Dr Hamied has made an annual donation of 100,000 euros to Cudeca since 2010 and, in April of this year, Cudeca officially opened its new Yusuf Hamied Research and Education Centre.

The ceremony finished with a speech from Salado in which he thanked the prize winners and the international community in Malaga in general for their work to help the province progress.

## AWARDS

**Chucho Valdés**  
Pianist

"I came to visit my father and fell in love; I wanted to live here"



**Clara Verheij**  
Bodegas Bentomiz

"We believe Malaga wines deserve worldwide recognition"



**Rachel Haynes**  
SUR in English

"You don't have to speak the language perfectly to make a major contribution to society"



**Jorge Martín Pérez**  
Mayor of Canillas de Albaida

"This award is for all the residents and their work to put our village on the map"



**Charmaine Arbouin**  
British Consul

"Without organisations like Cudeca, we couldn't do the work we do"



**Dr Yusuf Hamied**  
Scientist

"Andalucía should be proud of this unique institution"



**Francisco Salado**  
Diputación President

"I want to thank the foreign community in Malaga for their work"



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# Young woman dies after car is hit by train on a level crossing

The passenger train dragged the vehicle for more than 200 metres along the track near Álora

JUAN CANO

MALAGA. The Guardia Civil are investigating the death of a woman, 25, who died after the car in which she was travelling was struck by a passenger train in the town of Álora in Malaga province.

The incident happened at around 9.30pm on Thursday evening last week at a level crossing - without barriers - on the A-7077 as it passes through the area known as Vega Malilla.

Firefighters from the provin-

cial brigade, Guardia Civil officers, Civil Protection volunteers from Álora and paramedics were called to the scene of the accident and confirmed the death of the young woman.

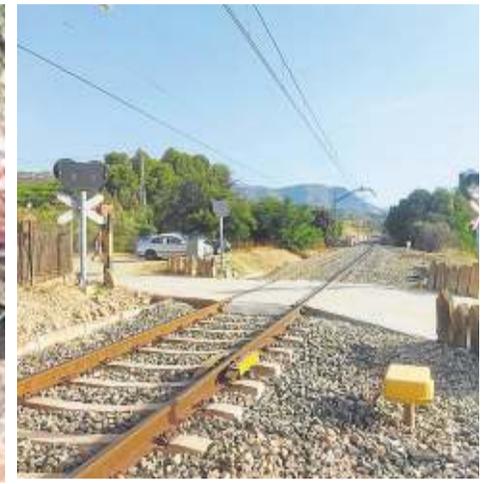
The victim was identified as a 25-year-old woman from the Canary Islands. According to sources, she had only been in Álora for a month and was working at Arpom, a local addiction treatment and rehabilitation centre.

Although the level crossing does not have barriers, it is well signposted - both visually and acoustically when trains are approaching. Police officers are trying to determine why the young woman's vehicle was on the track.

The train driver was unable to



Rescue workers at the scene of the crash last week. SUR



The level crossing. SUR

avoid the collision after spotting the car in the middle of the railway line. Although he quickly applied the emergency brakes, the train dragged the car for more than 200 metres along the track.

Railway infrastructure company Adif said that none of the 20 train passengers was injured. They were transferred by minibus to Álora.

Last week's accident has reopened the debate about the

safety of level crossings with no barriers in rural areas.

## Level crossings

Malaga province has 99 level crossings, according to Adif figures from the end of 2020. Of them, 39 have no barriers: either they just have fixed warning signs, or also acoustic warning signal and lights when a train is approaching, as is the case in the crossing involved in the

Álora accident.

The town's mayor, Francisco Martínez said that for the 12 years he has been at the town hall he has been calling for Adif to provide safer alternatives to three of the four level crossings in the municipality.

Two projects have already been approved but are still waiting for a start date. One of these affects the crossing where the accident took place, he explained.

## 112 REPORTS



A police image taken at one of the raids to detain the scammers. CNP

### MALAGA

## Multi-million-euro cyber scammers arrested

E.P. National Police officers, in a joint operation with Romanian National police and Europol, have dismantled an international organisation that allegedly swindled more than three million euros through fraud committed over the internet. Nine people were ar-

rested - three of them in Malaga and six in Romania - who allegedly published fake advertisements on the web for the sale of secondhand vehicles and other products, with which they attracted the attention of the victims. After asking for payment in advance the scammers disappeared without trace. The detainees are accused of more than 70 cases of fraud and of gleaning profits of more than three million euros.

### CASARES

## Magnitude 3.1 earthquake recorded

R. MERINO. Spain's National Geographic Institute (IGN) recorded an earthquake this Tuesday morning with its epicentre in the Costa municipality of Casares. The tremor, with a magnitude of 3.1 at a depth of 20 kilometres, was recorded at around 2.40am.

It was not the only earthquake recorded in recent days in the province. On Sunday and Monday, the IGN recorded two tremors in Fuengirola, of magnitude 2.8 and 2.5 respectively. Both were in the morning at around 10am.

### MIJAS COSTA

## Hash driver detained carrying 27 drug bales

R.M. The driver of a minibus has been arrested by police after being intercepted on the AP-7 at the Calahonda-Mijas exit. The officers' suspicions were raised by the excessively low ride height of the vehicle despite the fact there was only one person inside.

Inside, 27 bales of hashish were found, weighing a total of 928.8 kilogrammes, according to a National Police statement.

The driver was arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking as part of 'Operation Twister' and is in jail awaiting trial.



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# Three arrests for luxury watch thefts using 'Ronaldiño' technique

Police detained the individuals in Marbella and seized half a dozen mobile phones, two gold rings and 1,800 euros in cash

IRENE QUIRANTE

MALAGA. National Police officers have arrested three people for allegedly stealing luxury watches in Marbella, as well as a fourth for allegedly committing a crime of concealment. The suspects, aged between 19 and 23, reportedly carried out the robberies using the 'Ronaldiño' technique, which consists of approaching the victims and simulating a football dribble as a means of distraction.

The events that led to the arrests happened in Puerto Banús in the early hours of last Saturday. Plainclothes officers observed three individuals acting in a suspicious manner. After being searched a luxury watch was discovered. On questioning, officers arrested the three men as the al-

leged perpetrators of a robbery with violence using the 'Ronaldiño' technique.

The men had claimed they were in Marbella on holiday. A search of the flat where they were staying revealed seven watches – six of them luxury brands – six mobile phones, two gold rings and 1,800 euros in cash.

A fourth person, the partner of one of those arrested, has also been detained on suspicion of a crime of concealment.

The investigation remains ongoing.

National Police sources say that violent criminal gangs are targeting the tourist trade on the Costa del Sol. Only last week, a police officer in Marbella miraculously escaped being shot after a watch thief snatched his gun and tried to shoot him twice.

Also recently, another violent assault was recorded in which two individuals on a motorbike tried to snatch a wristwatch from a woman who resisted and fought back screaming, with the aid of passersby who rushed to her aid.



Some of the recovered luxury timepieces. CNP

## Police in Marbella crack down on problem plaguing tourist areas

JUAN CANO

MALAGA. National Police have created a special group to try to stop the theft of expensive timepieces by gangs mainly targeting tourists who come to the Costa del Sol to spend time on holiday.

The new task force is part of the Specialised and Violent

Crime Unit (UDEV) based at Marbella police station. Officers say the roaming thieves are adept at relocating to escape police pressure after a hit.

A similar scheme in Barcelona has resulted in 64 arrests being made in the first five months of the year and some 40 per cent of crimes reported being resolved.

### IN BRIEF

#### MARBELLA

### Minister rejects invitation to visit town

**J. DUEÑAS.** Marbella's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, has sent an invitation to visit to Minister for Ecological Transition Teresa Ribera. She hopes Ribera will see for herself damage from the frequent erosion of the resort's coastline during storms and the problem with the promenade illegally constructed in the 1990s. However, the invitation has been rejected by a ministry official.

#### MARBELLA

### Popular sand dunes campaigner dies

**J.D.** The Produnas association has announced the death of its founder and president. Fernando Piquer worked with his wife, Susanne Stamm, for almost two decades to safeguard the town's sand dunes and enrich the natural heritage of Marbella. The mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, conveyed her condolences saying, "we deeply regret the loss of someone who has fought so hard."



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# Hundreds evacuated in Estepona as fire threatens homes

The blaze started in cane fields but quickly spread, forcing the closure of the A-7 road and the activation of the town's emergency response plan

DAVID LERMA

ESTEPONA. As Malaga province sweltered with high temperatures on Tuesday this week, partly fuelled by the local terral wind, the Junta de Andalucía's Plan Infoca forest fire brigade found themselves operating at full stretch as they dealt with three simultaneous, major incidents along the Costa del Sol - in Estepona, Mijas and Benahavís.

The Estepona blaze started in the afternoon in an area of cane fields near the Beverly Hills residential development, close to the José Martín Méndez industrial estate. Despite the burning vegetation, it was considered to be in an urban zone and Infoca worked alongside Malaga provincial fire-

fighters.

At around 5pm, users of the sports centre near the Parque de las Mesas were evacuated as the flames spread and, close to 7pm, around 350 people from the surrounding area were also evacuated, as a precautionary measure, after the town's emergency response plan was activated. The conference centre was made available for those displaced.

By 8pm, the flames had reached some units on the Nueva Estebuna industrial estate and a further 250 people were evacuated. Shortly afterwards, the Hidralia water company began to collaborate in extinguishing the fire on the industrial estate, providing its own water tankers.

At around 10pm, after the fire was declared "stabilised" by the town's mayor, José María García Urbano, all those evacuated were allowed to return to their homes.

Firefighting continued into the evening as did repairs to the electricity supply after several outages.



Plan Infoca specialist firefighters fight the flames in Estepona. SUR

## Infoca helicopters and firefighters tackle major blazes in Mijas and Benahavís

SUR

MALAGA. Two other forest fires were also declared by Infoca on Tuesday afternoon - in Mijas and Benahavís.

The blaze in Mijas started in the Majadilla del Muerto area at around 3.30pm. Residents of the Vetania area were evacuated due to the proximity of the fire. In addition, the AP-7 was closed between kilometres 201

and 214 due to the smoke from the fire. The Junta de Andalucía activated Level 1 of its emergency response plan for forest fires.

At the same time, Infoca also tackled a fire in the Río Guadalmina area of Benahavís that broke out at 6.20pm. Air support from helicopters dropping water helped the specialist firefighters on the ground as they worked to control the blaze.



Fabian Picardo. AFP

## Far-right Spanish politician loses Picardo libel case

GIBRALTAR

SUR. The chief minister of Gibraltar has been awarded damages of £20,000, to be paid by Augustín Rosety Fernández de Castro, 75, a member of the far-right party Vox who represents Cadiz in the national parliament.

Fabian Picardo took action against the publication in Gibraltar of a series of tweets that were highly defamatory, untrue statements. All monies recovered will be donated to a local charity.

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A mock-up of the original proposed location, next to the sea. SUR

## Music festival's beach to city move prompts complaints

CRISTINA PINTO

MALAGA. The change of location for the Andalucía Big Festival - headlined by Muse and Rage Against the Machine - has prompted a flood of complaints from people who have already bought tickets for the 8-10 September music event. Originally it was to be staged at Malaga's Saca Beach but promoter Mad Cool

is now planning to move it to the city's showground area at Cortijo de Torres due to unfavourable technical reports citing environmental, mobility and meteorological issues at the beachfront site.

Consumer rights group FACUA Malaga told SUR that customers have the right to a refund. "This is a change in the conditions - the fairground is not the same as the beach," said Lola Garcia.

TORREMOLINOS

## Resort was busiest place in region for hotel stays in June

TONY BRYANT. According to a hotel occupancy survey conducted by Spain's national institute of statistics (INE), Torremolinos was the tourist destination with the most overnight stays in Andalucía

during the month of June.

The town received 545,077 overnight stays. Seville came second on 491,815. Torremolinos mayor, Margarita del Cid, claimed the figures had been boosted by last minute reservations.

Apart from the most overnight stays, the survey also revealed that Torremolinos received 127,821 visitors in June. Both figures beat those recorded in the resort during the same period in 2019.

# Civil aviation authority gives go-ahead for more skyscrapers by the sea to the west of Malaga

The national safety body has confirmed that the towers - of up to 23-storeys - will not interfere with flights at nearby Malaga Airport

JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. Three more tower buildings on the coast at the west end of Malaga city have been given the green light by Spain's civil aviation authority. SUR has confirmed this government body has issued a favourable report on the planned skyscrapers, saying it won't affect flight paths into nearby Malaga Airport.

The towers will be in the area at the end of the city's Paseo Marítimo and close to the Guadalhorce river. There are already several projects under way or planned to transform the previously industrial area, creating two thousand homes in a series of new towers of between 15 and



Artist's impression of the towers that now have the green light. SUR

23 floors high.

The towers now given approval by civil aviation are planned for an industrial estate next to the headquarters of the Diputación provincial authority. Last October the town hall approved the

initial urban plan for that area.

Two other towers of luxury flats are currently going up on land next door and have reached around 12 storeys so far. More towers are planned around the La Térmica chimney next door.

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# Ryanair strikes extended into 2023

The next wave of full-day stoppages, called by unions representing cabin crew at the airline's ten Spanish bases, will begin on 8 August

PILAR MARTÍNEZ / SUR

MALAGA. The USO and Sitcpla unions announced this week that they are extending the cabin crew strike at ten Ryanair bases in Spain until 7 January 2023. The new strike call, for full-day stoppages from Monday to Thursday, weekly, will begin on 8 August.

"Given that Ryanair has not shown the slightest attempt at rapprochement with the unions

but, on the contrary, has publicly stated its refusal to engage in any dialogue, USO and Sitcpla have been forced to continue the strike and call new dates after listening to the workers," union officials said.

Malaga Airport is one of those least affected by the strikes, with many days when there have been delays but no cancellations. Despite Ryanair having planes based at Malaga - the ones sometimes affected by the strikes - the majority of its planes fly in from bases in other countries with non-Spanish-based crew.

The unions have also called for immediate reinstatement of the eleven workers dismissed during the previous strikes in June and July and closure of all



Customers check in for Ryanair flights at Malaga Airport. M. FERNÁNDEZ

the disciplinary proceedings against approximately one hundred workers during the previous strikes.

Ryanair argues that it has already reached agreement on conditions with the far larger CC OO trade union.

**Malaga Airport is one of those least affected by the strikes, with many days when there have been delays but no cancellations**

## Industrial action by Spanish cabin crew at easyJet called off after pay deal

E.P.

MALAGA. Spanish trade union USO announced on Thursday this week agreement with easyJet for a 22 per cent basic pay rise for cabin crew members over three years, immediately calling off the last three days of strike action, which were due to take place from today through until Sunday.

A four per cent increase in basic pay will be applied retroactively from March this year, with a rise of 13 per cent for 2023 and five per cent for 2024.

The deal also includes finan-

cial compensation for work undertaken on days off and increased compensation and flexible allowances for flight attendants; both measures will come into effect from 1 January, 2023.

The agreement was approved by the workers' assembly and, of the 418 cabin crew serving easyJet in Spain, 303 took part in the vote and almost 75 per cent of them ratified it.

USO's representative at easyJet, Miguel Galán, said that after weeks of strike action and months of negotiation, the company had given a financial offer that represented an "important" approach to the wages and conditions that colleagues have in Europe, despite "not being exactly what we were demanding".

"Independently, we continue with the negotiations of the agreement in all areas that are not of an economic nature, with the aim of improving our working conditions," he added.

## Tourist board rejects visitor tax proposal, saying 'now is not the right time'

SUR

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol tourist board has rejected the idea of imposing a visitor tax on holiday-makers but its boss has said a debate is needed on improving the financing of tourist areas.

Francisco Salado, president of Turismo Costa del Sol, said: "We are in the midst of a process of recovery from the coronavirus pandemic that has severely damaged the tourism sector, so it is not the right time to introduce new taxes and fees for the sector that has been hardest hit by the health crisis."



Tourists in Malaga. SUR

Salado spoke out after Malaga city council called on the Junta de Andalucía to study the necessary regulatory framework for the application of such a tax for those staying in hotels, apartments and tourist homes, although it rejected a proposal to charge a tourist tax of one euro to visitors staying in the city.

## Costa del Sol hotels feel the heat and warn of 'unsustainable' spiralling electricity costs

The average daily cost of electricity per guest has risen by 247 per cent compared to 2019, according to the Aehcos hoteliers association

P. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. A report by the Costa del Sol hoteliers association of the (Aehcos) has warned of unsustainable costs afflicting the sec-

tor. And they say these costs mean that the average daily price of electricity per guest has risen by 247 per cent compared to 2019.

"In 2019 the hotel sector had a total of 27.5 million overnight stays in the province of Malaga. At that time, the average price per kilowatt per hour was 0.0923 euros. In April 2022 that figure reached an average of 0.2715 euros, with peaks of 0.33 euros per kilowatt per hour, which represents an alarming rise of

247.63%," Aehcos said.

Aehcos warns that "the sector is facing the season with two major stumbling blocks: on the one hand, the rise in costs; on the other, the situation of the Next Generation [EU] funds".

Concern is spreading, even though bookings for the summer are going well. There is widespread alarm about the rising electricity costs that are putting profitability into question. The increase in electricity bills

for the sector will mean, according to the Aehcos report, a rise estimated at around 68 million euros for this year to a sum of 95 million.

"We are facing a really worrying situation in which the profitability of our sector is at stake for yet another year," José Luque, Aehcos president, said. He also highlighted the rise in fuel, which he put at more than 26.2%; of gas, which has shot up 28.3%, and of raw materials, with increases of 16.7%, according to data from Exceltur.

The association also warns that the European Next Generation funds do not meet the requirements needed for the hotel sector to remain competitive.

LAWBIRD LEGAL SERVICES

## ANOTHER EQUITY RELEASE FIASCO

For years, Manchester Building Society (MBS) offered lifetime mortgage loans to owners of Spanish property. The facility allowed "asset rich, cash poor" property owners unlock their wealth by means of periodical drawdowns that, typically, would only be repayable upon death of the borrower, within a maximum period of 12 months from the demise.

According to their promotional brochure, "[...] the personal representatives or beneficiaries of the estate need to decide if they wish to complete the inheritance and if so, they become responsible for the property and, if necessary, arranging the sale".

The literature extolled the virtues of a rather simple and straightforward reverse mortgage where the owner would retain full ownership of the property and continue living in it, but also a "no negative equity guarantee" was available, meaning that even if the outstanding mortgage - inclusive of interest - was higher than the eventual sale proceeds, the heirs would not be required to pay off the shortfall (not sure this clause was ever put to the test).

Finally, available equity ranged conservatively between 25% and 50% loan-to-value.

Now you may be asking yourself the purpose of this article because, admittedly, there seemed to be no pitfalls or associated dangers, small print, or even complex legalese in the legal offering. It was just plain sailing until the unpredictable happened: MBS ran out of cash to pay the pensioners the agreed instalments due to a prohibition by its regulator, PRA, to grant further loans in Spain and elsewhere (and stop those already signed for).

Late last year a Vélez-Málaga court fully accepted executive proceedings brought by Lawbird Legal Services against the lender, on behalf of a British client, demanding full payment of the agreed loan of 300k euro (with interest). And with over one hundred and twenty "lifetime mortgages" signed in Spain by MBS, many of which are still ongoing, intense litigation is expected.

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# ACE founder awarded during Belgium's National Day

Fabienne Paques was nominated at the Be Heroes initiative, which is supported by King Philippe of Belgium, for her work with animals

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The tireless work of the founder and president of the ACE/SHIN dog shelter in La Cala de Mijas, Fabienne Paques, has received a surprise award for her more than 20 years of service helping unwanted and abandoned dogs and cats in Andalucía. The Belgian animal lover received an official invitation from the Royal Palace to attend the annual military and civilian parades in Brussels marking Belgium's National Day on 21 July.

Fabienne, who said that it was an "understatement to say that the invitation came as something of a surprise", had been nominated as a Hero in connection with the Be Heroes project supported by King Philippe of Belgium, an initiative which honours the vital role that ordinary citi-



Fabienne Paques outside the Royal Palace in Belgium last week. SUR

zens play in everyday life by selflessly serving their local communities.

Fabienne was nominated for the award by fellow Belgian citizen Chantal, who has supported the refuge for over 15 years.

"She does all this work tirelessly, together with her husband and the motivation of volunteers. I am so pleased that Fabienne has finally received the recognition she deserves," Chantal said.

Since founding the refuge with her husband in Mijas in 1999, Fa-

bienne has saved and rehomed more than 26,000 abandoned and unwanted dogs and cats. Fabienne and her team of devoted volunteers continually fight against the abuse and killing of dogs in Southern Spain.

