



## MARBELLA'S LA BAJADILLA MARINA BURNS

A large warehouse storing about 80 yachts and boats was destroyed in the dramatic blaze on Wednesday evening this week **P2**



Firefighters damp down after the blaze at the premises owned by Marina Marbella. **JOSELE**

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#### Puerto Banús to add Civitas to its name as two firms strike a deal

The luxury marina is to lend its brand to property development **P8**

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#### Malaga city launches Picasso Year 2023

Four exhibitions and other events will mark 50 years since the locally born artist died **P32**

## Ex-partner admits to killing woman found on beach with no head or hands

The macabre discovery was made last Sunday by diners at a seaside restaurant in the Marbesa area of east Marbella

The mystery of the identity of the woman whose beheaded body appeared on the Marbella shore last weekend was closer to being solved as the week progressed. A DNA test confirmed it was of a 46-

year-old Colombian living locally. Her sister had seen a social media video of the horrific find and raised the alarm. Following a confession, her ex-partner took part in a police reconstruction. **P3**

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The dramatic fire destroyed the Marina Marbella warehouse and the vessels and nautical equipment stored inside. **JOSELE**



Members of the fire brigade continued work to clear and damp down the scene of the fire throughout Thursday. **JOSELE**

## Dramatic fire destroys warehouse packed with boats in Marbella's La Bajadilla harbour

### MARBELLA

The blaze broke out on Wednesday evening and totally collapsed the Marina Marbella building which housed some 80 boats and 15 jet-skis

**JOAQUINA DUEÑAS**

Access to Marbella's La Bajadilla fishing harbour was closed on Thursday as firefighters continued to damp down the area where the warehouse that was devoured by flames the night before once stood.

The blaze, which local mayor Ángelez Muñoz said could have been caused by a spark, was first reported at around 7.30pm on Wednesday. Witnesses described a dramatic blaze that quickly spread alarm across the fishing harbour and marina located near the Marbella arch.

Passers-by and locals watched in amazement as the voracious flames devoured the warehouse where the firm Marina Marbella stored around 80 recreational boats and 15 jet-skis.

Around thirty firefighting personnel, forest fire brigade engines, two tanker vehicles from

the town's cleaning department, health services and a dozen Protección Civil volunteers tackled the blaze which spread extremely quickly due to the materials and the fuel stored inside the building.

"The fire began at the south end of the warehouse, where the workshops are and spread northwards. We attacked it with all the vehicles we had available; the structure collapsed and so we fought it from outside," said Medardo Tudela the local fire chief.

No one was hurt in the fire except for one firefighter who was hit by a hose, but continued

working, despite a cut to the head that needed two stitches.

"Several panels from the façade fell on us, but we kept at a safe distance," said the fire chief.

The northeasterly wind favoured the firefighting efforts, after initial concerns that the flames could spread to the boats moored just a few metres away.

"The rapid intervention of our fire brigade has meant that, although the fire was virulent, it was contained inside the warehouse," said the mayor, Ángeles Muñoz.

By around 9pm on Wednesday the fire had been brought under

**The blaze spread extremely quickly due to the materials and fuel stored inside the building**

control. Throughout the night three fire engines remained in the area and continued to douse the destroyed warehouse until the fire was completely distinguished.

From first thing on Thursday morning, curious onlookers approached the harbour to look at the scorched remains of the building which contained, according to the information provided by local councillor José Eduardo Díaz, around 80 recreational boats and 15 jet skis.

Concern was clear on the faces of many of the people who approached La Bajadilla.

Among them was Luis Fuentes, who had gone to see whether his boats had been stored in the affected warehouse or in the other one which, just a few metres away, had remained intact with another 400 boats inside. In his case Luis, the manager of Fanautic Club which has around a hundred members, found that his four yachts had not been damaged. Many agreed that luck had been on their side on Wednesday as the fire could have caused much more damage.

Manuel Haro is the head of the local guild of fishermen, whose boats are moored not far from the scene of the fire.

"We have a spectacular fire brigade in Marbella," he said. "Last night fishermen were crying because they thought they had lost their boats," he said, referring to the initial moments of tension, when the flames seemed unstoppable due to the large quantity of flammable materials.

"A hundred per cent of the fleet has gone out to fish today with no problem," he added. The fishing fleet based at La Bajadilla consists of 50 vessels of different types. Maro did point out that between 500 and 600 octopus nets had been lost as well as other pieces of equipment, but that this was "insignificant compared with what could have happened".

The mayor stressed the concerns of the owners of Marina Marbella to prevent any type of injury.

"They were even able to untie and save the dog that guards the warehouse," said Muñoz.

As well as the lost vessels, the fire also damaged three cars, one of which was crushed by a falling piece of the wall of the warehouse when it collapsed.

The total value of the damage suffered by Marina Marbella is not yet known.

# Former partner confesses to killing woman found on beach with no head or hands

He has admitted his involvement to National Police; DNA tests confirmed the body was of the missing Colombian woman on Thursday

JUAN CANO

MARBELLA. The ex-partner of a 46-year-old woman of Colombian nationality who was reported missing in Marbella on Sunday 8 January has confessed to killing her and throwing her body into the sea.

His confession, as well as DNA test results released on Thursday, confirmed the link between two separate investigations under way this week: the first into the disappearance of the woman; and the second concerning the identity of a corpse with no head or hands washed up on a Marbella beach.

The discovery was made at around 5pm on Sunday when cus-

tomers at a restaurant on the Marbesa residential development spotted what appeared to be a person floating in the water.

The decapitated body, which belonged to a woman, had a large cut to the abdomen as well as no head or hands. With no fingerprints, face or dental records to work with, detectives turned to missing persons reports to try to identify the body, which had not been in the water very long.

Meanwhile the sister of the missing 46-year-old woman saw images of the macabre finding on social media and told police that it could be her, based on the characteristics of the body.

She had been missing since Sunday morning, when she left the house where she was employed as a domestic help.

Her family also told police that she had been a victim of domestic violence and that her former partner had recently been harassing and threatening her, breaking a



National Police in the area where the body was found. JOSELE



The suspect with police officers during the crime scene reconstruction. SUR

restraining order.

In the early hours of Monday morning National Police officers arrested her ex-partner Leonel, 45, also of Colombian nationality, initially for allegedly breaking the restraining order.

On Wednesday a second man, a friend of the suspect, was arrested in connection with the disappearance of the Colombian woman.

While DNA results had still not confirmed that the body corresponded to the missing woman, the suspect reportedly confessed to killing her, dismembering her and throwing her body into the sea.

Later on Thursday DNA test results confirmed that the two investigations were connected and that the body was the missing Colombian woman.

The suspect was taken by detectives to the beach on Thursday morning to reconstruct the sequence of events.

**i More information :** A bad start to the year with several cases of gender violence across Spain. P20

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# New year brings more expensive toll roads on the Costa del Sol

Operators of the AP-7 and AP-46 motorways in Malaga province have raised their 'peaje' prices by four per cent

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The two toll roads in Malaga province, which are already among the most expensive in the country, raised their rates for motorists by four per cent on 1 January.

The Spanish government is compensating the companies that operate the roads by a further four per cent.

Drivers of light vehicles (motorbike, car, van or minibus) through the three toll plazas on the AP-7 Costa del Sol motorway between Fuengirola and

## TOLL FEES FOR LIGHT VEHICLES

AP-7 COSTA DEL SOL	Low season	High season
Fuengirola-Marbella	5€	8.16€
Marbella-Estepona	3.43€	5.51€
Estepona-Algeciras	2.18€	3.58€
Full route	10.61€	17.25€

High season: June, July, August and September plus 17 days between Friday before Holy Week and the Sunday after Easter Sunday.

AP-46 LAS PEDRIZAS	Low season	High season
Full route	3.70€	5.60€

High season: May, June, July, August, September, October, every Saturday and Sunday all year round and 17 days between Friday before Holy Week and the Sunday after Easter Sunday.  
Night tariff: Free between 12am and 6am for light vehicles, and between 10pm and 8pm for heavy goods vehicles.

Manilva will see an increase from 10 euros to 10.60 euros in low season and from 16.60 to 17.20 euros in high season (June to September, and Easter).

On the Las Pedrizas AP-46 motorway the low season week-

day rate has risen from 3.55 euros to 3.70 euros. The high season (May to October, and Easter) and weekend rate has risen from 5.40 euros to 5.60 euros.

This AP-46 toll road will con-



Cars using one of the toll roads in the province. SUR

tinue to be free to use at night (between midnight and 6am for light vehicles, and between 10pm and 8am for heavy vehicles).

The Ministry of Transport has

set aside 23.3m euros to finance the reduction of toll rate increases over the course of 2023 on the country's 11 toll motorways.

# Baby girl breathes again thanks to Antequera police officer

The father had rushed to the local police station with the baby in his arms in cardiorespiratory arrest; she was not breathing and her skin was turning purple

IRENE QUIRANTE

ANTEQUERA. A police officer has saved the life of a baby girl after her father rushed to the Antequera police station with the child to ask for help.

The 18-month-old girl, whose name is Noa, had gone into cardiorespiratory arrest and an officer performed the Infant Heimlich manoeuvre, getting the child to breathe again.

Four members of the local judicial police group were getting



Police officer Manuel Pérez (left) with Noa and her father. SUR

out of a police vehicle when they saw the father with the baby in his arms.

When he saw the police offi-

cers, he ran towards them asking for help for the little girl and one of the officers, Manuel Pérez, took control of the situation.

The events occurred on 27 December. According to the provincial police headquarters, the father arrived at the police station with the child in his arms, barefoot and in his pyjamas. He had run from his house nearby to ask for help, as Noa was not breathing and her skin had started to turn purple.

On seeing that she was not breathing, the policeman placed the baby face down on his forearm, holding her head with one hand, and patted her on the back several times - right between the shoulder blades - causing the child to cough up the mucus that was blocking her airway and start to breathe again amid sobs.

After administering first aid, the officers took the baby and her father in an official car to the local hospital, where doctors were waiting - the police station had already notified that the girl was on her way.

The little girl was later discharged from the hospital after doctors said she had suffered an episode of "convulsion due to a feverish state".

## Mijas police monitor vehicle decibels, especially mopeds, for six months

ALBERTO FIZ

MIJAS. Local Police in Mijas are being equipped with sound level meters to measure the noise emitted by vehicles passing through the town. Over the next six months the Local Police will carry out a series of random checks. The intensity of the noise emitted by vehicles will be measured by a special sound meter. The campaign will focus on motorbikes and mopeds. The police are checking that the sound from the exhaust does not exceed four decibels of what is allowed on the vehicle's technical data sheet, if it does, the vehicle will be immobilised and a fine issued.



A view of the affected building in Avenida Miramar. EFE

## Two die after inhaling toxic fumes from Fuengirola flat fire

The tragedy occurred on Monday afternoon in Avenida Miramar; five people were taken to hospital, three in a serious condition

JUAN CANO

FUENGIROLA. Fuengirola town hall declared three days of mourning this week following the deaths of two people in a fire which started in an apartment on Monday afternoon, 9 January.

