

# SUR

## in English

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September 30th to October 6th  
2022

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### Breaking taboos

Malaga dancer Rocío Molina takes her new sensual show to the Seville Flamenco Biental **P20-21**

The dancer rehearses at Finca La Aceitera, her refuge in Seville province. **J. M. SERRANO**

### Malaga's Expo bid gets royal support as committee visits city

Delegates from the Bureau International des Expositions were in Malaga on Wednesday to examine details of the city's bid to host Expo 2027. King Felipe and PM Pedro Sánchez expressed their support, although there is stiff international competition. **P6**

### Mortgage agreements on the Costa del Sol increase faster than in the rest of Spain despite Euribor hike **P16**

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## Costa cools after hottest summer on record

The high average temperatures this year have exceeded experts' predictions

Latest figures from the state weather agency Aemet have backed up the feeling that this has been the hottest summer in a long time. The average of the maximum temperatures recorded at Malaga Airport in June,

July and August was 31.8C, the highest since 1943, when official records began. Heatwaves lasting longer and warmer nights have raised the average higher than climate change experts had predicted for this year. **P12-13**

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# New footbridge in Álora signals first stage of the Guadalhorce valley's Green Corridor

## ÁLORA

The Malaga provincial authority's project aims to create the largest river park in Spain, with a total investment of 156 million euros

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



The opening of a new wooden footbridge in Álora has marked the start of an ambitious plan to create the largest river park in Spain.

The walkway is part of the first section of the Diputación provincial authority's 156-million-euro Green Corridor scheme alongside the River Guadalhorce. The park will encompass some four and a half million square metres.

The initiative includes the eight municipalities crossed by the lower stretch of the river (Álora, Ardales, Pizarra, Alhaurín el Grande, Coín, Cártama, Alhaurín de la Torre and Málaga) on a 54-kilometre route, between Los Gaitanes gorge (home to the famous Caminito del Rey) and the mouth of the Guadalhorce just west of Málaga city.

This week authorities attended the official opening of the footbridge that connects the districts of El Puente and Estación in Álora.

With a length of 90 metres, the new structure has replaced the old bridge that was damaged in the floods in 2012, separating the two districts.

The characteristics of the new bridge are similar to the other wooden walkways used on the province's Senda Litoral coastal path, with deep foundations to guarantee their resistance to heavy rain.



The new footbridge over the Guadalhorce river as it passes through Álora. SUR



Image of the old bridge after the river flooded in 2012. SUR

The Diputación has spent 800,000 euros on the Álora project, which will be integrated into stage 2 of the GR-248 Guadalhorce Valley hiking trail, between the town and Pizarra, that forms part of the province's Gran Senda

network of walks.

The total cost of the Guadalhorce Green Corridor project will amount to 156 million euros and be funded at local, provincial and regional levels in addition to receiving aid from European funds.

## GREEN CORRIDOR

**Projects and investment.** The total investment is 156 million euros involving 78 initiatives.

**Municipalities involved.** Álora, Ardales, Pizarra, Alhaurín el Grande, Coín, Cártama, Alhaurín de la Torre and Málaga.

**Objectives.** To permit the environmental improvement of the river and help the revitalisation of the towns.

tributaries and some thirty streams, along with the creation of several large recreation areas.

The project also includes the introduction of new walking trails and the construction of 16 new bridges and footpaths in the steepest areas to favour mobility and accessibility, along with new cultural and tourist facilities.

## Next stages

One of the next stages to begin in the coming months is a trail with three viewpoints in Pizarra.

The Diputación will invest 1.8 million euros in this part of the project, which is expected to be complete within eight months. The route will link the town centre of Pizarra and the district of Vega Hipólito, crossing an area with views over the Guadalhorce valley, the river and the Sierra de las Nieves National Park. Parking spaces will be created and a wooden walkway will be built to cross the Fuensanta stream.

Another section of the project in Coín, with an investment of 347,059 euros, has been put out to tender, while stretches in Alhaurín de la Torre and Cártama, are pending approval from the Junta de Andalucía.

"It is a very ambitious and long-term project," the Diputación's president Francisco Salado said.

## The Diputación has invested 800,000 euros in this first project, after the bridge was destroyed in the 2012 floods

The initiative was developed by the Diputación as a complement to the nearby Caminito del Rey walkway, suspended above its spectacular gorge, which has become one of the province's most popular visitor attractions.

The Guadalhorce project will also allow for environmental improvements to the river and favour the revitalisation of the towns it passes through. The plan has eight lines of action, which include the environmental recovery of the banks of the river, its

# Marbella's ambitious plan for the future gets green light and is forwarded for appraisal

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Councillors from all political parties in Marbella have voted unanimously in favour of a new town plan that outlines the future of the area.

During a special council meeting on Monday it was decided that the new general municipal development plan, the PGOM, would be sent to the regional and national governments who will now

have to issue further reports.

In her presentation, town councillor for planning and housing, María Francisca Caracuel, offered some clues as to what the Marbella of the future will be like.

The PGOM includes several guidelines on how mobility will be planned. It has even set aside land for a future train line.

"Although we live with the difficulty that we have no train, we cannot exclude it from a general

plan," Caracuel said.

"We have sited areas in San Pedro Alcántara, Puerto Banús, another one in Marbella town centre, at the Costa del Sol Hospital, in Elviria and in Calahonda," Caracuel told SUR, referring to the places where future train stations could be located.

The plan also sets out solutions to traffic congestion on the A7, which is particularly bad during the summer. Slip roads and serv-

ice roads are included in the plan to connect residential areas.

"Some of them are the existing ones, such as the one between Puerto Banús and San Pedro, for which a third lane will be created. It is a question of rearranging the junctions with service roads and lanes. It also includes a new link from the AP-7 to the Costa del Sol Hospital, as well as a bridge over the Guadaiza river," the councillor explained.

The PGOM also proposes the creation of 28 new car parks. "The locations are not definitive and may be modified when the detailed planning is done," the councillor pointed out.

In terms of public facilities, the PGOM includes new open and green spaces to meet the needs of the population. Among 29 larger green areas are 16 river parks, as well as an extension to Lago de las Tortugas. There are also 19 community proposals, including sports and education centres.

Caracuel also outlined examples of plans to protect the local environment. These include "an underwater archaeology protection area in Puerto Banús and sites such as Coto Correa in Artola Alta and La Ferrería de La Concepción, an important part of Marbella's industrial past".

# Stringent regulations for Costa del Sol ride-hailing companies come into effect

The Junta will impose a series of conditions to allow Uber, Cabify and Bolt to continue to work, which are aimed at protecting customers and the regular taxi sector

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía has approved new regulations that will enable ride-hailing companies (the vehicles are referred to as VTCs in Spain) such as Uber, Cabify and Bolt to continue operating within towns and cities from Saturday, 1 October. If it had not done so, the vehicles would only have been able to transport passengers between towns and not within the same municipality.

The regulations aim restrict VTCs in order to protect the taxi sector, which sees them as unfair competition. VTC drivers will not be able to pick up passengers from busy areas such as airports, railway stations, bus stations, hotels and shopping centres unless they have been pre-booked and clients will no longer be able to use the geolocation system to see where a vehicle is before booking it.

Surveillance will also be reinforced for compliance with the regulations, which until now was practically limited to the work of regional inspectors. From now on, the onus will also be on the local town halls, because once this decree comes into force they will also have the power to sanction operators.



In future, only pre-booked ride-hailing cars will be allowed at Malaga's main train station. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

Work will be done to limit the prices of the VTC services to prevent them from rocketing at times of high demand such as fairs, concerts or, as happened last weekend, during stoppages by taxi drivers.

Regional minister for development Marifrán Carazo said the regulations will guarantee the balance between taxis and VTCs while "always thinking of the user".

However taxi associations say they are insufficient, and for the VTC sector they are too restrictive. These are the main new regulations:

## Special protection zones

VTCs will not be able to park or longer at points of high passenger demand. Therefore, a minimum parking distance of 300 metres is proposed for airports, sea ports, train and bus stations and

150 metres from hospitals, hotels of at least four stars with more than one hundred beds, law courts or places where events are held.

This geographical limitation does not prevent the customer from requesting a car from Uber, Cabify or Bolt through the app. What the driver cannot do is park within this area with the ride-hailing application open or circulate attempting to pick up passengers.

On the other hand, a VTC with a pre-booked service could move freely through these points to pick up or drop off its customers.

In the case of Malaga, these areas with a high influx of people would include facilities such as the La Rosaleda stadium, the Martín Carpena sports arena or the congress centre, all the large shopping centres and some 25 hotels.

It would also include the four main hospitals and the law courts.

## End to geolocation

VTC drivers' mobile applications must suppress geolocation prior to booking. The aim is to prevent the vehicle from appearing on the app for users, who will no longer be able to request the service when they see that there is a car nearby. A VTC can only work under a pre-booked contract, unlike taxis that can pick up fares on public roads at any time when hailed by a wave of the hand.

## Price limitation

While taxis are subject to the rates set by each town hall for urban routes, and those established by the Junta de Andalucía for journeys between municipalities,

VTCs' prices are dynamic, starting from a base price that can be multiplied by up to three at times of peak demand, such as fairs, Easter week or weekend nights. The new regulations will include measures to control this.

## Driver training

VTC drivers must pass an aptitude test similar to the one required by municipalities for taxi drivers. In addition, a validity period will be given for the training certificate.

## Police checks

The Junta de Andalucía, until now the body responsible for inspections, will share sanctioning power with municipalities, so that Local Police will be obliged to monitor and control the activity of the VTCs and impose fines on those who fail to comply with the rules.

## Compensation

Intermediary platforms (Uber, Cabify or Bolt) linking VTCs and customers will be required to have indemnity and liability insurance to compensate the traveller for damages or cancellations they may suffer.

## Technical specifications

The cars may not be more than ten years old and must be black to be differentiated from taxis. In addition, VTCs will be required to have a minimum length based on their environmental classification.

## Adapted vehicles

The Junta de Andalucía wants operating fleets of more than one hundred to have at least 5% of vehicles adapted for people with reduced mobility. It is yet to set a deadline to achieve this objective.

## Mandatory breaks

Just as municipalities regulate taxi driver breaks, the regional government decree also allows local authorities to do the same with VTC drivers.

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# Man confesses to killing his 'missing' partner and leads police to body in Malaga

Débora Morais Dos Santos, 39, was found buried under concrete at a warehouse on an industrial estate in the city

JUAN CANO

MALAGA. On 28 March this year a 39-year-old Brazilian woman, Débora Morais Dos Santos, went missing in Malaga, leaving behind her partner and two children aged 17 and five. Her partner said she had walked out, and everybody believed him: her family, associations of missing

persons... but not the officers from the National Police homicide squad, who continued to investigate her disappearance and had their suspicions about the man with whom she had been living.

## Questioned

Last Friday, after questioning him again for five hours, he finally confessed: Débora was dead. And he took the detectives to the place where he had buried her body, a warehouse on La Estrella industrial estate in Malaga city. He said he had dug a hole, placed her inside and



Débora

then covered the site with concrete.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, investigators found her. She had been placed in rubbish sacks and wrapped in blankets; this probably helped to preserve her body, because it had not deteriorated as much as would be expected after six months.

Débora's bag and all her documentation were with her. It was the fact that they could not be found when she disappeared that her partner used to support his argument that she had left the country, and had

probably gone back to her home country of Brazil.

The police believe she had been killed and her body hidden between 28 and 29 March, but it was not until May that the SOS Desaparecidos missing persons organisation published a poster with her photo and physical description.

## Hotline

The SOS Desaparecidos missing persons association can be contacted 24 hours a day to report that someone has gone missing on 645 075293 and their email contact is sosdesaparecidos@gmail.com.

## Local officers get microchip readers to help identify lost, abandoned and injured pets

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. As one of the initiatives to help make Fuengirola a top, pet-friendly destination, the town hall has signed a new agreement with Colegio de Veterinarios de Málaga that will provide the Local Police with microchip readers to facilitate the identity of lost, abandoned and injured pets.

The agreement was signed by the town's mayor, Ana Mula, and the president of the veterinary college, Juan Antonio de Luque.

Along with the introduction of the microchip devices, the new contract includes the updating and management of the animal census, a register that was created in 1996.

The town currently has more than 12,500 dogs and 3,500 cats registered on the census, which the mayor declared shows that "Fuengirola is a pioneer in the implementation of initiatives to integrate pets into daily life".

"Fuengirola is an ideal destination to visit with pets because it is a town that loves animals," Mula said. The Costa del Sol town was one of the first municipalities in Malaga to create dog parks and beaches.

Other initiatives included in the new agreement are the creation of a census of potentially dangerous dogs, which, Mula pointed out, was, along with the microchip, "an obligation by law".



Yaiza, Ana, Estefanía and Marina, were taking part in an environmental project in the region. SUR

## University students survive Galapagos Islands boat accident which killed four

The Malaga uni girls were among the 37 people on board a boat, licensed to carry 25 passengers, which suffered engine problems and sank

J. CANO / A. ORTÍN

MALAGA. Four students at Malaga university were among the survivors of an accident in the Galapagos Islands when the boat on which they were travelling sank with 37 people on board on Sunday. The Angy, which operates be-

tween the two biggest islands in the archipelago, Isabela and Puerto Ayora, is supposed to carry a maximum of 25 passengers. Four people died in the accident and two are missing.

After their ordeal, the postgraduate students - Estefanía (26), Yaiza (23), Marina (23) and Ana (22) - explained what had happened. "The boat was supposed to leave at 2.30pm but it didn't set off until 4pm because there was a fault in one of the engines," said Estefanía. "In the end they decided to leave even though they didn't really know whether the problem had

been solved or not. The crew didn't tell us much."

"Then we ran out of petrol. We had to wait about 45 minutes for another boat to come and supply us with some. We set off again for 20 or 30 minutes, and it was completely dark by then and very cloudy," Estefanía added. "Then Ana suddenly said 'we're sinking!'. We were on the top and we climbed down as best we could to the bow, which was the only part above water," she said.

The boat which had supplied the Angy with fuel headed back to help, and the girls jumped into the sea and swam to it. With two of the crew, Estefanía began to rescue others.

Nobody who had been on board the Angy was wearing a life jacket. The girls said they had asked for some but were told they were drying out in the port. The authorities are carrying out an investigation.

## Four earthquakes felt in the province since Monday morning

EUROPA PRESS

MALAGA. People in Malaga and on the Costa del Sol have felt the earth move after four earthquakes in Andalucía this week.

Spain's National Geographic Institute registered the first seismic movement, of a magnitude 4.1, at 3.48am on Monday with its epicentre in Malaga and at a depth of 69 kilometres. The quake was also felt in Fuengirola, Mijas, Rincón de la Victoria and Casabermeja. It was followed by a second tremor of 3.9, at a depth of 71 kilometres, at 10.30pm on Monday evening and that was centred in Benalmádena.

The third seismic movement, at 7.52am on Wednesday morning had a magnitude of 2.8 with its epicentre in Alhaurín el Grande. It was at a depth of 48 kilometres. Thursday's magnitude 3.9 earthquake had its epicentre in Salar (Granada), but it was widely felt in Malaga province.

Andalucía's 112 emergency services control centre did not report any cases of damage.

## Twelve arrested after South American-style cocaine lab raid

E.P.

MALAGA. Twelve people have been arrested as part of a National Police operation which has uncovered the first cocaine-producing laboratory in Spain. It was similar to those in South America and had the capacity to produce 120 kilos of the drug a week.

'Operation Silicon', which began in May, included searches of properties in Malaga, Córdoba and Madrid. The leader of the group, who is Spanish and has been living a luxury lifestyle in Malaga province, is said to have used third parties to control the import of the drug in sacks of cement. It was then used at a clandestine laboratory in Madrid. Investigators learned that the gang had originally rented a house in Coin and intended to turn that into the laboratory, but then decided on an alternative location in the Madrid region instead.

When officers raided the lab, they found five 'cooks' at work. They seized products needed to produce the cocaine, six vehicles and 36,000 euros in cash.

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Other Carrefour packaged charcuterie goods at unbeatable prices include cut semi-cured Iberian cheese for 3.50€; extra cooked or smoked ham in slices for 2.79€; and sliced Carrefour El Mercado reserva serrano ham for 2.99€, among others.

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# King Felipe: 'The whole of Spain is behind Malaga's bold bid to host Expo 2027'

The city is facing stiff competition to hold the international showcase from contenders in Thailand, Argentina, Serbia and the USA

JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. Delegates from the Bureau International des Expositions in Paris, organisers of Expo 2027, visited Malaga on Wednesday to examine details of the city's bid to host the prestigious event. The

council's own figures suggest that the international showcase could attract three million visitors to the Costa del Sol during the 93 days of the exhibition, if the bid is successful.

The city's feasibility plan has revealed that the celebration of the Expo under the slogan The Urban Era: Towards the Sustainable City from 5 June to 5 September, 2027, would cost a total of 859 million euros, including expenses and the necessary investment to build the planned site on land at Buenavista, on the outskirts of the



The Malaga mayor introduces Alain Berger to the Andalusian president. SUR

city. Some 602 million euros have been set aside for the construction of the site and 256m for operating expenses, including personnel. The project would be subsidised by contributions from central government, the Junta, city council and provincial authority. The study also indicated that the Expo could generate 321 million euros of revenue, of which 136 million would be from ticket sales.

Earlier in the week the city's application to stage the event received a major boost when Spain's King Felipe publicly announced his support, saying that "the whole of Spain is with Malaga". Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez also backed the bid. However, it won't be until next June before the city knows if it has beaten other contenders from Thailand, Argentina, Serbia and the USA.



Around 200,000 people converged on Torremolinos to celebrate the pilgrimage in honour of San Miguel. T.B.

## Colourful traditions return for colourful romería in Torremolinos last weekend

Around 200,000 people enjoyed the traditional pilgrimage, which the authorities announced had gone without "serious incident"

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. An estimated 200,000 people flocked to the streets of Torremolinos last weekend to welcome the return of the romería, the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of the archangel San Miguel, the town's patron.

This was the first time the colourful cavalcade has been held

since 2019, a celebration that signalled the beginning of the town's fair, which kicked off on Wednesday and continues until Sunday 2 October.

The pilgrimage began with a mass in honour of San Miguel, after which, the procession of brightly decorated caravans and floats pulled by oxen and tractors began its journey through the streets of the town and on to El Pinar pine forest. As is customary, the procession was followed by thousands of people dressed in typical "rociero" attire who danced and sang in the streets.

Around 10,000 people gathered at the shrine to enjoy an af-

ternoon of live music supplied by the singer Carlos Bravo, and Ecos de Roció, a group from Cadiz famed for their personal style of traditional 'sevillanas'.

### A success without incident

The councillor for Events, José Manuel Ruíz Rivas, said that the pilgrimage passed without serious incident due to the extensive security operation employed by both the Local and National Police, the Civil Protection services and the fire brigade, who had "ensured the safety of everyone".

"This was a successful pilgrimage without incidents, except for some minor injuries like sprained ankles and fatigue. The event attracted thousands of people. I don't think I've ever seen so many people gathered in the pine forest," Rivas said.

Mayor Margarita del Cid said, "I am very excited and very satisfied. We have worked hard to make the romería a success."

## HERE AND THERE

### FUENGIROLA

## Irish student ascends summit of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise awareness of meningitis

T. BRYANT. Costa del Sol resident Laura Roantree has recently returned from Tanzania after successfully climbing Mount Kilimanjaro as part of a charity challenge to raise awareness and funds for the Meningitis Research Foundation.

Laura, who was joined by a group of 14 friends from different universities in Ireland, raised more than 3,100 euros after reaching the summit of Africa's highest mountain, which is 5,895 metres above sea level, in just six days.

The 22-year-old student, who was sponsored by Specsavers Ópticas in Fuengirola, explained that, although the hiking itself "wasn't too difficult", the alti-



Laura at the summit. SUR

tude presented "significant challenges" for the group. The biggest challenge was the final summit ascent, which was undertaken at night in freezing temperatures. Laura said that arriving at the summit as the sun came up was "an incredible feeling", adding, "it makes me very proud to be able to say that I summited Kilimanjaro".

### MARBELLA

## Call for greater protection of park

DAVID LERMA. The Marbella Activa association is calling for greater protection for the town's Vigil de Quiñones park, following the publication of a report drawn up by the historian and Doctor of Art History, Francisco Javier Moreno. The group is requesting its inclusion in the Junta's General Catalogue of Historical Heritage as a Site of Ethnological Interest, as the park is part of a royal pine plantation forest, planted in 1784. Marbella Activa is also calling for more protection for all trees in the town.

### MALAGA

## Christmas lights switch-on delay considered

JUAN SOTO. Malaga city council is studying the possibility of delaying the inauguration of the Christmas lights a week, until 2 December, in line with the Junta de Andalucía's energy saving measures. The council is also considering the number of hours that the illuminations are lit. Until last year, the decorations remained on until 2am on weekdays, and until 6am at weekends. The proposed option would be to illuminate the city only until 11pm on weekdays and until 2am at weekends.

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## Search on for a name for new red panda cub born at Estepona's Selwo Aventura

There are only 10,000 red pandas in the world and the birth of this female has brought hope for a species in danger of extinction

DAVID LERMA

ESTEPONA. A red panda cub which was born at Selwo Aventura in Estepona in June is doing well and "has a lot of character," according to the keepers who look after her. The birth of this cub, who has not been given a name

— visitors to the park are invited to suggest some — is good news for the species because there are only around 10,000 examples of red pandas in the world.

The head veterinarian at Selwo, Cecilia Sierra, said they realised the mother, Timbu, was pregnant when she began to make a nest out of her own fur. "It was a complete surprise," she said. The father, Mitsuke, who arrived from a zoo in Belgium in 2021, was brought to Estepona specifically to mate with Timbu, as part of the European Programme for Endangered Species.