Fabienne told SUR in English that she was "delighted" to receive the award.

"To be recognised by the king of the country where your roots lie, is a great honour. It is good to receive appreciation for the dogs we have rescued," she said.



The bridge and aqueduct in Cártama will be cleaned and restored. SUR

## Cártama town hall to restore historic infrastructure

The project will include the cleaning and restoration of the iconic Roman bridge and aqueduct

T. BRYANT

CÁRTAMA. Cártama town hall has launched a project to restore two of the municipality's historic infrastructure, the Roman bridge and aqueduct.

Located close to the Santo Cristo Stream in Cártama, the two iconic structures have

been linked to the road system and the town's water supply for centuries.

The town hall will undertake the restoration of the area with an initiative that will be financed with EDUSI funds with an investment of more than 381,000 euros.

The project, which has been put out to tender, includes the cleaning of the historic structures and the surrounding environment, the restoration of walkways, the creation of viewpoints, and the installation of lighting and urban furniture.

### IMCW EUROPE



At IMCW Europe are specialise in structuring Public Private Partnerships. Freepik

## DT Global boosts public-private partnerships

The international company which IMCW Europe belongs to provides consultancy services in Malaga

### MÁLAGA

SUR. In this summer of 2022 in which, despite the war in Ukraine, tourism is almost back to the figures of 2019 and the pandemic finally seems to be under control, many visitors to Andalucía are surprised by the degree of deve-

lopment of our infrastructures and services, and by the quality of life in this welcoming land. Like every year, and especially stimulated by the pandemic we have experienced in recent years, some of these visitors will decide to stay and live with us, fuelling the idea that we

can be 'the Florida of Europe'.

The reality is that the new political situation of stability and the economic drive of Andalucía invite us to be ambitious, and cities like Malaga demonstrate this with numerous public and private investment initiatives and a great capacity to attract investors and foreign talent.

In this context, it is often thought that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) only apply to projects that generate revenue directly from the user (think of a direct toll motorway such as Las Pedrizas), but there are ways such as availability payment that allow them to be applied to projects where such payment does not exist or is not sufficient. In simple terms, we could say that there are multiple ways of implementing these associations, although a serious and well-founded study is required to justify the solutions and, let's face it, this is not always the case. Two further difficulties are added to this issue: on the one hand, the poor public image of these mechanisms, especially after the million-dollar bailout of the radials leading into Madrid, and on the other hand, the ideological debate, which unfortunately takes root in the planning and development of our infrastructures and services all too often.

According to a report by InfraPPP,

one of the leading market intelligence platforms in this field (and conceived and managed from Malaga, now as part of the global consulting group DT Global), together with WAPPP, the global association of experts and public units of public-private partnerships, in the first quarter of 2022 alone, PPP projects worth more than 280 billion dollars were detected, highlighting the transport sector (especially roads and railways). The main active countries were: the United States, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Recently the Think Hub of the Association of Road, Canal and Port Engineers met in the Port to discuss this topic, with the participation of DT Global, and if anything was demonstrated it is that if Malaga, the Costa del Sol and Andalucía want to continue their level of advancement and progress, we cannot disregard Public-Private Partnerships. At IMCW Europe, a DT Global company based in Malaga, we specialise in structuring Public Private Partnerships at an international level and see them as a powerful instrument to provide an adequate level of services and growth with more limited public spending, strengthen our businesses, create employment and make us more attractive to foreign investment.

# A perfect place

I know of a perfect place  
where the sea is like a mirror.  
If you want to come, I'll wait for you  
gazing at the reflection.  
Why wait for anything else  
if it is certain that you will be calm here?

*Luz Casal*



Ayuntamiento  
de Málaga

málaga





Concertgoers climbed onto the marquee to get a better view. OTREBOR

## Concert suspended due to lack of safety

### TORRE DEL MAR

More than ten thousand people crowded into the fairground to see the controversial Catalan artist in a free event

### EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORRE DEL MAR. Crowd surges, stampedes, people climbing on the structures, acts of vandalism and panic attacks; this is how Tuesday night's Morad concert to mark the end of Torre del Mar's fair finished.

The free event attracted "well over" 10,000 people according to police sources. Such was the level of "lack of control and safety" in the area, with just five Local Police officers and a small number of National Police agents, that the mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, ordered the event to be suspended at 1.05

am, just an hour after it had begun.

The Red Cross attended to those suffering panic attacks and injuries, with no record of anyone being taken to hospital. Police sources said that a young woman fell from a height of several metres when she climbed onto the structure of the marquee to see the artist and that several fights broke out.

Dozens of videos circulated on social media networks in which people could be seen climbing onto the metal structures of the marquee and lying on the tarpaulins in order to get a better view of the singer. Many of the tarpaulins broke under the weight of people clambering on to them.

Complaints and criticism for the lack of security measures put in place by the town hall circulated on social network sites. SUR has tried, without success so far, to obtain a statement from the town hall.



Green patches in the sea. IDEAL.

## Residents fear green patches in sea off Costa Tropical beaches could be toxic

### SALOBREÑA

PILAR GARCÍA-TREVIJANO. For the last five years green patches have been appearing in the sea off Salobreña. However, this year they appear to be back with a vengeance and not only in Salobreña; they have also been spotted this week off Playa de la Guardia in Motril, Torrenueva and Almuñécar.

Bathers are worried that the patches could be toxic and are calling on the town halls to analyse them, but municipal biologists claim that they are probably the remains of algae and other marine microorganisms.

In fact residents are even considering organising a protest to demand that the town halls do something about it. Motril town hall has said that it will be contacting the Mancomunidad de Municipios - the body that oversees the Costa Tropical's local authorities; to ask them to take samples.

## New section of Malaga's coastal path connects two Nerja beaches

La Caletilla and El Salón are now connected and this is the fifth section of the provincial project to be built in the town

### NERJA

E. C. As part of Malaga province's coastal path project, a new 175-metre long section was opened in Nerja on Monday, connecting the town's La Caletilla and of El Salón beaches.

The new path offers panoramic views and a different perspective from the town's famous Balcón de Europa. Walls with handrails have been built for greater safety and LED streetlights have been installed.



The path opened on Monday. E. C.

This is the fifth section to have been constructed in Nerja and the whole provincial project is currently 85 per cent complete.

## Almuñécar's weekly markets suspended during August

### ALMUÑÉCAR

JENNIE RHODES. Almuñécar town hall has announced that the town's weekly Friday market will not be held on 5 and 12 August as the town's feria (fair) will be held during that week. In addition, the Sunday flea market will not be held from Sunday 31 July to 28 August, as the Blas Infante site will be used for extra parking, especially at weekends.

## Two Maro streets given green light for modernisation project

### MARO

E. C. Nerja town hall has begun to draw up the specifications for a project to modernise Calle San José and Calle San Joaquín in Maro. The tender will have a budget of 244,997.91 euros, which will be co-financed by the town hall and Malaga's provincial authority, the Diputación. The project is aimed at helping the local economy and creating local jobs.

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# Costa del Sol speed cameras trap some of the highest numbers of offenders in Spain

The two radar devices on the A-7 near Malaga city have resulted in over 90,000 fines being issued to drivers between 2017 and 2021

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. For years Malaga province has held the rather unfortunate record of being home to some of the most active speed cameras in Spain. That is still the case, according to the latest report issued by the Directorate-General for Traffic (DGT) for the years 2017 to 2021.

The Costa del Sol now holds third and fourth place on the list of the busiest cameras in Spain, which is topped by Valencia and Navarra. In third place is the speed camera at kilometre 246 on the A-7 (eastern Malaga bypass) at Cerrado de Calderón (Almeria-bound carriageway), which has resulted in 47,246 fines being issued.

In fourth place is another camera on the same stretch of road, at kilometre 257, in Rincón de la Victoria, this time on the Malaga-bound carriageway, which has been responsible for 45,648 fines. Between the two, over 90,000 fines have been sent out.

The Costa del Sol appears again further down the DGT list. In twelfth position is the speed cam-

era at kilometre 10 on the MA-20, just west of the city, which has resulted in 36,619 fines.

Better news on the other hand is that drivers on the A-45 Las Pedrizas road north of Malaga are becoming more aware of the presence of the speed trap at kilometre 118; this always used to be near the top of the list but is now in 36th place.

The figures for this province are also among the worst in Andalucía, and by far. You have to scroll down to 13th place to find the H-31 in Huelva, with 29,577 fines, and in 26th place is Seville (the A-92) with 21,355. In other words, way below the figures for Malaga.

## The results are improving

Despite these figures, in general terms the situation is improving in Malaga province. In 2020, five DGT cameras had the dubious honour of being among the most active in Spain.

On this "black list", the radar on the city's eastern bypass (A-7) between the Cerrado de Calderón and El Palo exits stands out especially. In 2020 it caught 48,771 drivers speeding, making it the number one in the country. It achieved that previously in 2018, with another 54,377, although in 2019 the figure dropped to 13,390 because there were times when the camera was not in operation.

More good news, too: the speed

## The 50 most active speed cameras in Spain

Province	Road	Kilometre	Sanctions
Valencia	AP-7	478	60,525
Navarra	A-15	128	57,961
Malaga	A-7	246	47,246
Malaga	A-7	257	45,648
Cuenca	A-3	157	45,586
Zamora	A-52	99	44,058
Pontevedra	A-55	9	40,698
Balearics	EI-600	10	38,601
Malaga	MA-20	10	36,619
Huelva	H-31	80	29,577
Valencia	V-31	5	28,218
Asturias	A-8	371	27,812
Murcia	RM-19	18	27,205
Madrid	A-4	13	24,484
Madrid	A-5	13	22,841
Ciudad Real	A-4	231	22,833
Burgos	A-1	194	21,994
Seville	A-92	84	21,355
Lugo	A-8	545	20,626
Segovia	A-1	125	19,943
Madrid	A-2	15	19,936
Burgos	A-1	234	19,636
Badajoz	A-66	686	19,537
Salamanca	A-66	340	19,176
Seville	A-66	796	18,975
Ourense	N-120	551	17,814
Cadiz	A-381	37	17,666
Pontevedra	A-55	12	16,482
León	A-66	161	15,954
Madrid	A-4	12	15,797
Alicante	A-70	5	15,476
Toledo	A-4	68	15,378
Malaga	A-45	118	14,939
Cantabria	A-8	144	14,857
Toledo	A-5	58	14,742
Las Palmas	GC-1	42	14,165
La Coruña	AC-11	3	13,755
Valencia	A-3	315	13,598
Madrid	A-1	15	13,437
Asturias	N-632	100	13,024
Cantabria	A-67	192	12,986
Seville	A-92	29	12,933
Madrid	M-40	53	12,605
Huelva	A-497	3	12,415
Soria	A-2	141	12,376
Palencia	A-67	7	12,167
Las Palmas	GC-1	5	12,164
Madrid	N-VI	54	11,915
Cáceres	A-66	508	11,903
Castellón/Castello	N-340	961	11,735

The speed camera on the A-45 Las Pedrizas road north of Malaga, has caught fewer speeders in the most recent figures, dropping down to 36th in the 50 most active traps

camera just before the Carlos Haya tunnel on the old western bypass (now the MA-20), which previously held third place in the province and 18th in Spain, has disappeared from the list altogether this time.

## Some dropped off the list

Two other traditionally active cameras that have not returned to the list are the one on the A-384 at Almargen and the average speed check that monitors a section of road - recording speed over a series of metres or kilometres - at the Torrox tunnel on the A-7, on the Almeria-bound carriageway.

The table does not include offenders in Catalonia or the Basque Country because those regions have their own traffic authorities.

So, without taking them into account, a speed camera on the AP-7 in Valencia has replaced the one at Las Pedrizas in Malaga in the number one place, with no fewer than 60,525 fines being issued during the period covered by the DGT report. It is followed by one on the A-15 in Navarra, with 57,961.

Although behind the figures for those in Malaga, radar speed traps in Cuenca, Zamora, Pontevedra and Ibiza are also high on the list.

## What do you think?

Are speed cameras a good thing? If you have an opinion about this or any other topic in SUR in English, we want to hear from you. We may publish your comments.

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Carlos Martí during a recent presentation of the Vientos de futuro platform. SUR

# 'One in four lightbulbs is powered by energy produced on wind farms'

## Carlos Martí Spokesperson for the 'Vientos de futuro' organisation

The platform extols the benefits of Malaga's main energy source, where there are 25 wind farms across the province

IGNACIO LILLO



MALAGA. Wind energy is the main source of renewable electricity in Malaga province, although the impact on birds and noise often draws criticism from environmentalists and town halls. Vientos de futuro (Winds of future) is a platform where industry, scientists and social groups can debate and look for solutions. Carlos Martí, a journalist specialising in sustainability, is its spokesperson.

**–Why was there a need to set up such a platform?**

–Vientos de Futuro has come about due to the need to strengthen dialogue and consensus on energy and ecological transition due to the climate emergency, where Spain has certain objectives to meet in the fight against climate change and the reduction of energy dependence. Faced with this enormous challenge, we believe it is im-

portant to create spaces for meeting and dialogue to highlight the role of wind, which is the most important renewable energy. Vientos de Futuro is made up of four founding organisations and 20 members. It is now introducing itself around Spain and organising activities in towns where there are wind farms.

**–What is the impact of wind farm energy on homes?**

–In 2021, at 23 per cent, wind energy was the primary source of electricity production in Spain. That means one in four light bulbs was powered by it. Spain has always been a leader and has been at the forefront with an industry that has more than 20 years of experience. According to the national plan, the installed power has to increase from 28 gigawatts to 50 gigawatts by 2030, so the installed power has to double. It is a huge challenge. The objective is for 74 per cent of electricity to be generated by renewables and of that, 35 per cent will be wind power in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 23 per cent. This is a spectacular leap and it is essential that the main source of renewable energy has a space where all opinions and voices can find a place for debate and knowledge, so as not to generate ignorance and un-

certainty, because the majority of Spaniards have no knowledge of where their energy comes from. In addition we need to tackle climate change, as heat waves and fires are growing problems.

### Wind farms in Malaga

**–What do Malaga province's wind farms generate?**

–There are 25 wind farms in the province of Malaga, producing almost 1.4 million megawatt hours. It is the second Andalusian province with the highest wind power generation after Cadiz. In Malaga, wind energy production accounts for 60.7 per cent of all the energy generated. The Andalusian strategy plans to double the installed capacity, in line with the national project. According to the Andalusian Energy Agency, by 2020 gross renewable production should have accounted for 51 per cent of the energy generated, of which almost 45 per cent would have been produced on wind farms.

**–One of the criticisms of solar energy in villages is that it is incompatible with livestock and agricultural practices. What about wind energy?**

–Wind power is compatible with livestock farming, agriculture, forestry management and tourism, as well as being a driver of high-quality job creation. In An-

dalucía, 163 wind farms create 880 jobs, as well as indirect jobs and taxes that serve to improve the conditions of villages and the fight against depopulation.

**–One of the biggest criticisms from environmental groups is the problem of birds flying into the blades.**

–At Vientos de Futuro we want to listen to everyone, because

### RENEWABLE PRODUCTION

**“In 2021 wind farms were the main source of energy production in Spain, which is the leader in this type of technology”**

### COMPATIBLE WITH FARMING

**“Wind energy is compatible with livestock farming and agriculture, forest management and tourism and it also creates employment”**

### BIRDS

**“Of course there is room for improvement with everything but in general wind farms only cause occasional problems”**

wind energy has developed well but it can be done better. In Spain there is a lot of protected land and then there are security perimeters around inhabited areas. Companies can't put wind farms wherever they want and only after very strict environmental impact analyses, so as not to cause damage. Are there problems? Undoubtedly, everything can be improved, but in general they are integrated and there are only occasional problems. We are promoting a platform where science and industry can sit down and talk, in order to make it as good as possible because we want it to improve.

### Technological change

**–How have wind farms changed since their beginnings?**

–Technology is advancing very quickly and it's a homegrown industry, so they are becoming more efficient, safer and producing more electricity. The wind farms created 20 years ago are being renovated and technology is helping us to reduce the impact on the environment and to improve the integration of the turbines. In Andalucía, wind power saved three million tonnes of CO2 emissions in 2020, which is what a million cars emit in a city like Malaga. It does not need water, it does not pollute the soil and it generally integrates quite well in the area.

**–In a coastal area like Malaga, what is the impact of offshore wind farms?**

–With the platform we are currently only working with onshore wind, which is what we have in Spain, but offshore wind is going to grow significantly. The government is looking at the framework for authorised areas and the sector is waiting to see where they can be installed. They are going to be key to meeting Spain's targets.

**–How do you see the future of energy?**

–We are going to need much more renewable energy, we have to produce more, also to supply renewable hydrogen production and make more electric vehicles. It is inevitable, and it is compatible with private use vehicles alone are not enough.

**–Finally, what would say to people who reject the idea of wind energy?**

–Vientos de Futuro was created to listen to everyone, to seek consensus from society and to avoid problems with birds and noise. A lot of progress has been made and the wind industry has this objective. The problems and solutions are complex. We need to sit down and look at all the options in order to keep improving and make sure that people are better informed and that they know more about energy so that we can tackle climate change.

## New bilingual heritage app to provide extra information on Fuengirola

**T. B.** Fuengirola town hall will help spread the word about its historical heritage with a new app that offers virtual visits to the town's iconic sites, along with information about the legacy of the different civilizations that have passed through the town. Fuengirola + History, which can be accessed on any smartphone or from the municipal website, is part of the council's plan to help the town in its bid to become a 'smart city'.

The project, cofunded by the town hall and the Junta de Andalucía at a cost of 55,000 euros, was launched by the town's mayor, Ana Mula, who said that the new app will make Fuengirola a "benchmark in innovation and new technologies".

The app, which offers information in Spanish and English, uses augmented reality technology to publicise the sites and historic buildings of the municipality, such as Sohail Castle and the Roman Finca del Secretario.

## Important artefacts discovered at Mijas archaeological site

The excavation of the area, considered one of the most important in the province of Malaga, is continuing to produce surprising results

**TONY BRYANT**

**MIJAS.** Archaeologists working on the second phase of the general research project of the excavation of the Cortijo de Acebedo in Mijas have unearthed several new findings, including another Phoenician funeral urn, known as a 'black cross'.

The latest stage has also uncovered more tombs, bones and utensils. However, as with the last urn, which was discovered in May, no remains were found inside the piece. Archaeologists believe that, although it is still too early to draw conclusions, the latest black urn found in this second phase of research could support the theory that this type of

container was used for herbs or lichens used during a funeral ritual, a line of research so far undocumented.

The site, located at the foot of the old marine estuary of the Fuengirola river, is the westernmost Phoenician necropolis in the province of Malaga and dates from between the seventh and sixth centuries BCE. The excavation of the area, considered one of the most important in the province of Malaga, is continuing to produce surprising results.

Mayor of Mijas Josele González and the councillor for Historical Heritage, Laura Moreno, visited the dig last week to inspect the latest findings, which the councillor said will put the site "on the map in Andalucía".

The mayor added, "We are doing commendable and very necessary work to continue discovering our history. We will continue advancing in the study of this important archaeological site, where we have already



The mayor of Mijas and councillor for Historical Heritage visit the site. **SUR**

found numerous historical findings. The importance of this necropolis lies in the fact that it constitutes one of the few examples in the province of Malaga

with these characteristics that has been excavated under an archaeological intervention within the framework of a general research project."

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## Power struggles



Spain scored a qualified victory over the EU this week in negotiating a possible 7% reduction of gas usage from August to March, down from the 15% proposed by the Commission.

This is not only a rare case of Spain disagreeing with Brussels - it also highlights an aspect of Spanish foreign policy that could become more important if the EU declares a "severe" energy shortage as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Why is Spain so uncharacteristically annoyed about the EU's attempt to control members' gas supplies? First, it says there was no consultation between the EU Commission and member states prior to the proposal's announcement, which is wonderfully ironic, considering that this is something of which Pedro Sánchez's administration has been frequently accused. Sánchez, as I've often had cause to note in this column, is much more fond of the Royal Decree than parliamentary debate.

Spain, Europe's sixth-largest energy consumer, is usually one of the bloc's most enthusiastic and obedient members. Its sudden opposition to Brussels' method of governance is not owed to a deeply-held principle, nor has it objected to the Commission dictating domestic policy in the past.

In accepting billions of euros as part of the post-Covid "Next Generation" scheme, for example, Spain has to comply with EU mandates on everything from digitalisation to "effective and sustainable public spending". In this situation, though, self-assertion costs nothing.

More importantly, Spain doesn't rely on Russia for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG): Algeria is the country's primary provider of LNG, followed by Qatar and Nigeria.