The blaze was first reported to the emergency services at around 1.15pm when witnesses described a plume of smoke rising from a fifth-floor balcony at number 19 of Avenida Miramar. Firefighters from the Mijas, Fuengirola and Benalmádena stations were



The flat the fire originated in. EFE

called to the scene, as were units from the National Police, Local police, Guardia Civil and the 061 emergency services.

When the firefighters arrived on the scene, the fire was “fully developed” stated José Julián Bueno, head of the Fuengirola fire brigade. He added that the situation was “complicated” due to the “high thermal load” and it was “almost impossible to access the fourth floor due to the high temperatures”. It took several hours for them

to put out the flames.

The victims were a 42-year-old man and his father, 67. Five others were taken to hospital. Three are in a stable condition at the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella, while two are in intensive care. Several people were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

The fire is reported to have occurred in the fifth-floor flat of a man possibly suffering from Diogenes syndrome (hoarding) and the flames spread upwards. According to initial investigations it is thought that the two men, who lived in the flat above, died from inhaling toxic fumes while trying to escape down the stairs of the building. The three days of mourning began on Tuesday.

The Fuengirola fire chief issued a reminder of the importance of staying indoors in the event of a fire such as this. “Unless your house is on fire, the safest place is inside your home. The doors stop the flames for a long time and smoke entry can be stopped by covering cracks with a damp cloth.”

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Jakar the caracat was captured in a Marbella garden. SUR

## Exotic species of cat captured in Marbella garden

E. P.

MARBELLA. An escaped caracat - a hybrid between a caracal (or desert lynx) and an Abyssinian cat - was captured in the garden of a

house in the Costabella area of Marbella last Friday 6 January after it had escaped from its owner's home in Nueva Andalucía on 1 January.

The homeowners called the authorities believing they had

seen a lynx. However, it turned out to be a caracat, which is included in the catalogue of potentially dangerous domestic animals, according to a statement from Marbella town hall.

Jakar, weighing around 20 kilos, was first sighted the day it escaped, in Las Chapas, Marbella, about 20 kilometres away from its home.

On receiving the call, Guardia Civil officers went to the scene and checked from the photographs taken by the homeowner that the feline was wearing a collar, confirming that it was a pet. However, by then the feline was nowhere to be seen.

Days later, a new call was received, reporting the sighting of a lynx. The Guardia Civil went to the property and this time Jakar was still there.

The caracat was captured and taken to the El Paraíso animal shelter in Alhaurín de la Torre where it was checked over by a vet.

Once its owner presents all the relevant documentation, it will be able to return home.



The unique recycling bins are situated across the city. ÑITO SALAS

## Malaga installs new bins for recycling specific items

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The computer mouse that no longer works, broken mobile phones, defunct irons, printing cartridges, coffee capsules, batteries, CDs and used aerosols, as well as many other items, can now be safely recy-

cled at any of 14 new eye-catching recycling points installed by Malaga city council.

The innovative ‘puntos limpios’ are situated in every district except in the Carretera de Cádiz, Cruz del Humilladero and east of the city where there are two each.



Núñez and Ayala shake on the deal . JOSELE

## Puerto Banús to go into luxury residential development as part of name-change deal

### MARBELLA

Marbella's famous marina will be known as Civitas Puerto Banús as it teams up with the property firm that sponsors Atlético Madrid's stadium

#### JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

**MARBELLA.** Puerto Banús and property developer Civitas have reached an agreement to launch a series of joint luxury real estate projects in Marbella as well as other locations on the Costa del Sol. The first homes built by the new partnership will be in the Puerto Banús area.

Juan Núñez, the chief executive of Puerto Banús, and Alejandro Ayala, president of Civitas, unveiled on Tuesday this week the details of this alliance. They have initially signed an agreement for the next five years, but this, according to Ayala, is expected to continue after the initial period.

Núñez explained that the agreement includes three streams of activity.

Firstly, Puerto Banús will be renamed to include the new partner and become Civitas Puerto Banús. This firm is already the sponsor of Atlético Madrid's stadium - the Civitas Metropolitano.

Secondly, land will be identified to build marinas and residential developments, and the

third part is the development of luxury real estate.

The developer's initial investment amounts to 80 million euros and includes the acquisition of 12,000 square metres of land in the Los Rodeos area, around 600 metres from the Puerto Banús marina. This will be the site of the first planned project.

Ayala explained that three property projects are at an advanced planning stage; the plot already purchased in Puerto Banús as well as two further sites located in Mijas.

He added that the Puerto Banús marina properties will be just a few and "of the highest quality and with all the services offered by the port: access to the car park, use of moorings, personal assistants and the possibility of renting boats".

"From today we are already working against the clock," said Ayala, adding, "We can have the first three developments on the Costa del Sol in the next five years."

According to Núñez, the new alliance is exploring possible sites for marinas mainly in the Andalucía region, other places on the Spanish coast and in some strategic points outside Spain.

Believing that there are opportunities for growth in Spain in the yacht marina industry, he said that currently "the volume of boats per 1,000 inhabitants is well below the European average [in Spain], in some cases, even half".

Ayala added at the launch, "We hope to be able to announce the first marina that we will work on together in the next six or seven months, which will require a development period of five years."

## Estepona corruption trial finally starts over 14 years after the first arrest

### ESTEPONA

**IVÁN GELIBTER.** There are dozens of facts and figures related to the Astapa case - the case of alleged corruption in Estepona town hall - which are very striking, but perhaps the most alarming is the time that has passed since the first arrest: 14 and a half years. That is the time between the detention of the town's ex-mayor, Antonio Barrientos, and Monday this week when the case began in Malaga.



Barrientos

Fifty people are criminally accused and twenty-three on trial with civil charges. The trial will cover written evidence totaling over 350,000 pages with 284 witnesses. Property deals will be under scrutiny as will bank accounts in Switzerland and Andorra. The case dates back to 2003 and Barrientos maintains he is innocent.

## Councillor who fled to Argentina from Marbella in Malaya corruption case prepares to return

### MARBELLA

**HÉCTOR BARBOTTA.** The last remaining legal case against former Marbella councillor Carlos Fernández, who fled Spain in 2006 during the Operation Malaya corruption scandal, has now officially expired under a statute of limitations. The decision was taken by the Supreme Court in Argentina, the country he fled to after learning that the police had come to his home in Marbella to arrest him.

After a stint in Buenos Aires, he moved to the western city of San Juan, where he remained incognito for more than a decade before presenting himself to the authorities in Argentina as most of the charges against him had expired back in Spain.

Fernández explained to SUR from Argentina that of the eight cases for which the Spanish justice system had requested his extradition, only one was still live until now. The ex-councillor now plans to return to Spain after 17 years' absence.



The popular leisure area in Benalmádena Costa seeks fresh ideas. SUR

## Competition launched to find a plan to revamp Puerto Marina

### BENALMÁDENA

**MARINA RIVAS.** Bosses at Puerto Marina in Benalmádena have launched an ideas competition for the redevelopment of public areas at the popular marina, voted one of the most attractive on the Costa del Sol.

Ideas for revamping the facility, which marked its golden anniversary last November (although it was not officially opened until 1982) can be submitted until 23 January.

The project has a wide scope and a plan is sought that is modern without neglecting the port's architectural value, quality and elegance. The objective is to renovate several areas of the marina and its surroundings and further enhance the visitor experience, bringing new attractions into the area as well.

The winning idea must commit to sustainability and innovation and it must be possible to carry out the renovation in phases so that it does not interfere with the daily life of the traders, workers and residents.

The winning proposal for the revamp, which will have a maximum budget of eight million euros, will receive 50,000 euros, the second, 6,000, and the third, 3,000 euros.



Members of Mijas town hall at the site of the new park . SUR

## Construction of huge Gran Parque de la Costa del Sol in Mijas is put out to tender

### MIJAS

**TONY BRYANT.** Mijas town hall has put the construction of the future largest park in the province of Malaga out to tender. The Gran Parque de la Costa del Sol will be located in the El Ahogadero area of Las Lagunas.

The new 'green lung' will cover an area of almost 350,000 square metres and will be among the largest in Andalucía.

The project will include the

planting of some 20,000 plants and 2,000 trees and shrubs in the large gardens and forest area, along with the construction of an open-air amphitheatre, a running track, a bike lane, skating park and a climbing wall. There will also be children's play areas with water attractions, along with shaded areas where senior citizens can make use of gaming tables for cards, chess and dominoes, and a petanque area.

The new green space will have a typical Andalusian architectural style with Arabic mosaics, water features and fountains and a small temple. The facility is only 1.5 kilometres from the town centre, which, the town hall says, "will make it easily accessible on foot". The council says the work could begin in the second half of this year.

**The developer's initial investment is 80m euros and includes the acquisition of 12,000 square metres of land**



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# Malaga Airport bounces back in 2022, but still a million passengers short of 2019

It closed the year with 18.5 million passengers, 93% of the pre-pandemic records and recovers 99.4% of the operations

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Data from management group Aena shows that Malaga Airport has managed to recover 93% of the passenger traffic from before the pandemic and 99.4% of the flights that operated in

2019. The balance of the year closes with 18,457,194 passengers; before the health crisis it was close to 20 million, with 144,107 flights.

"This positive evolution is due to the dynamism shown throughout the year by both domestic and international traffic. Most of the passengers counted in 2022 travelled on commercial routes, totalling 18,398,167. Of these, 3,322,375 flew to or from a Spanish city, while the remaining 15,075,792 opted for flights abroad, which accounted for 82%

of the total volume of annual commercial passengers," Aena said.

The positive traffic trend is illustrated by figures for December, when 1,189,547 passengers passed through the airport, 4.7% more than in the same month of 2019. Operations also increased in December compared to pre-pandemic levels, with 9,740 landings and take-offs, 7.9% more flights than in the same period before the health crisis.

In terms of markets, the United Kingdom continues to lead the way, despite maintaining a nega-

tive balance compared to pre-pandemic figures. A total of 4,772,427 passengers arrived on flights from UK airports. It is followed by Germany with 1,217,710; Holland, with 1,132,049; and France, with 1,047,497 passengers.

The dynamism of the domestic market has also been a key factor. Passengers on domestic flights exceeded the 2019 figures by 12.7%, consolidating the domestic market as the second busiest market at the Costa del Sol airport.

## Malaga and New York to promote each other's tourist attractions

P. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Malaga and New York are preparing an unprecedented agreement to promote tourism and culture in each other's cities. 2023 marks Picasso Year in Malaga, and from the end of May United Airlines will be running a direct flight between the Costa del Sol and the Big Apple. Both of these have played a determining role in the agreement, said Malaga's tourism councillor, Jacobo Florido.



The works on Avenida España are now in their final phase. **SUR**

## Final phase of major overhaul of main road through Coín gets under way

The works on Avenida España include new pipes for water drainage and a tidal flow lane

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

coín. The last phase of work on one of Coín's busiest streets, Avenida España, has begun. The Malaga provincial authority (Diputación) and Coín local council will invest 1.3 million euros in this third stage of works, which includes the improvement of drainage pipes among other infrastructure. A new reversible traffic lane will also be created to reduce rush hour congestion.