Red pandas are in danger of extinction. SELWO AVENTURA

## World Tourist Day recognition for Nerja Cave and its four discoverers

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. The most visited natural monument in Malaga province, the Nerja Cave, has received more than 18.5 million people since it opened to the public 62 years ago. To acknowledge its importance for the area, on Tuesday Nerja town hall named the caves 'Tourist Ambassador 2022', as part of its programme of events to mark World Tourism Day. An awards ceremony is being held today, Friday, in the gardens of the cave, at which the four people who first discovered the cave in 1959, along with businessman Lorenzo Reche, who has run the restaurant next to the cave for thirty years, will be recognised.

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Event organiser José Manuel Macías, Commerce and Development councillor Sandra Extremera, Mayor of Torrox Óscar Medina; German consul Arnulf Braun. D. A.

## International community joins in Oktoberfest

**Torrox beer festival.** The event, which took place last week and is the largest of its type in mainland Spain, was opened by the mayor of Torrox and the German consul

SUR IN ENGLISH

“**O**ans, zwoa, g’suffa!” (One, two, drink!) With this traditional Bavarian call to drink, this year’s Torrox Oktoberfest was officially opened by the German consul, Arnulf Braun, and the town’s mayor, Óscar Medina, last Thursday, 22 September.

The Avenida Esperanto in Torrox Costa was flooded with German spirit for the town’s eighth Oktoberfest.

The first night saw more than 500 people celebrating what has been described as southern Spain’s “largest Oktoberfest” event.

Beer was undoubtedly the protagonist of the event and a large number of German brands were available. There was live music and stalls selling traditional German food, as well as a children’s area and market.

### Little Germany

Referring to itself as ‘the little Germany of southern Europe’, Torrox has the highest percentage of German residents of any town in mainland Spain and the annual Oktoberfest is extremely popular with German, Spanish and other nationalities.

This year’s event attracted record numbers, according to the town hall.

A new tent and more chairs and tables allowed this year’s event to be “continually full” over the four-day festival.

Mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, said that he was “pleased” with how the festival had gone and that the town hall was “already preparing the next one with the intention, as always, of improving it and making it bigger every year”.

## Disorientated black vulture rescued in Frigiliana

Julio Fernández, a rural security guard from Frigiliana, and officers from the Guardia Civil’s Seprona nature protection force, have rescued a black vulture which had become disorientated and was unable to fly. The bird, which weighed about 12 kilos and had a wingspan of 2.5 metres, was spotted beside the country road between Frigiliana and Torrox, near the Los Caracoles hotel and restaurant. It was taken to the CREA centre for the recovery of endangered species in Malaga.



SUR

## HERE AND THERE

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

#### Green light given to private hospital plan

**EUGENIO CABEZAS.** Vélez-Málaga town hall unanimously approved an agreement signed between the Madrid company HM Hospitales and the council, to enable the construction of a new private hospital providing 20 rooms in the first phase. The future health facility will be located in the area of Camino de Torrox, near the Caleta de Vélez link road, in an area where a project to develop 400 houses, logistic and commercial areas is also envisaged.

### NERJA

#### Nerja awards cycle lane contract to local firm

**E. CABEZAS.** Nerja town hall has awarded the contract for a new section of the bike lane project that will link Maro with the town, to local company Transportes Antelo. The company will carry out the work with a budget of 549,501 euros and a seven-month deadline. The bike lane will be one kilometre long and will run south of the old N-340 road between the roundabout at the Oasis de Capistrano residential development and the intersection to the west of Maro.



Local residents woke up to find the Cervantes statue painted gold. SUR

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

#### The return of the golden painter? Residents awaken to find gold Cervantes

**E. C.** Residents of the Antonio Garrido Moraga square in Vélez-Málaga woke up last Friday to find that a statue of Miguel de Cervantes had been painted gold.

The incident has raised questions about the possible return of the ‘golden painter’. In April 2015 a young man was arrested and accused of painting street furniture in the city and in Rincón de la Victoria with gold paint.

A local association of San Fran-

cisco and San Juan de Vélez-Málaga residents reported the incident via social networks, with a message saying, “Without police surveillance anything can happen!” Nevertheless the president of the association, Fran Delgado, joked that the sculpture was “now more elegant”.

Town hall workers started cleaning the statue and by midday Cervantes had been restored to his former bronze glory.

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

#### Bird boxes installed to encourage native species

**E. C.** Vélez-Málaga town hall is to install 54 wooden nesting boxes in different parks, schools and municipal buildings to encourage nesting and improve biodiversity in its 11 towns and villages. The species of birds that the town hall hopes to attract include robins, redstarts, sparrows and flycatchers and a different type of box will also be installed for swifts, “in order to prevent them from nesting on the façades of buildings or shutters,” explained councillor Jesús Atencia.



Councillors with the bird boxes. SUR



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## New owner of Axioma superyacht paid 37.5 million dollars at auction

The 72-metre-long craft was seized in July because an American bank said its Russian owner had defaulted on a loan

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The name of the new owner of the superyacht Axioma is not known, but it has been announced that their winning auction bid was for the sum of \$37.5 million dollars.

The vessel was seized by the Gibraltar authorities back in July in response to an order from the Supreme Court, which had upheld a claim by the American investment bank JP Morgan Chase that its beneficial owner, Russian billionaire Dmitry Pumpysky, had defaulted on a \$22 million loan.

The situation was not quite as straightforward as it may appear: the Russian businessman was subject to sanctions following the invasion of Ukraine, which meant his assets were frozen. The bank was then unable to accept repayments from him because that



The superyacht Axioma. REUTERS

would have been illegal. It therefore considered that he had defaulted on the loan and asked for the Axioma to be seized.

Once the bank has been paid and Gibraltar's expenses have been settled, the balance of the sale will be held in a secure account by the Supreme Court until - and if - the sanctions are lifted. Although many people had expressed the hope that the money would be used to benefit Ukraine, it has been reported that this would not be legal.



Eric set himself a challenge that many feared impossible. SUR

## Eric's incredible feat to raise awareness of disabilities

D. BARTLETT. Heroes come in many forms and Gibraltar was able to congratulate one of its own last weekend when wheelchair user Eric Rowbottom completed an incredible challenge to raise awareness of life for people with disabilities and also raise funds for the local Special Needs Action Group and GBC Open Day.

Eric, 59, who was disabled after getting polio at the age of eight, had never been up the Mediterranean Steps and he set himself the challenge of climbing this steep and arduous nature trail using only his upper body.

Anyone who has done the Med

Steps will know that it is by no means easy, even for the fit and able, so many people feared that this attempt was doomed to failure. But Eric proved them wrong.

It took him eight and a half hours to pull himself up the 1.4km trail, with an elevation of 240 metres, but his sheer determination saw him through and he received very well-deserved cheers from those waiting when he made it to the top.

Eric not only had the satisfaction of completing the challenge but also of knowing that he had raised £22,000 to make life better for others with disabilities.

### IN BRIEF

#### ENVIRONMENT

### OS 35 oil seepage reduced by divers

D.B. There has been some good news this week about the bulk carrier OS35 which was beached off Catalan Bay after a collision: divers have managed to find and empty several oil pockets trapped in the frame of the hull which have been seeping fuel into the sea recently. In recent days only a minimal amount of oil has escaped the boom around the ship, and work is ongoing to reduce this even more.

#### CULTURE

### Autumn cultural programme

D.B. Gibraltar's autumn cultural programme begins with a classical concert in St Michael's Cave on 19 October, followed by numerous events and activities in November including an art exhibition, literary week, poetry competition prize giving, the Christmas Festival of Lights and Christmas attractions. Full details are available from the Ministry of Culture.

### R & R LAW



Katriina Raisio. SUR



The office in Arroyo de la Miel. SUR

Law firm R & R Law, from Arroyo de la Miel, has been representing clients in civil and criminal law for more than 20 years

ing process typically takes one to two months, depending on the tax and public offices. It goes without saying, that all paperwork should be thoroughly and exhaustively checked, so that you are 100% sure of what you are buying. Even though the buying process might seem like a simple process, it is bureaucratic for a reason - to always ensure the buyers' and the vendors' rights. You should always talk with a professional."

## HELP IN THE BUREAUCRATIC JUNGLE

### BENALMÁDENA

The law firm R&R Law, based in Arroyo de la Miel, has been providing efficient and high-quality advice and representation in all legal matters on the Costa del Sol since 1999. The focus is on civil law, such as property, real-estate or inheritance law, however the law firm has also represented numerous clients in criminal law matters. The firm is led by Katriina Raisio and Estefanía Rodrigo, who both studied law at the University of Málaga. Katriina Raisio is from Finland and her mother tongue is English, Estefanía

Rodrigo is Spanish, so their clients can be advised in Spanish, English and Finnish.

Real estate law being their forte, Katriina Raisio explain what is particularly important when buying a house in Spain:

"There is a lot of bureaucracy involved in buying a property in Spain and, with the continuous changes in law and regulations, it is important to keep track of the changes when buying a property in Spain. In particular, a very important key point to take into consideration is the new limitation of buying a house

or a property exclusively for rental purposes. By law, now the community can limit renting and in particular whether the house can be enlisted in the fast-renting system (all rentals under two months). For example, if the community has decided to limit the number of renting permits; you will not be able to offer the property as a short-term rental, solely on the long-term market. Another key point to check is the "non-infringement certificate", i.e. what uses for the property where allowed when it was built.

Not only should the property have

the appropriate living permits, but we always recommend checking other associated papers such as: the non-infringement certificate that states there is no existing sanctions on the property which may include illegal constructions, extensions etc. This certificate is not only recommended for villas, but all types of properties.

Along with all the important documents to be checked, it is vital that buyers know their rights, such as choosing their own notary and legal representative, and seeing all the legal documentation. The buy-

### R & R LAW

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# Autumn

FASHION, ACCESORIES, SPORT, MOVIES, TECHNOLOGY, FEEDING,  
HOME, TOYS, BEAUTY, HEALTH, RESTAURANTS, AND MUCH MORE



La Cañada  
SHOPPING

# The hottest summer ever on the Costa del Sol

**Figures.** The average maximum temperatures in June, July and August in the city this year is the highest since Aemet began keeping records in 1943

Daily temperature in June, July and August 2022

ALBA MARTÍN CAMPOS

Degrees:

0



**T**he trend is clear: the world is getting hotter every year and Malaga is no exception to the way the planet is being transformed due to climate change.

This summer in the province has been marked by suffocating hot wind and increasingly hot temperatures over a longer period of time. People have been saying it felt like the hottest summer ever and figures from the Aemet weather agency show that they were right. The average of the maximum temperatures in June, July and August was 31.8C, the highest since 1943.

## Hotter temperatures for more consecutive days

Aemet uses the thermometer at Malaga Airport to monitor the weather in the city. This year it did not show the highest temperature ever recorded - that was in 1978, when it reached 44.2C - but the hot weather lasted for more days, creating a historic daily average.

As can be seen from the charts accompanying this report, what is unusual is the number of days when the maximum temperatures were between 28C and 35C. The maximum did not

drop below 27.9C for three months, apart from four days.

## Progressive increase

It is a fact that Malaga is getting warmer as the years go by. The area is experiencing a trend which is global. The curve of maximum temperatures, and also the minimums, is increasing progressively, and that is also the case if we look at the monthly averages.

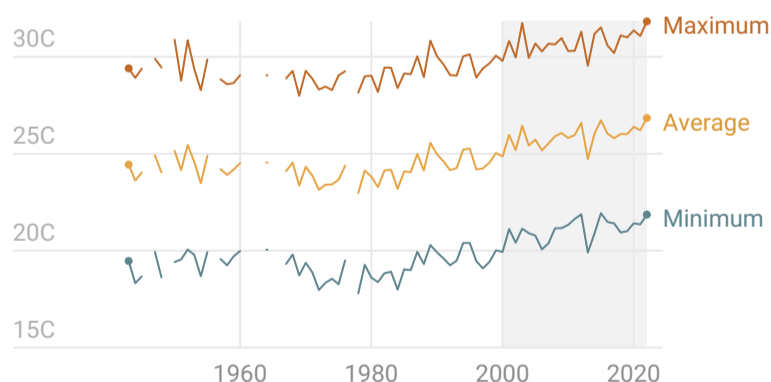
But isn't this just normal in the summer? No, it isn't, José Damián Ruiz-Sinoga, a professor of Physical Geography at Malaga university and an expert on climate change, told us.

"At 5pm on a day in July in Malaga it will be extremely hot and we know it will be, because it is logical. And if we look a little further inland it will probably be a bit hotter still. The problem is that the atmospheric dynamics don't allow the temperature to drop at night. In other words, there is no adequate thermal variation," he said.

And so we go straight from the summer heat to the autumn cold. "The system is overheating. The anticyclone of the Azores has taken up a position just to the west of the peninsula

## The temperature each summer

The average in June, July and August each year since 1943 shows how the heat has been progressively increasing



Source: Aemet

GRAPHIC: Alba Martín Campos

**This is not normal, say climate change experts. There is inadequate thermal variation and the temperature does not go down at night**

and is not allowing any mass of air to circulate from the west. As a result, with a sea like the Mediterranean, which is like a type of big lake, it produces a

**The temperatures have been hotter for more days, creating a historic daily average maximum of 31.8C**

warming effect which becomes a risk at this time of year. As soon as a rush of cold air comes in we are going to have an unstable situation which can bring

electric storms and torrential downpours," Ruiz-Sinoga said.

Enrique Salvo Tierra, a professor of Botany at Malaga university with extensive experience in the mitigation and impact of climate change, agreed.

"This is not normal. In two or three years we will probably see highs of 50C here. You have to remember that we are opposite Africa, a continent with a desert where the hottest temperatures in the world were registered last year. It reached 56C and that was only 450 kilometres from here. That's like the distance between Malaga and Madrid," he said.

## Minimum above 20C for eight out of ten nights

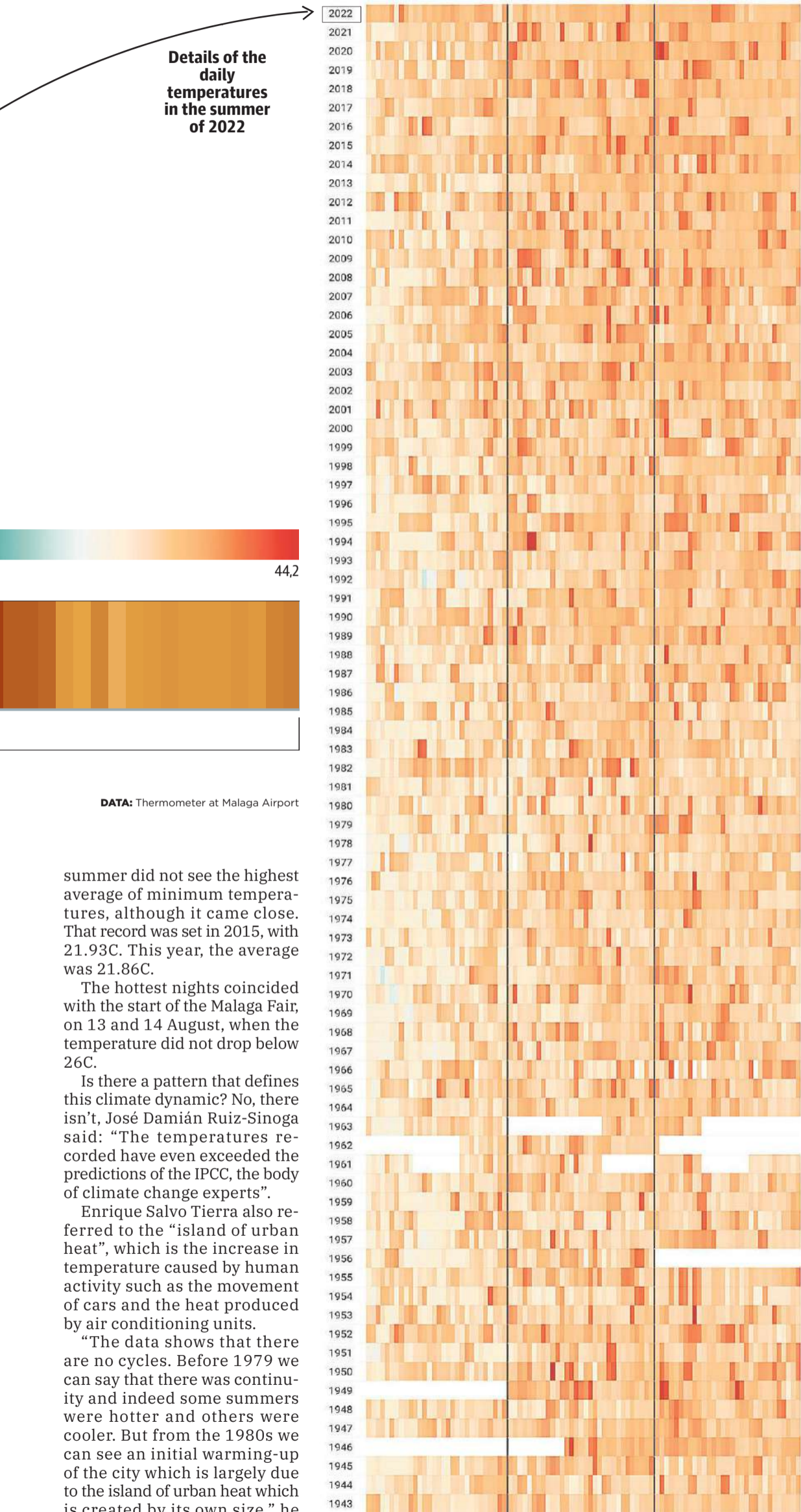
Malaga is burning hot during the day and also when the sun goes down. On more than 80 per cent of the nights in June, July and August 2022 the temperature was over 20C and most felt tropical. This has a direct effect on health: it causes insomnia and fatigue in many people and makes it difficult to face the day.

The trend towards a higher minimum temperature is also unmistakable, judging from the data. However, and unlike the maximum temperatures, this

Maximums in June, July and August since 1943

The black lines are to separate the months.

Details of the daily temperatures in the summer of 2022



DATA: Thermometer at Malaga Airport

summer did not see the highest average of minimum temperatures, although it came close. That record was set in 2015, with 21.93C. This year, the average was 21.86C.

The hottest nights coincided with the start of the Malaga Fair, on 13 and 14 August, when the temperature did not drop below 26C.

Is there a pattern that defines this climate dynamic? No, there isn't, José Damián Ruiz-Sinoga said: "The temperatures recorded have even exceeded the predictions of the IPCC, the body of climate change experts".

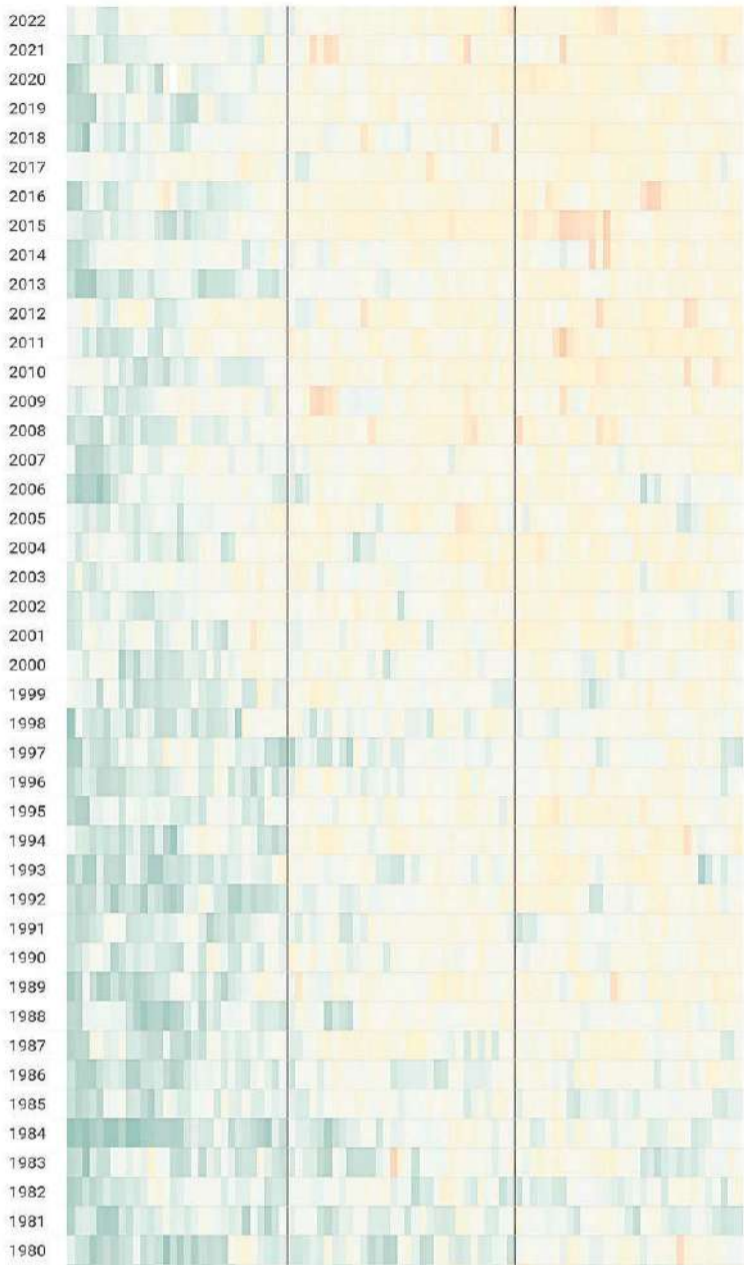
Enrique Salvo Tierra also referred to the "island of urban heat", which is the increase in temperature caused by human activity such as the movement of cars and the heat produced by air conditioning units.