Germany, which relies on Russia for over half of its LNG, favours energy reductions even higher than the 15% proposed by Brussels and is considering gas rationing over the winter.

When it comes to EU legislation, one size clearly doesn't fit all. Indeed, Spain's second criticism of the proposed energy cuts highlights one of the bloc's biggest flaws. By ignoring crucial geopolitical differences (in this case, the source of member states' energy supplies), the European Commission's laws, supposedly beneficial to the entire Union, prove instead to be impractical and divisive.

Maintaining cordial relations with Algeria is now a top priority for Spain, despite recent appearances to the contrary. In June, Sánchez stunned half of his coalition as well as the Algerian government by announcing his endorsement of Moroccan hegemony in the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

Algeria promptly withdrew its treaty of "friendship, neighborliness and cooperation" with Spain, although assuring Sánchez that gas links between the two countries were not at risk.

In the medium-term future, though, Pedro Sánchez might need to be a little friendlier to this key north African ally, especially if he wants to preserve Spain's independence from the EU's punitive energy cuts.

## Catalan ministers win concessions on justice and language at Madrid meeting

This was the third roundtable discussion between regional separatists and national government as part of a cooperation deal

SUR

MADRID. While the separatist regional government in Catalonia would really like Madrid to agree to an independence referendum, it appeared happy this week with significant concessions won from Spanish ministers in a roundtable meeting of both sides.

This was the third time national and regional ministers had sat down together since the turbulent years of the illegal Catalan independence bid. The largest Catalan nationalist party, left-wing ERC, helps keep the minority Socialist administration in power in Madrid with its MPs' votes, and so expects something in return.

The key areas of agreement reached at Wednesday's meeting in Madrid focus on the role



Spanish government ministers greet Catalan ministers on Wednesday. EFE

of the courts in the illegal independence bid and the role of the Catalan language in Spain.

The first area was vague: to "overcome" the legal prosecution of the Catalan political conflict. Separatist leaders in Catalonia don't want to be taken to court for ongoing independence moves. How the courts could be avoided was not made clear, but measures could include reforms such as making rebellion or sedition a lesser crime.

The second area discussed was to protect and promote the Catalan language more. The national government will look at the Catalan language being used in the Senate, Spain's upper house of parliament, and ask for it to be used in the European Parliament. Madrid will also not make a legal complaint about Catalonia's refusal to follow a court ruling that 25 per cent of school classes there have to be in Spanish and not Catalan.

## Unemployment in Spain falls to lowest rate in 14 years

There are now more people in work than at any time since 2008 and only 12.48% of the active population are jobless

L. PALACIOS / N. TRIGUERO

MADRID. Neither war in Ukraine nor raging inflation seem to have dented the Spanish economy's ability to create jobs.

The quarterly Economically Active Population Survey (or EPA - Encuesta de Población Activa)

for April to June was published this week. It is seen as the most reliable way to monitor unemployment. There were 255,300 fewer unemployed in the three months to June, with the jobless rate falling to 12.48%, three points down on last year. This was the lowest for 14 years. Some 2.9m people were out of work.

As the labour market is growing and more people are looking for work, 383,300 new jobs were created in the three months to July. This is less than last year but more than 2019. The amount of peo-

ple in work in Spain was close to 20.5m at the end of June, the highest figure since 2008 and close to the record amount in 2007.

### Malaga province figures

On a local level, Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, went from 162,500 unemployed at the end of April to 145,200 at the end of June, a drop of 17,300 as the tourist season kicked in. This means the local unemployment rate stood at almost 18%, down from 20% three months earlier.

With the tightening of rules on contracting staff, there has been an increase in permanent rather than temporary contracts, although many of these permanent contracts are only for working the peak months of the year.

MADRID

### Advice issued on avoiding drownings

The government issued advice on how to stay safe to coincide with World Drowning Prevention Day on Monday this week.

Drowning was the third leading cause of death in Spain from external causes in 2020, especially among younger people.

In 2020, some 406 people died in Spain - 334 men and 72 women - as a result of serious injuries and 461 people were hos-

pitalised in connection with drowning.

In addition to drowning, every year there are injuries caused by recklessness such as diving from too great a height, not checking the depth of the water or, in the case of swimming pools, diving too close to the edge.

"Risky behaviour in relation to drowning tends to occur in moments of relaxation in the supervision of minors, bathing in unsupervised areas or drinking or taking drugs near or in the water," warned the minister for Health, Carolina Darias.



Swim safe this summer. SUR

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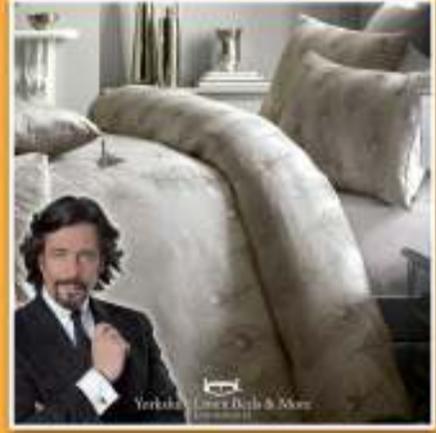
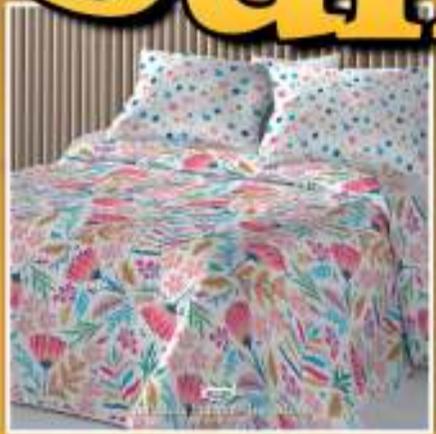
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## IN BRIEF

## MALAGA

## Unicaja increases profits in first half of this year

**A. LÓPEZ.** Unicaja Banco unveiled its results for the first six months of 2022 on Wednesday this week. The Malaga-based bank, which is the fifth biggest in Spain, made a net profit of 165 million euros

from January to June, an increase of 62% on the same period last year. Unicaja is making more margin on its financial products, with an increase of 13.8% versus last year. Income from commissions has also grown by 12.8% and administrative costs have fallen 9%, helped in part by avoiding overlap after the recent merger with Liberbank.



A branch of Malaga-based Unicaja Banco. F. SILVA

## MADRID

## Orange-MásMóvil merger creates market leader

**J.M. CAMARERO.** Orange and MásMóvil have confirmed the merger they have been working on since the start of the year. The integration of the two mobile phone groups means the creation of the leading operator in Spain, overtaking Movistar. The new operator will manage almost 24.5 million mobile lines.

## Cabinet approves radical new law for self-employed quotas

For the first time 'autónomos' will also be able to claim a share of jobless benefit and keep working if their income drops

LUCÍA PALACIOS / SUR

**MADRID / MALAGA.** The Spanish Cabinet has approved the details of a radical new law for the self-employed - known as 'autónomos' - which will significantly affect both how they pay into the system for things like healthcare and pensions and for what they can get out of it in terms of unemployment benefit.

From next January, what a self-employed person pays in contributions will be directly linked to what they are earning for the first time, instead of currently where an autónomo can choose to pay in less. This has led to autónomos' pensions on retirement being historically a lot less than for salaried employees.

The tax office will therefore have a bigger role to play in sharing information with Social Security on what a person is really earning. Monthly contributions in 2023 will range from 230 to 500 euros (but those recently self-employed can pay only 80 euros a month for the first year, renewable for one more year if their income is still low). By 2025 they will be 200 to 590 euros.

The full changes are being phased in over 10 years, giving time for people to adjust. For the moment, the government believes that about 25% of autónomos will keep paying the same monthly amount, 50% will pay less and 25% will pay more.

Self-employed workers will be able to change their monthly amounts several times a year and so adjust it to their real level of earnings before the amounts are reconciled at year end.

There will also be some new flexibility on payouts for benefits for autónomos, traditionally seen as at a disadvantage to salaried workers.

Within the new law, a self-employed person who loses some of their work or customers may be able to keep on working but also claim some unemployment benefit.

Up to now, very few autónomos were successfully getting unemployment benefit because of the conditions that had to be met - as few as 1,500 in 2019 claimed.

### Covid-19 experience

Now the government has learned from experience during the Covid pandemic and will enable the self-employed to keep up some of their customers but claim 50% of the full amount of unemployment benefit they are entitled to according to their contributions made. To get it, they will have to prove when their income drops below 75 per cent, or where they have staff, (as many bar owners do), if they are earning below the minimum wage and 60% of their staff are furloughed. People hit by emergencies such as flooding who lose 75% of income and are below the minimum wage will also benefit.

Autónomos will also be included in government measures that are brought in when a sector of the economy is faced with unexpected difficulties.

The self-employed will also be able to make a 7% write off for hard to justify expenses and get a 10% tax break for contributions to pension plans.

### Are you an 'autónomo'?

Is this good news for you? If you have an opinion about this or any other topic in SUR in English, we want to hear from you. We may publish your comments.

**Email:**  
surinenglish.su@diariosur.es

### THE BIGGER PICTURE JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jb@ehh.gi

## Inflation

'Inflation is taxation without legislation':  
Milton Freidman



**T**he view of economists and investors of inflation is split. There is the camp that believes it will continue to rise and be sustained for the immediate future and beyond; and those who believe tightening of money through interest rate hikes by central banks, a recession and other factors mitigate against a continued rise.

Inflation in the US, as measured by the CPI index, is currently 10%: a 40-year high. The CPI index is flawed as it does not contain income tax, investments or credit. We should not forget that any data on inflation is a lagging indicator. It does NOT predict what inflation may be at any point in the future. As all us who do the shopping and fill our cars know, actually inflation as measured by the decline in purchasing power of our currency is higher in some sectors of the economy than the CPI or a cost-of-living index will indicate. The inflation in commodity prices, caused by a supply crisis following the invasion of Ukraine, has fallen from the peak, especially in the case of agriculture and copper - a good proxy for economic growth. The overall commodity index is down 20% from its recent peak. Oil has around 80 dollars built into the price through supply disruption. However, any increase in supply should lower prices eating into the 80-dollar premium, bringing oil down towards 100 USD a barrel or lower.

Inflation can only be measured retrospectively. However, the effect on prices now in some sectors is real. The question to be answered is, "What is the probability that this will continue to rise and for how long?"

Excessive debt and deficits, falling demographics and con-

sumer demand, rising repayment on loans due to increased interest rate, the effect of technology post Covid and a strong US dollar are all disinflationary pressures. On a balance of probabilities, the risk of a recessionary bear market in equities is greater than the risk of increasing sustained inflation.

It's important to look at what is causing retail price inflation. This inflation cannot be compared to the 1970s when the US dollar was weak; now we are experiencing a strong US dollar. We have also experienced 13 years of free money being pumped into the financial system, resulting in inflated stock prices without creating consumer demand.

By a historic measurement, the inflation of today is unusual and is primarily the result of a series of global supply shocks as economies were shut down during the war on Covid. Globalisation and the geopolitical landscape changed in 2016 with President Trump calling out China and global trade deals; and then the invasion of Ukraine forced nations to rethink their energy production and supply lines. China, with a zero Covid policy recently, has locked down four million people in Beijing alone. This has an effect on global demand but the bigger problem has been global supply.

The Fed have just hiked interest rates 0.75%. This brings the interest rate to over 2% and they may go further; we think that much of this has already been discounted by the bond market reflected by the sharp decline in price.

History shows us that inflation is notoriously difficult to control in an economy and any measures taken to reduce, such

as increasing interest rates making borrowing more expensive, take time. We believe that inflation will be brought back down as consumer demand falls and supply increases. Covid stimulus checks are now in the rear-view mirror and domestic credit has been falling over the last months. Wages are stalling and, although many businesses are hiring, the opportunities are not well-paid skilled jobs.

However, this will take time to come through in the economy. Looking back from 2023, we could see that we are in fact experiencing peak inflation now in the US, Europe and the UK; or it could rumble on into 2023. We will not know until it is behind us.

The bond market is telling us, through the 5-year TIPS breakeven figure, that the expected average inflation rate for the next five years is 2.65%. This is a considerable spread over the current CPI figure of 10% in the US.

We are still at a dangerous time in the stock market for allocating capital, as we are experiencing vicious bear market rallies. Market history shows us that the equity market will not reach a bottom until the treasury market begins to rally. In the short term, it is foolish to try and give any idea of price movement. We simply do not know.

An investor's view of the immediate future is predicated on the experience of their immediate past. Investors should resist the urge to sell into a declining market or buy into a bear market rally. Patience will reward the long-term investor. Impulsive speculative behaviour is the enemy of successfully growing capital over time in the stock market.

The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor. The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.



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# PAYING TOO MUCH FOR SOMETHING IS NEVER A GOOD IDEA!

**MARBELLA**

**Jeremy Ferguson.** Unless you have been spending all your time either on the beach or playing golf, it would be almost impossible not to have seen what's been happening in the financial world at the moment.

Stock markets have had their worst start to a year in 50 years. Almost every day, all you see and hear is doom and gloom about rising inflation, rising food prices, rising fuel prices, rising interest rates, supply-chain issues, falling consumer confidence. And on and on it goes.

As usual with such issues, it can affect retirees who live here the most, as their Pensions and Investments are normally exposed to the stock markets and various other investment instruments, pretty much all of which are falling at the moment. How much worse can it get? Who knows.. When will it recover? Who knows.. How long will it take to



Jeremy Ferguson. SUR

make up for all of my losses this year? Who knows...!

Nobody does, and looking at history can give a good indication as to the likely answers, but as I keep saying, this could well be history in the making, as opposed to history repeating itself.

Looking at history can help calm the nerves and add perspective. Over the last 150 years there have been 13 major stock market crashes. In 1877 markets fell by 33%, in 1970 they fell by 25% and again in 1974 by 39%. The latest memorable

events were the financial crisis of 2008 which resulted in losses of 49% and the Covid lockdown period, which again resulted in heavy losses.

Taking the median of all of these 15 events, an average fall of 33% has taken on average of around 2 years to recover. So, although I have said this may well be history in the making, what we can all be sure of is that things will eventually get better. It's just a question of how quickly, and that again is an unknown. The speed of recoveries is always quite impressive. Many people miss the fact that if you lose 50% on something, that something has to double in value to return to where you were.

One thing I do know though, is that if you have Pensions and Investments which are expensive, trying to reduce the costs incurred is one thing that will have an immediate positive effect on your returns, and can have an incredibly positive effect on the long-term returns.

Something else that is also relevant to costs, is the type of investments retirees are in. One of the first things to assess when I meet a client is what risk they are prepared to take with their investments. Typically, (as most are retired), I think being driven by caution (or fear) rather than

greed is paramount, meaning a client should typically be very concerned about protecting their capital, and therefore their investments should be at the lower end of the risk scale.

Therefore, it makes perfect sense if you are looking to achieve a certain annual return that reducing the annual costs as best you can will mean you can take less risk to achieve your objectives, and therefore see better capital protection.

Many people are coming to me asking if we can take a look at their existing arrangements, and very often we are able to offer a solution to reduce the costs and achieve a more suitable strategy in view of where we find ourselves.

In these times of rising costs, every penny helps, and very often just talking through situations like this and having someone to listen to your worries can be a great help, so if you would like a quick chat in confidence about your financial situation, please get in touch.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Unsung heroes

On behalf of all the people living in close proximity (including myself), to the fire in the Sierra de Mijas, I would like to say a big fat thank you.

Thank you to all the firefighters, helicopter and plane pilots, emergency services including paramedics, Police, Guardia Civil and volunteers that helped put out the fire that started on 15 July. You are all our heroes, risking your lives to keep us safe. Every one of you deserves a medal. Saying "Thank You" somehow doesn't seem to cut it. But it's all we have. Once again, THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.

TONY RUIZ

## A-7: Detrimental to children's health

In response to your article regarding the A7, we have a house in Las Farolas where there are two extremely dangerous bends as you approach and leave La Cala which have had serious accidents involving articulated lorries, two of which went through the barriers onto the beach! This stretch of the A7 needs more done to reduce speeds.

Also we have a major development at El Chaparral, which has decimated our urbanisation with no regard for

the residents at all. The dirt and dust and litter from builders has been horrendous, not to mention blocking the roads and people's drives with lorries! But our main concern is that they've permanently blocked our entrance onto Las Farolas and are planning to build a children's playground there, right on the A7. Surely this cannot be allowed, what are Mijas town council thinking? The fumes, dirt and pollution from the A7 will be so detrimental to children's health and safety.

KAY FIRMIN

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## Who knows?

Way back in 1996, after a bizarre series of events including a recommendation by somebody claiming to be George Weah, the then world footballer of the year, a Sunday League player named Ali Dia managed to make a first team substitute appearance for English premier-ship club Southampton. He was so bad - running around 'like Bambi on ice' according to teammate Matthew Le Tissier - he was substituted himself fifty-three minutes later, much to the chagrin of manager Graeme Souness.

Occasionally, my mind will turn to Ali Dia and his absurd antics if I'm witness to a self-proclaimed expert rambling on about a subject that he quite clearly knows as little about as we do.

The Covid pandemic was fer-

tile ground for these chaps. We had virus experts, breathing experts, long Covid experts, short Covid experts, not to mention experts on its effect on the economy, our mental health and whether door knobs constituted a serious death threat.

After thirty seconds of listening to most of them, it was quite clear that they had about as much ability in their chosen field as Ali Dia in the penalty box.

Only this morning, I heard somebody reading heat studies at The Back Of Beyond Polytechnic or somewhere, advising listeners to drink water and sit in the shade while the weather's hot. Thank you, my friend - if it hadn't been for your sage intervention, we'd all have been lathering ourselves with olive oil, leaping around beneath an unforgiving three o'clock sun and eating handfuls of dry crackers.

Not long after this chap, somebody who investigates fainting at university (are my taxes paying for these people?) told us that the best way to avoid collapsing in a heap at any given moment is to not stand up for too long, avoid stressful situations, eat enough food and drink some water. Well, I never.

Just for fun, I'm tempted to present myself at a local radio station and proclaim that I'm an expert on any old random subject - say, seventeenth century door hinges - then read up a bit about them on Wikipedia or somewhere equally unreliable and to see how long I can bluff my way through an interview before being unceremoniously turfed out to the sound of strangers yelling 'Imposter!' at me.

The scary thing is, I've a feeling I could beat Ali Dia's fifty-three minutes.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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RACHEL HAYNES

## Internationally better

There's no better name than Joan Hunt's to represent the contribution of a foreign resident to their local community. The determination of this English woman to find a way of providing palliative care to patients in the final phase of a terminal illness, and to turn that into the foundation Cudeca is today, is an achievement difficult to match.

However, thanks to Cudeca and the provincial Diputación, Joan's example is now being used to highlight the achievements of other members of the international community on the Costa del Sol and indeed throughout the province, in the form of the Premios Joan Hunt that were awarded for

the first time on Wednesday evening.

Before even naming names, the awards in themselves have served to make a wider audience aware of the incredible international community in this area. In a place where foreign residents are often confused with tourists, it's always worth reminding people that 300,000 of their fellow residents in Malaga province were actually born in another country.

And only once that figure has sunk in can we start pointing out that many of those 300,000 have contributed a great deal to improving their local community.

Most of the recipients of the awards on Wednesday pointed out that their achieve-

ments were "humble" compared with Joan's. That may be so, but the more international names that appear on the "achievers board" in the mindset of the general public the better.

The province of Malaga is a melting pot of nationalities, of languages, of different ways of thinking, of different ways of doing business, of reaching out to help others. And now these awards will hopefully demonstrate how all this variety, all these different ways of looking at a situation, can improve society as a whole.

Back in the early nineties Joan would have been dismissed as a 'guiñi' whose Spanish was far from perfect, trying to suggest that things be done in a way that was completely alien to local people. Adding life to the remaining days of terminally ill patients through palliative care, and paying for it all through the sale of second-hand clothes in a shop manned by volunteers, may well have seemed an impossible, even ridiculous, idea. "We don't do things like that here," she must have heard on more than one occasion.

But Joan managed to find support for her project and Cudeca was founded and prospered. A real example of how looking beyond an awkward foreign accent can reveal a major benefit to the local community. Of course demonstrating a love of local cuisine as Joan did (two of her closest companions in Cudeca pointed that out this week), and showing a captivating smile, always helps.

This week, in Joan's name, Cudeca and the province of Malaga have recognised the contributions of a Cuban pianist; a Finnish company and important employer; a Dutch-run winery; a village community; the British consulate; and of course Dr Yusuf Husied, who has extended Joan's legacy to include a pioneer palliative care training centre, right here on the Costa del Sol.