Works have been taking place

on both sides of the street since the first week of January, to lay the pipes for the rainwater network, drainage and water supply.

The stretch of works covers the area from the roundabout and Río Cuevas crossing up to the Abogado de Oficio roundabout, which is part of the Avenida Reina Sofía. The works, which will aim to mitigate the impact of heavy rain cover an area of 520 metres.

The mayor Francisco Santos added that the new pipes would also separate rain water from sewage which goes directly to the Bajo Guadalhorce treatment facility.

"When it rains heavily we are faced with flooding which is something that will hopefully be

eliminated with these works. Coín is growing rapidly and we need infrastructure in place to cope with this growth," the mayor stated.

As well as drainage improvements, there is also new tarmac and traffic regulation works in the area, a "vital" part of the intervention to reduce traffic jams in the area.

The total budget is 1,348,000 euros, of which one million comes from the Malaga provincial government. The rest is provided by the local council. "These are fundamental works for the regulation of traffic and the improvement of the water drainage network to avoid the build-up of water in the area," the mayor added.

## Sentence expected soon in Malaga's biggest ever business bankruptcy case

If found responsible for the developer Aifos going into liquidation, owner Jesús Ruiz could be ordered to pay 120.4 million euros

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. It is the biggest business bankruptcy ever in Malaga province and the court proceedings to determine whether the founder of property developer Aifos, Jesús Ruiz Casado, and his wife Teresa Maldonado are to blame are now in their final stages. All that remains is for Judge María Jesús del Pilar to make and announce her decision.

If she decides that Ruiz is culpable, he could face a 12-year ban on managing companies and an order to pay Aifos' asset deficit of 120.4 million euros from his own assets. Maldonado, who was joint administrator for several years, could face a five-year ban and an order to pay 20 per cent of the deficit, which would be 24 million euros.

It is 14 years since the Aifos case first came to court and the figures involved are staggering: 890 million euros in debts, 5,000 creditors and an asset deficit of 120.4 million euros. This case on its own has contributed to a large extent to the huge backlog at Malaga's No. 1 Mercantile Court.

Lawyer Carlos Comitre, who represents hundreds of Aifos homebuyers, insists that there is plenty of evidence to find Jesús Ruiz guilty. In his declarations



Jesús Ruiz

to the court he referred to 'creative' accounting, accused Ruiz of transferring hundreds of properties to another company he owned after declaring Aifos bankrupt in order to

defraud creditors, said there had been hundreds of lawsuits for alleged breach of contract and that he had failed to cooperate with the insolvency administrators.

Most of Aifos' assets have already been sold and those that remain may be difficult to unload. One property in Seville province is reported to be infested by the Nile Fever mosquito and another in Granada may face town planning problems.

## Properties up for auction for 70 per cent of market value

Some 112 assets of Malaga development company Aifos, which was declared bankrupt in October 2009, have been put up for public auction by the site Escrapalia. The properties, valued at 16.7 million euros altogether, are going up

for auction for a total starting price of 11.8 million euros, which is 70 per cent of their market value.

They include 94 houses, 14 parking spaces and three plots of land in Casares, Benahavis and Rincón de la Victoria in Malaga province, Roquetas de Mar in Almeria, and Atafe, in Granada. The auction will remain open on Escrapalia until January 25.



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**Last image.** Ahmed, leaving the Torremolinos B&B where he was staying. It was 5.42 AM on 19 April 2021. Two minutes later he was murdered. **SUR**



**The murderer.** Security cameras recorded the crime scene and the hooded suspect's escape. **SUR**



**Van.** A suspicious vehicle was captured on CCTV. The suspect's partner had a van with the same characteristics. **SUR**



# Torremolinos street vendor murder: the suspect's walk gave him away



**The victim.** Ahmed was 35, born in Casablanca, but raised in Spain. **SUR**

**Clue.** Both the prime suspect and the hooded person caught on CCTV point their toes inward when walking, a condition known as being pigeon-toed

JUAN CANO



**A**hmed Azim, 35 years old, of Moroccan descent, born in Casablanca and raised in Valencia was shot in the early hours of 19 April 2021 on Calle del Buen Consejo in Torremolinos. Three clean shots, one of which was in the heart, from a 9 mm parabellum pistol. Police initially thought that it was an act of revenge.

As in any investigation, agents started by enquiring into Ahmed's

life and reconstructing his past and looking for any potential enemies. Here they were met by the first surprise: he had no connections with drug trafficking or organised crime. He was a street vendor and worked in markets in Malaga and Cadiz.

The owner of the Las Flores B&B located in the centre of Torremolinos told the police that Ahmed arrived in August 2020, eight months before he was killed. He stuck to a strict schedule, working eight hours every day, arriving around ten in the morning and leaving at six in the evening. He often had a handful of people coming to see him, one of which was his colleague from the markets.

The lack of previous records related to drugs, along with the scarce social life, well-established routine that he stuck to religiously and the fact that he was not trying to hide seemed to be clear indicators that this was not a revenge murder by drug traffickers. This added further mystery to the case because the murder seemed to be the work of a professional hit man.

On the morning of 19 April 2021, Ahmed left the B&B at 5.40am, as he normally did. He wore a white T-shirt and dark tracksuit bottoms. He walked towards the street where he had left his lorry which was a striking yellow colour and had a dented roof.

Before he could even start up his van, a hooded man appeared out of nowhere, less than a metre

away, he pulled the trigger six times. The gun fired at least three shots. The third was the one that killed him. The bullet damaged his heart, liver and left lung.

In the dead-quiet of the night, none of the neighbours identified that the detonations were actually the sound of a shooting. At the height of the pandemic, and with restrictions still in full swing, there was not a soul on the street. Ahmed's body was not found until nine in the morning.

The police inspected all of the security cameras in the area and confirmed that the shooting had been recorded by one of them. In the video, a man with the hood of a sweatshirt over his head, a surgical mask, hands in his pockets and a gunbelt placed over his shoulder was spotted. This same individual was filmed walking towards the area by another camera. This image would prove to be a key element in the investigation. All there was left to do was put a name to this person.

In a police statement, one of Ahmed's employees said that there had been disagreements between Ahmed and two other vendors, one nicknamed 'The Portuguese' and the other his son.

They said that The Portuguese and his son were "troublesome" in the workplace, "often getting into provocations and heated arguments with other vendors", which made him "scared of his possible reaction". He didn't want

problems with anyone, "especially not The Portuguese", he revealed in his statement.

During his interview, the agents showed this witness a video of the hooded man who they believed had committed the crime. When they asked him, the man revealed that the height, build and gait was the same as that of the son of The Portuguese, "larger in the torso area, with slim legs".

The posture of the masked person captured in the video also caught their attention because it was very similar to that of the prime suspect "who always had his hands in the pockets of his sweatshirt, hunched over", according to his statement.

In order to tie all these observations together, agents from the drugs and organized crime unit

**It was believed that the crime was committed after a series of conflicts between the market vendors**

**A witness said that the suspect was "troublesome", who got in "heated arguments with other vendors"**

(UDYCO) requested a physiognomic investigation from the forensic science police department. The investigation consisted of comparing the two videos: those of the hooded man, recorded just before the crime occurred and those of the suspect – the son of The Portuguese – who days later was walking calmly through the street.

According to the report, a "similarity in the angle of progression of the feet" is observed, which is "a lot more visible in the dynamic display of the video".

The physiognomic study concluded that in both videos the same pigeon-toed walking pattern is observed, with it being more pronounced on the right foot.

The team also observed the "noteworthy elevation of the tip of the foot at the start of the step". In relation to the body type, in both cases, the individuals were similar.

The line of investigation pointed definitively towards the son of The Portuguese, a 29 year old man. In this first phase of the investigation, they verified that the suspect used a false identity and that he had previous convictions in Spain. They also checked the vehicles that he used. Then they reached the second key clue in the case: a white Renault Traffic van registered under the name of his partner.

The investigators inspected the images from 21 security cameras in Torremolinos that captured a van with the same description driving around at the same time and in the same area in which the crime was committed. On comparing the vehicle with the suspect's van, they discovered that both had very similar characteristics. After a report from the DGT traffic department, it was confirmed that there was only one vehicle on the road that fit the exact description.

The investigators reached the conclusion that the son of The Portuguese used this van to get to Torremolinos, where he searched the area hours before the crime was committed "with the intention of finding the victim's vehicle". He was arrested on the 24 May 2021.

Prosecutors are asking for a 26-and-a-half-years' sentence for murder and illegal possession of a fire arm as well as 100,000 euros as compensation to Ahmed's father. A private prosecution by Ahmed's family is also being made.

The son of The Portuguese denies the accusations, stating that the van recorded was not his. His lawyer will ask for his release. For now, he has been remanded in custody, awaiting trial for the murder of the street vendor.

BLEVINS FRANKS

# Strategic financial planning for the New Year



David Bower.

**COSTA DEL SOL**

**David Bower, Partner, Blevins Franks.** Of course, you can review your financial planning any time to ensure it is on the right path, but the New Year is the perfect prompt to do so if you have not taken a fresh look for a while.

One key reason to review your wealth management is to ensure it is up to date. Establish whether any tax rules or financial regulations have changed and consider if developments in your personal

circumstances mean you should adjust previous arrangements.

But an effective review of your financial planning, to ensure it is suitable for your life in Spain and wishes for the future, needs to go beyond that.

Many people only consider segments of their finances at a time. They may have bought shares in companies they like and/or invested in funds years ago. They may speak to a tax accountant about Spanish taxation then to a lawyer about setting up a Spanish will. At some point they look at their pension funds.

For truly effective financial planning, however, you need to consider all these various aspects together. For example, how you hold your investments can make a difference to your Spanish tax liabilities. Estate planning in Spain is no simple matter, with its complex succession tax regime and forced heirship rules, and how you own assets can impact on what you can achieve.

Here are three key areas to consider in your review:

## Spanish residency and taxation

The fact that you are resident in Spain has an impact on your financial and tax planning.

Firstly, establish where you are resident for tax purposes, especially if you are new to Spain or spend time in both countries. The Spanish and UK residency rules are different and can be more complex than first meets the eye. The double tax treaty determines where you pay tax if you are resident in one country and earn income in the other.

Regardless of how effective your tax planning in the UK was, you pretty much need to start afresh in Spain. What was tax efficient in the UK is unlikely to be tax efficient here. Explore the compliant arrangements available in Spain to establish what would work for your situation and aims, and how

much tax you can save.

## Estate planning

The way you own assets could make a difference to how you can distribute them on death and how much tax your beneficiaries pay, so take this into consideration early on. The Spanish succession tax rules are very different to UK inheritance tax rules; you need to understand these to be able to plan around them.

Succession law in Spain establishes forced heirship rules and protects children over your spouse. This can have unwelcome consequences for certain families unless you plan ahead. UK nationals can use the EU regulation 'Brussels IV' to distribute their estate under the appropriate UK jurisdiction's law, but research this first to confirm if it is the best solution for you.