"The data shows that there are no cycles. Before 1979 we can say that there was continuity and indeed some summers were hotter and others were cooler. But from the 1980s we can see an initial warming-up of the city which is largely due to the island of urban heat which is created by its own size," he said.

Source: Aemet

INFOGRAPHIC: Alba Martín Campos

Minimums in June, July and August since 1980



This increase became especially notable from 1995, the Salvo Tierra organisation has explained.

"We are seeing how these average temperatures, these heatwaves, these tropical nights...all of these manifestations of the temperatures in our everyday life have been increasing," it said.

**No return, but mitigation is possible**

The experts consulted by SUR agreed that this situation is irreversible, in Malaga and the rest of the world. Society is going to have to find ways to adapt to and mitigate the effects of the heat.

"In the atmosphere there is a series of gases that generate microcrystallites and make overheating more severe. For that reason we have to eliminate those gases to counteract the greenhouse effect. But it is going to take many years before we can reduce them," said José Damián Ruiz-Sinoga.

Salvo Tierra puts the focus on a "treatment" which can be carried out immediately: plant more trees in the city.

"The trees 'kidnap' the green-

house gases and incorporate them into their own systems. In fact, there can be a difference of 12 degrees between standing under the shade of a tree and being outside it. This is the most ideal formula, and especially in Malaga because it does not have enough trees anyway," they said.

Change is even possible at an individual level. Enrique Salvo is convinced that between us all we can collaborate so that, at least, this situation does not progress as fast as it otherwise would.

What can we do? "We can be very careful about how much water we use, we can put warmer clothes on instead of turning the heating up in the winter. And something essential is to encourage more sustainable mobility through the use of public transport. In the meantime, we in the field of research will continue to look for solutions," he said.

**i For these and other graphs and illustrations in interactive format, go to the digital version of this report on [www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com)**

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## Small talk



When I interviewed Pere Aragonès, pro-independence president of Catalonia in August, we packed a lot into the allotted thirty minutes: how a potential Republic of Catalonia would rejoin the EU; the plight of Scotland's SNP, a party from which Aragonès takes inspiration; and his negotiations with Pedro Sánchez, which he hopes will somehow realise his teenage dream of Catalan independence. But it felt like (albeit fascinating) small talk, because Aragonès' real focus, the subtext to everything his government says and does, is also the most difficult goal to achieve: another referendum.

Tomorrow is the fifth anniversary of the chaotic day in October 2017 when Catalans voted to split from Spain, in a referendum declared illegal in advance by the Constitutional Court (known as 1-O). To mark the occasion, Aragonès announced this week that he seeks another vote on secession, this time legitimised by Madrid. Despite ongoing talks between the Catalan and central governments, though, this seems as unlikely to happen now as it did in 2017. So why do the separatists persist?

What struck me most about Aragonès was his possession of two apparently contradictory qualities: hard-headed practicality (he trained as a lawyer); and unfettered, soaring idealism. Aragonès insists that there are legal mechanisms to facilitate a vote on secession, and that a repeat of 1-O wouldn't necessarily violate the Spanish Constitution. But, like his un-

successful predecessor Quim Torra, he cannot explain how he'll convince a cross-armed central government to collaborate.

There's also the question of whether Catalans actually want to divorce Spain. Polls usually show a roughly 50-50 split down the middle, but the most recent, published in March, suggested that support for the separatists is waning: only 38.8% of respondents said they wanted independence, while 53.5% said they opposed it.

The poll also revealed that 72.6% of Catalans want a legitimate, binding vote on independence. If Sánchez risked allowing one in the hope that it would return a "No" vote (a risk he'll never take), he could at least declare the matter closed for a generation.

Catalan separatists often look to Scotland for inspiration, so it's fitting that on the fifth anniversary of 1-O tomorrow, there will be a march for Scottish independence in Edinburgh. Indeed, the once-in-a-generation collaboration between Holyrood and Westminster that legitimised the 2014 referendum remains a gold standard for Aragonès, a model of democratic collaboration that Spain could - and should - emulate. Does the Spanish government share the same lofty aspiration? "Absolutely not," said its spokesperson this week.

So long as that's the case, it's hard to see how negotiations between Madrid and Barcelona can amount to anything more than small talk.

## Electric scooters have caused nearly 400 accidents and 18 deaths in Spain since 2021

The Mapfre Foundation has studied the incidence of accidents involving these personal mobility vehicles and where and why they have happened

J. M.

MADRID. An analysis by the Mapfre Foundation based on news reports since 2021 has shown that electric scooters have been the cause of nearly 400 reported accidents and 18 deaths in Spain. The report showed that there have been 385 accidents involving these vehicles recorded between January 2021 and now, 83 of them serious.

The regions with the most serious accidents are Catalonia, with 22; the Balearic Islands with 18; Aragón, 11; and Andalucía and the Canary Islands with eight each.

Those with the highest number of deaths in accidents caused by electric scooters are Catalonia (6) and Madrid (3).

This year so far, there have been 224 accidents in which five people lost their lives. The fatalities were in Alzira (Valencia), Zaragoza (two victims), Masquefa (Barcelona) and Roquetas de Mar (Almería).

Last year 13 people died, 11 of them men. Five fell to the ground, five collided with other vehicles and three pedestrians were run over by scooters. The latter were



An electric scooter user in Burgos, northern Spain. SUR

elderly: two women and one man, in their late seventies.

## Insurance

The DGT traffic authorities are concerned about the problems associated with electric scooters and say insurance ought to be obligatory. The Mapfre study points out that companies that rent out electric scooters, such as Voi, Bolt, Lime and Link, for example, have taken measures

to improve safety, encourage better conditions for scooter riders, pedestrians and other road users to coexist, and reduce injuries caused to users.

It refers to improvements in the design of electric scooters, with larger tyres and a greater ability to absorb irregular road surfaces, side reflectors, front and back indicators and a prototype of a storage container for a helmet.

## Aragonès sacks his deputy as Catalan coalition crisis grows

SUR

BARCELONA. The president of the Catalan regional government, Pere Aragonès, has sacked his vice-president Jordi Puigneró in response to the growing crisis between coalition partners. The Generalitat has been run since the 2021 elections by two pro-independence parties, Aragonès' Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya and Puigneró's Junts per Catalunya.

Puigneró's sacking, announced late on Wednesday, comes in response to Junts' threats to break the regional coalition.

Earlier this week the vice-president had called for a "question of confidence" in the president during a debate in parliament.

Aragonès said on Wednesday that he hoped Junts would put

forward a replacement vice-president to help strengthen the government. "I hope that Junts stays in the government," he said, although his party is preparing for their partners' possible exit.

This latest move is a culmination of a number of coalition quarrels. Aragonès considers that his authority has been questioned, just at one of the most delicate moments of this term of office.

In an interview, regional minister Laura Vilagrà ruled out new elections and suggested that Esquerra would rule alone if Junts decided to pull out.

The crisis leaves the make-up of the regional government, the Govern, in the air, just days before the fifth anniversary celebrations of the illegal independence referendum of 1 October 2017.

## October will be warmer and drier than usual, with sudden changes, say experts

EUROPA PRESS

MALAGA. The month of October could be warmer and drier than normal in Spain, but some sudden changes in the weather are also to be expected, said Samuel Biener of Meteored this week. The expert warned there is likely to be less rainfall than usual, although he said October is "meteorologically very unstable" and "sudden" changes are likely. This last week has been "very active" in a meteorological sense, he said, with unprecedented rainfall in the Canary Islands and torrential downpours in the east and the Balearics. One person has died in Murcia due to flooding.

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## IN BRIEF

## SPAIN

## New tax to increase price of air conditioning units

**N. TRIGUERO.** A new tax introduced by the central government this month will make it more expensive to buy and recharge air conditioning and refrigeration

systems.

The modification to the existing Greenhouse Gas Tax will be levied on the manufacture or import of pre-charged appliances and also the first charge for newly installed refrigeration equipment.

The sector is opposed to the measure, saying it is putting prices up by between 5% and 10%.



The tax affects new units. **SUR**

## BUSINESS

## Local temping firm is worth two billion euros

**JAVIER LÓPEZ.** Japanese telecommunications giant Softbank has acquired 31% of the digital temporary recruitment firm Jobandtalent, founded by Malaga entrepreneur Juan Urdiales and Felipe Navío. The company, valued at two billion euros, has not ruled out going public on the stock exchange.

## TAX

## New tax on the wealthy will affect fortunes of 3m

**SUR.** The Spanish government's new tax on the very rich due to come into force on 1 January, will affect those with fortunes of more than three million euros and will be a temporary measure, said the finance minister. "It is necessary to ask for more from those with the greatest wealth," she said.



Buyers are still choosing fixed-rate loans as the Euribor continues to rise. **REUTERS**

## Mortgage agreements soar locally despite Euribor rate hike

Between January and July 22 per cent more home loans were signed than in the same period of 2021, confirming the strength of the property market on the Costa del Sol

## NURIA TRIGUERO

**MALAGA.** Newly released figures show an increase of more than 20 per cent in mortgage loans signed in the province of Malaga between January and July than in the same period last year. The marked increase comes despite the rise in the Euribor reference rate.

Data from the national statistics institute (INE) updated on Wednesday, shows a growth in lending activity that has led to 13,616 mortgage agreements being signed in the province between January and July, the highest figure recorded in this period of the year since 2010.

This strong increase in demand for mortgages on the Costa del Sol contrasts with the moderate growth at the national level.

During July the year-on-year increase in mortgage activity across Spain was 2.3 per cent, while in this area it reached 19.2 per cent. And the cumulative growth for the

first seven months of the year was around 15 per cent at the national level, while in Malaga it was 22 per cent. Experts say that is yet another indicator that confirms the strength of the Costa del Sol property market.

Faced with the rise in interest rates, buyers are continuing to take refuge in fixed-rate options, despite the fact that the banks are already prioritising the marketing of variable rates.

In July, the last month with published data, fixed-rate mortgages once again set a new all-time high: 75.4 per cent of the loans signed in that month were linked to an

unchanging interest rate. Until a few years ago, fixed-rate loans barely accounted for 10 per cent of the mortgage portfolio.

The average amount of mortgages continues to grow in line with the rise in house prices. Loans signed between January and July this year in the province of Malaga were for an average sum of 176,000 euros, compared to 159,000 euros in the same month of 2021 and 144,000 euros in 2020.

## Interest rates

The Euribor, short for the Euro Interbank Offered Rate, is a daily reference rate, published by the European Money Markets Institute, based on the averaged interest rates at which Eurozone banks offer to lend unsecured funds to other banks in the euro wholesale money market. The Euribor has almost doubled in September and will make the newest mortgages more expensive by 2,800 euros.

The index will close the month at 2.2 per cent after exceeding 2.6 per cent in its daily rate. Analysts are forecasting that the rate will exceed three per cent by the end of the year. The 12-month Euribor, a reference for variable-rate mortgages in Spain, rose to 2.625 per cent on Tuesday 27 September – its highest level since January 2009.

## FIGURES

# 13,616

The number of mortgages signed in Malaga province between January and July, the highest figure since 2010.

# 176,000

euros. The average mortgage loan taken out in Malaga province, compared to 159,000 in the same month of 2021 and 144,000 in 2020.

THE BIGGER PICTURE  
JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jbl@ehh.gi

## We have met the enemy - he is us



**T**he financial market system is the key to the process of investing and raising capital to fund economic growth. Active liquid markets are necessary to provide investors with future cash flows in return for their capital. These allow investors to realise the present value of a future stream of income. However, are we now increasingly obsessed with numbers to the detriment of making wise and sound decisions?

The information age has led us to believe that momentary precision reflected in the price of a stock is more important than the imprecision in measuring the intrinsic value of a company. In other words, it's much easier on the emotions and mind, but perhaps an illusion to own investments that don't often trade. This triumph of perception over reality was magnified in the bubble and tech wreck of 2000, and is equally true of equity and other asset prices today.

Maynard Keynes, a thought leader and economist of the sixties, saw this dependency on numbers as dangerous, noting that "the organisation of capital markets requires for holders of quoted equities much more nerve, patience, and fortitude than for the holders in other forms. Some will buy without a tremor unmarketable investments which if they had a continuous quotation available, would turn their hair grey".

Keynes was concerned about the implications for our society should "the conventional valuation of stocks be established by mass psychology of a large number of ignorant individuals". Rather than foreseeing the prospective yield of an investment over the

long term of years, he said, it would be merely a battle of wits to anticipate the basis for conventional values in the next few months. He suggested that such a system would lead to violent changes in prices in the short term.

As Keynes suggested, obsession with numbers and ease of communication is a reality today. CTA quant trading models designed to buy or sell automatically on signals generated by algorithms move share prices violently up and down. When prices rally, it feels as if the cycle has changed, but it hasn't. Equities may have further to fall.

Investors in the stock market are going to be severely tested for the rest of this year and the next. If you have not made provision for cash liquidity outside of your investments in the stock market, the probability is that you will not stay the course, and will not reap the rewards when the cycle inevitably changes. Published, peer-reviewed academic work illustrates clearly that behavioural errors account for most investors' permanent losses.

To return again to Keynes, "investment fundamentals have become a mere bubble on a whirlpool of speculation". It is an irrefutable fact that in the long run, economics triumph over emotions.

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.

THE SPECTRUM IFA GROUP

# AT LAST, WEALTH TAX IS ABOLISHED IN ANDALUCIA

MARBELLA

**Jeremy Ferguson.** Monday the 19th of September 2022 will be in the history books forever. Having watched the coverage of the Queen's funeral on TV, it made me think there is no other country on earth who could have put on such an impressive show for the world to see. It made me feel very proud to be British.

Moving overseas is an exciting and daunting thing to do but if you, like me, have lived overseas for many years, that homesick feeling does hit home sometimes, and the Queens funeral was certainly one such example.

It has been a tough year in many ways. Everything it seems is changing. The reopening from the pandemic has changed the way many people work. Russia's Invasion of the Ukraine changed the idea of a peaceful Europe. The cost of living has increased due to rising inflation, and now rising interest rates are back with us. All of this has happened after years of peace, cheap energy, low interest rates and non-existent inflation. It seems the longer we



Jeremy Ferguson. SUR

live with something, the more powerful it's passing, something that no doubt made the Queens funeral very emotional for many people.

We now have a King, and the world in which we live is without doubt going to continue to change. Any of you filling up your car will have noticed the cost has

come down from the previous highs in the summer, and the general consensus is that inflation will start to slowly come down between now and the end of the year. It isn't however expected to hit the floor, but rather fall to a much more acceptable level.

When you are retired and

keeping a close eye on your savings, investments and pensions, inflation and interest rates are two critical factors to take into account when trying to work out the future. If you have a fixed pension income, it is commonplace to then substitute this with 'income' from investments, the spending power of which is affected by inflation. If the investment returns are all over the place, and inflation is doing the same, it's really important to monitor things closely and on a regular basis. As an example, if things carry on as they are, we may see a return of interest on bank deposits, which has been a factor not taken into account for a long time when making plans for your money.

Tax is something I've not really mentioned before, but this of course has an effect on your disposable income. Pension and Investment income can be very tax efficient here if the right planning is taken, but something that has always been a difficult one to deal with is the annual Wealth Tax.

In the past many Wealthy individuals have decided against moving to Andalusia because of the punitive Wealth tax, which in real terms doesn't actually generate that much revenue each year (estimated at €95m per

annum for the Region). It is felt that by attracting more Wealthy Individuals, the increased expenditure and resultant revenues will far exceed that amount, so it does seem to make perfect sense.

Financial planning in retirement isn't rocket science, but with so many variables effecting how things may look financially going forward, it's never been more important to make sure your previous plans aren't sitting gathering dust. Maybe they are not being best suited for the new environment we find ourselves in.

The news has been very negative so far this year, and although the passing of the Queen was a very sad event, it marks a line in history and just goes to show nothing lasts forever. It will be interesting to see how the new King makes his mark in history.

If you would like to find out more about how we help our clients here in Spain, please feel free to get in touch.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## What is going on?

We've been coming to the Fuengirola area for over thirty years, and favour the beaches towards Carvajal, but this year there's a lot of what looks like untreated sewage in the sea. Do you know what's causing it, and if it is being dealt with? Also, is it anything to do with the multiple seagulls that are getting washed up on the beach?

MIKE KILGALLON

## Taxis versus VTCs

In all industries there is competition, you can't stop another bar from opening because it's cheaper and might damage your business. You need to either embrace cheaper prices to stay competitive or demonstrate that you're offering something more/better that justifies your higher price.

COLIN CLARK (VIA FACEBOOK)

## Disgust at opinion of Queen's funeral

I refer to the article The Greatest Show on Earth written by Rosa Palo [September 23rd to 29th 2022]. Firstly I am very distressed your paper should have allowed this

article to be printed. This writer whoever she is seems to assume we British live in some kind of an American sitcom!

I will not be alone in expressing my disgust and expect an apology from your publication very soon.

We have been deeply offended by this. After over 20 years of following your publication I trust you will make amends.

OLIVIA HAMMEL

## What do you think?

Were other readers offended by the opinion article comparing the coverage of the Queen's funeral with a mini-series in last week's edition? Please let us know. [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)

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## Like royalty

Every few months, a small royalty payment will arrive in my bank account from the Spanish organisation SGAE (the General Society for Authors and Editors). Only yesterday, I was the grateful recipient of the grand total of ten euros and twenty seven cents. It's all very intriguing and I'm always faced with the same question - what could these transactions possibly correspond to?

Well, I suppose an old song I made up and registered years ago could have been streamed twenty-nine million times on Spotify, or whatever it is that it takes on that particular platform to muster a ten euro bonanza. Alternatively, a chain-smoking graveyard shift DJ in some half-forgotten town near Burgos might have played one of my tunes and then taken the time to register his magnanimous

deed with SGAE before heading off to the kebab shop on his way home. The possibilities are endless for a fertile imagination.

I did try to investigate once. Having received a whopping five-hundred-and-something euros on one particularly memorable occasion (about fifty times the usual amount) from a British organisation similar to SGAE.

I wrote them an email asking for details about where these untold riches might have come from. The reply I received a few days later was nothing short of baffling. It was a scanned computer print out, listing a seemingly random selection of cities in the United States, each with a time written next to it. For example, 'Phoenix - 4m 7secs, Baton Rouge - 11m 28secs.' No mention of any song titles, mind you, just cities and times.

I thought perhaps they'd con-

fused me with a greyhound bus enthusiast. Subsequently, I endeavoured to dig a little deeper into the matter but, alas, to no avail. I was given the shortest of shifts.

The whole royalty thing is infinitely confusing. There are videos of me warbling away on YouTube that have those annoying adverts for mobile phones tagged on to the start of them. As far as I know, I don't get any payment from these companies. Or maybe, that's what the ten euros twenty seven cents corresponds to. Who knows?

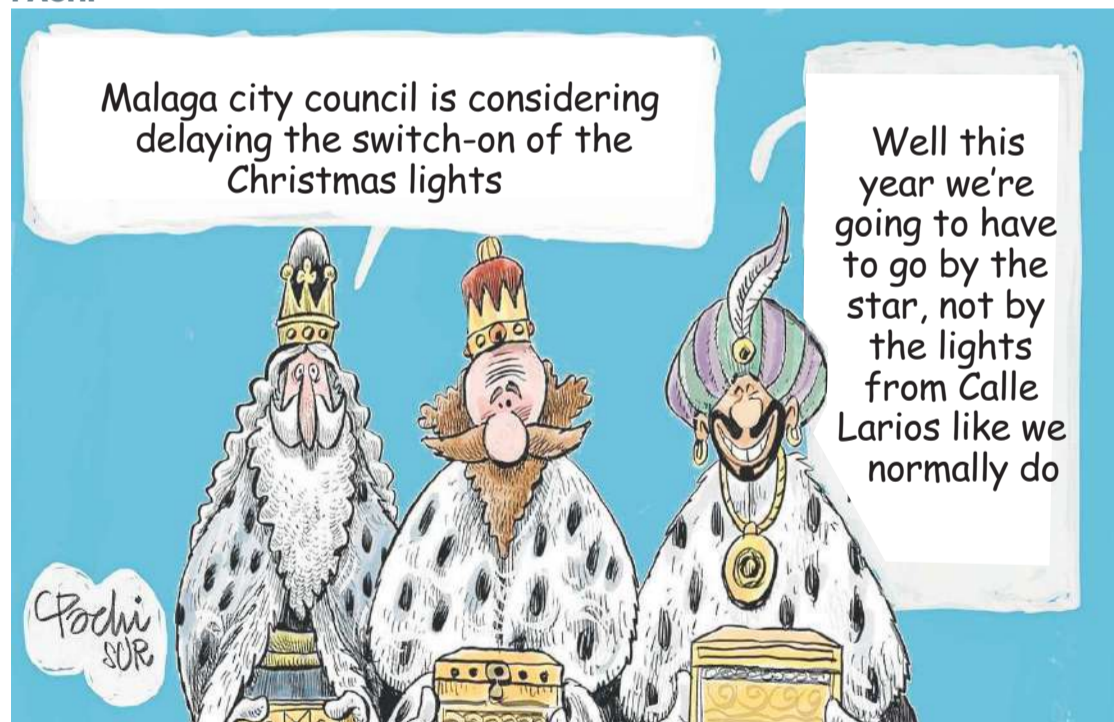
If I'm in the dark, imagine how Paul McCartney must feel.

"Paul, another cheque's just arrived. This one's for seven million pounds."

"Goody gumdrops. What's it correspond to?"