Oh, and they also wanted to recognise the contribution of this English-language newspaper, which 38 years ago began its journey to deliver news and information to the international community, hopefully making residents better equipped to make their own contribution to their adopted home.

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IN THE FRAME

# The Briton who is a local village's first foreign councillor

**Politics.** Chloe Gavin has lived in Periana in the Axarquía for 22 years after she met her husband during a Thelma-and-Louise-style road trip

JENNIE RHODES



Councillor Chloe Gavin in her office at Periana town hall. G. F. L.

**C**hloe Gavin was sworn in as a councillor in Periana, a village in the upper Axarquía, two weeks ago. The long-term resident, who is originally from London, has lived in the village since 2000, when she came to visit a friend who was holidaying there at the time.

Chloe, who was then 28, along with her friend Katie, had decided to pack in their “dull” jobs back home and go travelling “Thelma and Louise style”. Part of Chloe’s plan was to buy a property, renovate it, rent it out and return to the UK. However, while in Periana she met Rafa, her now husband, so only one of the girls went home and the rest, as they say, is history.

Chloe, who had studied Spanish at the University of Edinburgh, soon integrated into the village and thanks to her husband’s large family and then meeting parents of other children when her two boys started school, (they are now 16 and 18), she got to know a lot of people.

Admitting she still needs the occasional “dose” of big city life, having grown up in the UK capital, Chloe says, “I had never imagined living in

a rural village but it was remarkably easy to adjust, especially as Periana had so much more than your typical post office and pub village.”

Move on to 2015 and the local elections, when Rafael Torrubia was elected as the village’s Socialist PSOE mayor. (Not Chloe’s husband, who is also called Rafa.) The former estate agent and bank manager asked Chloe and fellow Briton, Angela Karlsson, to set up a ‘foreigner’s office’, initially on a voluntary basis.

The village, and indeed the Axarquía, was growing in popularity among Britons and other northern Europeans. In fact, according to Junta de Andalucía statistics, in 2021, 11 per cent of Periana’s population were non-Spanish. Of this percentage, 29.6 per cent were British.

**Integration**

Torrubia wanted to bridge the gap between the Spanish and non-Spanish communities and through initiatives such as a Christmas market, then a weekly market, excursions, Spanish classes and other activities; the



Chloe and Rafa on their wedding day in 2003. SUR

**“I hope I can pay back the kindness to the village that welcomed me 22 years ago and continues to make me one of its own”**

hope was that the foreign community would start to integrate more.

Of course, an element of the work, like in any town or village with a foreign community, is helping out with the bureaucratic side of things and this has been no more so than with Brexit and the pandemic.

In order to secure the future of this service, in 2019 Torrubia asked Chloe if she would be interested in becoming a councillor whenever the opportunity arose. While the next local elections are not due in Spain until 2023, Chloe got her opportunity earlier this year when another PSOE councillor stood down for personal reasons.

On Wednesday 13 July Chloe was sworn in as councillor in the same room of the town hall

where 19 years earlier, she and her husband got married. “It’s a great honour,” says Chloe, adding that she hopes she will “be able to pay back the kindness and generosity to the village” that welcomed her 22 years ago and, “continues to make me one of its own”.

Chloe is the first foreign resident to become a councillor in the village. As well as being the councillor for citizens, which includes foreigners, she is also responsible for the town hall’s environment department.

For Chloe, Periana is “the perfect size village”. With around 3,000 residents she says it has all the services, plenty of restaurants and a good social life. She adds that she likes the village environment, “you can always stop and have a chat with people,” she explains.



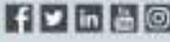
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# The Pyrenees, a fabulous destination, also in the summer

**A change of scene.** Temperatures have risen and the ski resorts are closed, but now's the time to enjoy these mountains differently: pure air, gastronomy, sport and spectacular scenery

MARTA AGUILERA

The Pyrenees are more than just a region that skiers flock to during the winter months. The mountain range that separates the Iberian peninsula from the rest of Europe is a natural treasure and still impressive when temperatures rise and the white snowy mountains give way to green and brown valleys.

Outdoor activities, beautiful villages and excellent cuisine are just some of the attractions of these mountains that stretch for 430 kilometres across Navarra, Aragon and Catalonia.

## The best rural tourism

The Pyrenees are an ideal holiday destinations for anyone wanting to get away from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Peaceful villages and valleys become a wonderful temporary home in which to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. High mountains, numerous rivers, abundant vegetation and hundreds of lakes provide the perfect opportunity to explore and experience somewhere truly unique.

From west to east, the Pyrenees are scattered with charming and very different villages where stone and chalk are the main features of the architecture. There is something for everyone here, from small towns like Ansó, Salient de Gállego and Lanuza, in the Aragonese Pyrenees, to those in the Vall de Boí and Vall d'Aran, on the Catalan side.

If you find the tranquility a bit

too much, you can always head to bigger places which haven't lost their charm. Jaca, Vielha and Puigcerdá are perfect, with plenty of culture and great food on offer.

## Active tourism

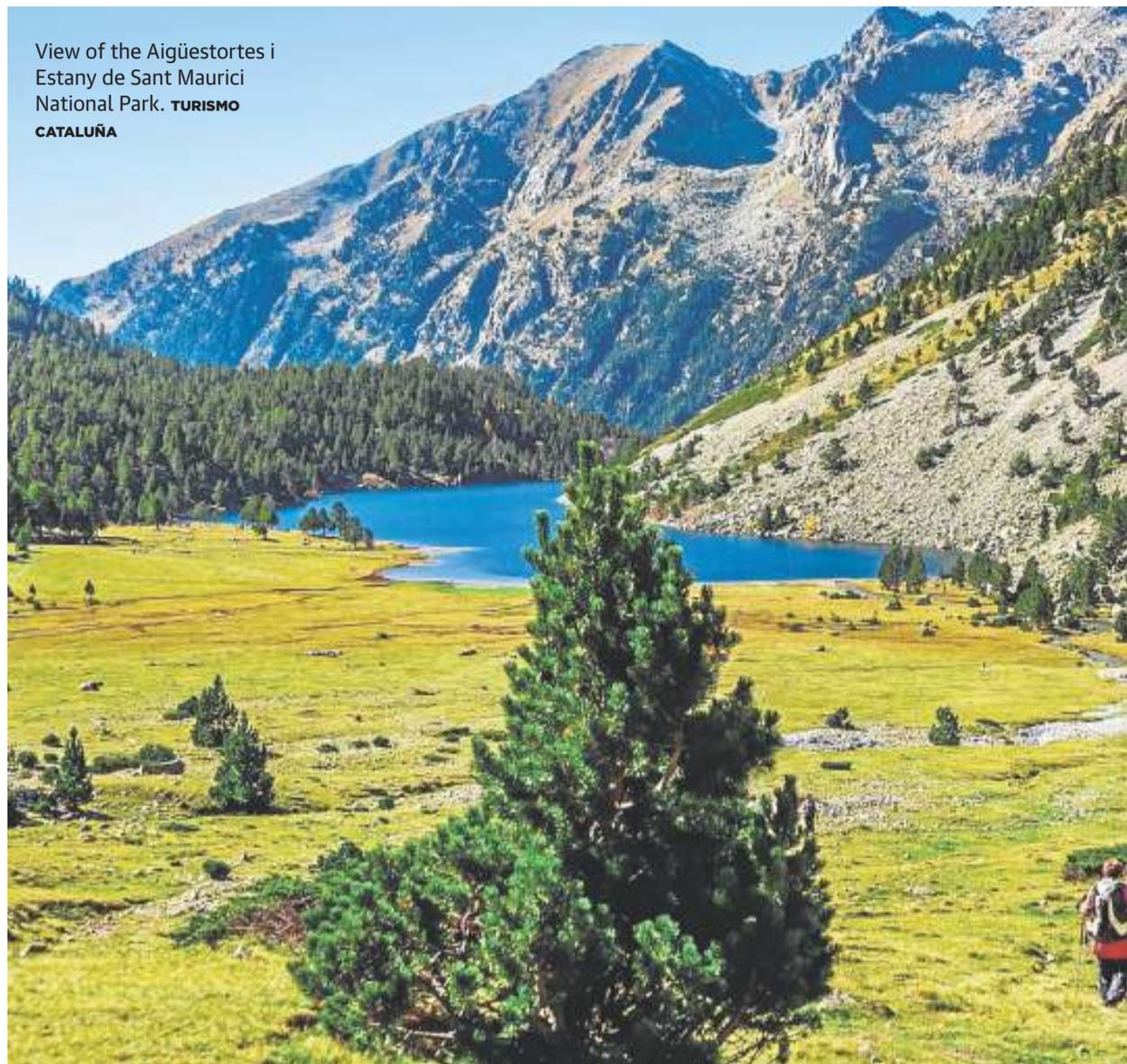
Climbing, hiking, pot holing, mountain biking, rafting and canyoning are some of the outdoor activity choices that make this the perfect destination for mountain-lovers.

There are so many routes and tracks crossing this chain of mountains that hiking is the activity par excellence, especially in the summer.

And you don't need to be an expert mountaineer to enjoy the hundreds of lakes in the Pyrenees. The National Parks of Ordesa and Monteperdido, in Huesca, and Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici, in Lleida, are two perfect locations for those taking up hiking for the first time. And as well as getting exercise, you ought to be able to spot native species such as bearded vultures, grouse and chamois.

The Pyrenees are also wonderful to explore on two wheels, so if you are a keen cyclist, this is the place for you. If what you like is mountain biking, there are thousands of kilometres of signed routes in all the valleys to get the adrenalin flowing. And if your speciality is cycling on the road, put yourself to the test with the mountain passes.

Water sports such as rafting,



View of the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park. **TURISMO CATALUÑA**



The Pyrenees, still majestic in the summer. **TURISMO CATALUÑA**



Plenty of water sports available at the warmest time of year. **ARCHIVE**

kayaking and canyoning, are favourite options for those looking for some action in the Pyrenees in the summer. Navigating the white water in the Cinca, Segre and Gállego rivers will be an unforgettable and highly entertaining experience.

In the Pyrenees there are peaks more than 3,000 metres

above sea level. Although some climbs are strictly for experts, to reach some of the summits all you need is to be in good physical condition.

## For the brave

El Aneto, standing 3,404 metres high, is the tallest peak in these mountains and is a popular

challenge among experienced climbers. To reach the summit the Pyrenees, most people depart from the shelter at La Renclusa, cross the glacier and enjoy - if they can - the famous Mahoma Pass. This is, without a doubt, a unique experience if you are visiting the stunning Benasque valley.

Monte Perdido is another favourite place for enjoying these mountains. At 3,355 metres above sea level, the peak is reached by crossing the Ordesa National Park and using the shelter at El Góriz as a starting point.

Beyond the tallest and best-known peaks, there are others that are a bit more accessible but still over 3,000 metres high, like Los Infernos (3,082 m) and Garmo Negro (3,051 m), in the Aragonese Pyrenees, and the Pica d'Estats (3,143 m), on the Catalan side.

These climbs are not suitable for people with no experience, but in fact they do not require great technique, although you do have to be in very good physical shape, to do them.

## Cuisine

If the Pyrenees are the perfect destination for people who love mountains, they are also excellent for fans of good, hearty food.

This area boasts a whole range of wonderful dishes to try, including lamb, wild boar, steak, bean stews and vegetable casseroles, to name just a few.



## A beginners' route to the Anayet lakes in the Tena valley

The walk up to these lakes is one of the most famous, accessible and loveliest routes in the Pyrenees

M. A.

Located in the beautiful Tena valley, the walk up to the Anayet lakes is one of the most famous, accessible and pretty routes in the Pyrenees. And if you dare to spend the night at the top, it will be an even more unique experience.

Although it is possible to do this excursion all year round, the months from May to October are the most popular. The absence of snow and the pleasant climate make it one of the best hikes in the area.

In winter, ice and snow can make things a bit more difficult and you will need to be better prepared in terms of fitness and technique.

The "ibones" at Anayet, as they are called, consist of three lakes of glacier origin which are



Hiking is very popular in the Pyrenees. **TURISMO CATALUÑA**

at an altitude of 2,233 metres above sea level. They are in the municipality of Sallent de Gállego and can be reached from different areas:

### Corral de Mulas

This route starts in the car park in the Anayet area of the Formigal ski station and is 5.5 kilometres long. As it is part of the

GR11 trail, it is well signposted so there is no chance of getting lost.

### Canfranc

This route also follows the GR11 but at nine kilometres it is somewhat longer than the previous one. However, it is not technically difficult. It passes through the Canal Roya, which is a beau-

tiful valley that separates the Astún and Formigal ski stations.

### Portalet

This six-kilometre route is probably the simplest way to get to the Anayet lakes. The trail goes up the Batallero hill, a classic if you know the Formigal ski station, and passes through the Culivillas ravine before heading upwards.

### Panoramic views

The Anayet lakes have one of the finest panoramic views in the area, because they are at the foot of two impressive mountains: the Anayet (2,545 metres high) and the legendary Midi d'Ossau (2,885 metres). Both rocky peaks are reflected in the water and if you are there as the sun sets it is one of the loveliest experiences you could hope for in this area.

If you think this route is too short and you want to carry on walking, you can extend it up to the peak, or summit of the Anayet (2,559 m).

It will take a bit more physical effort to get there, but the views over the valley, the lakes and the Midi d'Ossau definitely make it all worthwhile. Without a doubt, reaching the top of either of these two mountains is the best possible way to finish this beautiful walk through the Pyrenees mountains.

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## SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERTS



### Garrett headlines Jazz on the Costa

Kenny Garrett - a Grammy Award winner who is considered to be one of the most important saxophonists in modern jazz - headlined the thirty-fifth Jazz en la Costa festival, staged in Almuñécar's El Majuelo park. Garrett has collaborated with Miles Davis among others.

AYTO ALMUÑECAR



### Futuristic Cristina Aguilera

Christina Aguilera, the American singer-songwriter, actress and television personality, raised the temperature even higher on the Costa del Sol this week when she took to the Starlite stage in the Nagüeles quarry in front of a venue packed with a high proportion of foreigners. The international artist set foot on the Marbella music festival stage for the first time in a concert with a futuristic air. The video screens asked the question, "Are you ready to get dirty?" ahead of the concert. For the opening number the singing sensation wore a tight, metal-effect body-suit, mid-thigh black boots and dark glasses.

RAFA ESPAÑA



### Pablo Alboran

The Malaga singer - with only his guitar - entertained the 1,700 crowd at his Cueva de Nerja gig.

HUGO CORTÉS



### 20 years of La Mari

Vanesa Martín, Nay de la Rubia and Rosario la Tremendita accompanied the Chambao singer La Mari at the Malagueta bull ring.

HUGO CORTÉS



### Maluma sold-out

The Colombian pop and reggaeton artist Maluma raised the temperature at Starlite with a sold-out gig for fans.

JOSELE

REALE SEGUROS

INTERVIEW J. Espinosa- Sales Director Reale Seguros

# ‘Foreign nationals living in Spain value the fact that their insurance advisor speaks to them in their own language’

‘Reale Expatriates’ Protection’ products have been on the market for more than 12 years and have managed to become a benchmark among people who have decided to live temporarily or permanently in Spain

**MALAGA**

**SUR.** In 2010, Reale Seguros decided to launch a new line of business, focused on covering the present and future needs of all foreigners living in Spain.

It belongs to the Reale Group whose parent company, Reale Mutua Assicurazioni, has almost two centuries of history, being the largest Italian mutual insurer. RealeGroup, made up of thirteen companies in the insurance, banking, finance, real estate and services sectors; is present in Spain, Italy and Chile; employs more than 3,100 people and insures more than 3.8 million customers. Reale Seguros is committed to customer proximity through 54 branches, more than 416 agencies and 3,300 collaborators who provide service to more than 2 million customers.

Today, after 12 years, Reale Expatriates has established itself as one of the preferred options for the foreign resident community. The Company prides itself on its proximity, commitment and quality of service.

Javier Espinosa, Reale Seguros’ Commercial Director, is in charge of this line of the business.

**Why did Reale Seguros launch a line of products for foreign residents in Spain?**

In 2010 we launched Reale Expatriates’ Protection because studies of expatriate clients indicated that this group had similar insurance needs; that they are unfamiliar with how insurance works in Spain and that they are particularly concerned about being dealt with in their own language. It is therefore a group of people that needs a specific and different service. For this reason, we have developed Reale Expatriates’ Protection. A programme of solutions with a specific offer for people who have decided to live temporarily or permanently in Spain with exclusive products, guarantees and services, translation of information into 11 languages and a specific call centre for assistance in English, German, Italian and Dutch.



J. Espinosa-  
Sales Director.  
Reale Seguros

**What representation do you have now in this sector?**

At the end of May 2022, we had more than 50,000 foreign residents as customers in Spain, which represents a market share of more than 2%, a figure that increases in certain areas where we have more than 3.5%, such as Andalusia and the Valencian Community.

**What do you offer foreign residents in Spain?**

Foreign residents in Spain appreciate that their insurance advisor speaks to them in their own language, especially when they are outside their country and offers them a close and professional service.

Reale has a territorial model, with a physical presence through 54 branches and a network of

**‘MiAsistente’ is a personal telephone-manager that offers our expat clients specialised and personal assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in English and Spanish**

brokers and agents who know their clients perfectly well and who offer advice in their own language, which greatly facilitates the trust they place in our products. I think this is the key, personalised advice from brokers who know their needs, who communicate in their own language, with special conditions and also offer a quality of service in which if we do not fulfil our commitments we will give you your money back.

**You recently announced a new service called «MiAsistente» for your expatriate clients, what does it consist of and what other value-added services do you offer?**

‘MiAsistente’ is a personal telephone-manager that offers our expat clients specialised and personal assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in English and Spanish. This service helps them with their day-to-day affairs, home, updates on Covid-19, health and sport, family, pets, vehicles and leisure and free time. The aim is for people of other nationalities to feel integrated in Spain and to get to know the country or the new city where they are going to live so that they can adapt quickly. When taking out a Reale Expat insurance policy or renewing their policy, expatriates will have access to all of these services, free of charge for one year.

**In which languages do you offer your services?**

‘We have all the contractual information available in four languages: English, German, Italian and Dutch.

In addition, we have e-learning training and a specific website for expatriates in the four languages indicated, where customers can find all the information about the solutions that Reale offers them: the possibility of contracting, filing a claim or finding the nearest agent.

We have sales material in eleven languages: Spanish, English, German, Dutch, Swedish, Russian, Danish, French, Norwegian, Finnish and Italian. When they need to contact us for any problem or doubt they may have, we have a specific telephone number for them where a specialised call centre with people who can attend in 4 languages: English, German, Dutch and Italian and a 24/7/365 assistance service.

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FUENGIROLA REVISITED: PART 7  
PATRICK H. MEEHAN

# The birth of Fuengirola

To celebrate 180 years of the municipality of Fuengirola this series reviews the rich history of the location, from prehistory to the founding of the modern town

If Fuengirola had a 'birthday', perhaps it should be 7 August 1485. From that date, the Castle and its lands were renamed and joined the Kingdom of Spain. This article looks at the birth of Fuengirola, how this 'birthday' is represented and when it got its unique name.

After centuries of probing attacks, the great defensibly built Suhayl Castle became the Moorish frontline defence against Castilians on the road and sea routes to Granada.



Battlements of Castillo Sohail. SUR

On 7 August 1485, the Castle of Suhayl was defended by the Moors for the last time. The details are lost to history, perhaps attacked by land and sea in a glorious Castilian victory, or simply taken without a fight. The records conflict with the claims for battle rewards!

**Suhayl Castle became the Moors' frontline defence against Castilians on route to Granada**

Unless new evidence arises, we may never know.

This date has been encoded by the coincidental death on 7 August 1547 of Gaetano dei Conti di Thiene, the Italian aristocrat founder of an order of priests. Canonised in 1671, his feast day, 7 August, was observed locally.

To suit the temperament of the 1950s, San Cayetano became, temporarily, the patron saint of Fuengirola, at a time of rapid urbanisation. Today a district of the town, roads, a school, shops and a cemetery are all named in his honour.

Alhaurín, Málaga, Marbella and Benalmádena retained their Moorish names, but for Suhayl came a mysterious change. The first known use of the name with the current spelling, was in the 1480s by Spanish historian Alonso de Palencia;

*"Soon the news arrived of having camped those of Málaga in a force located in the coastal of the sea next to Marbella, called Fuengirola, by source at the foot of the Castle."*

There are competing narratives for the meaning of Fuengirola: the first part is gener-

ally agreed, that the 'Fuen' adapts from 'fuente', a font of water. 'Girola' is either an old word for part of a Church or derived from 'gírar' to gyrate or go round. So, it could mean a font in a church, or water that goes around the Castle, or words lost to history, hence it is not officially defined.