## Financial structuring for life in Spain

Perhaps the key rule for financial planning is that it must be specifically structured around your personal circumstances – your lifestyle and plans for the future, family situation, income requirements, objectives, time horizon and risk tolerance.

If you do not already have a strategic financial plan in place for Spain, you may need to take a completely fresh look at all your invest-

ments and consider if they are suitable for you today. Are they too risky? Do you have adequate diversification? Can they provide income without risking the capital? Could you consolidate shares and funds so they are easier to manage?

At the same time, consider your tax liabilities on investment income and gains and wealth, and whether you could use tax-efficient arrangements to hold your investments as resident of Spain. And how will these savings be passed to your heirs? What inheritance taxes will they pay? Can the funds be passed on directly or will there be a lengthy probate process?

Every family is different. Your strategic financial planning must be carefully designed for you. All the various aspects should work cohesively together to create an overall wealth management plan that provides long-term financial security for yourself and achieves your wishes for your heirs. For peace of mind, take professional advice, ideally from a locally based cross-border wealth management specialist.

*This article should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation and/or investment advice. Summarised tax information is based upon our understanding of current laws and practices which may change. Individuals should seek personalised advice.*

# Is your Spanish tax planning up to date for 2023?

- Andalucía has reduced income and inheritance taxes and abolished wealth tax – is your wealth management set up to take full advantage?
- Many UK nationals remain liable for UK inheritance tax and frozen allowances could significantly impact your family – now is the time for strategic estate planning.
- With the recent changes to Spanish taxation of UK pensions, getting this wrong can prove costly – specialist advice is essential.

Blevins Franks has been advising UK nationals living in and moving to Spain for over 40 years. Contact us for a tax and wealth management review.

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**Á**lora castle is one of the town's most well-known landmarks, with its rich history making it a must-see ancient monument in the Guadalhorce valley.

Built by the Arabs in the middle ages, this fortified complex has been used for many things over the centuries: from Muslim stronghold to Gothic church, and, in the last two hundred years, a cemetery. Its cemetery status is less well-known among the town's younger generation. But why did this castle become a burial ground?

The story of the castle's cemetery came to an end in 2009, when Álora town hall approved its permanent closure. This was the end of a process which lasted 11 years, from the opening of an inquiry into its future until the removal of the final remains.

Although the cemetery had been officially opened there in 1818, it was first used as such several centuries before, explains María José Sánchez, doctor of Art History and director of Álora's municipal museum.

From the end of the 15th century until the end of the 17th century, the cemetery was in the castle. The former Saint Mary of the Incarnation church, built on top of the preexisting mosque in the castle, was Álora's first burial site, according to a document dated 1685, in which José del Castillo declared it had a "chapel and burial grounds dedicated to Jesus".

At the start of the 17th century, Álora had just over 600 inhabitants which meant that the parish was still small. It was then that the construction of a new, replacement parish church in the town's Plaza Baja started, further down the hill from the one in the castle. This was not finished until 1699.

However the cemetery did not move to the town church until the century after, next to the side



Álora castle was a cemetery for two hundred years. SUR

## A fortress that was once the town cemetery

**Álora.** The imposing castle overlooking the Guadalhorce was officially used as a burial ground from 1818

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



door which opened out to Calle Benito Suárez by the current town museum, The 'new' Saint María of the Incarnation parish church in the town is still one of Malaga province's largest places of worship.

With the coming of the Enlightenment era, new concepts and ideas of public hygiene

meant that church burials started to be scrutinised, explains a study by Francisco José Rodríguez.

For that reason, in 1804 yellow fever victims were buried in an enclosed area up at the castle. This method was also used in 1812 for those who died during famine and war with the

French.

The decision to move the cemetery again, which Carlos III ordered in 1787, to a site away from the urban settlement became official in 1818.

The old church in the castle became home to the new cemetery and the remains of the earlier seat of the parish were then

**The former Saint Mary of the Incarnation church was built on top of the preexisting mosque in the castle**

restored to become the cemetery's chapel. As the need for space grew, the castle expanded to the five courtyards seen today.

The parish death records provide information about the last burial that took place next to the main parish church in the town, that of Juan Reinoso Oviedo on 24 October 1820. The first burial in the new cemetery in the castle was of Juana García on 3 August in the same year.

The cemetery was looked after by a person known as pégleg, Dr María José Sánchez explains. The majority of the burials took place in niches, although the first family mausoleums on record date to 1889 and were rebuilt in 1935.

### Restoration

In 1997, a new cemetery was opened in Álora to begin the process of moving all the niches to the outskirts of the town, as they "completely" took up the space in the two precincts which made up the medieval stronghold.

The removal of the remains to the new San José cemetery was carried out over ten years, until March 2007, when the process of closing the castle's old burial site began.

The demolition of all the niches was carried out under the supervision of archaeologist Francisco Melero, who kept a close eye on the work so that it did not disturb the medieval walls. Several of the mausoleums at the entrance and upper enclosure were preserved.



▲ Image of the burial niches inside the walls.

ARCHIVO TEMBOURY

## Álora castle and grounds undergo essential restoration work to make area more accessible to visitors

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

**ÁLORA.** Álora's castle and grounds are undergoing vital restoration work that will provide new access points and gardens. The project developed by the local council aims to integrate the complex into the built-up area of this small town with various tourist walking trails routes, as well as restoring the castle tower and Arab walls.

The tower and walls belong to the third walled precinct of the castle, a site of cultural interest (BIC) listed in the General Catalogue of Andalusian Historical Heritage.

Recent repair work here came to a halt when historical remains were found, but after a second study by the Malaga Provincial Commission for Historical Heritage, the project was given the go

ahead again in December.

In the project report, which SUR has been given access to, guidelines have been established for the integration of these parts into the built-up part of the town. There are also plans for improvements inside the castle grounds.

The objective is to make the Cerro de las Torres hilltop (where the castle is located) more accessible for residents and tourists. To allow this to happen, a new access to the Cerro has been created in Calle Barranco. A public garden is being landscaped here with various paths leading to the wall and viewpoints.

The project has a budget of

255,000 euros, of which 70% will be financed by the government. The local council will provide the rest of the funding.

There are also renovation plans for the historic area of town leading up to the castle, the Arrabal del Castillo district. These in-

**It is part of a wider plan to encourage inland tourism, driven by the nearby Caminito del Rey gorge walkway**

clude new pavements, street furniture, lighting and rest areas, and the removal of unsightly wiring from the façades of houses.

The measures aim to draw attention to points of interest and showcase Álora's cultural and historical heritage.

Three proposed walking routes will allow visitors to discover the history of Álora and its landscapes, nature and culture.

Government and local council funding forms part of the Integrated Urban Sustainable Development Strategy. It is part of a wider plan to encourage inland tourism, driven by the nearby Caminito del Rey gorge walkway.



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# Latest section of Malaga province's coastal path to be a footbridge over the River Torrox

The 165-metre bridge will form part of the 'Senda Litoral', which will eventually connect all 170 kilometres of the Costa del Sol's coastline

EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORROX. A new phase of Malaga's coastal path; the project to link a new section of the 170 kilometres of the Costa del Sol's coastline for pedestrians, was announced on Monday 9 January.

It is a 163-metre footbridge over the Torrox River, in the Axarquía town of the same name. Malaga's provincial authority, La Diputación de Málaga, is to invest 1.2



An image of what the footbridge will look like once completed. **SUR**

million euros to build the section.

The footbridge will give continuity to the four kilometres of the coastal path that Torrox already has to the west of the town and will connect with another new sec-

tion that will run from the Punta del Faro area to the town's El Peñoncillo beach. It will be three-metres wide and have wooden handrails.

The Diputación has already

given Torrox town hall 420,000 euros to build the Punta del Faro to El Peñoncillo section, which will be about 400 metres long.

Wooden paving will be installed, public gardens in the area will be reorganised and work will be carried out to regenerate the environment around the coastal path.

Since 2017, the Diputación has invested 1.3 million euros in various sections of the coastal path in Torrox, including a 30-metre footbridge over the river Güi and another 45-metre one over the Manzano stream, as well as improvements to the El Morche and Los Llanos promenades.

The coastal path project, which was first launched in 2017, continues to progress well along the Costa del Sol and is already 85 per cent complete.



Anton Jensen with his second castle by opposite the Calaceite residential area in Torrox Costa. **E. CABEZAS**

## Local Danish resident working on second mini castle in the Axarquía

Anton Jensen is creating another miniature fortification by the sea in Torrox Costa after building his first one in Vélez-Málaga in 2021

E. CABEZAS

TORROX. Just a few metres from what is known as Piedra de la Virgen, opposite the Calaceite residential area in Torrox Costa, for the last two weeks and for

eight to ten hours a day, 44-year-old Dane, Anton Jensen, has been immersed in his latest artistic challenge.

The resident of El Morche, a coastal village belonging to Torrox, is building his second small castle on rocks by the sea, using stones from the beach, cement, iron, bricks and wood.

He finished his first masterpiece, el Castillo del Búho (the owl's castle), in October 2021, on the coastal road running through Lagos, (Vélez-Málaga).

It was named after a partner that Jensen had in Copenhagen. "I also did it as a tribute to her," he explained at the time. The castle quickly became one of the most photographed spots along the Axarquía coastline.

### Larger than the first castle

Following this success, Anton, who says he's in love with the Axarquía "for the climate and the people", started building his second miniature castle on 21 December 2022. "I like to make

castles and other sculptures, of motorbikes and animals, but these are my first outdoor works," he explains.

This new castle will be slightly larger than the first; about 1.5 metres in diameter and 70 centimetres high.

"It is going to have eight towers, five on the ground floor and three on the top. The one in Lagos only had four on one floor," he says about the work that he hopes to have finished in about two months' time.

Although Anton did not ask for official permission or notify Vélez-Málaga town hall before starting the first castle, he says that so far he has had no problems with the local authority.

However, on this occasion, Jensen says he wrote to Torrox town hall and received a reply a few days later, authorising him to carry out the work.

### A third project

"I would love to be able to do a third one in Nerja; it is a very touristy place and there are very big and very good rocks, which are perfect for making this type of castle," says Jensen.

The artist explains that he works with background music through a speaker connected by 'bluetooth' to his mobile phone. "It relaxes me, and so does the sound of the waves in the sea," he says.

Jensen has already thought of the name for the El Morche castle, but does not want to reveal it until it is finished and the sign above the main door is put in place.

For that, fans of Jensen's work will have to wait about two months and have patience, just as the meticulous Danish artist has to complete his creations.

## HERE AND THERE



San Antón bonfires in Maro. **E. C.**

MARO

## Bonfires and blessed pets for saint's day

**E. C.** The village of Maro celebrates its patron saint, San Antón, from tomorrow, Saturday 14 January, until Tuesday 17. The festival starts at 6.30pm on Saturday when local residents light small bonfires outside their houses and a larger one is lit at 9pm on Plaza de la Iglesia. Traditional 'migas' (breadcrumbs fried in olive oil and garlic) are served and on Tuesday 17, pets will be blessed at a special service at the church, starting at 12 noon.