"Dunno. It just says 'Eugene, Oregon - 8m 16 secs.'"

PACHI



SUR in English

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## Feminism and the hijab

The women of Iran are not only teaching a lesson to their backward male government, but the revolution they are staging based on the refusal to wear the hijab (the headcovering worn by a Muslim woman) has also been a slap in the face to a certain feminist sector that does not consider its use

a symbol of oppression.

This issue, which is by no means resolved in ideological terms, is the umpteenth clash in a stream of similar events.

At the beginning of each new school year, there are schools and colleges that ban young Muslim girls and women from wearing a headscarf over their hair, con-

sidering it an 'attack' on their individual freedom and a xenophobic action against people of North African origin.

I find it astonishing that people who consider themselves feminists can defend the wearing of the hijab as a cultural element which should be defended, even though it is something that only affects women simply because they are women, and is aimed at preventing men from looking at them.

## Female genital mutilation

Some may think that this next example is not comparable but I can't get out of my head that in some countries they defend the practice of clitoral cutting as a 'cultural fact'.

"The problem is not that a young woman's clitoris is removed but the way the West perceives this act with their moral superiority."

I read this in a statement from a representative of one of these 'cultural fact' pro-ablation 'associations'.

Well madam, of course I feel there is superiority in the society that I live in. One in which women are increasingly being treated as equals to men, in which LGBT people are not condemned for their entire lives, and in which women (and only women) have their sexual enjoyment ripped away from them.

Defending this argument is not a matter of moral superiority but a sense of progress.

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Rocío Molina, rehearsing at La Aceitera, her home and place of inspiration in Bollullos de la Mitación (Seville). J. M. SERRANO

# 'The flamenco scene is led by women now and that makes us happy'

## Rocío Molina Flamenco dancer

She leads a generation of female dancers who are "confidently and freely" breaking taboos. Desire is the theme of *Carnación*, which she is taking to the Bienal in Seville

REGINA SOTORRÍO



MÁLAGA. Rocío Molina says she has "no need for noise". To avoid it, she has no TV at home. She likes what she calls the "snail effect", shutting herself away in her "paradise" in the Seville countryside, in contact with the immense olive grove she sees from her window and letting herself be led by the rhythm of nature. After some hectic years, the dancer put on the

brakes and decided to take some time out. A crisis she describes as "necessary" taught her several lessons: "I have discovered the power there is in letting things flow and not forcing anything," she says. Her guitar trilogy (the third part will be performed in Malaga in 2023) was the consequence of this return to basics, a different way of functioning. And *Carnación* is the next step. Having recently won the Silver Lion award for Dance at the Venice Biennale and the Positano Dance Award, she now brings her new show to the Flamenco Bienal festival in Seville. It is a celebration of the emotion that moves her world and her art: "My entire artistic career is pure desire," she says.

**—In just a few months you won the Silver Lion and the Positano awards. Do these prizes make you feel more confident, or add to the pressure?**  
—The truth is I enjoy them. I try not to feel the strain, not to put myself

under any pressure, just to enjoy the moment.

**—Your speech in Venice was very revealing: you didn't dedicate it to effort, but to fragility. That was surprising from someone who has always been thought of as strong.**

—Maybe it sounds strange coming from me because of all I've achieved through hard work and sacrifice. But I have also discovered the power there is in letting things flow and not forcing anything, and I find that path very interesting.

**—Because everyone has fragilities and weaknesses...**

—Of course, and admitting that is a very brave gesture. And using it is also an act of creation because of what you discover. Art always teaches me things.

**—Having been through a crisis, have you lost your fear of them?**

—I was never afraid of them, they are absolutely necessary. The fact

FREE

**"Freedom of expression should not be a provocation but a liberation"**

CRISES

**"I was never afraid of them, they are absolutely necessary"**

BACK TO NATURE

**"I have discovered the power in letting things flow and not forcing anything"**

that they are unpleasant to go through is another matter. There is no fear, but there is confidence. Life has a direction and sometimes the path twists and turns, but it's the one you have to take.

**—Do you feel more fulfilled now than you did five years ago?**

—I have always felt complete, with or without a crisis. It's not a question of being fulfilled but of being in place, in the present and embracing your moment, whatever it may be.

**—That crisis arose from a need to break with the dynamics of a large company, to return to simplicity in a certain way. But can you go at a different pace in such a competitive market?**

—The current is very gentle, to be honest. Going against the current or out of step requires an effort to be committed to who you are. You just have to get closer to nature, break that circle, and nature teaches you very well about time, contemplation and the slowness of things.

**—I imagine that La Aceitera, your house and artistic residence deep in the Seville countryside, has helped you with that.**

—Yes, I always need to be in contact with nature and I have no need for noise. It's my little paradise.

**—Do you have television now?**

—No, no I still don't.

**—'Carnación' is about desire. People say that love makes the world go round, but maybe it's desire that does that?**

—Yes, it is as simple and as important as what you have just said. Desire is what moves human beings. With me, it isn't a contemporary type of desire, wanting something and getting it quickly and then disposing of it; it's not a desire that stems from greed. It is much more spiritual, more mysterious and also more mystical than that.

**—So what is Rocío Molina's desire?**

—My entire artistic career is pure desire. It features in every one of my works.

**—With *Carnación*, you have used sacred and electronic music.**

—Yes, it's a very interesting mixture which we have worked on with the help of Paco, Niño de Elche. We have matched his voice with a soprano, a DJ, a classical violinist and a choir that performs sacred music.

**—Do you feel, as some people have said, that this is a time of liberation for female dancers?**

—I think it is a very good thing that we dancers are being heard. The flamenco scene is led by women now and that makes us very happy. In reality we have always been there, but now people can see what women have always done and that they are doing it with more confidence, more conviction and more freedom. That is very positive.

**—And with less shame. Now women in flamenco, including**

yourself, talk without taboos about menstruation, birth, orgasm...

–Flamenco has been like all the arts. It is good that women are no longer associated with hysteria, guilt and wrongdoing as they have been throughout history. We have always been suspicious of the story they were telling us. It's good that now they are telling things as they really are.

–And it's curious that when a woman does certain things it is seen as provocative, but not when a man does them. If a male dancer goes on stage naked nobody says a thing.

–Women have always been judged much more. We have always had to be demure and keep quiet so men could have more freedom. In the end, it is the person who is looking that feels provoked. Freedom of expression should not be a provocation but a liberation.

–How do you deal with other people's comments and critical opinions?

–As I'm a bit isolated from the world I retreat into my shell like a snail. I'm very choosy about who I listen to when there is criticism. There are always people more committed to themselves than they are to me. The opinion of the majority is not something that should bother me, otherwise I wouldn't be me. I pay no attention.

–Before performing you perform a ritual, putting your hands together and then placing them where your ovaries are. It's very symbolic.

–That's where creation comes from. There is nowhere more powerful to face yourself and face creativity. My hands go there of their own accord.

–You do not consciously seek pain, but dancing is painful. How long can you carry on performing?

–As far as I am concerned there is no end date ahead. Not until the desire to dance stops, and that will be when I die. Otherwise, I will carry on dancing somehow. La Chana dances sitting down, because her knees and feet are in an awful state, and dancing is the only way to stop her joints from hurting.

–Dancers are starting to name you as their role model. Do you feel that you are one?

–I'm pleased, I think it's nice, although there isn't even much of an age difference between many of us. I also admire a lot of up-and-coming dancers.

–When will you be in Malaga? –In 2023 we will be there with the third part of the guitar trilogy 'Vuelta a uno'.

# Conjuring up a magical season of art all along the coast

The various arts societies in Malaga and Gibraltar have started their 2022-2023 programme of lectures and other events

JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. The 2022-23 Arts Society season started on Tuesday in Benahavís, with a talk on 'Foreigners in London 1520-1677' – the artists who changed the course of British art'. There was a good turnout for the lecture which was given by art historian Leslie Primo.

The Benahavís group started a month earlier than the Costa del Sol and Nerja branches, whose first meetings are Monday 17 October at 6.30pm and 18 October at 6pm and 19 October, 6.30pm respectively.

Both Nerja and Costa del Sol will welcome Julian Halsby who'll be taking the audience back in time to early 20th Century Paris, with a talk on 'Amadeo Mogliani and Bohemian Paris from 1906-20'.

The De la Frontera and Gibraltar societies' first talk will take members back to the 'Age of Jazz' with a talk by Sandy Burnet on 19 October at 11am and 7.30pm respectively.

For the October talk in Benahavís, art historian Shauna Isaacs will be exploring some of the greatest art heists of all time. The Nerja society will also be welcoming Shauna on 14 March.

The Nerja society is also involved in the 'Sea View Concert', on 29 October, which brings together young musicians from the Mediterranean Chamber Orchestra and 24-year-old Pablo Alcázar, a classical guitarist and composer from Nerja. The programme includes pieces by Grieg and Bach and takes place at the town's cultural centre, at 8pm.

Another highlight in the Nerja and Costa del Sol programme promises to be the visit by magician Bertie Pearce, who will be talking about the imagination behind theatre set design on 22 November.

After Bertie's Nerja lecture the society will be joining him for dinner, where there'll be magic on the menu and Bertie will also be

The October lectures will be transporting audiences back to Bohemian Paris and the jazz age of the early 20th century

conjuring up lunch for the Costa del Sol branch at the Sierra restaurant in Mijas on 21 November.

Nonmembers are welcome at the lectures for a small fee and all of the talks are included in the annual membership, for anyone interested in joining.

The Nerja society will be continuing with its 'hybrid' lectures at the Centro Cultural but also live-streamed online. The Costa del Sol meets either at the Salón Varietés theatre in Fuengirola or the Danish Club in Mijas, while Benahavís uses the town hall.

Gibraltar holds its meetings at the Garrison Library and De la Frontera at the San Roque golf course, both on the third Wednesday of every month.



The Gibraltar Arts Society meets at the Garrison Library. SUR

For further information on the societies visit: Nerja: [www.thearts-societynerja.com](http://www.thearts-societynerja.com); Costa del Sol: [www.theartsociety-costadel-sol.org](http://www.theartsociety-costadel-sol.org); Benahavís: [\[societybenahavis.com\]\(http://societybenahavis.com\); Gibraltar: \[www.theartssocietygibraltar.org\]\(http://www.theartssocietygibraltar.org\) and De la Frontera: \[www.theartssocietydela-frontera.com\]\(http://www.theartssocietydela-frontera.com\).](http://www.thearts-</a></p>
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## IN THE FRAME

# Enjoying harmony and the rhythm of life in the Axarquía

**Music and poetry.** Eliza and Zbigniew are involved in organising the Cómpera Artwalk and form part of the village's lively creative scene

JENNIE RHODES



**E**liza Saroma-Stepniewska and Zbigniew Jan Stepniewski are originally from Warsaw but have lived in Cómpera for around four years. They were drawn to the mountainous Axarquía village thanks to its artistic vibe and possibilities for walking.

Eliza 45, a poet, editor, proof-reader, copywriter and translator, and Zbigniew 46, a computer programmer and musician, were in that enviable position of being able to "work remotely". So after several months of research on possible locations, they eventually settled on the Axarquía, where they already had friends.

"Our friends put us in contact with someone who rented properties and when we heard that it was much cheaper to rent something for longer periods, we just thought, why not? Let's try half a year," Eliza explains.

However, the couple, who have been together for 20 years and married for 14, soon fell in love with the area and six months soon became 12... and the rest is history.

Since they have been in Cómpera, they have become an integral part of the village's thriving creative scene and Eliza is a member of the local choir, 'Coro

de Cómpera', which she says "is the best choir I've belonged to."

As a musician, Zbigniew has also built a reputation, so much so that one of his compositions premiered at the village's Artwalk, which took place earlier this month. Through the choir the composer met Malaga pianist Elena Mota García, who performed the piece.

But the couple's involvement in the artistic event goes further; they were part of the organising team, with Eliza doing the marketing and publicity and Zbigniew's artwork forming part of the poster.

In addition to this, Eliza launched her latest book of poems, which is written in Polish and translated by her into English. 'Frigor Mortis' is a collection of poetry inspired by drawings that Eliza's late mother, Alicja Saroma, who passed away in 2021, had done. However, Eliza says, "Mum never showed the artistic part of her nature to the world. She was too shy so would just draw for herself".

The book, Eliza says, is "a kind of joint artistic venture between mother and daughter, blurring the boundaries between death and life."

The poet explains that she



Zbigniew and Eliza on one of their long walks in the mountains near Cómpera. **SUR**

came across her mother's artwork while "browsing through some of her things" and decided to publish them alongside her poems as a tribute.

Eliza is also co-author of a book of children's nursery rhymes on the subject of ecology, 'Draka Ekonieboraka' (Econinny's Blunders) and two other poetry books, 'The Art of Folding' and 'Selfies, Half-Shadows and Darkness'.

## Shared passions

The couple share a passion and talent for words and music. While Eliza writes verse, and sings with the local choir, Zbigniew, a self-taught composer explains that he really discovered his talent at high school when along with his brothers, he started creating alternative music in the form of punk and hip-

**"When we heard it was much cheaper to rent for longer periods, we thought, let's try half a year and four years later we're still here"**

hop. A musical journey then led him to start composing symphonic music in 2000.

"My pieces are about feelings and emotions that only a fellow creature can understand, so I have never decided to publish computer versions of my compositions," Zbigniew explains.

Although his longer symphonic pieces haven't yet been performed, the musician's piano compositions have and that is where Elena Mota García came in at the recent Cómpera artwalk.

"I was lucky, I met Elena Mota García who, during the Cómpera Artwalk, played my composition."

When the couple are not working or creating art, their other joint passion is going for long walks in the mountains around Cómpera and exploring the area.

So they agree that in Cómpera they have found harmony; somewhere that allows them to create their art, be surrounded by other artists and enjoy the great outdoors that the Axarquía also provides.

## Further information :

Zbigniew's website is: [www.stepniewski.ar](http://www.stepniewski.ar), to contact Eliza: [eliza@saroma.art](mailto:eliza@saroma.art)

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# 21 NATIONS BATTLE FOR THE EUROPEAN CROWN



## SOCIETY SCENE

Guests enjoy the 12th anniversary party in Mijas. **A. EKSTRØMA**

## Costa Women marks 12 years of community spirit

### MIJAS

Members celebrated the anniversary with an end of summer party to raise funds for Cudeca

#### TONY BRYANT

The Costa Women community celebrated its 12th anniversary with an end of summer party at the Play Restaurant in Mijas last week, an event which

raised 900 euros for the Cudeca Foundation.

Guests enjoyed an evening of live music supplied by Costa favourite Laura Elen; along with a special performance by flamenco dancer Asami Ikeda, and a fashion show hosted by Mapuchi Moda, which presented its autumn collection.

There was also a charity raffle with prizes donated by 26 businesses owned by Costa Women members.

## St Andrew's chaplaincy hosts its autumn fair

### FUENGIROLA

**T.B.** The Saint Andrew's chaplaincy will hold its autumn fair at the San Miguel Church in

Fuengirola on Saturday, 8 October.

The event, which begins at 11am, will include stalls selling homemade cakes and pastries, a fancy dress competition, and live entertainment supplied by the Cabopino Ukulele Group, the TAPAS choir, and the amateur theatrical group, A Touch of Class.

## Jingle Belles Christmas choir calling for singers

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

**J. RHODES.** Following its creation last year, the Jingle Belles Christmas choir is back to rehearsing for this year's festive season and is looking for new singers, male or female, to join.

Choir member Suzanne Mastbroek said, "Experience is not needed, we are more about fun than the serious stuff."

Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays at 6.30pm in Caleta de Vélez (Vélez-Málaga). For further information contact Suzanne via WhatsApp on 633 917 75.

## ARCH appeals for volunteers for charity shop

### ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

**T.B.** The ARCH horse sanctuary in Alhaurín el Grande is appealing for volunteers to offer a few hours of their time to help run its charity shop. The shop needs help on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 10am and 2pm.

The charity is looking for people who are happy to prepare, sort and clean donated items, attend to customers and also work on the till.

Interested individuals should call into the shop, or see the ARCH Facebook page.

La Cala Lions enjoy a night of fun and entertainment in Mijas. **SUR**

## Successful Lions President's Dinner raises 8,000 euros

### MIJAS

**T. BRYANT.** The La Cala Lions Club welcomed 130 guests to its annual President's Dinner

held at the Grace Restaurant in Mijas last week. The event raised 8,000 euros for local charities and included live entertainment, a raffle and an auction.

Prizes in the auction included a holiday for two in Portugal, donated by the auctioneer Jason Vale, and a VIP visit for four people to Manchester United FC.

Two dogs and 19 people took part in the 2021 Poppy Walk. **SUR**

## On the march in Nerja for the RBL Poppy Appeal

### NERJA

**J. R.** The Nerja Royal British Legion is holding its annual sponsored Poppy Walk on Sun-

day 16 October. The walk will begin at the town's Al Andaluz hotel at 11.30am and finish at the Chapel Bar.

Last year the RBL Nerja branch raised around 2,000 euros when 19 people and two dogs took part in the walk. For sponsor forms and further information contact Dorothy Allen on 643 212 944.



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## 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary



## German film week: from blockbusters to award winning films

The third edition of the event, organised by the Goethe Institute, the German Consulate and SUR, opens on 4 October at the Albéniz Cinema

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. The third edition of German Film Week returns to Malaga on October 4th, bringing the most recent premieres from Germany. Organised by the Goethe Institute, the Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in Malaga and SUR Deutsche Ausgabe, the German Film Week will continue until October 8th and will start with Florian Hoffman's drama *Stille Post* on the manipulation of images in armed conflicts, a debate that is currently very topical, as the director of the cultural programme of the Goethe Centre in Madrid, Ana Pérez, recalled.

The cycle continues with *Albträumer*, by Philipp Klinger; *Stefan Wetterswelle's Dein herz Tanzt*; *Nico*, by Eline Gehrling and *Niemand ist bei den Kälbern*, directed by Sabrina Sarabi.

On Thursday 6th is the award



Braun, Castillo, Scheele, Pérez and Nehls at the presentation. S. SALAS

winning film *Lieber Thomas*, about the life of the non-conformist German writer Thomas Brasch. It will be shown in Cine Albéniz as well as the Edificio de Usos Múltiples in Torrox so that the many German residents in Torrox Costa don't have to travel to Malaga to see it, explained the editor of SUR Deutsche Ausgabe, Uwe Scheele.

Friday 7th, is the turn of *Toubab*, a story about a Senegalese man, and on Saturday 8th are two films *Die welt wir deine andere sein* by Anne Zohra Ber-

rached and *Nightlife*, a comedy by Simon Verhoeven.

SUR's editor-in-chief, Manolo Castillo, stressed that German Film Week has become an "unmissable event for those of us who love cinema." Also at the presentation was the German Consul in Malaga, Arnulf Braun, who referred to culture as the best tool for "getting to know each other better".

Screenings will be in German with Spanish subtitles. Tickets are available from Uniticket and at the Cine Albéniz box office.

## Marbella International Film Festival starts next week with a locally made movie

The cast, crew, filming locations and production for *Room 4D*, which will premiere at the event, are all from the local area

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. The 17th edition of the Marbella International Film Festival starts next week and will screen 44 films and documentaries, including a special full-feature production that was made entirely within the Marbella area.

The film, *Room 4D*, is in English and will premiere at 9pm Wednesday 5 October at Red Dog Cinema, in Puerto Banús. Producer Franky Lankester, who also plays a role in the film, described it as a psychological thriller based on true events that happened in the Costa del Sol town.

"[Writer-director] Tony Bianchi and I came up with this story and we wanted to use only local cast, crew and locations," Lankester explained. The production went as far as to pull from local



The poster for *Room 4D*. SUR

talent. "I got the Marbella Film School involved and offered every student the opportunity to be in the film. This is a 100% Marbella production," he said.

Lankester also hopes that the film can open doors that will allow for more support to make more films, as *Room 4D* has proven that there is "great potential in our Marbella community".

## FREE SEMINAR BY SIREJACOB LEGAL & TAX

### 10.00 h: REGISTRATION VISITORS

### 10.15 h: SEMINAR ABOUT OWNING A PROPERTY IN SPAIN

Is my property duly registered? And if not, can a future transaction be compromised? What if you bought a house that shows construction defects? If you want to renovate your house, what are the legal do's and don'ts? By Paz Valverde, lawyer

### 10.45 h: SEMINAR ABOUT TOURIST RENTALS

Regulation in Andalucía of tourist rentals for both urban properties and rustic properties. Property requirements and compulsory documentation requested by the local authorities. Consequences of lack of registration. What about the community of owners? By Macarena Ramos, Lawyer

### 11.15 h: WE OFFER YOU A COFFEE BREAK

Meanwhile, our lawyers can be privately consulted for more personal questions.

### 12.00 h: SEMINAR ABOUT SELLING YOUR PROPERTY

What if you do not have the First Occupancy License of your property. What if any extension of my property has not been duly registered at the Land registry. Which taxes do you have to pay? Capital gain tax and municipal tax, How to reduce those taxes? By Maria del Mar Tapia, lawyer.