The castle and the lands of Roman Suel and Moorish Suhayl, from Benalmádena to Cabopino, passed to the new Castilian Warden, Álvaro de Mesa.

On 7 August 1485, uniquely named, this perfect location began a new phase in its journey through history, to be known as Fuengirola.

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



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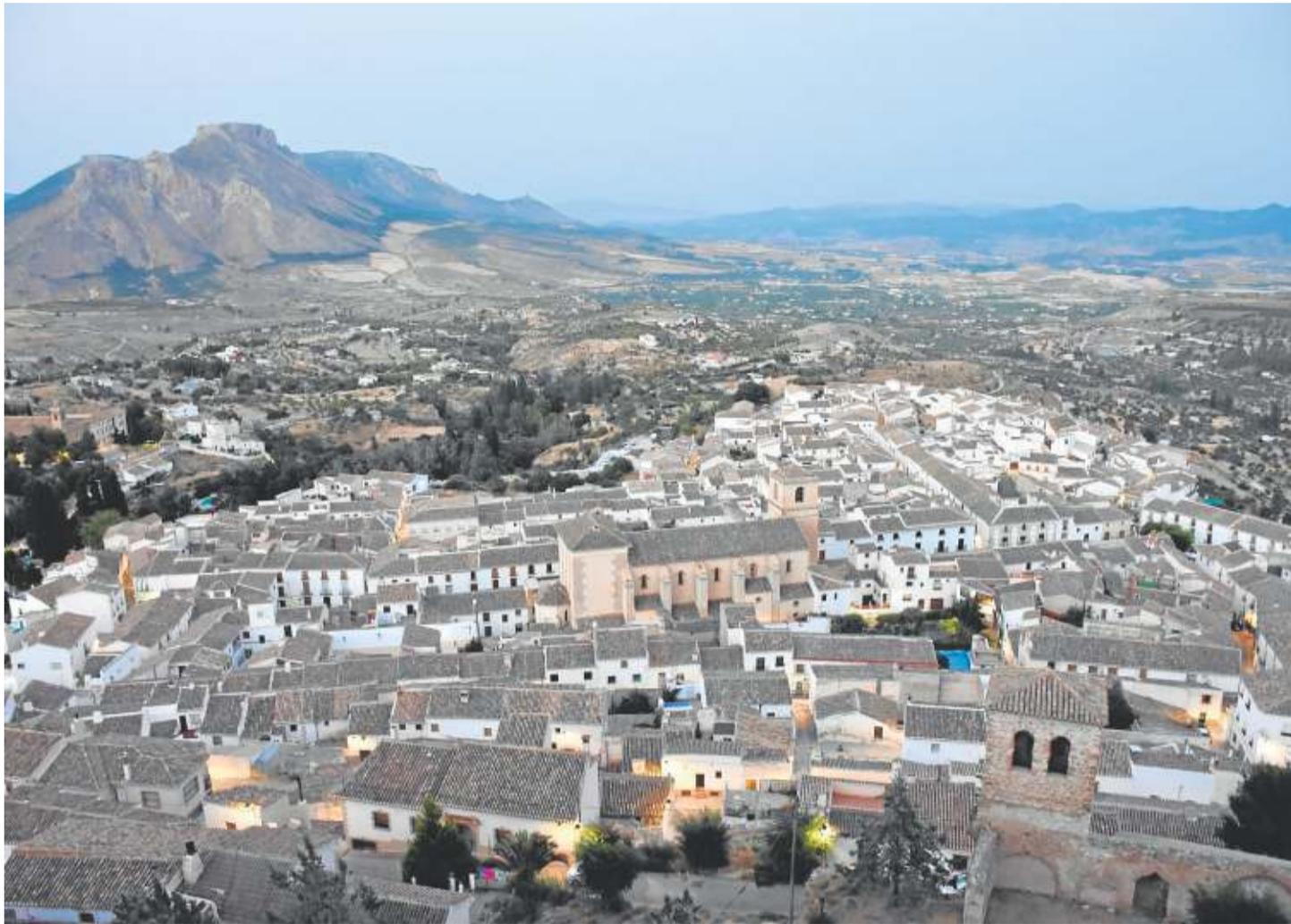
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**SUR**  
in English

AYUNTAMIENTO DE VÉLEZ BLANCO



The festival also aims to bring the historical buildings closer to the visitors of the village.  
Vélez Blanco

Díaz Gil, explains, “This is one of the most important cultural and musical events, every summer, in Spain and I have no doubt that it enriches the town and its inhabitants, who have been well-known music lovers for centuries. However, it is not just about the music, but also about showcasing the town’s most interesting places.”

Cándida Martínez López is the director of this musical event. The director explains, “It is co-

“A dream that comes true every year in a rural setting of spectacular historical and environmental beauty”

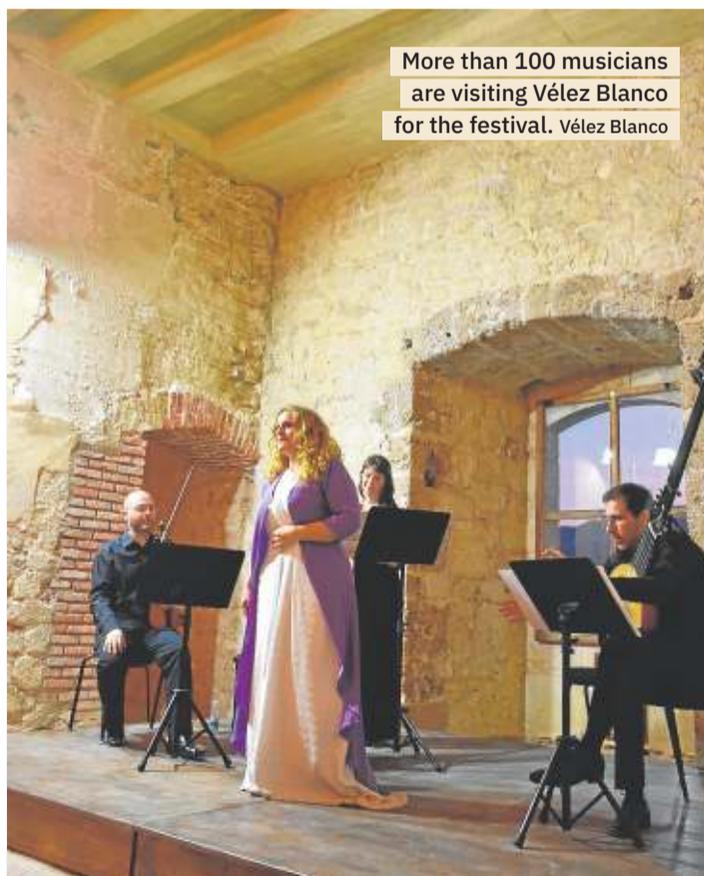
**VÉLEZ BLANCO**, a paradise of history and music

## The Renaissance and Baroque Music Festival in Vélez Blanco

The first Vélez Blanco Music Academy was founded at the end of the 18th century. Just over three centuries ago, the municipality already boasted an impressive castle in the highest part of the town. Today, so many years later, castle and music continue to be central elements in the daily life of this beautiful area in the north of Almería

### VÉLEZ BLANCO

**SUR.** In Vélez Blanco, the Renaissance and Baroque Music Festival has been held every July for the last 21 years and will continue to do so for many more to come. An event that brings together the most important performers of 16th to 18th



More than 100 musicians are visiting Vélez Blanco for the festival. Vélez Blanco

century music on the Spanish and international scene. An incentive, without doubt, to visit and discover this fascinating town.

The 21st edition of the festival began just a few days ago, this time dedicated to musical and cultural relations between Italy and Spain. Music abounds these days in Vélez Blanco. The Academy of Baroque Music, the continuation of the one that existed more than 200 years ago, offers a hundred people the chance of learning to play instruments and sing with the best possible teachers, all of them professional musicians, such as the great soprano María Bayo (Navarra) or the conductor Aaron Zapico. An international history seminar and a series of lectures put the music in context with the historical moments in which it was composed. And, of course, every night, locals and visitors - many of them regulars - have a date, in some of the town’s most important historical landmarks, with the best music.

This is what it’s all about, highlighting the town’s most emblematic monuments and buildings. The central courtyard of the Vélez Blanco Castle; the church and cloisters of the San Luis Convent or the parish church of Santiago are the places where, every day at 21.00 hours, classical music fans have a date with history and music.

The festival is organised, among others, by Vélez Blanco Town Hall. Its mayor, Pedro Luis

existence and close contact between teachers and students, as well as a way of delving into history and of discovering stunning surroundings and a different way of life.” Martínez adds that those who attend will not only “share musical experiences, an important sensation in itself, but will also make friends and be able to plan future projects together”. For the director, this event is “a dream that comes true every year in a rural setting of spectacular historical and environmental beauty”.

### The origin of Almería’s “Indalo”

Vélez Blanco is also the birthplace of the “Indalo”, the symbol of the province. It was here in 1861, in a cave, that the figure painted in the Neolithic or Copper Age appeared and has since served to represent the province.



DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

# Oxalis tetraphylla

Not unsurprisingly, one of Oxalis tetraphylla's common names is lucky clover as each leaf is composed of four heart-shaped leaflets. It is a member of the Oxalidaceae clover family and is native to South America and Mexico.

Other common names include four leaf sorrel and iron cross plant because often the darker splotches in the centre

of the leaf look like a cross. It is also known by the botanical synonym Oxidalis deppei.

Oxalis tetraphylla grows from small corms or bulbs and forms a dense mound of vegetation up to 15cm high. During the night and when short of water, the leaves fold up, rather like an umbrella. It is dormant for around five months of

the year.

It needs a position where it will get full sun for part of the day and it needs a free-draining soil as waterlogging will rot the corms.

From spring and throughout the summer, the sprays of dark pink, tubular flowers appear on long narrow stems. They attract lots of beneficial insects, drawn by the abundant pollen and nectar.

Its mounding habit makes it an ideal hanging basket plant or it can be planted in a container (see photo) or in a rockery or herbaceous border.

It is not resistant to frost and will need protection in colder, inland areas of the coast.

It is also intolerant of drought and will fold up its leaves when it starts to dry out. Even if it is shrivelled and dried up, it is often saveable and a good soak in a bucket of water should promote new growth.

Propagation is by splitting the corms which readily multiply or by saving the seeds. It is easy to grow from seed but is not an invasive plant.

The leaves and flowers are edible in small quantities and are often added to salads and used as garnish. They have a tart lemon flavour. However, over consumption can bind the calcium in the bloodstream. It is not recommended for consumption by people with kidney stones for example.

It is toxic to dogs, cats and horses.



Oxalis tetraphylla and close up of flowers. WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



CHRISTINE RUMBELOW

## The alien-like Aristolochia

This amazing large purple bloom (commonly called Dutchman's pipe), grows on a lush vine with heart-shaped leaves. It is a tropical plant but Christine Rumbelow, who lives near Antequera, says that although it dies right back in the winter, it re-shoots in the spring.



CLAIRE DEL NET

## Crassula falcata

Crassula is a large genus of succulent plants and the one in this photo sent in by Claire del Net is Crassula falcata or the propellor plant. It is drought resistant and needs a sunny spot to flower.

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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## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

29 JULY 1804

# Yellow fever outbreak explodes across Malaga

The viral disease caused close to 12,000 deaths across the city and it also spread throughout the province and the Andalusian region

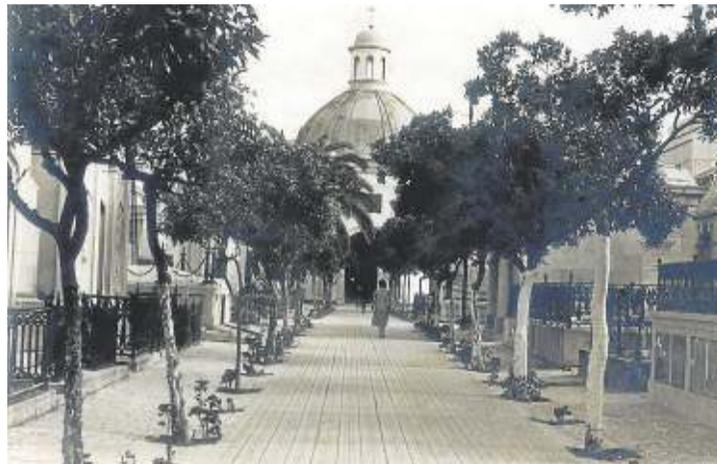
A second yellow fever epidemic in less than a year was declared in Malaga on 29 July 1804, as the viral disease saw a dramatic increase in both cases and deaths, with some 11,464 people dying during the following three months.

Juan Manuel de Aréjula, a renowned surgeon and chemist, arrived in Málaga on 25 August 1804 and he came across the disease "in full force". The up-

ward trend in cases lasted until 7 September; deaths began to slow down by 12th and there were hardly any infected by the 28th of the month.

In Brief Description of Yellow Fever, a book published in 1806, Aréjula documented the causes, effects and evolution of the yellow fever disease in Andalucía at the start of the 19th century. He was then entrusted with what measures should be taken in the affected locations.

The fever had resurfaced in Malaga city at the end of June 1804, but it was contained to the Santos Mártires church in Calle Pozos Dulces. Aréjula confirmed that street as the epicentre of the outbreak because of the rapid spread of cases in the area. "The Santos Mártires par-



The San Miguel cemetery was created on the outskirts of the city at the time of the yellow fever outbreak at the start of the 19th century. **SUR**

ish has 2,500 populated homes, [...] between 1 and 23 July there were no more than 32 deaths, of which 16 were infected and residents of Calle Pozos Dulces," he wrote.

But once the disease left that area, it spread like wildfire and preventative measures were taken. Two lazarettos (a quarantine station intended to be used by maritime travellers) were set up outside the city, buildings were fumigated and furniture was sanitised.

The yellow fever still managed to escape the city and

make its way inland. Aréjula was sent to Antequera to investigate, among other things, how it reached the town. "I figured out that the first sick person in Antequera was an official named José Delgado, a 22-year-old lad, who fled Malaga and the street where there were the most infected on 23 July," Aréjula wrote. "He fell ill on 27 July and died on 2 August."

The disease would quickly spread to other Andalusian towns thanks to its presence in Malaga and Antequera. In La Rambla, a mule driver who was

transporting wheat from Malaga carried the yellow fever because he touched a cart full of diseaseridden corpses; it spread to Montilla through an infected priest and also made its way to Ronda.

The yellow fever outbreak that Malaga suffered the year before, during the summer months of 1803 and until December, claimed the lives of 6,884 people.

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Fiebre	Fever
Amarillo/a	Yellow
Enfermedad	Disease
Cementerio	Cemetery
Epidemia	Epidemic
Propagar	To spread
Incremento	Increase
Cirujano	Surgeon
Medida	Measure
Químico/a	Chemist
Edificio	Building
Enfermero/a	Nurse
Parroquia	Parish
Muerte	Death
Contagiar	To infect
Arriero	Mule driver
Muebles	Furniture

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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## Cooking outside in the summer

When it's too hot to be toiling over a hot stove indoors you might want to consider creating an outside kitchen, in the shade

**DENISE BUSH**

MALAGA. Doing any sort of cooking indoors, whether it is grilling, frying, boiling or roasting, is a real

chore at the height of the summer. A shady spot in your patio or back garden could make the ideal spot to create an outside kitchen, where you can enjoy a gentle breeze, sipping a chilled glass of white wine while preparing the evening meal.

Most homes have a portable barbecue, usually gas or charcoal, which is an ideal alternative in the summer. However, another option is to purchase (or build if you know someone handy) a refractory oven,

commonly called a pizza oven. This is a very old way of cooking and some old Spanish farmhouses still have them, from the days when kitchens were always outside the main dwelling.

The method of cooking is simple and very efficient. A fire is lit inside and to the back or one side of the cavity. Once the firewood is reduced to coals it can be pushed to one side and trays of meat, fish and vegetables (or even pizza!) can be placed inside. The door, usually of cast iron, is then closed and the food left to cook. The brick structure holds the heat long after the fire has died down and a succession of different foods, depending on the length of cooking time needed, can be cooked in this way.



A brick built refractory oven. PIXABAY



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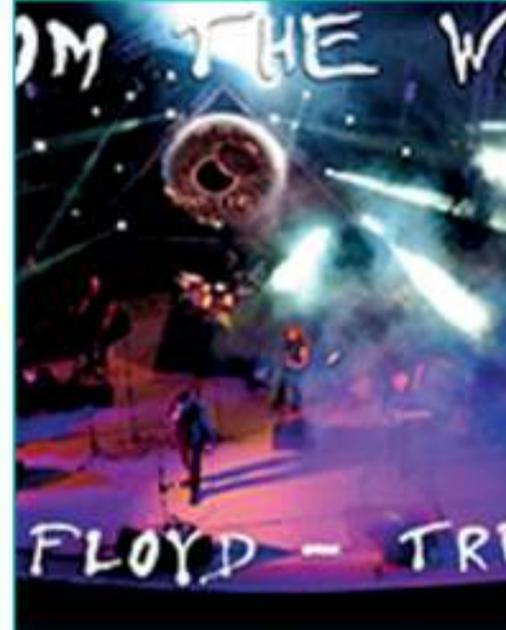
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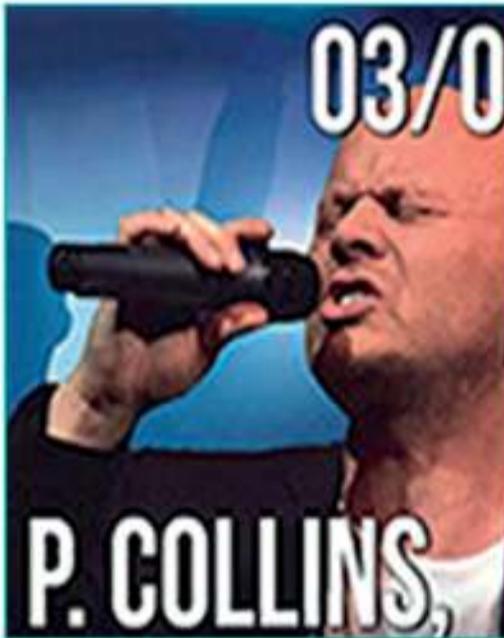
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EXHIBITIONS

Casa de las Tejerinas

**ESTEPONA.** Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza del Flores.  
**Pedro Amado.** Until 10 August. An exhibition of paintings by local artist Pedro Amado.

Annual Art Exhibition

**ALOZAINA.** Until 7 August. Aula de Cultura, C/Calvario  
Fourteen local artists, ceramicists, and photographers are exhibiting. Open mornings and evenings until 9pm. Info; Isabel tel/whatsapp 655226833

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.



Gallery Art Club, Fuengirola

Gallery Art Club

**FUENGIROLA.** Calle Quemada. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10am - 1pm, other days by appt. 637 559 039. Summer exhibition at the gallery until 31 August. www.galleryart-club.com

María José Álvarez Barea

**MIJAS COSTA.** Until 26 September. Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas. A selection of paintings are on display by this artist.

play by this artist.

Styart

**LAS LAGUNAS.** Until 15 September. Casa de la Cultura Las lagunas. . A multi-discipline, collective exhibition by national and international artists.

Malaga Picasso Museum

**MALAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

**Book illustrations.** Picasso illustrated many books during his lifetime. Until October a selection of prints from his original drawings will be on display.

**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.

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.

Otras Miradas. Tiempo de Exposición

**MALAGA.** Until 28 August. Museo Ruso, Centre Pompidou Málaga and the Museo Casa Natal Picasso.

Three, simultaneous exhibitions in Malaga city by the photography students of the San Telmo Art School.

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/  
**La Arquitectura Japonesa desde 1950: Espacios Plurales.** Until 19 September. Since 1950, the Japanese architectural scene has hovered between modernity and tradition, 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.

**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.

**Angelika Markul.** Until 23 October. Memory of Glaciers is a video installation by the Polish artist Angelika Markul.

**MALAGA.** CAC Málaga - La Coracha. **Cristóbal Toral, Una Aventura Creadora.** Until 13 September. The exhibition consists of 70 pieces including paintings, sculpture and installations.