NERJA

## Cave visitors back to pre-pandemic numbers

**E. C.** The Nerja Cave foundation has reported that visitor numbers returned to pre-Covid figures in 2022, with 436,107 tickets sold, compared with 441,590 in 2019. The numbers have been put down to the recovery of international tourism last year. In 2020, just 149,271 people visited the cave and in 2021 the numbers went up to 289,349. In fact, the foundation said that last August was the best in a decade, with 80,000 tickets sold.

NERJA

## Contract awarded for new Nerja beach bar

**E. C.** Nerja town hall has awarded a contract to open a chiringuito (beach bar) on the town's Calahonda beach, which is situated below the iconic Balcón de Europa. The company Cielo de Montera S.L. will be in charge of the construction and management of the new establishment. In the summer of 2014 the Papagayo chiringuito on the same beach was closed by municipal order after years of complaints by local residents about noise.

CENTRO SERVICIOS ALCÁNTARA/ OWNER'S COMMUNITY QUERIES

## POOL REGULATIONS - OCTOBER 2019 LAW

Most Communities on the Coast have a pool. The number of properties determine if your communal pool has to adhere to the Junta de Andalucía Swimming Pool Law (1999), Royal Decree about Accessibility (2009), Technical-Sanitary criteria on pools (2013) and latest Government Rules (2019)

### MIJAS

**SUR IN ENGLISH.** The winter season is the ideal time to re-vamp your pool and surrounding areas. The best moment to empty, clean and regROUT the pool and make sure that it complies with all different rules and regulations before the next season.

Every month, Michelle van Gaalen (Administrator Reg. Nr. 2.515 from the Official College of Administrators of Malaga) explains different legal aspects of Owners' Communities and helps readers understand better how they work.

### Swimming pools of communities with more than 20 dwellings must adhere to different sanitary and technical regulations and laws.

The size of the pool determines if you need or not a life guard. It is only compulsory for pools with more than 200 m2 of surface to employ a lifeguard. If you have more than one pool and they are adjacent, all surfaces have to be added up for this calculation. The pool size also determines the number of steps, showers, lifebelts and skimmers your installation requires.

There have been lately an increase in inspections of commu-

nity pools by the Junta de Andalucía Health Department to make sure that community pools are adhering to the latest changes in government rules approved in October 2019.

The main requirements they are looking at are:

1) that there is a notice board at the pool area with all required information published for users:

a) Daily routine analysis data (ph and chlorine) and last monthly laboratory analysis

b) Information on chemicals used

c) Information on the nearest Health Centre (address and telephone number)

d) Informative material on head and spinal cord injuries.

2) That there is a certificate of disinfection and pest control. Insect and rodent extermination must be carried out by an authorised company at least once a year.

3) That there is a chemical storage facility that is easily accessible, closed and has natural or forced ventilation.

4) Chlorine and PH dispenser may be automatic or semi-automatic and there must be retention basins under the tanks.

5) Each pool must have a self-control protocol with documentation on water treatment, wa-



Michelle van Gaalen

ter quality control, pool maintenance, cleaning and disinfection, safety and good practices, pest control plan and management of person and service providers.

6) Signs with the Rules at the pool area and on each access gate to the pool area.

Pools in Communities under 20 units need only ensure that they make at least one analysis

of the pool before the season opening.

### CENTROS SERVICIOS ALCÁNTARA

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A government social security office in Malaga city . MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

## New self-employed monthly contributions system for benefits is now in force

Andalucía has gone a step further and added a zero euros quota for 'autónomos' who are just starting out

SUR

MALAGA. A new nationwide social security contribution system based on real income for the self-employed has been in force

from 1 January. It is estimated that, with this new system, half of self-employed workers in Spain will pay less monthly fees this year, while a quarter will maintain their contribution and the remaining 25% will see their contribution increase by up to almost 300 euros per month. The Department for Social Security has launched an online simulator to help the so-called 'autónomos' find out how much they will have to pay under the new system.

The amount to be paid is now calculated on the basis of the estimated income for the year. Self-employed can choose what band they expect to fall into at the start of the year and opt to change this several times until December. The following year, once their tax declaration is processed, any difference will need to be paid or refunded.

For newly starting 'autónomos' the Andalusian government has also introduced a special zero quota for at least the first year. (The national start-up monthly contribution is now 80 euros.)

THE BIGGER PICTURE  
JEREMY BLATCH

## Vietnam, Napalm to Nappa



I recall my first night in Vietnam, sipping a large whisky on the terrace of a hotel which had seen better times. A relic of French Colonial rule and now the only hotel in Saigon with a barman. It was September 1974. The few journalists that remained in the city and a handful of off-duty US officers stood around in animated huddles at the old cocktail bar. A flustered voice from a local radio station broadcast what we all knew but didn't want to speak about. The Vietcong were edging ever closer to the outlying districts of the capital. It took a further seven months for Saigon to fall.

The people of Vietnam are no strangers to foreign occupation and with it political repression and economic exploitation. First by the Chinese in 111 BC. Subsequently governing itself only to be colonised by the French for seven decades following the Treaty of Hue in 1874. After the defeat of the French at the battle of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954, Vietnam only knew death and devastation until the US left ignominiously after failing to defeat the North Vietnamese Regular Army.

Unification of the country in 1975 saw an industrial north devastated and an agricultural south reduced to subsistence farming by a hostile US foreign policy. The economy faced near collapse through an adopted Chinese Communist model. After decades of misery a democratically elected government established a free market economy. The last 25 years have seen Vietnam grow from one of the

poorest countries in Asia to one of the most prosperous. Perhaps exhibiting the same perseverance which managed to grind the world's superpower into submission.

Saigon is now Ho Chi Minh City. The dilapidated hotel has long disappeared. The dirt road has been replaced by a modern two lane highway. The shanty huts have given way to shopping malls, where an emerging middle class sporting Italian luxurious nappa leather attire.

Vietnam's equity market peaked at a 10 year high in 2016, outperforming all other Asian markets. Its economy grew at 6.7% in 2016 in contrast to Europe's mere 1.5%. It was one of the few countries to produce positive GDP growth, 2.6%, in 2021. In 2022 the local currency depreciated 9.1% against the US Dollar assisting exports from many manufacturing jobs that have moved from PRC. Geopolitical risks continue to be potential head wind to growth. Goldman Sachs, in their latest report, have forecast that by 2070, the PRC will be the leading world economy with 60% of middle class global consumption made in the ASEAN economies.

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



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## Andalucía to guarantee 15% of mortgages for the under 35s with public funds

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The Andalusian government is finalising a plan to use public funds to guarantee fifteen per cent of mortgages taken out in the region by those under 35. This will allow banks to grant up to 95 per cent of the price of a home, which will reduce the down payment that in many cases makes it impossible for young people to

buy due to a lack of savings. The regional government has spent months finalising the legal details with a view to approving the measure this year.

The payment will not be a subsidy or grant. The Junta will not pay the fifteen per cent of the mortgage to the bank but will ring-fence an amount of public money so that the banks will grant up to 95 percent of the cost of the home, instead of the 80 per cent loaned now as a maximum.

The measure is aimed at under-35s, although its extension to under-40s is being studied in exceptional cases.

A recent report by the local construction sector had called for a similar measure to help people buy their first home.

# Gibraltar will remain British, Picardo insists in New Year Message

Addressing concerns about the time the EU negotiations are taking, the chief minister was adamant that every aspect has to be right

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. In a New Year Message in which he talked of the negative effects of the pandemic, inflation and Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Gibraltar's economy and the positive changes his government has implemented despite these problems, chief minister Fabian Picardo also did his best to reassure the population that the government will do nothing that goes against their interests in the negotiations for Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU.

It is two years since an agreement in principle was announced between Gibraltar, UK and Spain, and in the absence of any detail - or any leaks - about what is being discussed with the EU there is some concern on the Rock about what concessions might be given. Picardo was once again adamant: "We are never going to surrender even one iota of British sovereignty in exchange for rights of access to the EU for persons, goods, flights



File photo of Fabian Picardo. SUR

or otherwise. No spin. No nuance or margin for doubt. We are clear and unequivocal when it comes to sovereignty, jurisdiction and control as with everything else," he insisted. But, he said, the final treaty could run to 100s of pages and the government has to get every aspect right to ensure no negative consequences for the economy or autonomy. But, he stressed, Gibraltar is now irreversibly British and "the work we are doing for a treaty will not change that".



John Mackintosh Hall. SUR

## Gibraltar authors invited to donate books for library in Morocco

D.B. Gibraltar is organising a cultural exchange with Tangier in February and also wants to create a library of local publications in Morocco. Local authors are invited to drop off a copy of their publications to the John Mackintosh Hall by 20 January.

## Removal of shipwreck takes another step forward as specialist vessels arrive

D.B. Work is due to begin in the near future on removing the wreck of the OS35, the bulk carrier which was beached 700 metres off Catalan Bay in late August after colliding with an LNG carrier while manoeuvring to leave Gibraltar.

The hull of the OS35 crumpled shortly afterwards and a major project ensued to minimise the spillage of fuel, although some beaches and other areas were affected including the Gorham's Cave World Heritage Site. The ship is still surrounded by a boom, although this has to be removed in extreme weather conditions and rough seas.

The Master of the ship, a 53-

year-old Syrian national, was detained by Gibraltar police in September and charged with seven offences.

The date of 30 May has been set for completion of the removal of the wreck, and at present the work is expected to remain on schedule despite some delays in the arrival of other vessels which are needed for the removal process. In fact, it is hoped that the OS35 will be out of Gibraltar's waters by early May.

The salvage is being handled by Dutch company Koole Contractors and Koole 42, which is a specialist tug, and barge H-283 arrived in Gibraltar from Suriname last weekend. Two others, the Koole 31 and Barge H-10030, will also be involved in removing the wreck.

Whilst waiting for the tugs and barges to arrive, work began on stripping the interior accommodation of the OS35. The Captain of the Port, John Ghio, has said it will take several weeks to remove all the ship's cargo.

talk radio europe

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Mourners at the funeral this week of the young woman who died last Sunday in Ciudad Real province. EP

# Bad start to year with three women in a day killed by partners or ex-partners

Last Sunday there were reported gender violence murders in Ciudad Real, Cadiz and Tenerife, leading for renewed calls for more prevention

SUR

MADRID. It has been a dark start to the year for gender violence with several cases making headlines nationally earlier this week and strengthening calls for more protection and public awareness of the issue.

Last Sunday three women died in separate incidents allegedly at the hands of their partners in different parts of the country.

These new cases came at the end of a tragic year with nearly 50 deaths from domestic violence. In December alone, ten women were murdered by their partners

or ex-partners.

The first woman to be killed on Sunday was Belén, 24, who was stabbed at her home in Piedrabuena (Ciudad Real province). Her husband, Eduardo, 30, who was arrested, had rung the Guardia Civil to report what had happened. The couple have a three-year-old daughter.

A few hours later, in El Puerto de Santa María (Cadiz province), police arrested a 40-year-old man for murdering a woman after neighbours reported hearing gunshots inside the property.