### 12.30 h: SEMINAR ABOUT DONATING PROPERTY & DEALING WITH AN INTERNATIONAL INHERITANCE

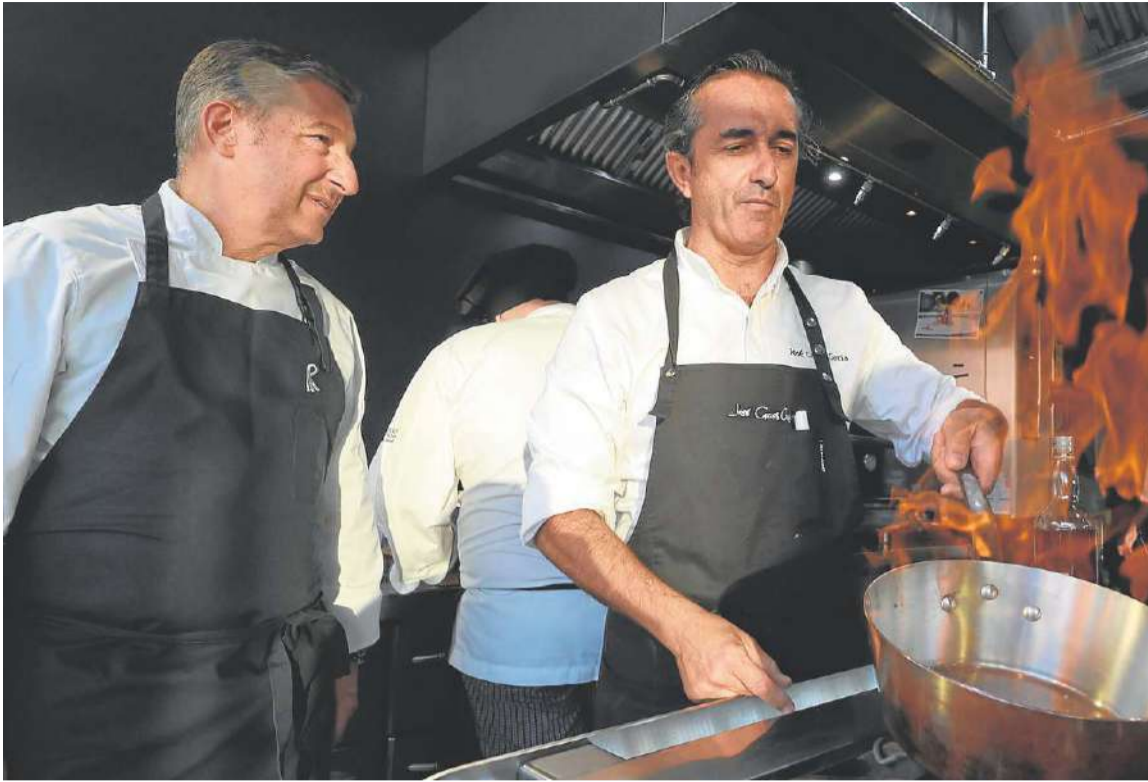
What are the actual advantages of donating in Andalucía, and where is the disadvantage? What about your last will? How can I benefit from tax deductions for donations in Andalucía? If I am not an EU resident, can I benefit from tax deductions for donations in Andalucía? By Miguel Alvarez, lawyer.

### 13h : ROUND OF QUESTIONS

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**FRIDAY  
14 OCTOBER  
2022**



Joan Roca and José Carlos García cooking together. SALVADOR SALAS

## Former pupil and his teacher cook up a storm for tenth anniversary

Michelin starred restaurant owners, Joan Roca and José Carlos García re-unite at the port and celebrate by cooking up a feast

MARINA MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Almost twenty-five years ago, Malaga born chef José Carlos García, served an internship at Michelin starred El Celler de Can Roca, under the legendary chef, Joan Roca.

Recently he entertained his teacher 'at home'. The two chefs got together to celebrate the tenth anniversary of José's restaurant at

the port in Malaga. This tenth year has been full of special events, including a visit by another top chef, Martín Berasategui, in June.

Joan Roca helped the Malaga chef to create an 'unprecedented' menu which consisted of a white soup (ajoblanco) made with mackerel, camomile, lemon and capers. This was followed by grilled sole and Joan Roca's dessert made with sheep's milk ice cream, curd foam and yoghurt. José Carlos García made shrimps marinated with roasted pepper sauce, tomato porra with grilled sardines and yoghurt, and Iberian pork loin with stewed pears and pomegranate.

### Admiration and affection

"We do this type of collaboration very occasionally. Such as cases like this one which, because of our admiration and affection, we couldn't miss," said Joan Roca.

José recalls his time at the Celler, "I wanted to eat the world, I stayed in the afternoon making oxtail because it was the only time I had, and the yaya (Joan's grandmother) scolded us because I was using too much gas." Times have changed, now with around 700 applications every year, Joan Roca cannot sit down with them all but he insists that the philosophy has stayed the same. "We were non-conformists and we wanted the people who came to our house to understand that the restaurant was a way of life, with a family dedicated to it, that we had it in our souls. José Carlos is one of the people we are most proud of for what he has achieved and for what he is like". And what is he like? Does he have something of the Celler? "I'd like to think that we left a mark", joked Roca.

FUENGIROLA REVISITED: PART 9  
PATRICK H. MEEHAN

## A reconnaissance visit before the battle?

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

In 1810 Fuengirola was visited by two Honourable Members of the British Parliament. The first was by William Jacob MP for Rye in Sussex, merchant, scientist and politician. The second was the MP for Old Sarum, Lieutenant General Andrew Thomas Blaney, the 11th Baron Blaney.

In 1810 Britain had been at War with France for seven years, the French had taken control of Spain and Napoleon's brother had occupied the Spanish throne since 1808. Fuengirola Castle was manned by Polish troops because Poland was bound to France by a treaty.

William Jacob (and his team) wrote a 'travel memoir' between 1809 and 1810 which can be found online by searching for "Travels in the South of Spain by William Jacob". It is mostly about road conditions, fortifications, resources and populations. He published nothing about the defences of Fuengirola Castle, all he says is:

"The town of Fuengirola in the Valley, and the small white houses, interspersed among the vineyards upon the rising ground, were admirably contrasted with the various green tints below, and the brown and red colour of the marble mountains which tower majestically above.

"We reached the Posada at Fuengirola about noon, and rested ourselves and our

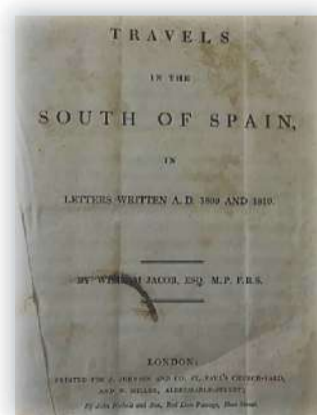
horses; the house was filled with tubs, in which they were salting sardines and anchovies. These fish are slightly cured, are packed in baskets, and conveyed on asses into the mountainous parts of the country, where they are considered a most desirable and luxurious riposte. The price paid by the curers to the fishermen is about half a dollar a bushel.

"We left Fuengirola at half past one, expecting, as the distance was only four leagues, to reach Malaga early in the afternoon; but we found the road most intolerably bad..."

The second visit was five months later when Lord Blaney arrived at the Castle with a 74 cannon warship, four gunboats, five frigates and 2,500 troops. Blaney's expedition

needed intelligence such as road conditions, troop placements and re-enforcement times from Malaga. A bloody battle ensued (the subject of the next column); the British incurred a serious defeat, Lord Blaney was taken prisoner and Fuengirola Castle would record its finest hour.

In the British inquiries into this ignominious defeat, bad intelligence was among the culprits. Jacobs's memoir may be remembered as the first known account of Fuengirola in English and equally forgotten for the failed intelligence it provided.



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



DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

# Leucophyta brownii

Commonly called silver bush, cushion bush and Australian garland flower, *Leucophyta brownii* (synonym *Calocephalus brownii*), is a perennial shrub and member of the daisy family, *Asteraceae*. It is the only member of the *Leucophyta* genus.

The silver bush is native to Australia where it is found grow-

ing wild in coastal regions and on exposed dunes and cliffs. Its dense compact growth forms a rounded mound up to one metre tall. The thick stems and tiny leaves are covered in very fine, white hairs which are soft, like felt. It gives the plant an overall silvery appearance and helps to reflect the light and heat making

this an ideal plant for hot, dry gardens. The white of the foliage also makes a stunning contrast to green foliage and plants with purple or blue blooms.

It is drought resistant but will need regular watering until established and occasional watering during the hottest months to keep it flourishing.

Avoid getting water on the leaves or stems as

much as possible and a liquid feed can be added to the water once a year in spring.

The silver bush will grow in gravel and sandy soils and needs good drainage. It will tolerate some shade but may become spindly and will not flower if the shade is too dense.

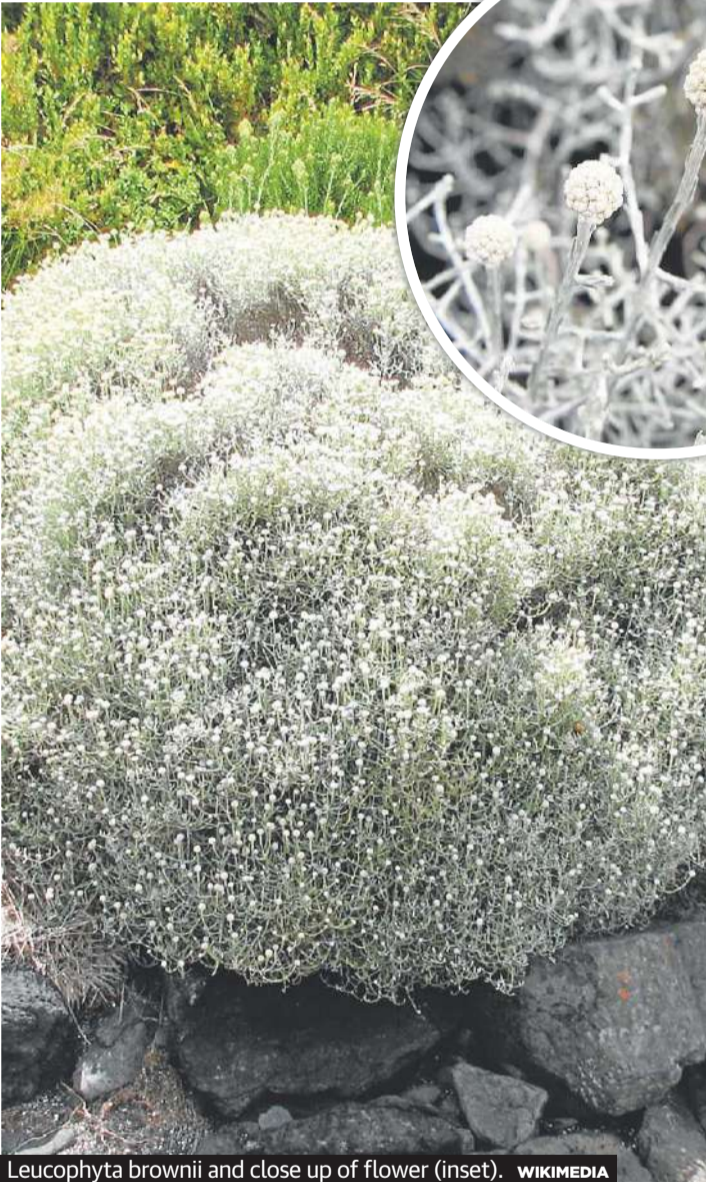
Although it will withstand full sun, extreme heat and salt breezes it will not survive freezing temperatures, waterlogging or strong winds.

*Leucophyta* is sometimes reluctant to flower and other times it will flower incessantly all year. The tiny blooms form in button-like clusters and open a pale or creamy yellow.

To keep the plant healthy and vigorous, dead head frequently and trim to keep a good, compact shape.

The trimmings of semi-ripe wood can be used to propagate new plants or alternatively *Leucophyta* can be raised from seed.

*Leucophyta brownii* is named after Scottish botanist Robert Brown who discovered it in the early nineteenth century.



Leucophyta brownii and close up of flower (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



ADRIAN VAN VLIET

## Brazilian red cloak

This photo of the stunning Brazilian red cloak, (*Megaskepasma Etrythroclamys*) was sent in by SUR in English reader Adrian van Vliet.

## Rangoon creeper

Caroline Sellers sent in this photo of Rangoon creeper or *Combretum indicum*, a sweetly scented vine native to tropical regions of Asia. The flowers change in colour, not fading from red to pale pink and white as you might expect, but opening white and changing to deep red as they age. It is thought that this strange strategy is to attract more pollinators, moths initially then bees and birds.



CAROLINE SELLERS

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.es](mailto:english@diariosures.es) 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](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR\\_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).



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◀ The basilica of Saint-Just-de-Valcabrère and the Sainte Marie cathedral are some of the highlights for tourists in this part of the Haute Garonne. **P. GRIFOL**

**The basilica of Saint-Just-de-Valcabrère was built using gravestones from a pagan necropolis**

a hostel for pilgrims which reopened in May this year.

## Medieval essence in the heart of l'Occitane

**O**n both sides of La Garonne river, which starts in the Val d'Aran and crosses l'Occitane before flowing into the Atlantic, there are some small villages with interesting stories behind them.

Most are remote from the modern world, but for centuries they were important capitals of the Roman empire and outstanding medieval boroughs. They are villages with a touch of timelessness about them, where their past is still very obvious today.

One of these villages is Saint-Bertrand-de-Comminges in the Haute Garonne area, a short distance from the border with Spain. Although unknown to many tourists, it is an important stopping point for pilgrims heading for Santiago de Compostela on the French Camino de Santiago, which starts in Arles, passes through Toulouse and crosses the foothills of the Pyrenees at Canfranc, before reaching Jaca.

The steep layout still preserves its authenticity as a medieval village. Its narrow cobbled streets were only designed with horses in mind, so it goes almost without saying that vehicles have to park on a piece of land - more earth than asphalt - at the bottom of the mountain.

The village is dominated by the impressive Sainte-Marie cathedral, which was built in the 12th century over the remains of a Roman village founded by General Pompey in the year 72 BC.

Even then it was not just a hamlet like any other: it had several baths and a theatre. The in-

**Saint-Bertrand-de-Comminges.**  
In France, the Haute Garonne area is home to one of the loveliest villages on the other side of the Pyrenees



▲ **Beauty**  
The town still retains many of its medieval features.  
**P. GRIFOL**

**PEDRO GRIFOL**

terior of the church contains important romanesque and gothic pieces and the cloister is outstanding with capitels representing the four evangelists.

The choir stalls are also special, here the oak is carved with numerous decorative details, including the scene of the tree in Paradise with Adam and Eve, where the talking serpent has the head of a woman.

The majestic right-angled organ is still in use today and the impressive sound from its pipes, which were restored in 1970, was heard loud and clear during the Comminges Music Festival which began again after the pandemic from July to September this summer.

That was definitely an excellent occasion to appreciate its quality of sound.

The village is protected by a wall with three gates which are still there today. The magnificent houses, some of which are half-timbered, are from the 16th century and bear witness to the historical events during the times of the bishopric, when this was an episcopal diocese until the French Revolution.

Saint Bertrand today can be summed up as a delightful place which

can be visited in one day - or two! - by anyone who would like to soak up more of its medieval essence. It has a couple of restaurants, a bar, a crêperie, a magnificent exhibition centre called Les Olivétains, a hotel and

### Pagan gravestones

Another recommended place to visit in the area can be found on a plain at the foot of the mountain. It is the basilica of Saint-Just-de-Valcabrère, which is unusual because it was constructed with the gravestones from a pagan necropolis. In other words they desecrated a cemetery for 'sinners' and used the polished marble slabs to build the church.

It is curious to see architectural fragments from the ancient necropolis in the walls. It was indisputably original, but disputably ethical.

### Medieval route

Other villages in the Haute Garonne also retain this medieval atmosphere. One is Martres-Tolosane (which is 50 kilometres from Saint-Bertrand). The village is structured as a ring of boulevards surrounding the centre, in which the fortress-church of San Vidió stands. This place is famous for its ceramics, known as matretense pottery, a craft which began here in the 18th century.

### Where bread really is bread

And another village is Revel, a small enclave which has preserved its 'bastide', a name used in France from the 13th century onwards for urban constructions with a defensive purpose.

This is one of those places where plump, pampered cats lazily observe tourists from their windows, where naïve painters reside and where the inhabitants carefully make traditional products without using preservatives. In other words, a place where the bread really is bread.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

30 SEPTEMBER 1997

Alicante suffers severe flooding during worst storm in history

The torrential rain and flooding killed five people and caused severe structural damage to the city

On 30 September 1997, Alicante suffered the worst storm since records began when nearly three metres of rain fell in just a few hours. The torrential rain and subsequent flooding killed five people and caused severe structural damage to homes and buildings in the city. Much of the city was left without electricity and telecommunications, while shops, offices, schools and universities were forced to close.

Today marks the 25th anniversary of a storm that began

after a pocket of cold air caused major thunderstorms in the southeast of Spain. The humidity given off by the Mediterranean, which was still warm due to the heat accumulated during the summer months, collided with the cold air, causing heavy outbreaks of thunder and torrential rain.

The severe conditions were the result of a phenomenon known as a Dana (cold drop), which stands for Depresión Aislada en Niveles Altos (isolated high-level atmospheric depression), which began in the Gulf of Cadiz. When it reached Alicante, within 90 minutes, more than 150mm had fallen. Within just six hours, this had risen to 270mm.

The rain began 9am, but the worst flooding came at around



Vehicles were swept away by torrents of water during the storm. SUR

1.30pm. This coincided with children leaving school and caused chaos to rush hour traffic, as the main access roads to Alicante were cut off by the torrents.

The University of Alicante was submersed in water and several lecturers and students had to be rescued by the emergency services.

One of the biggest problems occurred in areas where construction was in progress. Many streets in the city centre were engulfed in torrents of water,

which swept away infrastructure, vehicles, kiosks and anything in its path.

More than 400 people were trapped in the train station and emergency services battled against the odds, since the entire area was more than half a metre under water.

Around 20 families were also rescued from their homes, and entire areas of the city had to be evacuated.

Five people lost their lives, including a child and his mother who were swept away

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Inundación	Flood
Tormenta	Storm
Lluvia	Rain
Torrencial	Torrential
Chubasco	Shower
Aguacero	Downpour
Relámpago	Lightning
Truenos	Thunder
Hora punta	Rush hour
Colegio	School
Instituto	Secondary school
Universidad	University
Electricidad	Electricity
Estudiante	Student
Atrapado	Trapped
Evacuado	Evacuated
Llover	To rain
Socorrer	To help

by the water. The emergency and security services spent days rescuing people stranded in their homes or trapped in their vehicles.

Due to its geographical location and its climate, Alicante is commonly affected by heavy rainfall; after this tragedy, measures were taken to prevent future storms from causing the same devastation.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



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And finally, the price of electricity in Spain has risen enormously over the past 15 months. Conclusion: a photovoltaic system is, now more than ever, interesting; not only to protect the environment, but also for financial reasons.

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ditions for generating solar power with a photovoltaic system.

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The company Smart Photovoltaic Systems S.L. stands for high-quality photovoltaic systems. The owner and founder of the company is Frank Weiss.

The 53-year-old has been in the solar business for 15 years. After about 1,300 installations in residential properties, industrial premises and solar parks; Weiss is your trusted contact for photovoltaics. His company offers systems with



and without storage solutions, depending on the customer's requirements. All work is carried out by his professional team; the solar modules come with a 25-year guarantee.

### Free estimates

Frank Weiss will be happy to provide you with an estimate for a suitable photovoltaic system. He advises free of charge and without obligation.

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# ONE

## CONSTRUCTION

Alan Lloyd

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EXHIBITIONS

**Casa de las Tejerinas**  
**ESTEPONA.** Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza del Flores.  
**Jacques Jacobs.** Until 12 October. Dutch artist Jacques Jacobs will be exhibiting some of his works.  
**Elaine Moore.** Until 12 October. The exhibition consists of 38 works created by Scottish artist Elaine Moore.



**Jóvenes Poetas**  
**MARBELLA.** Until 12 October. Reiner's Contemporary Art, CCCanoján Corner  
Thomas Liu Le Lann (Geneva, Switzerland 1994), Karla Zipfel (Freiburg, Germany, 1993), Carlos Enfedaque (Zaragoza, 1994) are the three young artists who have an exhibition at Reiner's Art Gallery.

**Blas de Lezo**  
**FUENGIROLA.** Until 16 October. Museo de la Ciudad.  
The exhibition consists of 26 panels which commemorate the life of one of the most decorated sailors in Spanish naval history, Blas de Lezo.

**Felipe Gómez**  
**MIJAS.** Until 10 October. Casa Museo de Mijas.  
An exhibition of paintings by Felipe Gómez.

# Legends tribute season ends with Elvis and the Fab Four



Malaga band Sun will bring the music of Elvis to Benalmádena. SUR.

**TONY BRYANT**  
**BENALMÁDENA.** The Festival of Legends cycle of summer concerts in the municipal auditorium in Benalmádena will come to a close on Friday 7 October with a special tribute night to the two biggest names in the history of world music.  
The closing show will begin with the music of the King of rock and roll, which will be performed by Sun, a Malaga-based group who reproduce the iconic music of Elvis and his band.  
Sun will recreate music from the Las Vegas shows, a period that demonstrates the electrifying power of Elvis on stage when performing hits such as I Just Can't Help Be-

lieving, The Wonder of You and Viva Las Vegas, among others.  
The second group to take the stage is local Beatles tribute band, The Silver Beats. The group have built a large following due to their musicianship and ability to reproduce the antics of the Fab Four live on stage.  
Their set will include the early songs of The Beatles, which invented the principles of today's music and made the Liverpool icons the most celebrated pop band of all time.  
Tickets for the show, which starts at 9pm, cost 10€ in advance, or 15€ at the door and can be reserved by calling 633647260, or see the Facebook page for Ocio Music.

**Alberto Urbano**  
**LA CALA.** Until 24 October. Centro Cultural.  
The exhibition is entitled Caotic Art and consists of various paintings in graffiti style.