Málaga Contemporáneo



Angelika Markul, CAC Málaga

**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.

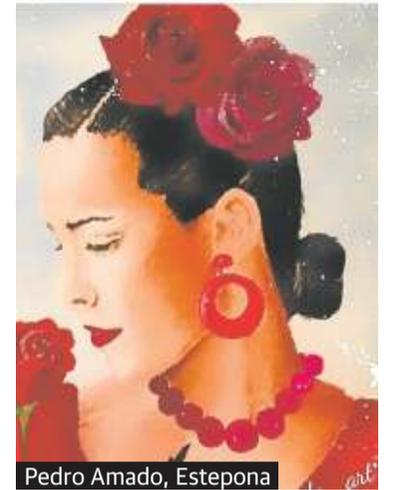
Carmen Thyssen Museum

**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,



Pedro Amado, Estepona

José Gutiérrez Solana, Pancho Cossío and Francisco Boses. The works illustrate the sordid side of daily life in Spain with marginalised groups of people, retrobates and down-and-outs. www.carmenthyssen-malaga.org

Museum Jorge Rando

**MALAGA.** Until 26 September. C/ Cruz del Molinillo. 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

Casa Gerald Brenan

**MALAGA.** Until 28 October C/ Torremolinos.

The exhibition series Estrellas para Brenan begins with an exhibition entitled Laberinto y locura by Malaga artist Diego Santos. The works are centred on the legendary dancer Josephine Baker who reached the peak of her career in the mid-twentieth century.

Flamencura

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** Until 4 September. Casa Fuerte Bezimiliana. The exhibition consists of 25 large format works in different media from Andrés Mérida.

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## EXHIBITIONS

## Terral-Circulo exhibition

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 20 August. Convento de San Francisco. A collective exhibition featuring 33 works by 30 artists.

## Poéticas de la Ciudad

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** From 4 August until 4 September. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Photographer Paco Negre is exhibiting a selection of his work with the main theme being Malaga's poets.

## Jaime Pimentel

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 11 September. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Axarquía sculptor and artist Jaime Pimentel will be exhibiting some of his work.

## 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 Enson 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.



Adrian Ensor, Granada

## MUSIC AND DANCE

## Cazbah Live Lounge Jamaica Day

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** Torrenueva, Avenida de Jerez. **6 August, 9pm.** Jamaican Independence Day party with Jamaican food and music, a DJ and Reggae singer. Call: 602535710, also on Facebook (<https://fb.me/e/1zkJGpQEv>).

## The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**MÁLAGA.** Various venues. **29 July, 10pm.** Summer concert with music by composers Bizet, Chapí, Bretón and others at the Colegio de Aparejadores y Arquitectos Técnicos de Málaga. **29, 30 July, 8pm.** The orchestra will play pieces by composers Dvorak and Schubert.

## La Posada

**MÁLAGA.** Vinci Posada del Patio, Pasillo de Sta Isabel. 9.30pm Every Friday, **29 July.** Iris Nieto oboe duet [www.tallerblues.es](http://www.tallerblues.es)

# Piano man brings Elton John Experience to Mijas auditorium

The show will be performed by pianist Paul Maxwell and a 12-piece symphonic orchestra

## TONY BRYANT

**MIJAS.** The music of one of the world's most flamboyant entertainers will be reproduced during a special concert at the municipal auditorium in Mijas on Saturday 30 July. The Elton John Experience is a concert dedicated to the so-called Rocket Man and Bernie Taupin, one of the most successful songwriting duos in the history of modern music.

The show will be performed by Paul Maxwell, otherwise known as the Piano Man, along with his band and a 12-piece symphonic orchestra.

The show is based on Elton John's 50-year career and will include many of his most successful hits, such as Your Song, Candle in the Wind, I'm Still Standing and Sacrifice.

The show, during which Maxwell recreates Elton John's incredible stage pres-



Paul Maxwell's Elton John show has received rave reviews. SUR.

ence and musicianship, was first performed at the Marbella Arena last summer and has since received rave reviews. The show has been declared the "most outstanding Elton John tribute in Europe".

Pianist, composer and songwriter Paul Maxwell has become one of the most respected musicians on the coast over the last 30 years. He is an international performer of British origin who has per-

formed on stages all over the world, supporting celebrated musicians such as Michael Bolton, Simply Red, Billy Ocean and George Benson, to name just a few.

Tickets for his show in Mijas, which starts at 10pm, cost 25 euros in advance (35 euros at the door) and are available from [www.eventbrite.es](http://www.eventbrite.es) or by calling: 633647260.

Tickets can also be purchased at the Ruben money exchange offices.

## Iris Nieto

**MÁLAGA.** 31 July, 9.30pm. La Fábrica, C/Trinidad Grund, 29. Fabulous oboe playing Iris Nieto will be in concert.

## Museum concerts

**MÁLAGA.** Free.

## Museo Carmen Thyssen.

**30 September, 7pm.** Promúsica

**28 October, 7pm.** Conservatorio Martín Tenllado choir.

**25 November, 7pm.** Teatro del Arte company.

[www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org/](http://www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org/) Malaga Museum.

**7 August, 12pm.** Brassarquía + One performs works by Sonny Kompanek, Enrique Crespo, Ian MacDonald and Isaac Albéniz.

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Free.

**Mvvel (Museo de Vélez-Málaga).**

**4 August, 8pm.** Brassarquía, wind orchestra.

## Louie Louie Bar

**ESTEPONA.** Estepona port.

**6 August, 10.45pm.** Rob Sas Band.

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

## Jazz, Funk and Fusion

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 31 July, 10.30pm. Parque El Majuelo.

One For My Baby to run parallel with the Jazz en la Costa festival.

## Used Cars: Springsteen revisited

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** 29 July, Plaza Gloria Fuertes, La Cala del Moral.

A concert playing tribute to Bruce Springsteen.

## Concerto Málaga

**MÁLAGA.** 29 July, Sala de Conciertos María Cristina.

The last concert in the series CIVE - Ciclo, Las Cuatro Estaciones. It is dedicated to the Mediterranean and Catalan composers Morera, Pedrell, Lamote de Grignon and Eduard Toldrà.

## Dennis Mansfield

**ESTEPONA.** 2 August, 10pm. Plaza Andrés Caparrós, free.

German composer and singer Dennis Mansfield and his band will be performing some of his established hits such as Club Called Jane, Sliding Doors and Viva la Vida as well as several of his new compositions.

## Beat concerts

**MÁLAGA.** Until 30 July. Teatro Eche-garay.

A series of concerts by performers such as Arco, Twanguero, Ariel Brín-

guez, 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](http://www.teatrocervantes.com), [www.teatroechegaray.com](http://www.teatroechegaray.com) and [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)

## Rob Sas

**COÍN.** 16 September, 9pm. Molly's Roadhouse.

Rob Sas is a veteran musician and singer of British Rock of the 80s and has played alongside the John Coghlan Band (ex Status Quo); Nick Simper (Deep Purple) and Lindsay Bridgewater (Ozzy Osbourne) among others.

## Fiebre Amarillo

**MÁLAGA.** 29 July, 9pm. Patio Ateneo de Málaga, C/Compañía.

To celebrate the end of the Díscolo Estival 2022, there will be a DJ Set. Sponsored by San Miguel.

## 90s Night

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** 29 July, from 10pm. Auditorio Municipal.

A tribute to the 90s with images of events that took place in the 90s and 90s disco music. The event has been organised by the town council and Ángel Cano who ran the hugely popular discotheque Yo in that era.

## Finca El Portón Jazz

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** Every Friday at 10pm throughout July.

**29 July.** Hermeto Pascoal & Grupo

More details and tickets: [www.mien-trada.net](http://www.mien-trada.net) or call: 952411043

## Cambaya Blues Festival

**ANTEQUERA.** 29, 30 July, 9pm. Plaza Santa María.

The Blue Stompers Jump Review perform tonight, Friday, at 10.30pm followed by the César Crespo Trío. On Saturday, the Andabluses are followed by El Osos de Benalúa y sus Sabandijas.

## Espeto Fest

**ESTEPONA.** Until 30 July, 10pm. Playa de La Rada.

Concerts by Sotano Sur (28th), Airbag (29th) and on the 30th: Magnet Man, African Jam, One Drop Trio and Heritage bring a night of reggae.

## Jazz in the English Cemetery

**MÁLAGA.** 30 July, 9pm. Avda de Pries, 1.

An evening of jazz with the Jitterbug Jazz Group in the grounds of the historical English Cemetery. Tickets 12 euros: <https://stgeorgemalaga.com> or call: 638 339 691

## Festival del Sol

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 6 August. Explanada del Cero.

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](http://www.giglon.com)



Iris Nieto, Málaga.

## Festival Anfitrión

**FUENGIROLA.** Until 25 August. Castillo Sohail.

The festival will include concerts, dance performances, circus and flamenco ballet. More details and tickets: [www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/festivalanfrion/espacios/castillo-de-sohail-fuengirola](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/festivalanfrion/espacios/castillo-de-sohail-fuengirola) and [www.marenostromfuengirola.es](http://www.marenostromfuengirola.es)

## Sister Sledge

**MARBELLA.** 30 July, doors open 8pm. Marbella Arena.

Sister Sledge perform (at 10pm) some of their greatest hits including Lost in Music, He's the Greatest Dancer, Thinking of You and We Are Family. [www.rocklounge.com](http://www.rocklounge.com) or call 626 30 34 34

## UB40's Ali Campbell

**MARBELLA.** 6 August, doors open 8pm. Marbella Arena.

Ali Campbell performs some of UB40's greatest hits. [www.rocklounge.com](http://www.rocklounge.com) or call 626 30 34 34



La Luz de la Alpujarra, La Alpujarra



Concerto de Málaga, Malaga

**Theme tracks from films**

**ESTEPONA.** 31 July, 7, 14, 21, 28 August 9pm. Plaza del Reloj. Film tracks played by the Municipal Band.

**Summer Concert**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 7 August, 10.30pm. Parque El Majuelo. The Orquestas de Cámara Mediterránea will be playing pieces by Benjamin Britten, Vivaldi and Dvorak. [bravoentradas.es](http://bravoentradas.es)

**Starlite**

**MARBELLA.** Until 3 September. 29 July, 10pm. Simple Minds. 30 July, 10pm. Diana Krall. Tickets and a complete programme of events: <http://starlitemarbella.com/es/>

**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](http://www.sophie.es)

**Puro Latino Fest**

**CADIZ.** 4-6 August. El Puerto de Santa María. The festival features some of the biggest names in Latino music. <https://purolatino.es/cadiz/>

**FLAMENCO**

**Flamenco show**

**ESTEPONA.** 29 July, 9.30pm. Peña Flamenca de Estepona, C/ Fuerzas Armadas.

A flamenco show with vocals by Borrico de Jerez, 'toque' by Vicente Santiago and dance by Virginia Neva and Jairo Díaz Oliva. For more information or reservations, call: 952803183 or 683141136

**Flamenco Stars**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 10.30pm. Gardens of Castillo de la Herradura. 29 July. José Mercé. 30 July, 10pm. El Pele, Patriaca and at 11.30pm Jasiel Nahin with Mirando Adentro [www.almunecar.es](http://www.almunecar.es)

**Flamenqueando**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 29 July, 8pm. Plaza del Acueducto. With the María Gómez La canastera flamenco school.

**Flamenco íntimo**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 20 August, 10pm. Parque El Majuelo. Mayte Martín will be performing. Tickets: [redentradas.com/lacanaflamenco.com](http://redentradas.com/lacanaflamenco.com).

**Flamenco dance shows**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Various venues. 10 August, 10pm. With Teresa Barbero and Alba Fajardo. Peñon del Santo esplanade. 17 August, 10pm. Borja Cortés and Teresa Barber at Cueva Siete Palacios (Barrio San Miguel). 24 August, 10pm. With Teresa Bar-

bero and Agustín Barajas. Plaza del Acueducto.

**CHARITY**

**ARCH**

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** Open Sunday 31 July, 9am-4pm, Viña Borrego. The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys will be holding the last open morning before the summer break. Children can groom the donkeys and ponies, and volunteers are on hand to explain the charity's work. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or [www.horserescue-spain.org](http://www.horserescue-spain.org)

**Sing for Ukraine Opera Chorus**

**ESTEPONA.** 7 August. Orquidario. The vocal workshop is scheduled to run in the morning and then the chorus will be performed at 9pm during the fundraiser event for Prosvita Asociacion Malaga. The workshop costs 30€ or 50€ for two people, children free when accompanied by registered adults. All money raised on the night of the performance goes directly to Prosvita. [www.facebook.com/events/1513677552383877](http://www.facebook.com/events/1513677552383877)

**Golf for DEBRA charity**

**BENAHAVÍS.** 10 August. Marbella Club de Golf Resort. 120€. A golf tournament to raise money for children suffering from Epidermolisis Bullosa, a skin disorder. Register by emailing: [eventos@debra.es](mailto:eventos@debra.es), or call 674 11 19 52.

**Golf for DEBRA charity**

**MARBELLA.** 17 September. Club de Golf Aloha. 85€. A golf tournament to raise money for children suffering from Epidermolisis Bullosa, a skin disorder. Register by emailing: [eventos@debra.es](mailto:eventos@debra.es), or call 674 11 19 52.

**FIESTAS AND FERIAS**

**Fiestas patronales**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 15 August. The fiesta is in honour of the patron saint of the town the Virgen de la Antigua.

**Feria de Benagalbón**

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** 28-31 July. Antigua Estación de Ferrocarril. There will be live concerts, an orchestra, dance performances, paella and lots of other activities.



Dennis Mansfield, Estepona.

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Info & Tickets: 672 640 567 ★ [starlitecatalanaoccidente.com](http://starlitecatalanaoccidente.com)

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# Exhibition of lockdown pop art and cubism



The exhibition at the Picasso Cultural Centre in Torremolinos. SUR.

## TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** An exhibition of the works by Galician artist Moncho Borrajo is currently on show at the Picasso Cultural Centre in Torremolinos.

The free exhibition, which can be viewed until 30 September, is held in Sala Elena Laverón and includes 100 paintings that were largely produced during the coronavirus pandemic.

The collection – Desretratos, which consists of a body of portraits, was painted at the artist's home in Tenerife, and he claims it was his way of occupying his time during the lockdown in

an attempt to “preserve his sanity”.

The artist defines the portraits as a mixture of pop art and expressionism that analyses the face and represents the generation in which he has lived.

Moncho Borrajo is a multidisciplinary artist who is recognised as a follower of cubism and pop art. He has exhibited in more than 50 individual and collective shows in cities all over the world, and his work has appeared in several encyclopedias of contemporary art.

The exhibition can be visited from Monday to Friday from 9am until 1.30 pm.

## MORE IDEAS

### Tapas Route

**MIJAS PUEBLO.** Every Tuesday and Thursday from 7.30pm until 10pm. Until end of August.

A drink and a tapa will cost 3€ at participating bars. A scoop of ice cream without a drink will also be 3€. More information: [www.turismo.mijas.es](http://www.turismo.mijas.es)

### Puppet Festival

**LA HERRADURA.** Until 31 July from 10pm. Plaza de la Independencia. Puppet shows and workshops for families with small children. Free entry.

### Nocturnal Festival

**ALOZAINA.** 6 August, from 9pm. Free concerts, DJ Heddi, Arabian dance, artists and artisans, local products, and kids activities. A prize for the best fancy dress creature or fairy of the forest. Info: Isabel tel/whatsapp 655226833

### Salón Varietés Summer Ball

**MIJAS.** 26 August. The Green Label Restaurant, El Chaparral. Three-course meal, wine, beer or soft drinks with live music and dancing. 49€ per person. Bookings: [fundraising@salonvarietes.com](mailto:fundraising@salonvarietes.com) or call 627595059

### Salón Varietés Golf Tournament

**MARBELLA.** 28 August. Marbella Golf Club. Pairs Texas Scramble, Shotgun start at 9am. Lunch and drink in clubhouse after accompanied by live music. 79€ per person (teams of four, playing in pairs). Bookings: [fundraising@salonvarietes.com](mailto:fundraising@salonvarietes.com) or call 627595059

### Málaga Jam Weekend

**MALAGA.** 29-31 July. Polo Nacional de Contenidos Digitales, Tabacalera. The Tabacalera will be 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 and develop new ideas. Participants must register online: [www.malaga-jam.com](http://www.malaga-jam.com).

### Night Run

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** 30 July. The IV Carrera Nocturna Ciudad de Vélez-Málaga will pass through the streets, plazas and most historic emblems of the town. Main run is 5km with some steep climbs. More details and registration (before 26 July), [www.atletismovelez.es](http://www.atletismovelez.es)

### Grub Festival

**GIBRALTAR.** 5 August. Wellington Fort. One off 'pop up' food and drink stalls run by restaurants, chefs and mixologists from London, Gibraltar, Spain and further afield. With DJs to provide music. 'Grub' is a ticketed event, with the price of the ticket including all food and some drinks. Cocktail only tickets are available. Tickets: [buytickets.gi](http://buytickets.gi) More info: Instagram / Facebook / Twitter :@cometogrub

### Family English Cemetery Days

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

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

### Lux Mundi

**FUENGIROLA.** Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3.

**Coach trip to Frigiliana.** 26 August. Various departure points. Tickets 23€ visitors or 20€ for Lux Mundi card holders. Call: 952 474 840 or email: [luxmundif@gmail.com](mailto:luxmundif@gmail.com)



Puppet shows, La Herradura

## O. V. FILMS

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

### Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

**DC League of Super Pets:** 12.15, 15.05 (Sun); 17.30 (every day).

**Top Gun Maverick:** 22.10 (Tues).

**Elvis:** 12.20 (Sun), 20.45 (Tues).

**Men:** 15.10 (Sun), 19.50 (Tues).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 12.30 (Sun); 22.20 (Tues).

**André Rieu Happy Days Are Here Again:** 20.00 (29 July).

### Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

**DC League of Super Pets:** 17.00 (Tues).

**André Rieu Happy Days Are Here Again:** 20.00 (29 July).

**Elvis:** 21.45 (Tues).

### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

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

**DC League of Super Pets:** 12.15 (Sun), 19.10 (Tues).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 22.05 (Tues).

**Minions: The Rise of Gru:** 16.45 (Tues).

**André Rieu Happy Days Are Here Again:** 20.00 (29 July).

**Elvis:** 21,20 (Tues).

**Men:** 22.45 (Tues).

**The Forgiven:** 18.05 (Tues).

### Cinesur Miramar

**FUENGIROLA.** Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600. <https://www.cinesur.com/es/mk2-cinesur-miramar>

**DC League of Super Pets:** 12.25 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (every day).

**Minions: The Rise of Gru:** 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 16.45 (every day).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 18.45, 21.15 (every day).

**Memory:** 17.00 (every day).

**The Forgiven:** 16.30 (every day).

**Elvis:** 17.00 (every day).

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

### Cinesur Ingenio

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

**DC League of Super Pets:** 17.00 (Tues).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 20.00 (Tues).

**Minions: The Rise of Gru:** 19.20 (Tues).

### Cine Albéniz

**MALAGA.** C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295.

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

**Pig:** 18.00 (Fri).

**Elvis:** 19.45 (every day).

### Cinesa

**MARBELLA.** La Cañada Commercial Centre.

**The Forgiven:** 21.40 (Mon); 22.00 (Wed; Thurs).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 21.35 (Mon, Wed, Thur).

**André Rieu Happy Days Are Here Again:** 20.00 (29 July).

### Red Dog

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

**Elvis:** 15.00, 21.15 (Sat, Sun); 21.10 (Mon-Thurs).

**Lightyear:** 12.00 (Sun); 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Mon-Thurs).

**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).

**Men:** 20.10 (Sat, Sun); 19.30 (Mon-Thurs).

**Thor: Love and Thunder:** 12.00 (Sun); 17.30, 19.40, 22.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15, 19.30, 21.45 (Mon-Thurs).

**Memory:** 17.15 (Mon-Thurs); 18.00 (Sat, Sun).

**DC League of Super Pets:** 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.10, 21.20 (every day).

### Autocine Málaga

**MALAGA.** Guadalhorce Industrial Estate. Ctra. de la Azucarera Intelhorce.

[www.autocines.com/cine-malaga/](http://www.autocines.com/cine-malaga/)

**DC league of Super Pets:** 22.00 (From 29 July until 4 August).

**Bullet Train:** 22.00 (From 5 until 11 August).

### Cine Abierto

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

A total of 128 projections, 40 in the Cine Albéniz (at 11am), 34 on beaches and 23 in parks (at 10.15pm). Only the Cine Albéniz showings need a ticket, the rest are free. <https://festivalde-malaga.com/cineabierto>



Bernardo Herrera is head of the urology department at the Hospital Clínico. sur

## 'The PSA test has drastically reduced cases of advanced prostate cancer'

**Bernardo Herrera** Head of the Urology Department at the Clínico Hospital

"One important challenge is for the health service to pay for new drugs which have proven effective against prostatic tumours,"

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer among men and early detection is the key to a cure. The PSA (prostate-specific antigen) test plays a determining role in this: it is a system which has drastically reduced cases of advanced prostate tumours, as the head of the urology department at the Clínico Virgen de la Victoria hospital, Bernardo Herrera, explains in this interview. About 2,500 men in Malaga province are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year.