The police said he was holding a revolver and was under the influence of alcohol and other substances when they arrived. He confessed to having “killed his love”. The government said he had a record of gender violence against a previous partner. Another man was also detained for his alleged involvement as a wit-

ness to the crime.

In Tenerife, the Guardia Civil arrested a 44-year-old man for stabbing his ex-wife, 46, to death in Adeje. He is also said to have injured one of the couple’s children, who had tried to help his mother.

Also on Sunday, a man was arrested in Roquetas de Mar (Almeria) after telling the Guardia Civil that he had strangled a woman after having sex with her.

Amid the reactions to the wave of gender crime last weekend, government prosecutors have said that society needs to be more “proactive” in protecting women under threat.

Data from 2022 shows that almost half the women killed had already gone to the authorities for help. The government is asking those dealing with reports to ask for more protection orders and forensic examinations.

## Prosecutors support suspension of Griñán corruption sentence for now

MELCHOR SÁIZ-PARDO

MADRID. Anti-corruption prosecutors have supported an eleventh-hour, temporary reprieve from jail for José Antonio Griñán, the former president of Andalucía. Griñán has been due to start a prison sentence for his part in a massive fraud of public money when the PSOE party were in power, although he did not benefit personally. Griñán has cancer and medics have said treatment cannot be carried out properly if in jail. Prosecutors want more reports.



Investigators at the scene. SUR

## One killed after float loses control during Three Kings parade in Seville province

SUR

MARCENA. One person died and five others were injured, two seriously, in an accident during a Three Kings Day parade in the Seville municipality of Marchena.

Witnesses raised the alarm when a tractor towing a float last Thursday, 5 January, lost control and ran over a group in its path.

According to eyewitnesses, the vehicle unhooked from the float as it passed through a square and careered downhill until it crashed into a nearby wall.

Municipal sources confirmed that before the parade began all the drivers of the tractors were tested for alcohol and drugs, all of which were negative. After the accident, these tests were repeated again on the driver of the tractor involved, who suffered an anxiety attack and had to be transferred to a health centre.

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## Split loyalties



Superficially, it looks like a return to the two party system. According to the latest voter intention poll, carried out for Cadena Ser and El País between 27th and 31st December last year, the Popular Party (PP) are on the rise and the Socialists are on the fall. One of the most interesting statistics, though, suggests that some voters don’t see much difference between the reds and the blues. The survey

also reveals centrist Ciudadanos to be clinging on for dear life, despite once occupying the coveted role of king-maker, and Podemos as struggling to regain the momentum it had under Pablo Iglesias.

Only 66.5% of those who voted for the Socialists in 2019 would do so again, compared to 80.9% of the PP’s backers, making the latter’s support-base the most loyal. Remarkably, 7.2% of the

PSOE’s 2019 voters would now defect to the PP’s conservatives, a transfer that’s as much a slap in the face for Podemos as it is for the coalition’s leading force (by contrast, just 0.3% of PP voters would transfer to the PSOE).

It also suggests that, despite the polarity that dominates congressional mud-slinging, some voters still see the PP and Socialists as essentially interchangeable. Or perhaps they’re so disillusioned with the coalition that they want to give the blue camp another shot at running the country. Both basically amount to the same thing.

Ciudadanos continues its unstoppable decline. After the 2019 election, in which the once-crucial party lost 47 of its

57 seats, Albert Rivera resigned as leader. Under the rudderless direction of his successor, Inés Arrimadas, Ciudadanos has haemorrhaged voters to the PP and Vox - a trend that looks set to continue: over half of those who opted for Ciudadanos in 2019 will go elsewhere this time, 34.7% of them to the Conservatives.

Just 30.6% are prepared to reiterate their loyalty to Ciudadanos, thus casting their votes into a void. The party’s current plight makes you think of David Cameron’s quip to Tony Blair, delivered during the Conservative leader’s first appearance at PMQs: “He was the future once”. Ironically for a group that was founded to oppose Catalan secessionism,

Ciudadanos has failed to capitalise on anti-independence sentiment over the last few years. That space has been filled by Vox, which retains almost 80% of its voters.

Unidas Podemos holds steady, more or less, although it would lose four of its 35 seats and almost 10% of its voters to the Socialists. Podemos, that leftist alliance’s strongest element, has been dogged by internal tensions, disagreements with the PSOE and Iglesias’ departure from politics in 2021. Unidas Podemos has also been weakened by the loss of one its political heavyweights, labour minister and deputy prime minister Yolanda Díaz, who plans to run on her own platform ahead of the next election.



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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## No refund for time spent

Like Peter Edgerton I always go through my utility bills with a fine tooth comb, and regularly find small errors particularly when it comes to my telephone bill - which should always be exactly the same as I never go over the limit of whatever deal I am signed up to. So when an extra charge shows up I let the company know all about it. In my case this can be done by whatsapp (it took a long time and perseverance with the website to discover this) and I find, like your columnist, that once I get a real person on the line they immediately organise a refund without bothering with the details - which is frustrating because I want to know how the charge got on my bill in the first place. On one occasion I recouped two euros apparently spent on calls I didn't make to an answerphone service I don't have, and on another I was refunded a whole 0.2479€ for an SMS an anonymous number sent me while I was roaming.

Sadly I have never found a way of getting the company to compensate me for the time spent reclaiming my 2.2479 euros....

MEGAN JONES

Smoke alarms  
save lives

There was recently a fire in an apartment, reported in Sur in English, in Fuengirola when two people died and (when writing) a third is on a critical condition.

The vast majority of people who die in home fires are killed by the smoke. Not the

flames. If they are asleep they don't wake up as the smoke puts them into a deeper sleep.

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Smoke alarms save lives.

JOHN CARRINGTON

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## Instantly calmer

It descends from the skies like a burnished veil over the city, an all-pervading sense of calm following directly on from the fun and frolics of the festive period.

I'd forgotten quite how much I enjoy the month of January, the contrast of its soothing impact having been rather diminished in recent years owing to Christmas itself having been subdued by the long-reaching shadow of Covid.

Last week, then, after uncereemoniously stuffing the Christmas decorations back in their allotted boxes, taken down the two Christmas cards we'd received (electronic ones aren't quite the same are they?) and polished off the last of the yuletide After Eight chocolates, I decided to take an aimless stroll around town in order to bask in the subtle January glow, with

the streets, steeped in their pastel shades, offering welcome balm for our over-indulged souls.

If I were a photographer (far from it, I'm afraid), these would be the days I'd be out hunting for the best shots: the wizened workman puffing on a ciggie, yanking down the Christmas lights; the furtive queue for the returning of gifts at El Corte Inglés; the late evening bar flies, sipping on glasses of normality, quietly taking stock of their lives.

Similar sensations are to be gleaned the week after the summer fair in Malaga (although the positive vibes in this case are dampened a little by the unforgiving August heat) when you can feel an all-pervading sense of peace in the air and it's a joy to wander through the city as its rhythms calm and

thoughts turn to future plans and projects.

As I write - a stone's throw from Malaga's main square, La Plaza de la Constitución - the only sound to be heard is the faint cry of a delivery man extolling the virtues of Real Madrid to anyone who'll listen and quite a few who won't, probably. Or maybe, in the spirit of January, he's just holding forth into the ether.

Either way, it's calm and it's peaceful around these parts and there's a sense of purpose in the air.

You can well understand why many people make resolutions around this time of year because it feels like there's a kind of collective reflection going on.

Make the most of it while you can, mind you - it'll be carnival in a couple of weeks.

## IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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## The telephone of loneliness

He was sat on a bench in the city centre early on Christmas morning. Mature but not elderly and well groomed, I noticed as I passed by that he was talking quite loudly and in a very animated way, which for the time of day, didn't fit.

I saw that he had one of those little, old-fashioned mobile phones stuck to his ear, the ones we used to call a flip up.

It took only a few seconds, but I noticed the man's ability to remember and

list all the ingredients of what I imagined to have been his Christmas Eve dinner; with a level of detail that was childish to a degree, but which made me think he would have been a good journalist, with that memory and loquacity to recreate the seasonings and the preparation, dish by dish, of what seemed like a meal with a lot of cooking.

If you had asked me, I would hardly have been able to mention the main course of the previous evening, although

I do remember the wines.

The first time I passed by that verbose gentleman, I didn't give him any more thought and kept on walking, on my morning stroll with my dog Nori so that he could relieve himself from the night before.

But, for some reason, when we reached the end of the street and turned around, we opted to go back exactly the same way.

And there he was.

The talk this time was about the characters he had seen on television the night before. But something didn't fit.

I stood nearby, pretending to be looking for something on my mobile, and I noticed that he kept talking; it wasn't a conversation, but rather a monologue, like those that many people do with WhatsApp, where you see them walking

around and talking to their mobile phone, usually in a horizontal plane... Only the phone of the protagonist of this story was too old to have internet, so there was no room for this ultra-modern communication option.

I waited for a while, to see if the suspicious telephone conversation showed any sign of being real, that is, of the interlocutor intervening and forcing the first to listen; but after a while the soliloquy continued in a different direction, and the dog wanted to continue his walk, so I left the speaker on his bench with two possible theories: that the other person could not or would not intervene.

Or what seems more likely to me, and which is one of the biggest social problems we face in big cities: that on the other end of the line, there actually was nobody listening...

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## IN THE FRAME

# Combining art with nature to protect the planet

**Eco printing.** A Dutch former art teacher who arrived in Malaga in 1989 uses leaves, flowers and bark to create her textile designs

TONY BRYANT



**M**any of today's artists and designers are using recycled materials and methods like eco printing to create their works because, apart from helping the environment, it connects art with nature and creates unique clothing and art work.

One such artist is Alhaurín el Grande-based textile artist Jolanda van den Broek, who claims that using plants and natural products to dye and print her work gives her "more respect and curiosity for the materials and process used".

Born in the Netherlands in 1958, the former art teacher and designer of bridal fashion and lingerie is very "conscious" about the planet and has been "anti-plastic" since the 1970s. She also believes that the textile industry is one of the most polluting industries in the world, and she feels it is our duty to be far more conscious about what we are wearing, and about how and where it is made.

"I am very pleased that I can use my consciousness in my art work. Eco printing is one of the most environmentally friendly means of colouring cloth, and the beauty is that each piece is unique. I am a na-

ture loving artist, so it wasn't a big step to find myself fascinated by the process of eco printing. There is already enough of everything, so why not use what is already here," Jolanda explains to SUR in English.

The environmentally conscious designer was raised among an artistic family, and for the first ten years of her life, she lived in the country and was surrounded by nature, which, she says, has inspired her entire career.

"My mother was always very creative and she used to make our clothes, which greatly inspired me as a youngster. I would make Barbie doll outfits on her sewing machine and, for as long as I can remember, I always loved making things," she says.

Jolanda studied fashion design, drawing and art at the Academy of Art in Arnhem, Holland, after which she enjoyed a career as an art teacher. She also worked as a fashion designer in the Netherlands, a profession she continued when arriving in Malaga in 1989, although she admits it took a while for her to settle in Spain.