**Sala Alfajar**  
**MALAGA.** Until 13 November. C/Cister 1.  
**Belin: Neogénesis.** The internationally renowned graffiti artist Miguel Ángel Belinchón (Belin) is exhibiting

a selection of his works .  
**Tito Alfajero.** The Úbeda artist Tito Alfajero is the third generation of ceramists and is displaying some of his creations. [www.alfajar.es](http://www.alfajar.es)

**Malaga Picasso Museum**  
**MALAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Picasso on loan. From 11 October. The Thyssen art gallery in Malaga is loaning two paintings by Picasso to the museum. These are Los Segadores (1907) and Corrida de Toros (1934). [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org).

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

**Centre Pompidou**  
**MALAGA.** Muelle Uno. <https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/UnTiempoPropio>. Until 15 October 2023. The new semi-permanent exhibition includes over 100 works by various artists such as Picasso's sculpture Girl With A Skipping Rope, sculptures by Philippe Starck and Hans Brockhage as well as works by Braque, Derain, Jean Coctain, Henri Matisse and Picabia among others.  
**Urban Weekend.** Until 1 October. Artists such as Sicario, La Eme, Fasim, D.Darko, Natalia Pérez, Tayzen, Juande Pacheco and Ginger form part of this event which culminates in a concert by the Dolores y Mazmorras

band. There will be demonstrations of graffiti art and urban dance among other activities.

**Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA.**  
**Angelika Markul.** Until 23 October. Memory of Glaciers is a video installation by the Polish artist.  
**OSGEMOS.** Until 4 December. Brazilian twins, Otávio and Gustavo Pandolfo (OSGEMOS), are exhibiting over 20 works in this exhibition entitled When The Leaves Turn Yellow.  
**MALAGA.** CAC Málaga - La Coracha.  
**Cristina Lama.** Entretanto. Until 13 November. The Seville artist Cristina Lama is exhibiting a selection of oils on canvas ranging from figurative to abstract compositions.

**Dos Visiones del Botánico, Dos Generaciones**  
**MALAGA.** Until 2 October. Jardín Botánico la Concepción.  
Father and son, Juan Pérez and Cristóbal Pérez, are exhibiting their works. The paintings reflect the different styles and techniques of the father and son but the subject matter is the same, flowers, fruits and plants.

**Carmen Thyssen Museum**  
**MALAGA.** C/ Compañía.  
**Picasso / Chanel.** From 11 October. The Museo Picasso Málaga is loaning two of its works to the Thyssen museum. The two paintings are Picasso's Las Tres Gracias 1923) and Olga Sentada (1923).



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**DEIN HERZ TANZT**

**TH6 6.45PM**  
**NICO**  
**TH6 8.30PM**  
**LIEBER THOMAS**  
 (DEAR THOMAS)

**F7 7.15PM**  
**NIEMAND IST BEI**  
**DEN KÄLBERN**  
 (NO ONE'S WITH THE CALVES)  
**F7 9.45PM**  
**TOUBAB**

**S8 7PM**  
**COPILOT -**  
**DIE WELT WIRD**  
**EINE ANDERE SEIN**  
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## EXHIBITIONS

## Beatriz Taillefer

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 8 October. Sala El Pósito. A selection of 17 works by Beatriz Taillefer, in watercolour and acrylic, are on display.

## Baruj Salinas

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 8 January 2023. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Encuentro con la Belleza is the title of the exhibition that is currently on display in the CAC. It consists of twenty works by painter and sculptor Baruj Salinas (Havana 1938), a close friend of María Zambrano.



Annabel Keatley, Frigiliana

## Annabel Keatley

**FRIGILIANA.** From 15 until 30 October. Sala de Exposiciones, La Placituela, C/Real. La Fuerza del Sol is the title of this exhibition by British artist Annabel Keatley.

## Coby Bloemsma

**EL MORCHE.** Until 23 March 2023, Bio Beach Club. Torrox artist Coby Bloemsma is exhibiting a selection of her work.

## Proyecto al Desnudo

**LA HERRADURA.** Until 10 October. Centro Cívico. The exhibition consists of a selection of photographs and poetry by José Molina and Daniel Chaves which presents nudity in a natural and simple form.

## MUSIC AND DANCE

## Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

**NERJA.** Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Granada. 1 October, 8pm. Macus Merino Trío. [www.ventana-abierta.es](http://www.ventana-abierta.es) Call:

690073871

## Blues Jam Session

**NERJA.** 6 October, 9pm. Los Huertos de Sevillano restaurant. The Belgian-Spanish Duo The Buzzy Bees (playing authentic foot-stomping African-American blues from 50s -70s) with guests from The Netherlands and the UK among others.

## Festival 2022

**BENALMÁDENA.** Auditorio de Benalmádena. Tribute acts organised by The Festival of Legends. 23 September, 8.30pm. Pink Floyd. 30 September, 7pm. Abba, Cher and back to the 80s. Tickets: [www.elcorteingles.es/entradas/](http://www.elcorteingles.es/entradas/)

## The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**MÁLAGA.** 30 September, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes. Music from composers Dvorak and Schubert. 6, 7 October, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes. Music from composer G. Mahler. [www.teatrocervantes.com](http://www.teatrocervantes.com)

## La Posada

**MÁLAGA.** Vincci Posada del Patio, Pasillo de Sta Isabel. 9.30pm Every Friday, 30 September. Rosa Ruiz & Foki. [www.tallerblues.es](http://www.tallerblues.es)

## Museum concerts

**MÁLAGA.** Free. Museo Carmen Thyssen. 30 September, 7pm. Promúsica [www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org/](http://www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org/)

## S!ngulares

**MÁLAGA.** Teatro Cervantes. 3 October, 8pm. Vida. Flamenco/jazz trio formed by Josemi Carmona, Javier Colina and Bandolero. Tickets [www.teatrocervantes.com](http://www.teatrocervantes.com)

## Orquesta de Cámara Mediterránea

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 9 October, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura. The orchestra starts the second season of concerts with the Concerto for Two Violins by Bach followed by Vistas al Mar by Toldrá and Romanian Folk Dances by Bela Bartok. The concert finishes with the Holberg Suite by Grieg. Tickets: [www.bravoentradas.es](http://www.bravoentradas.es)

## Baroque Chamber Orchestra

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 6 October, 7pm. Casa



Desnudo, La Herradura

de la Cultura.

The concert entitled Barroquísimo is performed by the Juventudes Musicales de Almuñécar Orquesta de Cámara

## Sierrasur Otoño Eco Festival

**ZAHARA DE LA SIERRA.** 30 September, 1 October. The festival includes concerts by Juanito Makandé, The Electric Alley, Laura B and Selva Sur among others. Tickets and more info: [www.sier-rasurfestival.com](http://www.sier-rasurfestival.com)

## Pepe Romero Guitar Festival

**MÁLAGA.** Until 30 September. 30 September, 8pm. Plaza de Armas, Castillo Gibralfaro. Spanish guitar legend Amancio Prada will be performing. Tickets: [www.mientrada.net](http://www.mientrada.net)

## Swan Lake with Kyiv ballet

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 12 October, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. The Kyiv Ballet Company will be per-

forming Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. Tickets: [www.bravoentradas.es](http://www.bravoentradas.es) 1.50 euros of every ticket goes to help Ukrainian refugees.

## FLAMENCO

## Noches de Flamenco

**MÁLAGA.** 1 October, 8.30pm. Col-mao de Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Brea. A flamenco performance by the Vane Campos 'La India' dance group.

## Sara Baras

**MÁLAGA.** 23 October, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes. The flamenco show called Alma with the legendary Sara Baras has been extended one day as the previous dates are all sold out (20, 21, 22 Oct). <https://www.teatrocervantes.com/>

## Flamenco Abierto

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Every Friday, 10pm. Peña Flamenca Niño de Vélez. Flamenco performances every Friday. Tickets: [www.entradium.com](http://www.entradium.com)

## THEATRE AND OPERA

## Salon Varietés

**FUENGIROLA.** 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipation. A Night with the Phantom. 30 September, 1 October. West End star Michael Sterling will be performing hits from his 35-year career including songs from the Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, Sunset Boulevard, Jeckyll and Hyde, Chess, Rat Pack, We Will Rock You, Andrea Bocelli and more. Tickets from salon-

varietes.com

## CHARITY

## Charity market

**MARBELLA.** 2 October, 10am - 7pm. Parque de la Alameda. The market raises funds for the Horizonte Proyecto Hombre charity which supports the reintegration into society of people suffering with various types of addictions.

## Walking Football charity match

**BENALMÁDENA PUEBLO.** 4 October, 2.30pm. Campo de fútbol Ramón Rico. A charity football match to raise funds for the Dementia and Alzheimer Support Group. Besides the friendly match between The Cheaters and The Ladykillers, female and male 'older' teams, members of both teams will be attired in pink frou frou skirts and sequins etc there will be plenty of food and drinks, stalls and a raffle.



Sara Baras, Teatro Cervantes

# Frigiliana gets creative with the 6th international art route

## FRIGILIANA

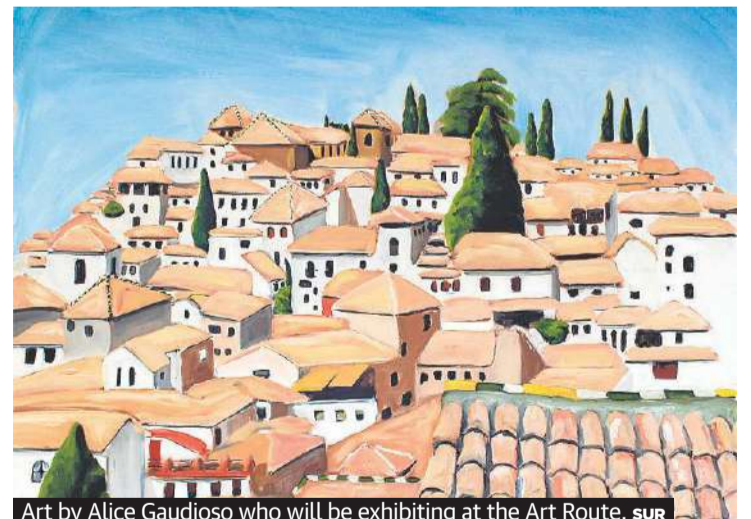
Spanish - British couple Maribel Martín and Brendan Taylor are organising the event at which 12 nationalities will be represented

## JENNIE RHODES

**FRIGILIANA.** The Frigiliana Art Route starts next Friday, 7 October, and runs until Sunday 9th.

For the sixth year running, artists will be displaying their work in 24 venues around the village. The event is organised by Frigiliana Town Hall and Maribel Martín and Brendon Taylor, owners of the AMARTE Studio-gallery.

This year there are 48 artists representing 12 different nationalities, exhibiting a range of disciplines from painting, drawing and photography to sculpture, textiles, engraving and ceramics.



Art by Alice Gaudioso who will be exhibiting at the Art Route. SUR

There's an intensive painting course (10 hours spread over the 3 days of the route) with the Valencian artist Ismael Fuentes and a number of three-hour collage workshops with the Romanian artist Alina Eliza Smocov.

Information brochures with a map showing the 24 locations and an example of the work of each artist are avail-

able from the tourist office, the 24 venues and on social networks. At each location there is a QR code to scan and download the brochure onto mobile devices. The venues will be open each day from 11am to 2pm and from 4 to 8pm.

For more information see Facebook: Ruta del Arte Frigiliana, or email: [rutadelartefrigiliana@gmail.com](mailto:rutadelartefrigiliana@gmail.com)





#### ◀ Entretanto.

Cristina Lama poses in front of one of the 51 works in her exhibition. **ANABEL NIÑO**

curator of the exhibition, Fernando Francés, at the inauguration.

Most of these characters are framed within a common theme - death - but depicted in a way which differs greatly from the Mediterranean culture, which sees it as something full of sadness.

The figures that Cristina Lama draws on the canvas are more like the carnivalesque approach to death from the Latin American culture, in the purest style of Pixar's *Coco*.

It is a style that comes naturally to her as well, working without previous sketches and no intention of transmitting a predetermined message to those who view her art.

"Inspiration comes from stimuli, and that could be from dreams or literature or cinema or personal experiences. A priori something that is inconsequential can be the starting point for my work, but it is not something that I am falsifying. I see death more from this perspective because I identify more with that vision," Lama explained.

In her exhibition you can see how a skull smokes a pipe while a green bat and a ghost fly over its head (in the painting titled *Entretanto*) and how an invisible woman faces two skeletons and a phantom over a game of cards (*La penúltima partida*), not forgetting the way a witch gazes at a smiling skull in a bow tie (*Caudal*).

Although there are constant references to childhood, a stage of life that Cristina Lama defines as "a moment we all remember", certain tones that move away from that time of innocence continue to predominate in her works, such as brown and black.

"I didn't always use the same palette of colours. When I started working with acrylics back in 2012, it was a different combination. But when I began to use oils, this is the colour range I feel more comfortable with and the one I identify with the most," she says.

Among marionettes, ghosts and skulls a number of ducks are also hidden (*La laguna*), wolves (*Teatro ambulante*), elephants (*La estación*) and even an owl in a top hat, placed by the entrance, which seems to welcome visitors to the museum.

And although these characters are the main protagonists in her work, she has also found room for the abstract in some of her other paintings.

Lama is not an artist who likes to provide a lot of information about her works or what she is trying to say with them, because she believes that would restrict the mind of those who view them. She believes it is better to just let each individual's imagination flow, and decide for themselves what they find in her paintings.

## When life laughs at death in paintings by Cristina Lama

**Exhibition.** The Contemporary Art Centre is hosting 'Entretanto', a display of more than 50 works highlighting the most literary side of this artist from Seville, until 13 November

ANABEL NIÑO

Death is nothing more than another stage in the life of human beings. The final destination that nobody wants to reach, but sooner or later everybody does. In the world of art many artists over the centuries have represented death in different ways in their work. Some have portrayed fear, pain or suspicion, but others have seen it as something ironic or even comical, and that is the perspective that can be seen at La Coracha Contemporary Art Centre (CAC) until 13 November, through the works of Cristina Lama.

The exhibition by this artist from Seville is called *Entretanto* and it consists of 51 works, 22 of which have been completed in the past year. Each of them contains a pictorial delight in which recurring themes from Lama's work take cen-

tre stage,; these include whimsical animals which at times appear to have been taken from children's stories such as Red Riding Hood or The Wizard of Oz and who appear to converse among themselves in ironic and sarcastic tones.

"It's a world full of symbologies and thoughts in which there is a type of reflection on what all these souls are doing in the world, in the form of ghosts or theatrical characters who speak to us of an immediate future and which are mixed with childhood memories and personal experiences," explained the

**"This is the colour range I feel more comfortable with and the one I identify with the most"**



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## CHARITY

## ARCH Autumn Fest

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** 1st October, 10am-4pm, Hacienda Moreno, Viña Borrego.

An artisan market, family games, barbecue and raffle. In addition, there will be a flamenco show and live music. Proceeds will help the many animals being cared for at the Centre and will go towards feed and vets' bills. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or [www.horserescuespain.org](http://www.horserescuespain.org)

## Marbella 4Days Walking

**MARBELLA.** From 6 until 9 October. Plaza del Mar, Paseo Marítimo.

There are four walking routes to choose from, beach, green route, panoramic route and a lake route. A refreshment after the day walking and then dancing and music. To register: [www.marbella4dayswalking.com](http://www.marbella4dayswalking.com)

## Love To Sing 5th Anniversary

**MANILVA.** 7 October, from 7.30pm. Manilva Theatre. 5€.

The international choir will perform a selection of popular show songs with a flamenco performance by the local dancer Maria Soler. Tickets: The English Bookshop (Sabinillas 952891545) or call: 628 163 977. All proceeds are going to the St Georges Christmas Charity Appeal to raise funds for Christmas gifts for local children.



English cemetery days, Malaga

## Concert for Leo

**MALAGA.** 1 October, 6.30pm. Caja Blanco.

Five-year-old Leo suffers with the rare and mortal Sanfilippo Syndrome, a neurological genetic condition which has no cure and no treatment. He is one of the only twenty suffers in the world who is receiving experimental therapy. He is not the only case in Malaga, a four-year-old from Coín is also affected. Leo's family have organised a concert to raise funds for the Sanfilippo Foundation. Instagram: @conciertosantfilippo.

## FIESTAS AND FERIAS

## Feria Real de San Miguel

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 2 October.

The San Miguel Feria is celebrated with concerts and dancing during both day and night ferias. This year the concerts include performances by Miguel Poveda, Silvia Pantoja, India Martínez and Ecos de Rocío among others.

# Fuengirola gears up for long-awaited return of its feria

Along with concerts by some of Spain's top artists, this fair offers equestrian activities bullfights and flamenco

TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** A sign that the summer has finally come to an end is highlighted by the final ferias of the season, one of which is the Feria del Rosario in Fuengirola, which takes place between Thursday 6 and Wednesday 12 October.

The long-awaited return of the romeria in honour of Nuestra Señora del Rosario, which will take place on Sunday 2 October, signals the start of the festivities, which return for the first time since 2019.

One of the most traditional pilgrimages in the province of Malaga, this gathering pays homage to the Virgin of the Rosary. The event begins at the Nuestra del Rosario parish church, when a mass will be held in her honour at 9.30am, after which, the procession will set off on its three-hour journey to the Parque El Esparragal in the neighbouring municipality of Mijas.

The casetas and fairground attractions will be officially opened by local artist Fran Terrén in the Palacio de la Paz at 9.30pm on Thursday.



The night fair comes alive with a variety of music and dance. SUR.

Along with performances by some of Spain's top artists, this fair offers equestrian activities – such as the colourful horse and carriage parade on Saturday - bullfights and the town's coveted flamenco festival (Wednesday), which this year will feature the celebrated singer José Mercé, along with local performers Bonela Hijo and Isabel Guerrero.

The daytime fair takes place in the centre of town, when Andalusian horses and magnificent carriages are paraded around the streets, while visitors dressed in traditional attire enjoy local gastronomy and participate in the dancing of sevillanas and light flamenco.

At night, the fairground

comes alive with a variety of music and dance performances in the casetas, while concerts are held in the Palacio de la Paz theatre at 10pm each night. This year's line-up includes the Spanish rock band, La Oreja de Van Gogh, rumba and copla favourite, Manuel Lombo, and Funambulista, a band fronted by the award-winning singer and composer Diego Cantero.

In order to encourage participation in the different activities, the town hall has produced an official programme with information in both Spanish and English, which is available from the town hall and other municipal offices.

More information, see [www.fuengirola.es](http://www.fuengirola.es)

**TORREMOLINOS.** Until 2 October. The feria takes place until 2 October with a Feria de Día and a Feria de Noche. Live music and dance performances. [www.torremolinos.es](http://www.torremolinos.es)

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 2 October. Held in the San Miguel district of the town, the four day festival (it started on Thursday) is in honour of the patron saint.

## MORE IDEAS

## Remembrance Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

**MALAGA.** 7 October, 7pm. The English Cemetery, St George's Church. A service of commemoration and thanksgiving.

## Autumn Fair

**CALAHONDA.** 8 October, 11am-2pm. San Miguel Church.

Lots of stalls, games and refreshments. Fancy dress competition register from 12pm at the church. [www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org](http://www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org)

## Mijas Movie Tour

**MIJAS.** 5 October, 5pm. Meet at Mijas Tourist office. 15€.

The tour discovers the film treasures which have been shot here by the film making industry over the years and includes a selection of

sequences filmed in Mijas during the '60s and '70s. Bookings: [mijas-secrets@gmail.com](mailto:mijas-secrets@gmail.com)

## Photoshop workshop

**LAS LAGUNAS, MIJAS.** 1, 2 October, 10am-2pm. Edificio de Fomento de Empleo. Free.

An introduction to Photoshop with José R. Moreno. To register call: 952590380

## Urban 10km Race

**ESTEPONA.** 8, 9 October. Starting from the Estadio de Atletismo. Register for the event (either 10km or 5km) on [www.dorsalchip.es](http://www.dorsalchip.es). There is also a children's race on 8 October (400m, 800m or 1,500m).