**-What is the current situation with prostate cancer?**

-It is the most common cancer among the male population, with an incidence of 150 cases for every 100,000 inhabitants, so in Malaga province there are around 2,500 cases a year. In Spain as a whole, about 35,000 cases are diagnosed each year. It is the fourth type of cancer in terms of mortality.

**-What factors influence the appearance of this type of tumour?**

-The three most important risk

factors are age, race and family history due to genetic factors. Afro-American men suffer more from prostate cancer than anyone else.

**-At what age are people normally diagnosed?**

-In the 60 to 65 age range. It isn't common in young people, except men with a family history of prostate cancer, in which case there are cases among 40 to 50 year olds. The hereditary factor in prostate cancer is very important.

**-What systems are used to detect prostate cancer?**

-A rectal examination and blood test to check whether the PSA (prostate-specific antigen) levels are normal or high. Both of these tests are essential. In ad-

dition, multi-parameter resonance scans are increasingly being used as a new screening method if a biopsy is to be carried out later.

**-What are the symptoms of possible prostate cancer?**

-When the illness is very advanced, the symptoms tend to be pain, blood in the urine, difficulty in urinating and generally feeling unwell. However, in the majority of patients, there are no symptoms. That's why the blood test and rectal examination are so important.

**-From what age should men start to have PSA tests?**

-We recommend testing from 50 onwards, although if there is a family history of prostate cancer

it is best to start at the age of 40.

**-Once you have diagnosed the illness, which treatments are the most effective?**

-The most effective treatments range from active monitoring, to see whether the tumour progresses or not, to radiotherapy and surgery. The radiotherapy technology is increasingly more modern, and operations have also advanced considerably so they can sometimes be carried out by robots. When there is metastasis, we have a wide range of treatments, which we call new generation antiandrogens, which can prolong survival.

**-I suppose a test as simple as the PSA is key to detecting a tumour, preventing metastasis?**

-That's exactly right. It's a preventive test which saves lives and has drastically reduced cases of advanced prostate cancer. Nowadays it is much more common to diagnose localised prostate cancer than the advanced illness.

**-Research is very important to make advances, what research into prostate cancer is being carried out at your hospital and at the Biomedical Research Institute in Malaga (Ibima)?**

-We have several lines of research at present. We have a unit in which we are carrying out clinical testing on localised and advanced forms of the illness, testing the combination of surgery with new generation hormones. We also have research to evaluate the new imaging tests and genetic analysis, in localised and advanced prostatic cancers, to see what molecular alterations take place and whether they can be inherited. In the laboratory at the Guadalhorce hospital we are also sequencing 2,000 patients with advanced prostate cancer in a study which involves hospitals all over Spain.

**-In the medium and long term, how do you see the situation of prostate cancer?**

-There are three challenges involved. When the tumour is localised we have to determine which patients really need treatment and which don't, if their cancer is not very aggressive at all, in order to avoid over-treatment.

In the case of an advanced tumour, the fundamental challenge is to get a number of drugs which have been developed incorporated into the public health service, because they are still not included in the portfolio of treatments, even though clinical tests have produced very good results, they are approved by the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and by the European Medications Agency (EMA) and used in other countries.

**-Finally, what advice would you give to the male population?**

-My message to men is that they should never be nervous about going to a urologist for a routine check-up. The best way of resolving any doubts is in a consultation because specific information is very important. Prevention is the key in these types of tumour.

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# Looking patients in the eye

**What matters.** GPs call for less computer work so they can pay more personal attention to their patients

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**G**Ps in Spain have begun a silent revolution. “The time has come for us to say, let somebody else fill in the forms. Patients have to come first. All the managers, in every region, are full of talk about patients being what matters, but their actions don’t match their words.

People who come to our surgeries are often there because they want information. They are devastated. They’ve been told at a hospital that they have cancer and they are very upset, they don’t

know how to respond and they have a lot of questions, which is normal. Are we really going to spend their allotted eight minutes without looking them in the face, filling in forms on the computer?”

The question is posed by a 65-year-old doctor with long experience behind him, who works at a health centre in Madrid. Antonio Torres recently talked to colleagues from all over Spain about the need to recover the essence of what their profession is all about.

They, the GPs, have always been

known as family doctors in this country because they were the ones sitting by a patient’s bed, holding their hand, observing

them intently and listening to them talk about their worries and their pains.

A mountain of forms and com-

puter software is now stopping them doing what they always have done, what defines their profession and what they solemnly swore



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ILLUSTRATION LAURA LIEDO

### 'Have they told you anything yet, or not?'

Carmen and Ángel spent nearly a month in the waiting room of the resuscitation unit at a hospital, convinced their son would wake up one day. A doctor would come by regularly and say something like "Have they told you anything yet, or not?" "No, not yet," they would say. Then the specialist would just turn round and disappear through corridors and swinging doors without saying good-

Bilbao.

Technology, he says, has advanced so much that doctors have stopped listening to patients, stopped touching them, and taking their pulse. There are so many formalities and so much bureaucracy to deal with in the consulting room that the GP doesn't notice when a patient frowns when they hear "Your test results are perfect." That phrase stops them saying what they were about to say, which was "It hurts."

#### Valuable information

"It's not enough for doctors to just read the reports. The first thing we have to do, because it's what we were taught, is to examine the patient," says Dr Torres.

bye. Day after day, that went on. One or two might say a little bit more to them, but that was all.

"In general, doctors aren't prepared for giving bad news, and even less so in hospitals. That's something that is learned with time," says Antonio Torres, but he insists that GPs are better prepared than most. "We have to talk about good news and bad news. Our patients come to us to ask for additional explanations, or for us to tell them what the report from their specialist means. We're used to it," he says.

### 'We're not going to give patients kisses, but we must look at and listen to them'

Every gesture a patient makes, he explains, provides valuable information about their state of health. The way they walk, the way they close the door after coming in, the expression on their face, the way they frown as they listen to the doctor's explanations.

"If you don't look at them, you won't realise if they're not understanding what you're telling them. You might need to explain it a dif-

ferent way," he says.

The manner of communication between doctor and patients nowadays has also forgotten that the patient of today is not the patient of 30 years ago.

Not only are they much better informed, but they no longer see a GP as all-powerful and wise and somebody to be revered.

"Patients are informed, the traditional social barriers have gone and they are looking for alternatives. You have to give them the information they ask for. We are their doctors," says Torres.

The pandemic, with telephone consultations and appointments delayed, has only widened the gap between GPs and their invisible patients.

Many have even forgotten that silence is also a form of language.

"People need to feel that when they come to see us they are going to be well looked-after. We're not exactly going to give them kisses or slap them on the back. We often have to say no to them. But above all, they have to feel that they are part of a public health system which is universal, efficient and equal. In other words, a system that looks after them," Dr Torres says.

they would do. If a patient can be cured, treat them; if they can't, give them relief; and when no more can be done, look after them.



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# Canillas de Aceituno: a hiker's and foodie paradise

**Gastronomy.** As well as the El Saltillo route and hanging bridge, the village is well-known for its local dishes including roasted kid goat and black pudding with onion

CARMEN ALCARAZ

It's easy to forget and more so in summer that there is life beyond the beach in Malaga. Although the coastline is one of the great attractions from June to September, the province is also home to dozens of inland villages that combine nature, culture and gastronomy, which can be enjoyed at any time of the year.

One of these is undoubtedly Canillas de Aceituno. Located in the Sierras Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama mountain range, the village has impressive views of the region and has been put on the map since the opening of the El Saltillo route in October 2020, which connects the village with Sedella as part of the Gran Senda of Malaga.

The greatest attraction of the route is the footbridge of the same name, which at 64 metres above the Almanchares river, 52 metres long and 1.2 metres wide, is one of the three largest suspension bridges in Spain.

But Canillas de Aceituno is also known for its rich gastronomy and in particular by gourmet dishes such as Malaga kid goat roasted on a coal fire and black pudding with onion.

Its cuisine is based mainly on the natural produce found in the surrounding area, with dishes influenced by its Andalusian origins, such as goat in almond

sauce, fennel stew and cold soups like ajoblanco and gazpacho with muscatel grapes.

'Chacina' - chorizo sausage in migas (fried breadcrumbs) or gachas puercas (pork chorizo and black pudding fried in breadcrumbs, almonds and sugarcane honey) are also typical here.

For those with a sweet tooth the 'roscos tontos' biscuits and 'tortas de aceite'; small cakes made with local olive oil, which are traditionally accompanied by local muscatel wine.

Some of Canillas de Aceituno's most popular eateries where the local delicacies can be sampled are El Bodegón de Juan María, La Sociedad, Nébulas and El Picota Andaluz.

## Kid goat and black pudding

One of the characteristics that make the Canillas kid goat dish unique is the way it is prepared; it is slow-cooked in an olive wood-fired oven for more than three hours, resulting in tender meat and roasted skin.

However, it can be prepared in all manner of ways and it is also used in more modern and fusion cuisine. Restaurant La Sociedad in Canillas de Aceituno is said to be one of the best places to try the dish.

Black pudding with onion is the other famous dish from Canil-



Young goat slowly roasted over hot coals is a speciality of the village. **SUR**



Black pudding with onion. **SUR**

las de Aceituno, with the traditional recipe having been handed down from generation to generation.

It is so important to the residents of the Axarquía village that it even has its own special day on the last Sunday in April. However, this local pork-based dish can be enjoyed all year round, either on its own or in scrambled eggs, stuffed with meat or vegetables such as piquillo peppers, in couscous or in Spanish omelette... the list goes on.

## Website

Canillas de Aceituno town hall has recently launched the website [www.gastronomiadecanillas.es](http://www.gastronomiadecanillas.es), which contains information about the dishes, where to eat them and videos with recipes by well-known Malaga chefs.

Dani Carnero from Kaleja; Álvaro Saura, from Liceo Playa;

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**Canillas de Aceituno's eateries where the dishes can be sampled are El Bodegón de Juan María, La Sociedad, La Nebula and El Picota Andaluz**

**The village's cuisine is mainly based on the natural produce that can be found in the surrounding area**

Matteo Manzato, from Venetiis; and Camilo Rojas, from Los Patios de Beatas have all collaborated by uploading video recipes and an interactive recipe book that can be downloaded from the website.

The idea behind the website is to attract a target audience of men and women aged between 30 and 65 who have an active lifestyle, use the internet regularly and are looking for gastronomic experiences to enjoy with family and friends.

## Behind the scenes

ANDREW J. LINN



**D**espite the success of Prosecco on an international scale, Spain has never succeeded in promoting Cava effectively.

Is this yet another case of the Italians beating the Spanish because of their superior marketing techniques, or is cava just not so interesting? Raventós was the first cava in 1972, produced after the Catalan winemakers had travelled to Champagne to learn how it was made, although cava was not given protected status until 1986.

In many specialist quarters champagne is associated with sherry. Both consist of the greatest wine products the world has ever known, and in both the soil on which the vines grow is an overriding factor in the final quality.

In Jerez, each vineyard has been separately identified since the beginning of production many centuries ago.

So, what would happen if the two regions merged some practices to make a different class of

wine?

Bodegas Vinificate is experimenting with a sparkling red wine from the Tintilla grape ('Rota tent' as it was known in England), although their sparkling rosado sounds somewhat more attractive.

Primitivo Collantes, in Chiclana de la Frontera, is also trying out Georgian winemaking styles, allowing the must to ferment without removing the stalks and grape skins.

Although an excursion to Lebrija is always worth the detour, if only to eat the wild duck paella (arroz de pato), local winemakers are investigating new varieties, that is to say from palomino grape styles, while the final product does not go through a

**In Jerez, each vineyard has been separately identified for centuries**

solera system as sherry does.

[Solera is a process for ageing liquids such as wine, beer, vinegar and brandy, by fractional blending of liquids of different ages, with the average age gradually increasing as the process continues over many years]

### WINE OF THE WEEK

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Numerous Malaga fans turned out to support their team for the friendly matches last Saturday at the Marbella Football Center. JOSELE

## Malaga CF: 14,000 season ticket holders so far

The arrival of new signings has refreshed interest with over 1,000 more tickets sold than last year so far

ANTONIO GÓNGORA / BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. How many season ticket holders will Malaga CF have next season? The final figure is still not known but the recent rush of new signings, with Rubén Castro as the main attraction, has relaunched the campaign. The new arrivals have reignited the

Blue and White spirit and enthusiasm among fans, despite the poor results from the recent pre-season games. With new faces making up more than half the squad, many supporters are putting the losses down to the players still finding their feet as a team.

By the beginning of this week the club had sold more than 14,000 season tickets, a thousand more than last season with still a few weeks to go before the start of the season.

Optimism is contagious and while Malaga don't go into the season as favourites in Spain's second division, players have already been putting promotion

among their objectives.

According to the most recent figures there is still a significant number of supporters who have signed up for the Fieles Malaguistas campaign who still have not purchased season tickets. August is also expected to spark a new surge in sales as the first match (away to Burgos on

**The club is still seeking to complete its squad with a new winger, with former Birmingham City player Jérémie Bela, top of the shopping list**

14 August) approaches. To attend all the home games fans have until 22 August (the clash against Las Palmas at the Rosaleda stadium) to buy their season tickets. The official period for buying season tickets is likely to stay open for a time after this date, however.

### Still looking

Meanwhile the club management continue their construction of the new squad. Their priority this week has been to find a winger, preferably over the next few days to allow time to be ready for the start of the season. A favourite has been the French-born Jérémie Bela,

whose contract has just ended with Birmingham City. By Wednesday this week the Blue and Whites had made an offer, although they admitted the situation was difficult as the player has several proposals on the table, and other possibilities are being considered.

The departure of French player Peybernes was confirmed this week after the termination of his two-year contract was agreed after just one season.

It was no secret that Malaga's head coach Pablo Guede did not want the player in his squad this season and he did not bring him on the pitch in any of the recent preseason friendlies.

## Blue and Whites fail their first tough test this pre-season, losing to Cadiz

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MARBELLA. The Blue and Whites have not fared well so far in the pre-season friendlies. They failed their most demanding test on Saturday evening against first division side Cadiz at the Marbella Football Center. Cadiz beat them 2-0 thanks to goals by Luis Hernández and Lozano in a game in which Malaga was not without opportunities to score.

That was the fifth friendly of this pre-season, although three were

**0-2**  
MALAGA-CADIZ

training matches at their camp in Estepona. They beat their own second team (7-0), lost to Hull City (1-3), beat Vélez (6-0) and lost to Linense and Cádiz (0-1 and 0-2).

Malaga still have to take on Almería, Xerez, Al-Nasr and Granada and have not ruled out add-

ing more friendlies to their agenda.

The Malaga-Almería game is today, Friday 29 July, at 7pm at the Montecastillo ground in Jerez.

The Blue and Whites then face Xerez Deportivo on Saturday at 8.30pm in the Chapín municipal stadium.

Friday 5 August sees the game against Dubai side Al-Nasr at 7pm at the Marbella Football Center.

And the Granada-Málaga game will be on Saturday 6 August in the Cármenes stadium in Granada.



Action during the Malaga-Cadiz game in Marbella on Saturday. JOSELE



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, ESPN

# Women's football - what comes next?

Despite the growing interest in football for women and the promotion of the newfound stars, the organisation at the grassroots is still poor



**S**trolling along the boardwalk close to La Cala, our eyes were drawn to an intense game of beach football just at the right moment. One of the barefooted young players flipped the ball up and volleyed it into the top corner. Bravo!

What was noticeable was that the scorer was the only female player in the knockabout.

Could it be that this was a legacy of the incredibly well-marketed European Championships that are currently taking place? Could it be that the player was inspired by watching some of the best female players on the planet receive television exposure? Or could it be that it's just a talented lass enjoying a kickabout on her holidays? I'm voting for the last suggestion.

Millions of euros and pounds

have been invested into the professional game for women. At the very top end, it is paying dividends. Television executives and advertising gurus are fighting to sign up the new poster stars. The top players now have a high-earning capacity and young girls have role models to aspire to.

Barcelona's women's side played in front of 91,553 and 91,648 for the Champions League quarter and semi-finals last season. It's impossible to get a ticket for the Euro Final at Wembley. The women's game has never been more in vogue in Europe.

So this is a pivotal time. What is the legacy? What comes next?

Undoubtedly the stars of the Euros will be in demand for advertising and marketing. Spain only made it to the quarter fi-



A moment during the England-Sweden Euro semi-final on Tuesday. AFP

nals but were encumbered by the loss of Alexia Putellas who is widely regarded as the best player in the world right now.

The danger is that the money which will flow into women's football will only be splashed on

the top-end of the game and won't trickle down to the grassroots.

I say above that the women's game has never been more in vogue in Europe. Over in the USA, they have the model to fol-

low. I first started coaching girls' soccer in the 1980s when the canvas was blank. At our summer camps, we had as many girls as boys - and I found them to be more enthusiastic with greater staying power.

The brilliantly organised approach brought the first World Cup success in 1991 and Olympic Gold in 1996. Now, the USA are four-times World Champions, have won four Olympics and nine Gold Cups.

In contrast, I tried to bring an American Under-14's team to Europe a few years ago and really struggled to find any organised opposition. I contacted the big clubs; I tried my pal who was one of the first captains of the England Women's team. I remembered how Carol Thomas joined my Hull City's youth squad for training as there were no local teams.

Despite the growing interest in football for women and the promotion of the newfound stars, the organisation at the grassroots was still poor and hasn't improved noticeably.

So let's invest some of the millions in getting girls playing, so that the flick and volley on the beaches of the Costa del Sol become the norm rather than the exception.



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# 'I compete better when the pressure's off; I know how far I can go and my limitations'

**María de Valdés** Triple Spanish swimming champion

The Fuengirola swimmer has chalked up three national titles and is now training for the European competition before taking a break

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. María de Valdés, 23, has achieved what she wanted. The Fuengirola swimmer had not been aiming for these results when she started the year; she just wanted to be able to smile again after the disappointment of just missing out on the Tokyo Olympics. But thanks to her hard work she has chalked up a historic season: Spanish champion in 5 and 10 kilometres open water; 5th and 10th places in the World Championships; and now, in the Spanish Championships, a triple victory in 400, 800 and 1,500 metres freestyle in the pool.

**-Did you expect this triple win when you went to the championships? It's true that you were the favourite, but this success is a first.**

-I didn't expect it, no. It's the only championship in which I've got three golds, so I can't complain (laughs).

**-Do you remember your first national medal?**

-I don't remember how many I have in open water and pool, but the first one in the pool was 400 metres freestyle.

**-Who do you dedicate your wins to?**

-To my whole family, because I go for a long time without seeing them and this is theirs too, so they can see how all they're doing for me is bearing fruit. Also to my coach, Jesús de la Fuente.

**-It is true that these Nationals have been marked by several absences**



De Valdés was crowned Spanish champion in 400, 800 and 1,500 metres freestyle last weekend. SUR

**or swimmers in poor form. After the Games, some swimmers, such as Paula Ruiz and Jimena Blanco, have treated this year as one of recovery rather than competition. It that so?**

-Yes, but Paula Otero was there.

**-As well as the positions, you have also achieved good times. There are races in which you beat your closest rival by ten seconds...**

-Yes, the truth is that I hadn't expected to get such good times. I'm especially happy with the 400 metres; I was never that comfortable with that distance.

**-Do you feel that this year you are turning a page?**

-Yes, that was the idea. It could have turned out well, or not, but luckily things are going well. I had also

seen the year as a transition, but I've made the most of it to prepare for the next Games.

**-So next year you start the dizzying Olympic qualification period again?**

-Yes, the first three open water places are awarded in the World Championships in Fukuoka, and then the first 13 qualify in the 2024 Championships. But I want to take it one season at a time.

**-I hear you've been coughing a lot; you were allergic to chlorine if I remember rightly.**

-Yes, and last weekend there was a lot of chlorine.

**-Does that affect your competition?**

-Yes, but it's being treated with pills, and I think it's working well when

HOPES

**"This has been a good year and I've made the most of it to get up to speed to try for the Games"**

HELP

**"Grants and prize money motivate you to keep working towards your goals"**

I compete; but when there's a lot of chlorine I move away from the pool as soon as I can.

**-This is an intense year, and you've still got a big test left: the European open waters competition...**

-Yes, now I'm going to the Sierra Nevada to train, and I hope to end the season well. That has become my second home; I like how I train there and how I develop physically and it makes me tougher psychologically in the water.