"I always wanted to live



Designer Jolanda van den Broek with a collection of her latest eco printed clothing. SUR

abroad and when I got offered a job as a designer with a lingerie manufacturer in Malaga the decision was quickly made. I first lived in Benalmádena but it felt as though I had stepped back in time. I also missed my friends and family very much during the first five years. It took me a while to feel completely at home here, but now, without a doubt, it has absolutely become my home," the bubbly artist explains.

## Inspired by nature

Jolanda soon found the colours and light, the rich culture and the way of life in Andalucía inspired her work, which she describes as "natural, honest, pure and real".

"Living in the countryside, nature itself gives me the inspiration. Everything I see, hear, feel, smell and sense around

**"I am pleased I can use my consciousness in my art. There is already enough of everything, so why not use what is already here"**

me inspires me from the inside out," she declares.

Jolanda embarked on her journey of eco botanical printing ten years ago, using only plant materials sourced from her own garden and the surrounding environment.

Eco printing is a technique where plants, leaves and flowers leave their shape and color on the fabric or paper. Jolanda says she enjoys the whole process, from foraging leaves, preparing and printing fabric and

the final creative decisions about how to turn that fabric into clothing or art work.

"Every time I am amazed and surprised about the wonderful colours and images it is possible to obtain from leaves, flowers and bark. Wearing eco dyed and printed clothing is so much better for the planet and for yourself. Imagine all the chemical dyes used in the textile fast-fashion industry, not to mention the pollution by the process, the slave labour and the waste when it ends up in landfill," the designer says.

The independent textile artist has had several exhibitions in the province of Malaga and she is currently participating in a collaborative exhibition at the Arsenal Inoxis gallery in Alhaurín el Grande, an art space she describes as a "truly inspiring place".



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DENISE BUSH



## GARDENING

# Halesia carolina

One of the earliest spring-flowering shrubs is Halesia carolina, commonly called the Carolina silverbell. It is native to eastern US, where it grows as an understory tree in dappled light.

It is a deciduous, multi-trunked shrub that will reach up to ten metres high by seven metres across once mature. By pruning away the side stems when young, it is possible to grow Halesia as a small tree.

In the winter and in early spring, as the leaves start to shoot, it develops clusters of dangling, bell-shaped white flowers. After the blooms are finished, attractive winged fruits develop, green at first then turning white and finally a papery brown.

Halesia needs a rich, organic and acidic soil, if not acidic enough it may develop yellowing of the leaves. If your soil is alkaline it may be best to grow this beautiful plant in a large container. It needs about six hours



Halesia carolina. WIKIMEDIA

of sunlight a day but is best grown in a spot where it gets sun only in the morning or where it can bask in dappled shade all day.

It does not like extreme, dry heat, especially when young, but this can be assuaged by regular misting to keep humidity levels up (but never when it is in full sun as the leaves may scorch).

Once mature, Halesia carolina can withstand some short periods of drought and it is also cold hardy.

Propagation is by seed or by softwood cuttings taken around

early June. If growing by seed, you may have a two-year wait for germination. Cuttings are the faster method and more success is likely if they are dipped in a rooting hormone before being pushed into a pot.

White is the commonest colour but there are some pink varieties available such as Rosa and Arnold Pink. The Wedding Bells variety is a prolific flowerer with slightly larger, white bells. The Variegata and Silver Splash varieties both have variegated leaves.

## 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 they are out and about. Why not share them with others?

Email your photos to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es) with a caption and a few words of explanation and you may get your photos published on this page. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR\\_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).

## HARMONIA DENTAL



Harmonia Dental. SUR

## Digitalisation in dentistry, technology as an ally

At Harmonía Dental, Dr. Aleksandar Vujanovic and his team use the most innovative techniques that guarantee the best results in implantology, prosthesis, orthodontics and aesthetic treatments

### MIJAS

**SUR.** Technological advances have transformed reality and are part of our daily lives. From major innovations such as electric cars to small advances such as autonomous hoovers that make our day-to-day routines easier.

This technological revolution is also present in dentistry and, when used by qualified professionals, allows processes to be optimised and results to be improved.

This is the philosophy behind

Harmonia Dental, a leading clinic located in the Carrefour Las Lagunas Shopping Centre in Mijas, where Dr. Aleksandar Vujanovic and his team have incorporated digital flow into their methodology, a system mediated by digital resources with the aim of optimising clinical work.

This process is present from the diagnosis, which is carried out using a CBCT, a cone beam computed tomography device that offers minimum radiation and ma-



Dr. Vujanovic. SUR

**The clinic is trusted by many foreign patients who are spending a few days in Malaga and come to the centre for its speed and quality**

ximum quality results in implantology, prosthetics, orthodontics or aesthetic treatments.

This enables 3D planning of the

entire process, maximising the final result and efficiency. They also use an intraoral scanner for measurements, which are sent digitally to the laboratory and allow the planning, extraction and fitting of implants within hours.

As Dr. Vujanovic explains, all this offers better results in less time, one of the keys to the success of this clinic which is trusted by many foreign patients who are spending a few days in Malaga and come to the centre for its speed and quality, improving their oral health or aesthetics efficiently and in the best hands.

A graduate of King's College London, Dr Vujanovic specialises in oral surgery and implantology with an MFDS Diploma of Member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery from The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and he is currently training in zygomatic implant surgery, a safeguard for his patients.

In this regard, it is worth noting that training is one of the keys to Harmonia Dental, which has professionals who are constantly updating their knowledge of this type of digital processes. "It is essential to have the latest technology and to be committed to the continuous training of the team in order to offer our patients the best solutions in the shortest possible time," stresses the specialist.

# All eyes on Malaga for Picasso 2023

The city is marking 50 years since the death of the locally born artist with an extensive programme including four major exhibitions of his works

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. Museums and art galleries are the normal places to see Picasso. But the other day, the Malaga-born artist was the focus of attention at the city's glamorous Albéniz cinema instead, during a Hollywood-style gala.

This was the launch of Picasso Year 2023, the international programme of activities drawn up by the governments of Spain and France to mark 50 years since the death of the artist who, among so many other works, created the famous painting Guernica.

The focus of the activities will be four exhibitions at Malaga's Picasso Museum and the Casa Natal (the house where Picasso was born). The promotional message for the year's celebration takes many forms but specifically emphasises the links between the artist and the city. There will be a website about Malaga and its



The launch presentation with the mayor, Francisco de la Torre in the centre. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

links with the painter, travel cards will show information about the anniversary, new books are being published and there will be an audioguide for Picasso walking routes which can be downloaded on mobile phones.

The presentation stressed that, while there are museums dedicated to Picasso and plenty of others containing some of his works, only one city can boast of being

his hometown.

"It is a fantastic city and he was an artistic genius, and that is an unbeatable combination," said Malaga mayor, Francisco de la Torre, urging tourists to come and discover the charms of Malaga and Picasso for themselves.

During 2023 the innovation for which the creator of Cubism was known all his life will be high-

lighted with two, not-to-be-missed exhibitions at the Picasso Museum: *Materia y Cuerpo*, about Picasso the sculptor, one of his least known talents, from 9 May to 10 September, and then *El Eco de Picasso*, which looks at his influence on art from the mid-20th century to the present day, which starts on 3 October.

José Lebrero, the artistic director of the Picasso Museum, quoted Picasso as he explained the content of these two exhibitions. "When an expert catalogued all his sculptural work in the 1960s and Picasso saw the book, his reaction was, 'It's like discovering an unknown civilisation.'"

Promoting the later *El Eco de*

**Another cause for celebration this year is that October marks 20 years since the Picasso Museum itself opened**



The Alhaurín el Grande-based Phoenix Singers amateur choir. SUR

## Local amateur choir raises over 3,000 euros in 2022

The Phoenix Singers raised the funds during several performances and the money has been donated to local charities and organisations

TONY BRYANT

COSTA DEL SOL. The Phoenix Singers, an amateur choir based in Alhaurín el Grande, raised more than 3,000 euros during several fundraising events along the coast and inland in 2022.

The money was distributed among animal charities and lo-

Picasso exhibition, Lebrero again quoted the artist: "Bad artists copy, good ones steal," he said. "Come to an exhibition in which you can see contemporary artists born after the 1950s, many of them still active today, who have stolen something from Picasso, whether it be his values, content or his way of understanding art," he added. Another cause for celebration this year is that October marks 20 years since the Picasso Museum itself opened in Calle Agustín and transformed the cultural scene in Malaga.

The nearby house and birthplace of Picasso also has a reason to celebrate this year because it is 35 years since the foundation that runs it, and which highlights and actively promotes the relationship between Picasso and Malaga, was created.

Director José María Luna explained that this Casa Natal will be holding its most ambitious exhibition ever this year, which examines the different stages of Picasso's works, with examples on loan from Madrid's Reina Sofia museum, the Picasso Museum in Barcelona and Mapfre foundation. From 18 October another display, *La Imagen de Picasso*, will show how the artist's iconic image evolved in the media.

Other venues and organisations in Malaga city will also be participating in Picasso Year 2023 with exhibitions or related activities, including the Museo Jorge Rando, the interactive music museum, the University and the Festival de Malaga, among others.

"This will be a very special year all over the city," said the city's councillor for Culture, Noelia Losada.

cal organisations such as the Centro de Acogida Infantil Nuestra Señora de Gracia, a children's home that was founded in Alhaurín el Grande more than 70 years ago.

The children's home, along with the SEARCH equine shelter and the Arca Noah dog rescue home, received an equal share of the 600 euros that was raised at a Christmas concert in Cártama.

A performance at Molly's Roadhouse raised more than 500 euros for the Pawsawhile dog rescue centre, while a second concert at a Christmas fair raised another 778 euros for the charity.

Other organisations to benefit included the Last Chance animal charity, which received 800 euros from a concert, for which the choir teamed up with singer Peet Rothwell, while the Lauro Golf Bowls Club, which is where the choir rehearse, received 320 euros.

The choir is currently looking for new members, and also for charities who would like them to perform at their events.

For more information, phone 634 81 08 55, or e-mail phoenix.kst@hotmail.com.

## Vote for your mayor

If you are a citizen of any European Union country (even from the UK), and own property in a Spanish town, you can vote in a next local election. You need to take these steps.

- Go to the nearest office of the Town Hall and ask for your inclusion in the padron.
- At the same time, ask for your inclusion in the electoral census (to be able to vote in the local elections).
- Vote in the next local elections (Sunday, 28th of May 2023).
- Also for citizens from Bolivia, Cap Vert, Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Ecuador, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago.

**Deadline 15th of January 2023**

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THE STORY BEHIND A PLACE NAME

Frigiliana  
Landowner or  
water source

The most accepted theory is that the village gets its name from 'Frexinus' who is thought to have owned the land during Roman times

are several theories about the origin of the place name. However, he explains, "The only one corroborated or put forward by the academic world, by Chavarría Vargas, is that of a possible Latin origin and could refer to 'Frexin-

ius', who is thought to have been the owner of the lands that Frigiliana now sits on, before the arrival of the Muslims to Spain in the eighth century."