## Family English Cemetery Days

**MALAGA.** Saturdays, 10am-2pm. Avda de Pries, 1. Book a family visit to the English Cemetery and discover some fascinating Malaga history. Reserve a time slot on <https://cementerioingles-malaga.org/en>

## 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).

**Avatar 3D:** 19.15 (Tues) (every day). **Avatar:** 12.00 (Sun); 16.00 (Sat, Sun, Wed, Thurs).

**Where the Crawdads Sing:** 13.40 (Sun), 21.30 (Tues).

**Don't Worry Darling:** 12.05, 14.35 (Sun); 19.30 (Fri-Sun, Tues); 22.05 (Mon, Wed, Thurs).

**Spider Man No Way Home:** 19.30 (Tues).

**Ticket To Paradise:** 22.45 (Fri-Sun).

## Yelmo Cines, Vialia

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

**Avatar 3D:** 21.45 (Tues).

**Where the Crawdads Sing:** 12.50 (Sun); 21.25 (Tues).

**Moonage Daydream:** 20.00 (Fri-Sun); 20.05 (Tues).

**Don't Worry Darling:** 13.15 (Sun); 22.00 (every day).

**Ticket To Paradise:** 13.10 (Sun)

## Cinesur Miramar

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

**Avatar:** 12.00 (Sat, Sun), 17.00 (every day).

**Avatar 3D:** 11.45, 15.55 (Sat, Sun); 19.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs)



ARCH, Alhaurín el Grande

**Don't Worry Darling:** 16.45 (Sat-Thurs), 17.30 (Fri).

**Where the Crawdads Sing:** 22.20 (Fri-Tues).

**Smile:** 20.00 (Fri-Wed).

**Ticket To Paradise:** 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.45 (Sat-Thurs); 17.30 (Fri).

## Cinesur Ingenio

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

**Avatar:** 11.50, 16.45 (Fri-Wed).

**Opera direct from ROH: Aida:** 19.45 (12 Oct).

**Opera direct from ROH: La Boheme:** 20.15 (20 Oct).

## Cine Albéniz

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

**Don't Worry Darling:** 16.30, 22.15 (Tues), 19.30 (Fri-Mon, Wed); 22.00 (Fri-Mon).

**Good Luck To You, Leo Grande:** 20.00 (Fri-Wed).

**Crimes of the Future:** 17.15 (Fri-Mon); 22.00 (Fri-Wed)

## Red Dog

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

**Around the World in Eighty Days:** 12.00 (Sun).

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

**Minions, The Rise of Gru:** 12.30 (Sun).

**Don't Worry Darling:** 16.45, 10.10, 22.20 (Mon-Thurs); 15.00, 17.20, 19.40, 22.00 (Sat, Sun).

**Spiderman No Way Home:** 15.20 (Sat, Sun), 16.30 (Mon, Tues).

**DC League of Super Pets:** 12.00 (Sun); 15.00, 17.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (Mon-Thurs).

**Smile:** 15.00, 17.15, 19.30 (Sat, Sun); 16.30, 18.45 (Mon-Thurs).

**Ticket To Paradise:** 15.30, 19.00, 21.10 (Sat, Sun); 16.30 (Mon, Tues); 19.15, 21.20 (Mon-Wed), 19.20 (Thurs).

**Where the Crawdads Sing:** 15.00, 19.45 (Sat, Sun); 16.30, 19.00 (Mon-Thurs).

**Bullet Train:** 19.00 (Wed).

**Bless Me Father:** 17.00 (Thurs).

**Defeated But Not Conquered:** 20.45 (Wed).

**Labyrinth:** 22.00 (Wed), 21.30 (Thurs).

## Autocine Málaga

**MALAGA.** Guadalupe Industrial Estate. Ctra. de la Azucarera Intelhorce. [www.autocines.com/cine-malaga/](http://www.autocines.com/cine-malaga/)

**Pet Patrol:** 21.00 (Sat).

**Star Trek:** 21.00 (Wed).



◀ **Monster size.**  
Angela Abdulka and Evedina Rivera with one of the giant Spanish omelettes.

## Giant-sized omelettes made by Ukrainian chef

**Benajárfé.** The 51-year-old cook feels “very comfortable” in the Axarquía, where she has lived for 20 years but fears for her children who are still living in Ukraine

EUGENIO CABEZAS

Angela Abdulka moved from Ukraine to Málaga in 2001. After working as a carer for the elderly in Nerja, she worked in the hospitality and catering industry and for more than a decade she has been one of the cooks at the La Esperanza restaurant in Benajárfé, Vélez-Málaga.

The establishment, which also has a 42-room hostel, opened in 1965 and in recent years has become famous for its enormous Spanish omelettes which are

made by the 51-year-old Ukrainian cook.

Last week they achieved a record; a 20-kilo plus omelette, which consisted of 80 eggs, almost 20 kilos of potatoes and five kilos of peppers and onions. “We started out making them smaller, three, four or five kilos, but now it’s like a competition for us and they’re getting heavier and heavier,” Abdulka reveals in fluent Spanish, which she has picked up in her two decades of living in Málaga.

On average, together with fellow cook Evedina Rivera, Abdulka makes about five tortillas a week and often varies the traditional eggs and potatoes by adding other ingredients including avocado, ham, smoked salmon, mushrooms with truffles, chorizo, black pudding and bacon, to name but a few.

“The most successful is the one with peppers and onion and the avocado, which is very fresh and very popular in summer”, says Efrén Martín, the manager of the restaurant.

### Over 55 portions

The monster omelette provided around 55 tapas-size portions. “We served it at the bar and at the tables in the dining room”, explained Martín.

Angela Abdulka says that she feels “wonderful, very comfortable and loved” in the Axarquía and for the last two months she has been accompanied by her mother, who fled the country due to the Russian invasion.

Although her hometown, Chernivtsi, which is close to the border with Romania and Moldova, is far from the areas of fighting, Abdulka lives “in a lot of fear” because her two sons, aged 33 and 29, are still living in Ukraine. “For now they haven’t been called up to fight,” says Ángela.

In her opinion, the war that the Russian president has started “is madness, because Russians and Ukrainians are brothers, and I was very happy to see that in Russia people are protesting in the streets because they don’t want war, nobody does”, she adds.

Abdulka hopes that “very soon” there will be some kind of peace agreement to stop the war. In the meantime, she will continue to make her huge Spanish omelettes in the Benajárfé restaurant. “Hopefully this madness will end soon,” she repeats.

## Royal cheese rescue

ANDREW J. LINN



Whether we love ‘em, hate ‘em, or just put up with ‘em, those living in countries with monarchies have a singular air about them. Leafing through the foreign media after the death of Britain’s Queen Elizabeth, it is clear that non-monarchical nations feel slightly inferior, however much they may disagree. Freedom from governmental considerations allows the hereditary leader of a kingdom exclusive privileges, and the story of how the Prince of Wales rescued Britain’s artisan cheesemakers from impending ruin is a case in point.

In the 1990s a series of food scares shook the nation and had lawmakers hellbent on introducing exaggerated health measures aimed at food safety. One proposition was that only pasteurised milk be used for cheesemaking, something that would have been a death sentence for artisanal producers. Farmers selling unpasteurised milk have different views on how food should be delivered to the consumer, but cheesemakers, in this case those using only ‘natural’ milk, would have had to close their businesses. Battle lines were drawn, but fortunately the Prince of Wales is patron of the

Specialist Cheesemakers Association, although only in an honorary position. Nevertheless, he got the politicians to agree it was important to encourage traditional cheesemaking, and then invited all parties to meet at his Highgrove Estate.

The result was a revision of the proposed legislation, and today Britain has over 700 different farmhouse cheeses, probably more than the French. Artisanal cheese, many made with unpasteurised milk, is a multi-million pound a year industry, supporting hundreds of small farms and thousands of jobs, all of which would have disappeared without HRH’s initiative.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Amador Medrano Rosé 2020

Officially classified as a ‘Vino de Altura’ (Wine grown at high altitude), this pink rosado from Rioja is quite delicious, and currently at its best. Very good value at around 10 euros.



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# What happens to your body if you stop taking exercise? There will be evident changes within one month

ISAAC ASENJO



All the studies carried out into the effects of physical exercise agree that it is good for one's health. Science has shown that it lowers the risk of cardiovascular illnesses, obesity and diabetes, reduces the likelihood of developing some types of cancer, reduces the risk of suffering from stress and Alzheimer's, allevi-

ates symptoms of depression, and without a doubt our bodies appreciate it. But what happens if we are used to exercising and then we stop the activity that was doing us so much good? How long do we reap the benefits of the past before our bodies start to get worse - inside and out? Has anyone ever wondered whether stopping sport while on holiday for a month might cause damage? Many people will think it makes no difference...well, experts have some bad news for

them. Although there is no harm in stopping for a short while every now and then - in fact, it's necessary, experts say - the advances achieved are rapidly lost. This is what happens to our body when we suddenly stop what has been quite a regular exercise routine.

**After a week with no sport**

The consequences of a week's break from exercise will be mini-

mal, says Marcos Vázquez, author of the popular blog Fitness Revolucionario which has won numerous awards for its health advice. Although he points out that giving up regular physical exercise increases the risk of cardiovascular illnesses, chronic

The decline in one's health intensifies after a long period without regular exercise

conditions and metabolic disorders, among others deriving from the lack of movement," he also admits that in a short space of time the cardiovascular system, maximum volume of oxygen the body can process during exercise and the musculature will not be affected. This means that exercise fanatics who get very stressed if they go on holiday for a week and can't follow their normal



ILLUSTRATION DANIEL CASTIÑEIRAS



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routine can breathe easily: the consequences take longer to occur and would be more or less intense depending on age, gender, the type of exercise and the frequency with which it is done.

#### Two weeks without training

This is the point at which our body would suffer if we went back to exercising, which is why experts recommend not stopping for any longer than this unless we want to suffer. Nevertheless, someone who is accustomed to doing sport will find it easier to get back to it after a break: the body retains several physiological and neurological adaptations which make it easier to recover physical ability.

#### A month of sedentary lifestyle

When a month has passed our physical fitness level drops by 10 to 15 per cent, especially in the form of muscular loss and general performance, Vázquez says.

José Antonio Latorre Rodríguez, a lecturer in Health Sciences studies, says that after four weeks with no exercise the body has lower tolerance for effort and tires more easily due to a drop in aerobic capacity.

"Imbalances in body composition and body fat also contribute to this," he explains. This can be more or less evident depending on the lifestyle some-

one maintains after giving up the exercise: for example, if we eat healthily it will take longer for us to notice the negative consequences. So instead of seeing them after two weeks, we will do so a while later.

#### Two months without exercise: a slower metabolism

After two months with no exercise the loss of muscle strength will be around 20 per cent, everyday activities will take more effort - we will tire more easily - and our metabolism will slow down. "Because we are doing less exercising and are losing muscle mass we use fewer calories and there is less glucose uptake by the muscles. This contributes to metabolic problems and makes it easier to accumulate fat," Vázquez says.

Any other negative effects? "We will feel generally more tired due to the drop in hormonal wellbeing compounds that appear after taking exercise. They form a type of happiness cocktail, made up of endorphins, acetylcholine, serotonin and dopamine," Latorre explains.

#### Ten weeks at a standstill

After this amount of time there is a notable increase in adiposity, a clear loss of strength, joint mobility has decreased considerably and so has motor coordination.

"Clinical research has shown that a lack of physical activity

affects nearly all the systems in our bodies," sums up professor Manuel Jiménez López, a doctor in human physiology and physical activity and sport at the International University of La Rioja.

That is why, if we decide to take up exercise again after these ten weeks without it, we will feel tired very quickly because the lungs will not be able to absorb as much oxygen as they did before.

We will also be slower and clumsier. If we continue not to exercise, the decline will intensify. In this respect, Dr Jiménez López emphasises that physical exercise is a weapon that directly combats two of the main causes of death in the world: hypertension and hyperglycemia.

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# Clear progress for Malaga CF as they earn a draw against Villarreal B

After a questionable start, the Blue and Whites dominated but lacked precision in the second half at La Rosaleda

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. Malaga CF saw out a 1-1 draw with Villarreal B at La Rosaleda on Saturday evening in head coach Pepe Mel's debut. The Blue and Whites were slow off the mark but eventually dominated their opponents, with a lack of precision in the second half meaning they came away with just one point.

There were no surprises from Mel with the starting eleven, with N'Diaye anchoring the midfield and the rest of the team revolving around him.

The game plan was to open the ball out to the wide men, Hervias and Gallar, and let them cross it to the very capable feet of Rubén Castro. This caught Villarreal B by surprise as they weren't expecting the hosts to take that approach.

But the visitors found it easy to hold possession, given that the space between Malaga's lines was wide and that style of play is also written in the Valencian club's DNA. Villarreal B then culminated a long, dominating spell with a goal from a set-piece, as Collado fired into the back of the net inside Malaga's six-yard box.

### Quick turnaround

It would only take the Blue and Whites six minutes to find the equaliser, as the opening goal didn't seem to faze the hosts.

On the wing, Gallar placed a cross that connected with Castro's subtle touch to guide the ball into the net. Malaga showed more movement, initiative and conviction - which was missing in most of their games this season.

The Blue and Whites had set the foundations of what would be a dominating second-half performance. They came out looking to back Villarreal B into a corner, with both full-backs also participating in attack whenever they could.

The visitors had no choice but to give up on trying to score, while at the same time Gallar and Vil-



Rubén Castro celebrates scoring the equaliser for Malaga. MAVALPHOTO

alba also began participating and Malaga showed more fluidity.

### No end product

Goalkeeper Manolo Reina was just another spectator, waiting for the home team to score the winner. The Andalusians had multiple chances to take the lead;

Castro wasted two opportunities from perfect crosses, while Gallar attempted a near-impossible volley from the edge of the box.

The Blue and Whites showed few signs of anxiety in the final minutes while the substitutions also did very little to make a difference. But in the end, despite

## SECOND DIVISION

### Results - Matchday 7

Sporting-Ibiza	2-1
Huesca-Leganés	1-0
Mirandés-Zaragoza	2-0
Malaga-Villarreal B	1-1
Ponferradina-Tenerife	2-2
Burgos-Levante	0-0
Lugo-Real Oviedo	0-0
Albacete-Andorra	1-1
Eibar-Racing	2-1
Cartagena-Alavés	1-1
Las Palmas-Granada	2-0

### League table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Las Palmas	7	4	3	0	10	1	15
2. Alavés	7	4	3	0	10	6	15
3. Eibar	7	4	1	2	12	8	13
4. Cartagena	7	4	1	2	10	8	13
5. Granada	7	4	0	3	9	8	12
6. Sporting	7	3	2	2	10	7	11
7. Burgos	7	2	5	0	2	0	11
8. Villarreal B	7	3	2	2	12	11	11
9. Albacete	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
10. Andorra	7	3	2	2	7	8	11
11. Levante	7	2	4	1	7	3	10
12. Huesca	7	3	1	3	9	7	10
13. Ponferradina	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
14. Real Oviedo	7	2	3	2	3	3	9
15. Tenerife	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
16. Lugo	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
17. Zaragoza	7	2	2	3	4	6	8
18. Ibiza	7	2	1	4	5	10	7
19. Mirandés	7	1	2	4	6	11	5
20. Leganés	7	1	1	5	3	7	4
21. Racing	7	1	1	5	3	8	4
22. Málaga	7	1	1	5	6	13	4

the draw, the team can only get better.

Malaga will next play away from home against Racing Santander on Saturday 1 October at 4.15pm, as the team continues searching for a second win of the season climb up the table from last place.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER Commentator, ESPN

## They do know what they're doing

Just because a team has a rough patch doesn't mean the coach is clueless - they need to be cut some slack



The fact that Luis Enrique and Gareth Southgate face so many detractors is quite amazing given what has been accomplished by the coaches with fairly limited Spain and England national teams.

The pair must have their own WhatsApp connection to swap notes on the disparaging remarks on their management.

"Hola Gareth, amigo; they're having a go at me again". "Hiya mate, me too - we can't win can we?"

"Congratulations on giving Germany a scare." "Yeah, well done on beating Portugal - see you in Qatar."

The Spaniard took an imbalanced team to the European Championships and exceeded all expectations by reaching the semi-final. This was on the back of reaching the last Nations League final and now

he's steered them to the Final Four of this current edition.

His English counterpart took his team to the World Cup semi-final and went one better by reaching the final of the Euros. They qualified with ease for the 2022 World Cup finals, yet Southgate still needs to validate his position.

It's true that both justified scrutiny during this international break as Spain lost to Switzerland and England's patchy run continued with defeat to Italy. Both bounced back with creditable results in the final competitive game before the World Cup finals in November.

While England turned the match around against Germany, Spain left it until late, very late, to clinch victory in Portugal and win their Nations League group.

It could be argued that Southgate has a much better

idea of his team than Luis Enrique. The Spain coach claimed this week that he's down to his final 40 who could make the plane to Qatar.

Remember, he didn't include a single Real Madrid player at the Euros. His main questioners do come from the capital who claim that he has a Barça bias. He didn't help his cause by selecting six players from the Catalan club for the defeat to Switzerland, especially when Jordi Alba and Ferran Torres aren't first-choice selections in La Liga. Eric García is the Spanish version of Harry Maguire: a player who wins over the coach but not the media and fans.

Luis Enrique has a settled system, but differs on a match-to-match basis with his selections. It appears that Unai Simón is the undisputed number one and Pablo Sarabia is a particular favourite, but after



Spanish national team coach Luis Enrique on Tuesday. EP

that it's a toss of the coin.

Missing from this round of matches were Aymeric Laporte, who should hold down one of the defensive positions, and Ansu Fati, who is getting closer to match fitness.

Slowly the jigsaw is coming together. Alvaro Morata came on to prove that he's vital to providing the source of goals. Teenagers Gavi, Pedri and Yéremy Pino also proved that youth should be given a chance.

It's a tough call on whether it's the captain Sergio Busquets or Rodri as the middleman or, indeed, both in a change of shape?

Dani Carvajal also established himself as the first-choice right-back so Real Madrid should have at least one representative.

On the face of things, the final look of the Spain team is unknown, but the rest of the world should be very afraid of the unknown.



Williams (left) and Morata celebrate the winning goal against Portugal to qualify for the Final Four. AFP

## Spain beat Portugal to qualify for Nations League Final Four

**0-1**  
PORTUGAL-SPAIN

La Roja booked their place thanks to an 88th-minute winner from Álvaro Morata, which sealed their first place in the group

JOSÉ MANUEL ANDRÉS

MADRID. Spain defeated Portugal 1-0 in the last Nations League group stage match that pitted the Iberian sides against one another for a place in the latter stage of the competition, known as the Final Four.

La Roja made changes after their defeat to Switzerland on Saturday and they tweaked their style of play. Spain tried to hold possession and commit to a 'high press' when they lost the ball,

which forced Portugal to make a few errors, albeit with no end product for the Spaniards.

But substitute Nico Williams recorded an important assist by flicking the ball with his head to Morata, who powered it into the back of the net to give Spain their much-needed win.

La Roja's qualification means that they will battle it out with Croatia, Italy and the Netherlands for their chance of winning the Nations League. The mini-tournament will be held in June 2023.

## Belgium top their group as the rest fight for prime position for Finals Friday

After the Belgian side secured first place, the remaining teams had to work for their position in the table for the play-offs in the ECC

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. Belgium continued their good form in their group at the European Cricket Championship, making it six wins from seven games to secure first place at the Cártama Oval in week three of the tournament.

As for the other teams, they all had the chance to finish as high as second, which is crucial for Friday's game as it would give them a second chance if they lost to Belgium in Qualifier 1.

The Belgian side beat France by 17 runs and twice defeated

Scotland by six wickets. Back-to-back wins came against Malta by seven wickets and then by 47 runs. They avenged their defeat to Luxembourg by beating them by 61 runs on Thursday morning, with their final game against France still to be played at the time of going to press.

After showing strong performances all week, it would go down to Scotland and Luxembourg to fight for second place; while Malta's loss to France meant that the French could still qualify should they beat Belgium in the last game.

**Finals Day Trip** : SUR in English will be organising a free bus to the Cártama Oval on finals day, Friday 14 October, from different pick-up points on the Costa del Sol. To book a place, contact: dandrews@diariosur.es or 952 649 638



Belgium are the favourites to make it to Finals Week. ECN



## Solheim Cup clock counts down to the golfing event

A countdown clock for next year's Solheim Cup was unveiled as part of a One Year To Go event last week. The first clock, which counts the days, hours and minutes until the tournament gets under way, was unveiled in Benahavís and later another was placed at Finca Cortesin Casares, which is where the Solheim Cup, known as the women's Ryder, will be played.

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# When winning runs in the family

**Runners.** Britney Briceño and Janine Lima finished first and second in the Marbella Half Marathon women's race and their dream is to compete internationally



MARINA RIVAS



The 35th Marbella Half Marathon took place on Sunday morning in the Costa del Sol town, where an exciting race saw a final 300-metre dash in the men's category and a family head-to-head in the women's race.

Younes Belyamna was the first person to cross the finish line with a time of 1:08:46, a second ahead of ex-European champion Reyes Estévez, while Antequera local Javier Arcas took third, finishing with a 1:09:12.

But the women's race saw an interesting situation play out, albeit one that hasn't been all that rare in recent years.

## A unique pairing

Mother and daughter duo of Janine Lima and Britney Briceño finished the Marbella Half Marathon by occupying the top two podium places.

Daughter Britney, 22, came in first with an impressive time of 1:28:53, while her 41-year-old mother Janine finished four minutes later with a 1:32:33.

The pair, who compete with Club Atletismo Málaga, were joined on the podium by Tania Alarcón Lidueña (1:35:22)

Janine is already a regular in the athletics community in the



province, and she is a well-known long-distance runner, having participated in races ranging from 10k to 100k, seemingly with no limits.

Born in Ecuador, where she was mainly raised by her father after her mother's death at an early age, she emigrated to Spain to continue her studies and to look for a better life.

## Important values

After a period spent in Madrid, Janine moved to Marbella, where she met and married the man who would become her coach, Eduardo Briceño. The Ecuadorian fell in love with the area and she continued her career as a nursing assistant. From her relationship with Eduardo came Britney, who would become Janine's pride, her support and best friend.

It was a relationship she was never able to have with her own

mother, which meant that her father had stepped in to educate Janine to be a strong, intelligent and independent woman.

And Britney is a clear reflection of her mother's strength. She was brought up in a household of sports enthusiasts, specifically athletics, which her dad introduced her to. It quickly became the passion of both mother and daughter, and it wouldn't take them long to improve their race times.

Britney's most recent half marathon finish in Marbella wasn't the first time she beat her

**As making a living off running is difficult, Janine instilled in Britney the notion that she needed to study**

## Half Marathon

The Marbella men's race saw an exciting, final 300-metre dash to the finish line. **JOSELE**

## Mother and daughter

Britney (left) and Janine pose together with their half marathon trophies. **JOSELE**

mother or won a race. She's also been victorious in other competitions around the province and has even taken first place in long-distance Andalusian Championships.

They remember the first time they took part in a race together, the classic 10k held in Malaga city. Since then they've become great partners in the trials of road-running.

"She has run great races, I was behind her in this last one," said Janine with pride. "There are races I've done to prepare for a longer-distance event, so I went at a different pace, while Britney broke away because she had specifically prepared for that race. She's evolved a lot," her mother continued.