**-Do you aim to beat your own best times in the Europeans?**

-I just aim to to the best I can, without putting on the pressure. I'll try to be up with the best.

**-Looking from outside, it seems that you perform much better when the pressure's off, like in the year after the Olympics.**

-Definitely, without the pressure I compete better. I know how far I can go and my limitations; I don't need anyone to tell me what I have to do.

**-I imagine there's a lot of psychological work in this maturing period, especially with the hard time you had when you just missed out on Tokyo...**

-Yes, my psychologist is helping a lot; she's part of my team: coach, psychologist, physiotherapist... She helps me look at situations differently.

**-After as well as working with all these professionals, you train every day and also study. Do you find it hard to juggle your everyday commitments?**

-Now I'm studying Primary Education but next year I want to change to Psychology and focus on sport. It's difficult to adapt training and studies, but you can always find a gap; at weekends I get ahead.

**-The world is conscious of the financial difficulties within minority sports such as swimming. How do you get by?**

-I have grants from the Concello de Coruña, the Xunta de Galicia and the Club Liceo as well as one from the Spanish Olympic Committee. I also have a university grant from the UCAM. And for finishing fifth in the world, the International Federation gives you a cash prize. All these things help motivate you to keep working towards your goals.

## Golf marathon challenge raises thousands for charities

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Former golf professional and European Tour player David Steele has smashed his fundraising goal of 10,000 euros at his golf marathon challenge, held earlier this month in San Roque.

The funds, expected to double his target, are to be shared

between Cancer Research and Centro Contigo in La Línea, a charity for disadvantaged children and their families.

Known as Golf Marathon Man for his previous marathon challenges, David played six rounds of marathon speed golf at the San Roque Club. Participating teams aimed to take less than two and a half hours per round.

The team with the quickest round (1 hour, 19 minutes) consisted of David Steele, Phil Fisher, Norman Savitz and Sandy Casofsky. The team with the best score of 18 under par were David Steele, David Tyler, Jorg Kuhnert and Jeremy Sibbons.

The speedy golf event was followed by a Champagne Texas Scramble as well as a Pro-Am Competition where three ama-

**The team playing the fastest round of golf finished in just one hour, 19 minutes**

teur players played with a professional.

Proceedings were rounded off with a cocktail party where presentations were made and an auction took place of items generously donated by supporters of the Marathon Challenge.

Representatives of the Centro Contigo Charity in La Línea were in attendance with crafts made by some of the children at the centre as gifts to say thank you for those who took part.

"I'm thrilled with the results of this fundraising tournament and it is astonishing how well everybody who took part did considering this speed marathon format challenge hasn't been attempted before," said David.

## Two butterfly children golf events planned

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Debra, the Marbella-based charity helping children with "butterfly skin" disease and their families, is holding two golf tournaments and galas later this summer.

The first event will take place on 10 August at the Marbella Club Resort and the second, on 17 September, at Aloha Golf Club. For reservations contact eventos@debra.es or call 674 11 19 52.

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**SUR**  
**in English**

**THE STARS**

**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Unexpected events could lead to a change of tack. You might get what you want, but you'll need to wade through a mountain of red tape first.

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Don't make more work for yourself. You'll do better to set your priorities first. Something you hadn't counted on could show up and disrupt your plans.

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
It's easy to stay upbeat when things are going well, but it takes a person with character to keep cool when dealing with disruptions or frustrating delays.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Even if you have good reason to believe that an argument is not your fault, it pays to reach out and make the peace. You never know if you might need someone's help in the future.

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Avoid acting on impulse, but don't give up on a situation either. Between the two options there is another way that might require patience, but could lead you to a happy solution.

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Whether there are romantic feelings involved or you're eager to work together on a project, you may be thrilled that someone has approached you and is keen to chat.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Don't take what others say too seriously. This applies to offers made in haste that could be withdrawn, or to critical comments that are equally vapid.

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
The restless Mars/Uranus link could find you booking a quick getaway that might lead to new discoveries and adventures.

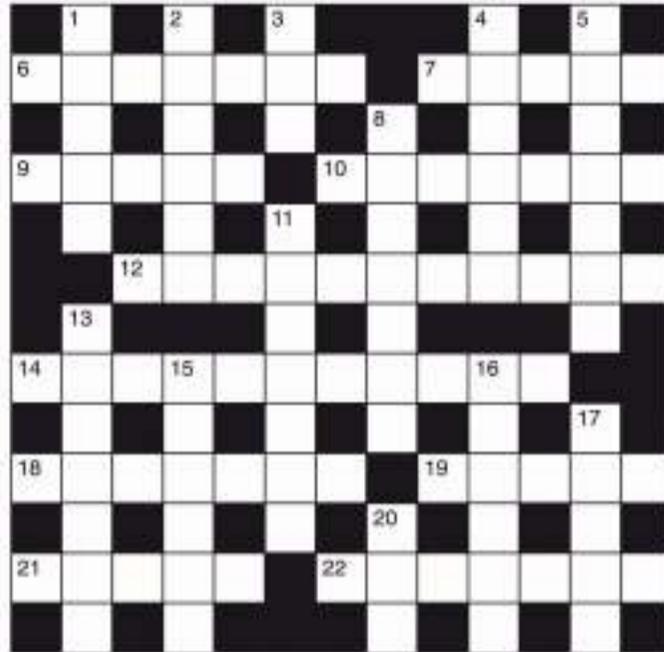
**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Avoid making snap decisions, as you can't see the whole picture yet and might regret being so quick off the mark. Things may become clearer as the week progresses.

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
You could overreact, just because a loved one doesn't respond to you the way you think they should. If you take this the wrong way it might lead to a disconnect, Scorpio.

**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
It's best not to take a short cut to where you want to go. While others may be ready to do so, you have too much at stake to ruin your reputation by doing a less than sterling job.

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
This week begins with a chance to make a creative splash. If something happens out of the blue that you're really excited about, run with it.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11525**



**Across**

- 6 An individual looked at description of Polyphemus (3-4)
- 7 & 19Ac Early scare ruins track events (5,5)
- 9 Employ somebody to commit an assault (3,2)
- 10 A bitter concoction goes to the priest's head (7)
- 12 Household pests - they're likely to contain poison! (11)
- 14 Ecclesiastical measures for cemeteries (11)
- 18 Professional payment - dispatch mine back inside (7)
- 19 See 7 Across
- 21 Put a hole in a piece of wood, we hear (5)
- 22 The star in variety to go to pieces (7)

**Down**

- 1, 20Dn & 3Dn Where he'd use a net tangled round the top of the rock (5,3,3)
- 2 Take on the character of Touchstone and dupe somebody (6)
- 3 See 1 Down
- 4 About currency of no great age (6)
- 5 They once provided light cloaks (7)
- 8 Giving two different sightings (7)
- 11 Change the name of poisonous gas (7)
- 13 Now that could be a piece of furniture (7)
- 15 Caused a tear (6)
- 16 Outlines an indoor game, one hears (6)
- 17 In the storms everybody is cut off (5)
- 20 See 1 Down

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

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

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

**THE WORDPUZZLER**

A	L	I	F	O	N	C	L	A	P
N	A	F	U	C	A	I	A	L	L
P	U	L	N	U	P	A	I	U	A
P	L	A	N	U	P	A	F	L	I
C	U	P	I	A	L	P	A	I	N
I	P	U	L	L	I	N	I	N	P
P	I	F	U	N	C	A	L	F	I
L	U	N	P	A	U	P	I	A	F
A	C	L	I	F	F	I	N	N	A
P	A	N	N	I	F	A	U	N	A

Can you identify the words that may be made from the letters of F.A. CUPFINAL from the clues listed below?

- 1. Be unsuccessful
- 2. Sleeve part
- 3. Unattractive
- 4. Flower
- 5. Animal life
- 6. Scheme
- 7. Young cow
- 8. Applaud
- 9. Ache
- 10. Steep rock face

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



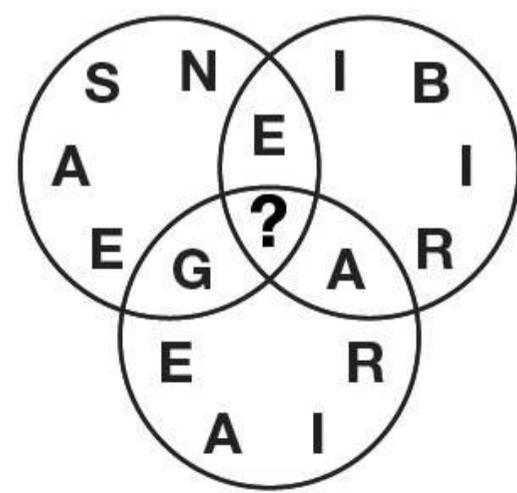
**BATTLESHIPS**

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

- Battleship
- Cruiser
- Destroyers
- Submarines

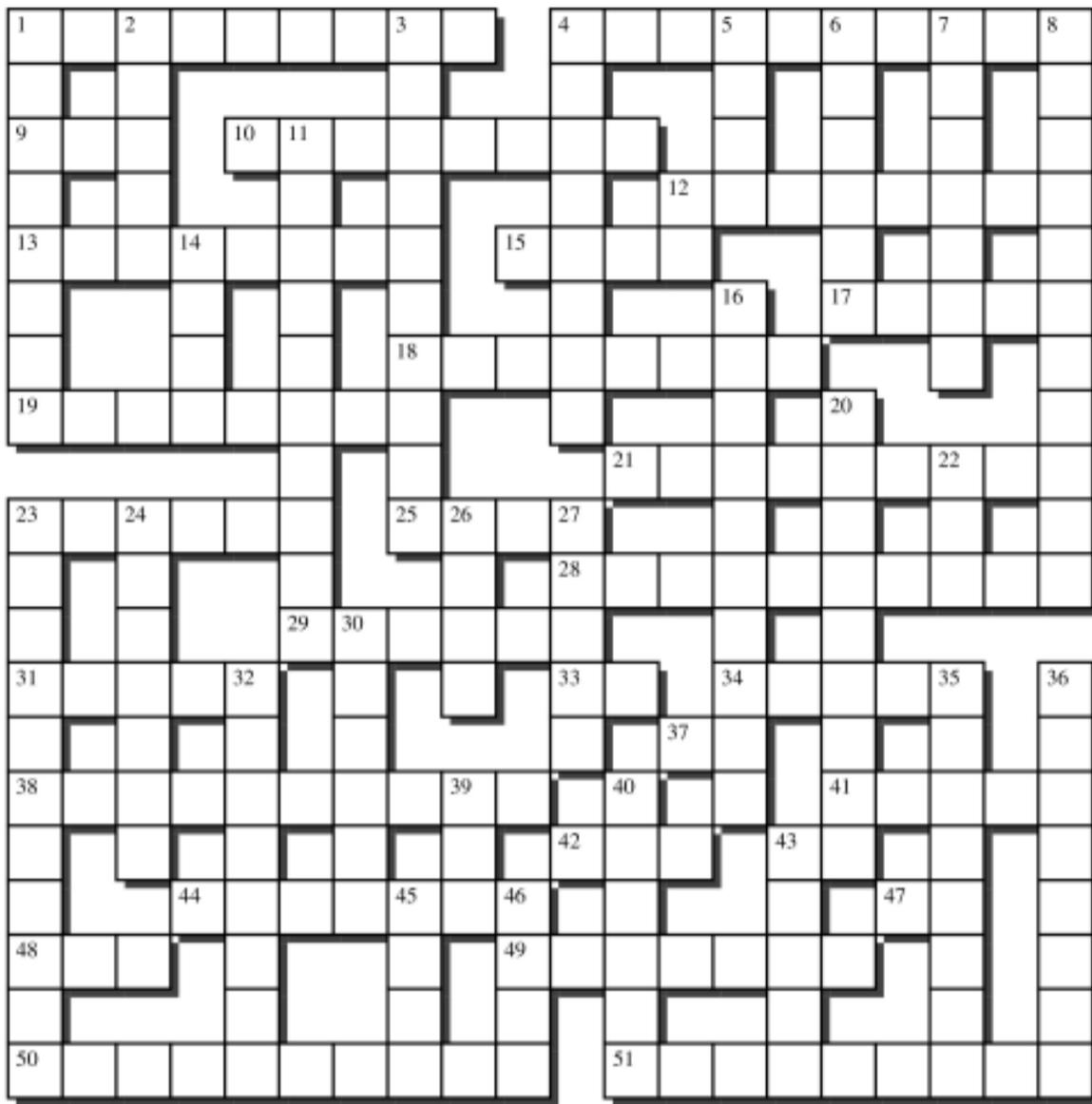
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A	■										2
B									■		3
C											1
D									●		3
E											3
F											1
G		■									1
H					●						3
I											1
J											2
	2	3	1	4	1	1	1	4	2	1	

**CIRCLEGRAM**



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



Across

- 1) Parish (9)
- 4) Disease (10)
- 9) He hears (3)
- 10) Building (8)
- 12) Spirit (8)
- 13) Yellow (f) (8)
- 15) Loyal (4)
- 17) He opposes (5)
- 18) Relic (8)
- 19) Imprisoned (m) (8)
- 21) Neurologist (f) (9)
- 23) Dukes (6)
- 25) Work (4)
- 28) Cemetery (10)
- 29) Tailor (6)
- 31) Countryside (5)
- 33) D (musical note) (2)
- 34) Tiger (5)
- 37) He sees (2)
- 38) Increase (10)
- 41) Author (m) (5)
- 42) A thousand (3)
- 43) To go (2)
- 44) Measures (7)
- 47) Faith (2)
- 48) I'll go (3)
- 49) Builder (7)
- 50) Nature (10)
- 51) Nurse (m) (9)

Down

- 1) To spread (8)
- 2) Wheel (5)
- 3) Infrared (10)
- 4) Epidemic (8)
- 5) Echoes (4)
- 6) Doctor (m) (6)
- 7) Offences (7)
- 8) Documented (m) (11)
- 11) Delicious (m.pl) (10)
- 12) He (2)
- 14) Royal (4)
- 16) Following (pl) (10)
- 20) To infect (9)
- 22) To hear (3)
- 23) Description (11)
- 24) Chemist (m) (7)
- 26) Dressing gown (4)
- 27) Pavement (5)
- 30) I dared (6)
- 32) To obey (8)
- 35) She understands (8)
- 36) Surgeon (m) (8)
- 39) Aunt (3)
- 40) Fever (6)
- 43) I imitated (5)
- 45) Twelve (4)
- 46) Healthy (f) (4)

QUIZ

Where does the word barbecue originate from?

- 1. South America 2. North America 3. Carribean 4. Asia



Which country is said to have invented the mojito

- 1. Cuba 2. Venezuela 3. Mexico 4. Puerto Rica

How much water is in a watermelon?

- 1. 62% 2. 72% 3. 82% 4. 92%

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

Looking forward to a big party

After the unbearable heat of the recent heatwave it is a relief to return to more normal summer temperatures and cool breezes on the Costa del Sol. We are now nearly halfway through the summer and the way time flies, it won't be long before the autumn and more changeable weather is here. After more than two years of pandemic, Malaga's long-awaited feria is planned to return in all its glory from 13 to 20 August with events happening in the city centre during the day and in the fairground at night. Let's hope the storms that usually arrive around this time of year keep to other parts of the country so that Malaga can finally let its hair down and enjoy the biggest party of the year.

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

(1.8 ml) of water.  
serving contains over a half cup  
can eat. A 1-cup (154-gram)  
of the most hydrating foods you

**Of interest:** Watermelon is one  
**Answer:** 92%

of scurvy.  
cure Sir Francis Drake's sailors  
have been invented in Cuba to  
disease, the mojito is said to  
be a medicinal drink to curb

**Of interest:** Originally said to  
**Answer:** Cuba.

Indies in 1526.  
explorer's account of the West  
word first appeared in a Spanish  
raised grate is barbacoa. The  
Their word for grilling on a

Indian tribe called the Taino.  
comes from the Caribbean  
**Of interest:** The word barbecue

**Answer:** Caribbean

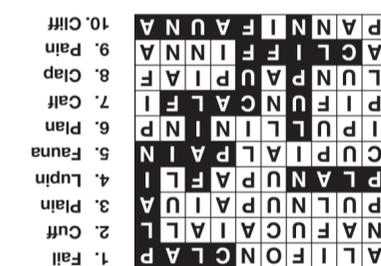
Circlegam

The letter represented by the  
question mark is L. Senegal,  
Liberia, Algeria, all African  
countries.

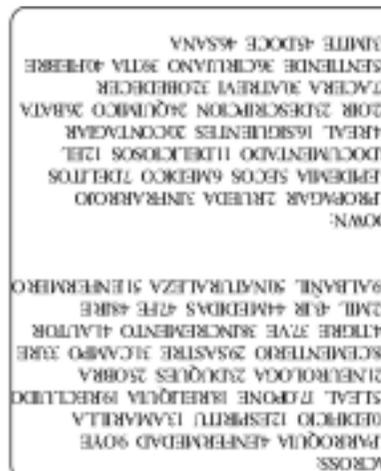
Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 6 One-eyed; 7 Relay; 9 Sat on; 10 Breathe; 12 Blueberries; 14 Churches; 18 Spend; 19 Faces; 21 Bored; 22 Shatter; Down: 1 Under; 2 Befool; 3 Sea; 4 Recent; 5 Marries; 8 Bilocat; 11 Methane; 13 Whatnot; 15 Ripped; 16 Drafts; 17 Sever; 20 The.

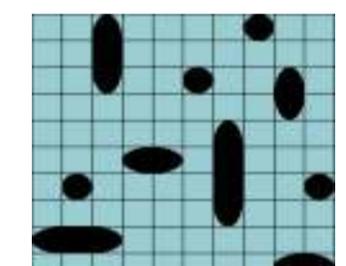
Wordpuzler solution



Language Crossword



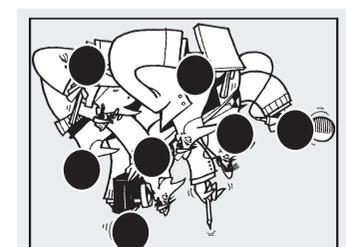
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



**S**alvador Pérez, 63, a resident of Alhaurín el Grande, has been praised by Infoca firefighters for his assistance in the recent fire in the Sierra de Mijas.

When the fire broke out two weeks ago in the El Higuerón area of Mijas, it quickly spread to the municipality of Alhaurín de la Torre and it was clear to outdoor fanatic Salvador that he was not going to stay at home.

“Nobody was going to convince me not to help because I knew I could,” he said.

This resident of Alhaurín el Grande knows his town's Sierra like the back of his hand. For the last decade, there is not a day that goes by that he has not trained in the mountains. As a result, the runner has explored and discovered all of its nooks and crannies, paths and shortcuts.

Hundreds of locals went to the firefighters' operational command post, next to the sports pavilion, to offer themselves as volunteers. But Salvador was told that it was impossible for him to accompany the firefighters no matter how well-intentioned he was, because of the dangers.

#### Unguarded access

However, on the Saturday, he put on his hiking boots, dressed in cotton clothes and left the house in search of an unguarded access to go into the mountain, towards one of the fires. There he found the firefighters.

Salvador's experience on the ground and expertise was of great help to the Infoca firefighters, who even thanked him publicly on its Twitter account: “63



Salvador, in the centre of the image, together with several Infoca workers . SUR

## Local runner guides firefighters to the Alhaurín blaze

**Volunteer.** Salvador Pérez, 63, trains in the Sierra de Mijas every day and knows all of its nooks and crannies, paths and shortcuts

IRENE QUIRANTE



▲ For more than a decade, Salvador has dedicated himself to sport and has organised races for charity

years old, excellent person and mountain runner. Our applause and recognition”. He has also been affectionately nicknamed ‘senderito’.

The resident of Alhaurín accompanied the Infoca firefighters and helped them to move through the most complicated sections of the mountain.

He also guided them to find water at a time when they had run out.

#### Retreat

“At one point we had to retreat because there was a very powerful fire and, if it wasn't for the fact that I know the Sierra so well, I don't know how they would have got out of there; I took them along paths that are not visible due to the vegetation and got them out through a gap in a fence that I knew,” Salvador told SUR.

Salvador, a native of Fuengirola, has lived in Alhaurín el Grande for 40 years and says it is impossible to explain “the enormous impotence” he felt when he saw what he considers to be his mountain range, in flames.

“It's incredible how quickly everything caught fire,” he said.

The man's sorrow is shared by the rest of the residents of the town, for whom the mountains are one of the greatest treasures of the area.

“How beautiful it was out there and all you could see were trees...,” added Salvador.

SINCE 1978



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