## Work hard, train hard

The family itself makes for a great team: dad trains and advises them, mum provides the experience and daughter acts as a physiotherapist, which is also her day job.

Knowing that it would be very difficult to make a living off running, Janine instilled in Britney from a young age the notion that she needed to study.

"You can't make a living out of it and I always say, everyone

needs an education, it's what fulfils you as a person."

Their routines don't leave much time for a social life. They both work during the day and they train when they get home.

"We're used to training together, often we leave work at the same time, get home and go out to train practically every night," Janine explained. "We dedicate around two or two and a half hours every day, and a little more at weekends."

The duo share the same personality, values and concerns; but their sporting mentality is different. "Every time my mother runs we support her from afar," said Britney, who doesn't think she can run in such extreme or complex races as Janine.

"There are unique and special people, and my mother is one of them. She has and always will be my role model."

Britney's dream is to be able to run alongside her mother in international races and improve their results, wherever that may be.

Janine seconds that dream, proof that she is an athlete who knows no limits and whose best personal achievement is sharing the sport she loves with the people who fill her life.

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THE STARS

**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
This is a week of exciting and fabulous opportunities. And if you can resolve the issue that's thwarted your progress recently you'll be flying high.

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
The emphasis is on letting go of anything that you know has served its purpose. Emotional clutter comes into this too, so be ready to let go of old resentments and issues..

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
A Full Moon in your sign reaches its peak next weekend. Feelings can ramp up and may become passionate. Love and romance could be in the air.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
If matters have been a tad sensitive over recent weeks, things may be about to change. If you feel ready to hold a heart-to-heart, this might bring about the healing you're looking for.

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Keep up with the decluttering. If you're hemmed in with needless junk, it will be affecting your ability to think clearly and be creative.

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
With Mercury still finding its way forward, take extra care with any deals or negotiations. It's worth asking a few extra questions and making sure everything is up to the mark.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
The Full Moon in Aries can find you very excited about new possibilities. A big opportunity may show up that you won't want to miss. Make it your own!

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
With Mercury your guide planet forging ahead, you can begin to unravel any troublesome threads and find answers to issues that have bothered you.

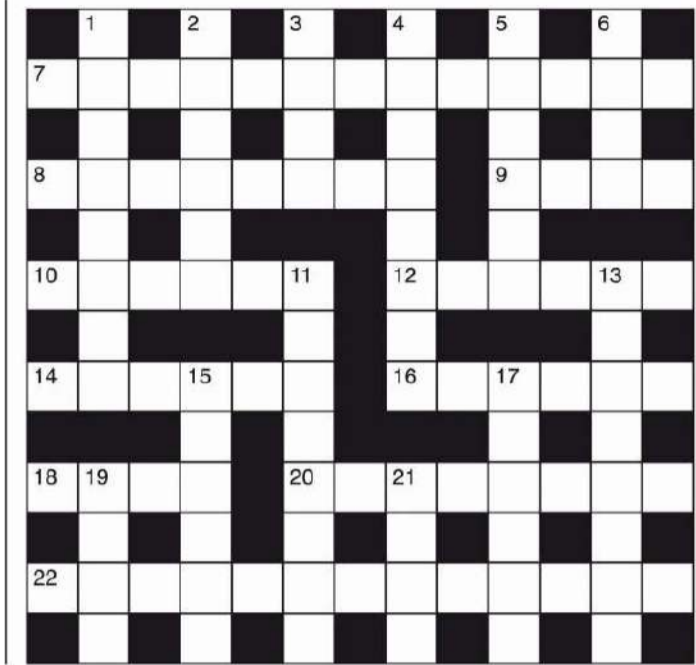
**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
This week you'll get a chance to celebrate the things you love to do and the people who mean so much to you. The Sun continues in your sign along with Venus, so you are at your best.

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
The Aries Full Moon might be a call to reorganise your schedule and jettison anything that doesn't work for you. Also, enjoy some self-care when you can, Scorpio.

**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
With a bit of clever thinking you could get the opportunity you've been hoping for. If you've given up hope recently, you may be surprised at how things start to come together.

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Pluto in your sign forges ahead from next week, which may help you project yourself out into the world. The Full Moon in your home zone could bring some tensions to the surface.

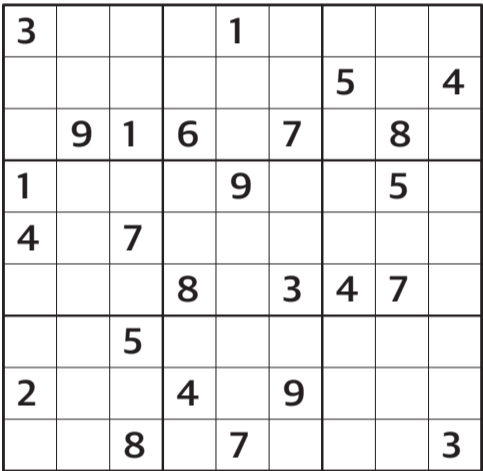
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11534



- Across
- Down
- 7 Partly deaf and are for high jump (4,2,7)
  - 8 Intrinsic to a triangle? (8)
  - 9 We join the street at one point (4)
  - 10 Guides the bullocks (6)
  - 12 Hit like a teachers' leader getting terribly harsh (6)
  - 14 Innumerable dairymaids start to return (6)
  - 16 Various frogmen (6)
  - 18 Black marketeer giving a starting price of over 5 to 1 (4)
  - 20 Turn rail out in test (5,3)
  - 22 Adam's tongue? (5,8)
  - 1 Chief support of mother during visit (8)
  - 2 Stick a notice in this place (6)
  - 3 Service one returned from a great distance (4)
  - 4 Indeed flat, having had air let out (8)
  - 5 Good oarsman with horticultural sideline? (6)
  - 6 Burden on America (4)
  - 11 Steel day organised in composed manner (8)
  - 13 Sponge for new surgeon about to start cutting (8)
  - 15 Put money into fashionable clothing item (6)
  - 17 Girl belonging to us shows courage (6)
  - 19 Father in agony (4)
  - 21 One writing about a Hebridean island (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

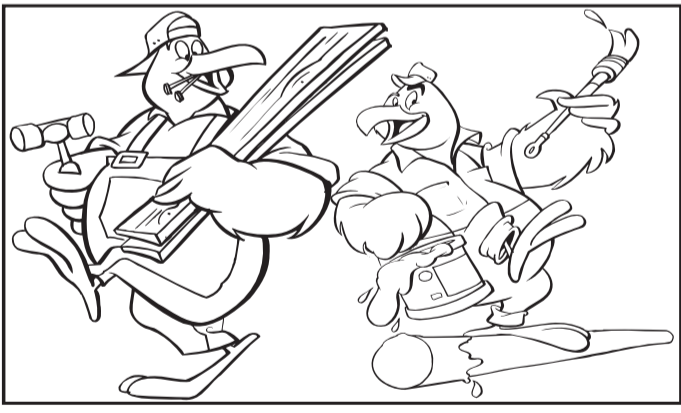
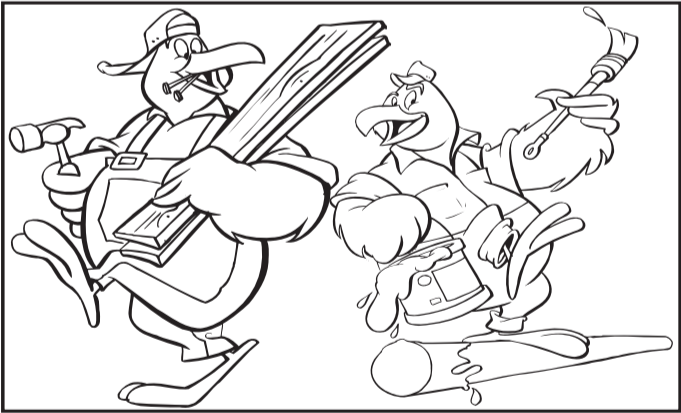


THE WORDPUZZLER



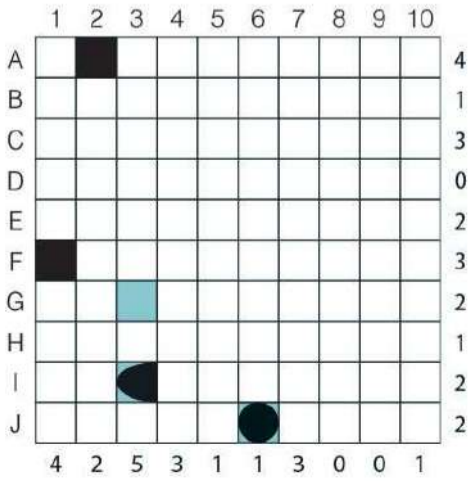
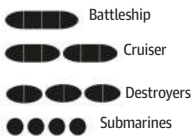
- Can you identify the items of sports equipment from the anagrams listed below?
- 1. Tba
  - 2. Uce
  - 3. Ora
  - 4. Velnaji
  - 5. Bulc
  - 6. Ehmarm
  - 7. Kucp
  - 8. Kacter
  - 9. Laib
  - 10. Lope

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES

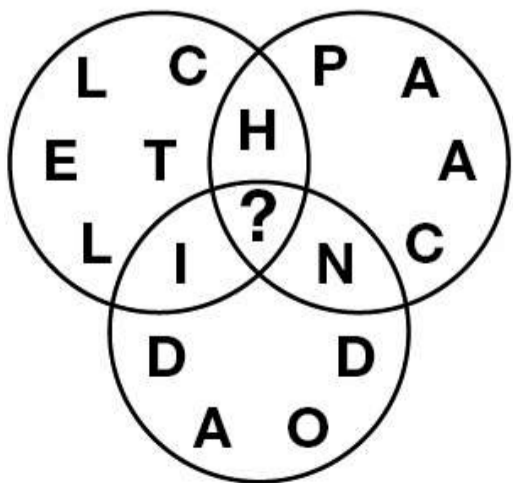


BATTLESHIPS

**Instructions** Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.

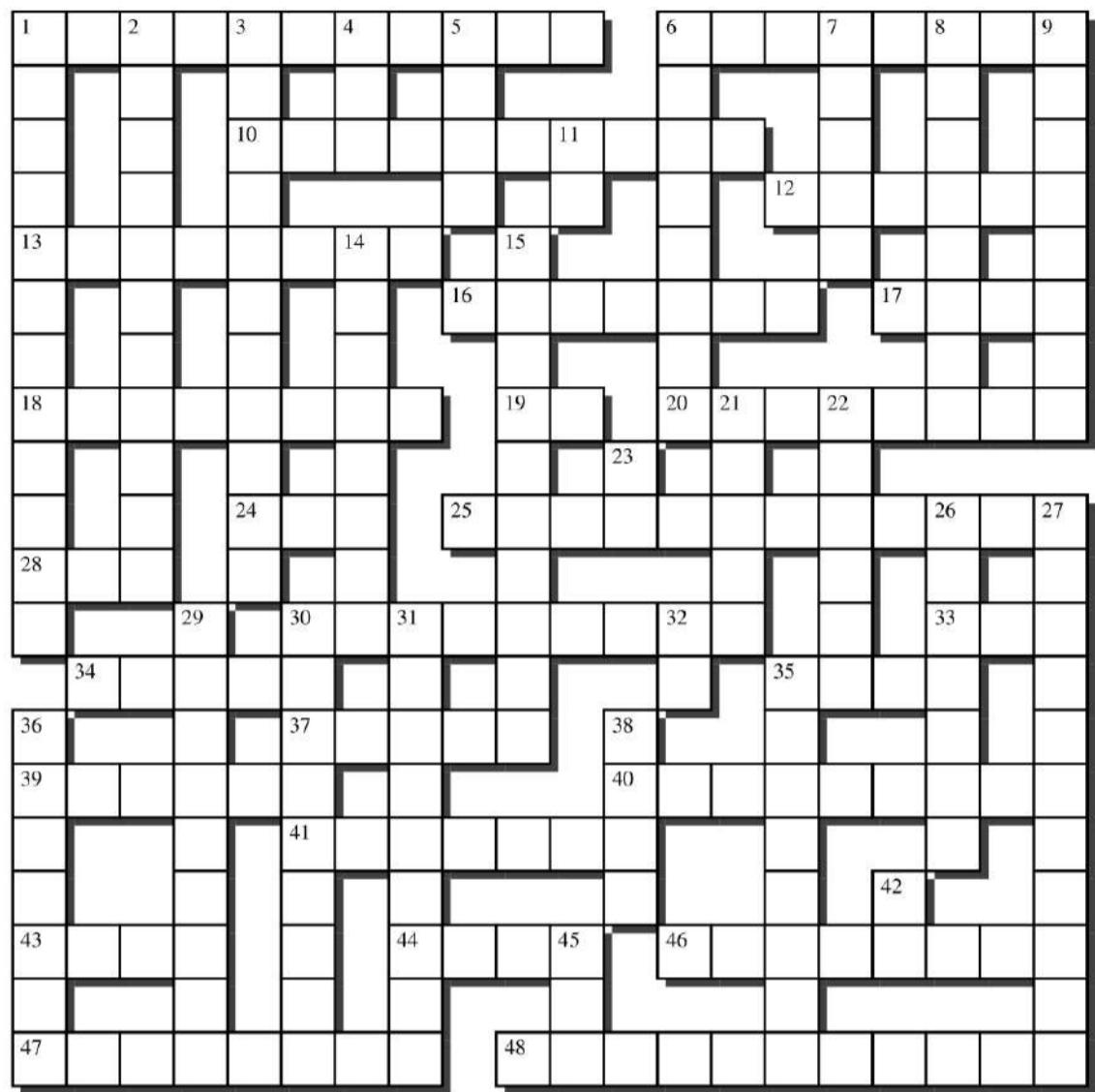


CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



- Across
- Down
- 1) Students (11)

6) Trapped (f) (8)

10) Teachers (10)

12) Rain (6)

13) Storm (8)

16) School (7)

17) Warehouse (4)

18) Shower (8)

19) D (musical note) (2)

20) Evacuated (m) (8)

24) To hear (3)

25) Floods (12)

28) Wing (3)

30) Secondary school (9)

33) Bowl (3)

34) They believe (5)

35) Troll (4)

37) Fossil (5)

39) To relapse (6)

40) Rush hour (4,5) (9)

41) Threat (7)

43) Nothing (4)

44) Fairy (4)

46) Majesty (8)

47) To help (8)

48) University (11)
- 1) Electricity (12)

2) Great-great-grandmother (1)

3) Depreciated (m.pl) (11)

4) I love (3)

5) Three (4)

6) I figured out (8)

7) Asylum (5)

8) Relieved (f) (8)

9) Downpour (8)

11) You (pl) (2)

14) They rigged (8)

15) Torrential (10)

21) I travel (5)

22) To look after (6)

23) In (2)

26) Mist (7)

27) Solidarity (11)

29) Lightning (9)

30) Offender (m) (9)

31) To suspect (9)

32) You (2)

35) To work (8)

36) Thunder (7)

38) Shawl (4)

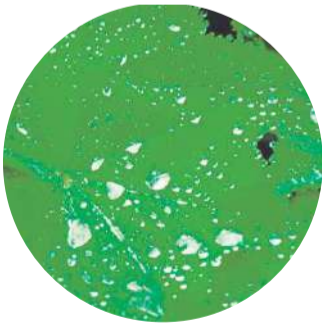
42) Ace (2)

45) Even (3)

QUIZ

What is it called when plants give off water vapour?

1. evaporation
2. sublimation
3. transpiration
4. condensation



What is the opposite of condensation?

1. transpiration
2. precipitation
3. evaporation
4. desertification

What is an aquifer?

1. a water purifier
2. a natural spring
3. natural underground water deposit
4. a water pump

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Answer:** Transpiration  
**Of interest:** Transpiration is the process of water movement through a plant and its evaporation from aerial parts, such as leaves, stems and flowers.  
**Answer:** Evaporation  
**Of interest:** Condensation is the change of the physical state of matter from gas into liquid and is the reverse of evaporation which occurs from the surface of a liquid into a gas.  
**Answer:** A natural underground water deposit  
**Of interest:** An aquifer is an underground layer of water bearing porous rock which can be used to extract water via drilled wells.

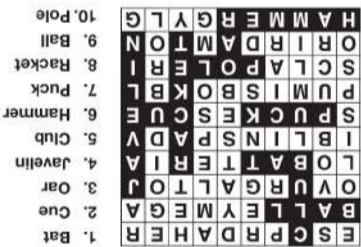
Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is M. Mitchell, Chapman, Diamond, all singer-songwriters.

Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 7 Hard of hearing; 8 Integral; 9 West; 10 Steers; 12 Thrash; 14 Mayday; 16 Divers; 18 Spiv; 20 Trail run; 22 First language. Down: 1 Mainstay; 2 Achard; 3 Afar; 4 Deflated; 5 Grover; 6 Onus; 11 Sedately; 13 Scrounge; 15 Invest; 17 Valour; 19 Pain; 21 Iona.

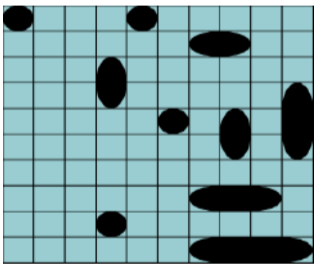
Wordpuzzler solution



Language Crossword

**ACROSS:**  
1. ESTUDIANTE 6. TRAPADA  
10. PROFESOR 11. LUTIA 13. TORMENTA  
16. COLEGIO 17. NAVE 18. CHUBASCO 19. RE  
20. EVACUADO 24. OIR 25. INUNDACIONES  
28. ALA 30. INSTRUITO 33. BOL 34. GREEN  
35. TROL 37. FOUL 39. RECAER 40. HORAPUNTA  
41. AMENAZA 43. NADA 44. HADA  
46. MAJESTAD 47. SOCORRER  
48. UNIVERSIDAD  
**DOWN:**  
1. ELECTRICIDAD 2. TARABUELA  
3. DEPRECIADOS 4. AMO 5. TRES 6. AVERGUE  
7. ASILLO 8. ALIVIA 9. AGUACERO 11. OS  
14. TRUCARON 15. TORNENCLAL 21. VAO  
22. CIUDAD 23. EN 26. NEBLINA  
27. SOLDADAD 29. REI AMPAGO  
30. INTRACTOR 31. SOSPECHAR 32. TU  
35. TRAPAJAR 36. TRUENOS 38. CHAL 42. AS  
45. AUN

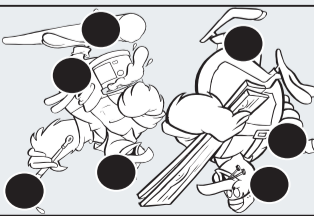
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



# The art of bricklaying, on display at an annual contest

**Tradition.** A Malaga association has just held the 55th edition of this competition, in which 32 teams from different parts of Spain took part to show off their skills

ANABEL NIÑO

The Peña el Palustre contest is to bricklayers what a match between top teams in the Champions League is for football fans. It may not be known internationally - yet - but over 50 years it has gone from being a local event in a small fishing district of Malaga to attracting teams of builders from different parts of the province and from elsewhere in Spain, such as Extremadura and Catalonia.

For a few hours, those taking part in this unusual contest in El Palo become the stars of their profession, assessed not only by the panel of judges but also by members of the general public of all ages who watch their progress during the morning.

This year's competition began at 8am on Sunday when the teams were given plans to study before starting to build. While in previous years the focus has been on height, this time the construction was to be wider and consisted of three arches meeting at an intermediate point.

"The key is to stake it out perfectly, so the angles are right and the tangents of the three arches meet perfectly. If it is done well, it will stay up. If something goes wrong, it will fall down," laughed Manuel Peláez Santiago, the co-founder of this contest, which this year was named after him as a tribute.

Manuel and his brother Demófilo started the competition in 1967 with the support of Peña el Palustre, a club that was founded the same year. The members, mainly builders and bricklayers, started by competing against each other, proposing a structure and seeing who could build it best and win.

"The idea and the way it works are the same today, but it has become a much bigger event now," Manuel said.

After a quick look at the plans, the workers picked up their tools and gathered up the materials that are provided by the organisation so everyone competes under equal conditions. Then the



Crowds watched the competitors. FRANCIS SILVA



Teams of bricklayers from across Spain took part. F.S.

countdown began.

The judges said no entry would be considered complete until every single item or tool used had been removed and the site had been cleaned. When every team

had finished, the judging took place. The panel normally consists of architects and builders, and they only judge entries which have been completed and are still standing.

"We don't accept any that have fallen down or show any visible deformations," Demófilo Peláez, president of the panel of judges, explained.

After an initial look, they started to evaluate the accuracy of the constructions and how they had been built.

"The measurements have to be exact because sometimes a construction appears to be fine, but then when you measure it you find that it is several centimetres out compared with the plans," he said.

## The structure

The 32 participants worked for five hours under a sun that got hotter every minute. Many of them spent a lot of time assembling the auxiliary structure upon which the bricks would be placed in a curve. The support would later be removed to see whether the construction stayed up or not.

The crowds who were watching what was going on in the Plaza del Padre Ciganda were fully supportive. They commiserated with the builders whose attempts collapsed, and applauded when a structure appeared to be successfully completed and as a sign of support for those who decided to withdraw because they didn't have enough time to finish.

At 1pm the judges told the competitors to stop work, and began to inspect the 13 entries that had been built correctly and were standing up with no support. It took them a long time to discuss the merits of the different entries and come to a decision.

Finally, the announcement came. They had decided that the winner of the 55th edition of this bricklaying competition was team number 26, comprising José Manuel Aliaga and his assistant Jorge López of Benalmádena Costa. As well their respective trophies, the proud winners also received a cash prize of 6,000 euros.

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