Another Axarquía historian, Purificación Ruiz, points to the possibility that the name is "a reference to a source of water that



A view of Frigiliana, one of Spain's prettiest white villages. E. CABEZAS



E. CABEZAS / J. RHODES

Frigiliana is one of Malaga province's best-known villages and is eternally popular with tourists.

With its whitewashed houses adorned with colourful flowerpots straddling winding cobbled streets, the Axarquía village has been voted one of Spain's prettiest villages on numerous occasions.

But what is the origin of the name Frigiliana? Local historian Pablo Rojo, author of several books on the history of both Frigiliana and neighbouring Nerja, points out that there

could have supplied the town, given that the suffix '-ana' could derive from 'aina', which means 'source' in Arabic.

"We believe, however, that this suffix marks the Latin origin of the word," explains Rojo, who details that there are documents dating from the 15th century about Frigiliana, referring to it as 'Fixiliana', 'Fixiniana' or 'Fregiliana'.

The researcher explains that there have been other more distant words from the name we know today, but always with the suffix '-ana', which supports his theory that the name

is of Latin origin, which also uses 'ana' as a suffix.

In any case, according to Rojo, "the truth is that, despite the theories, very few place names are preserved within Frigiliana that can be traced back to the Muslim period, or even earlier, since the inhabitants from that period abandoned the village between 1507 and 1508, after the Reconquista when Muslims who stayed in Spain were forced to convert to Christianity."

This, he says, was "despite a promise to respect the customs and ways of life of those Andalusian Muslims" made by the Catholic Monarchs Isabella and Ferdinand in the capitulation of Granada in 1491.

As such, the historian argues that the Muslim inhabitants did not pass on information about the place names in the village to the new settlers who arrived at the beginning of the 16th century.

Another curiosity about Frigiliana's origins is that until the beginning of the 20th century, the river that flows through the village and is now known as the Higuero, was known as the Alconcar.

LANGUAGE  
FOOTNOTE

Propietario	Owner
Llegada	Arrival
Tierra	Land
Costumbre	Custom
Musulmán/ana	Muslim
Encanto	Charm
Visitante	Visitor
Empedrado	Cobbled
Encalado	Whitewashed
Población	Population
Teoría	Theory
Referencia	Reference
Actualmente	Currently
Topónimo	Place name
Obligar	To force
Raíz	Root
Historiador/a	Historian

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

According to Rojo, it is noteworthy that the word 'Alconcar', which he says is of Latin origin, survived.

Rojo explains that 'conca' means 'basin' in Latin and is very different from the Arabic word 'ofra'. The name was preserved in an old farmhouse located by the river.

Be the origin of Frigiliana's name Latin or Arabic, or indeed a fusion of both, the village today is famous for celebrating the three cultures that have shaped its history and people: Christian, Muslim and Jewish.

The annual Three Cultures Festival, which takes place at the end of August every year and the three cultures sculpture that can be found on Plaza de las Tres Culturas, are wonderful reminders of the area's rich history.

ANDALUSIAN BIRD WATCH  
PETER JONES

The epitome of elegance

The Andalucía Bird Society recommends looking out for the *Himantopus himantopus* this month

The black-winged stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*, is a resident bird for us in Andalucía. Our local birds are joined in the autumn and for the winter by northern birds, and numbers can vary from year to year, but most migrants tend to be confined to coastal wetland areas and salt pans.

An elegant species with their long pink legs and bill, they are part of the avocet/stilt family Recurvirostridae. It is always a

challenge to sex these waders, the amount of black on the head and neck can be present in both sexes, but the safest way is the male has a deep black back, whilst the female has a dark brown hue that contrast sharply with the black remiges. Immature birds are much easier with being a pale brown on the wing that contrasts with the grey back.

Our resident birds are widespread throughout the region, occupying coastal and inland



The black-winged stilt is a resident bird in Andalucía. PETER JONES

wetlands, salt pans, lakes, and ponds (lagunas) and even common on lowland rivers. They can be highly opportunistic, breeding on temporary pools

after heavy rains and areas where high water tables produce sporadic lagoons.

A visit to local nature reserves such as the Río Guadal-

horce (Malaga) or Laguna de Fuente de Piedra, should reward you with sightings of this beautiful looking bird, referred to as small stork (cigüeñuela común) by our Spanish friends.

Availability of food sources are important to their distribution throughout the region, they feed mostly on insects and crustaceans, the liming attis shrimp *Dugastella valentina* is an important food source, particularly on river breeding grounds.

Wherever you find these wonderful waders they attract your attention, even if they are somewhat noisy during the breeding season.

Wishing all SUR in English readers a Healthy and Happy New Year.

**www.andaluciabirdsociety.org**



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## Municipal Information

# How to vote in the Spanish local elections?

For European Union Citizens (EU) it is essential:

### 1. To be registered on the Marbella Town Hall Municipal Register of Inhabitants (Padrón)

If you are not already registered, you can do this at:

- Oficina Municipal del Padrón del Ayto. de Marbella (Marbella Municipal Register of Inhabitants) - C/ Los Naranjos, 1 29601 Marbella
- Tenencia de Alcaldía Las Chapas - Calle Pinsapo, 29604 Marbella
- Tenencia de Alcaldía Nueva Andalucía - Av. Miguel de Cervantes, 15, 29660 Marbella
- Tenencia de Alcaldía San Pedro Alcántara - Plaza de la Iglesia, 29670 San Pedro Alcántara
- Website - <https://linktr.ee/extranjerosmarbella>

### 2. If YOU ARE registered on the Marbella Town Hall Municipal Register of Inhabitants (Padrón), you must express your desire to vote

You can exercise your right to vote at:

- a. Oficina Municipal del Padrón del Ayto. de Marbella (Marbella Municipal Register of Inhabitants) - C/ Los Naranjos, 1 29601 Marbella
- b. Tenencia de Alcaldía Las Chapas - Calle Pinsapo, 29604 Marbella
- c. Tenencia de Alcaldía Nueva Andalucía - Av. Miguel de Cervantes, 15, 29660 Marbella
- d. Tenencia de Alcaldía San Pedro Alcántara - Plaza de la Iglesia, 29670 San Pedro Alcántara
- e. Website - <https://linktr.ee/extranjerosmarbella>

### 3. The deadline to be registered and to present the application to vote ends on January 30th 2023



Maria Angeles Muñoz. Marbella Mayor









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## Keeping on top of home maintenance in the winter

### SUR IN ENGLISH.

Regular home maintenance and repairs are the best way to prevent major problems in the future. Last year, home renovation was the main use to which people in Spain put the money they borrowed in the form of credit, according to a study by the Younited

finance company. Any incident related to plumbing, electricity, insulation, etc., has a direct impact on the householder's pocket and often comes without warning.

In 2023 the trend points to more renovation and less new house purchases. So if you have an older home and want to prevent



future unexpected bills for major repairs there are some things that you can do:

The first quarter of the year is usually marked by cold and damp so check rooms, garages, base-

ments and roofs etc for signs of moisture coming in. At the first sign that there could be a problem, it is best to call in a professional to take a look and, in order to get the best deal, it may be necessary to

get several quotes for the work needed.

Smell burning or an unpleasant fishy odour? This could be a sign of an electrical fault and needs to be investigated straight away. If your circuits keep tripping this is also a sign that something is wrong and you need to call a qualified electrician to ascertain what is causing the fault.

Plumbing can be problematic in freezing weather and it is important to make sure any exposed pipework is properly lagged. A very frequent problem in many households are blocked drains and pipes, whether from soap and hair or just accumulated residue, this is a problem that needs rectifying quickly to prevent bad smells, backing-up and flooding.

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**SUR**  
in English

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◀ Victoria Mandly in her living room with one of the works of art she took with her to her new home. **SUR**

## THE DONATION

► **Collectors.** Victoria Mandly and Francisco Navarrete.

► **Title.** 'Artistas malagueños, años 70, 80 y 90'.

► **Content.** 40 works of art.

► **Artists.** Díaz Barberán, Torres Matas, Esteban Arriaga, Jaime Rittwagen, Paco Hernández, Virgilio Galán, Sánchez Gallardo, Antonio Blanca Sánchez, León Olmo, Leonardo Fernández, Amparo Ruiz de Luna, López Pascual, Robles Muñoz, Celia Berrocal, Rodrigo Vivar, Mingorance, Raquel Arroyo, Alfonso Parras, Santos Hu, Antonio Montiel, Gómez Navas, Carlos Cruz, Muñoz García, Pérez Almeida, Mario Pelegrín, Esther Romero, José Claros and Victoria Mandly.

# The house move that led to an art donation

**Victoria Mandly.** The artist, who was downsizing, has given Moclinejo council 40 paintings by Malaga artists from the 70s, 80s and 90s. "They deserve to be on display," she says

CRISTINA PINTO



► Ceramic by Amparo Ruiz de Luna, one of the donated works on display in Moclinejo. **SUR**



► Among other Malaga artists, there are works by Díaz Barberán, Paco Hernández, Jaime Rittwagen, Celia Berrocal and Antonio Montiel. **SUR**



the Victoria Mandly and Francisco Navarrete collection, nearly all of them by the couple's friends.

"All the artists were our friends or were known to us. Some of the paintings were exchanged for mine and my husband and I bought the others from studios and galleries. I remember that I swapped a painting with Celia Berrocal; I am also very fond of the three by Sánchez Gallardo, and those by Virgilio Galán... there are three of mine and a portrait that Antonio Montiel did of me," said Victoria.

"These pictures deserve to be on display. I always say that a work of art is something you see. It would have upset me greatly to have had to keep them hidden away in my home," the artist said about the collection which, as well as her own works, includes those by Díaz Barberán, Torres Matas, Esteban Arriaga, Jaime Rittwagen, Paco Hernández, Virgilio Galán, Sánchez Gallardo, Antonio Blanca Sánchez, León Olmo, Leonardo Fernández, Amparo Ruiz de Luna, López Pascual, Robles Muñoz, Celia Berrocal, Rodrigo Vivar, Mingorance, Raquel Arroyo, Alfonso Parras, Santos Hu, Antonio Montiel, Gómez Navas, Carlos Cruz, Muñoz García, Pérez Almeida, Mario Pelegrín, Esther Romero and José Claros.

"There are classic, realist and ultra-realist subjects, but they all have something in common," she explained.

This gift in the form of 40 works of art came to Moclinejo because of Victoria Mandly's house move and her love of art, which is so great that the rest of the world can now enjoy these works by Malaga artists somewhere other than in her home.

**W**hen Victoria Mandly started to think about moving, there were a lot of things she wanted to get rid of due to a lack of space. The artist, who was living with her husband Francisco Navarrete in Rincón de la Victoria, was downsizing from a house to an apartment and she had a collection of art works that she didn't want to end up packed away in a room in her new home.

"I thought about selling my complete collection of paintings by artists from Malaga. I would either sell all of them or I wouldn't sell them at all," she said, in a conversation with SUR.

Victoria knew she needed to do something with the paintings because she didn't have anywhere to put them, but they held a special place in her heart because they

were all by artists known to the couple, who had been creating this collection with great dedication over many years.

So, Victoria set about selling the works of art and talked to several possible purchasers, including the local council. As none of the responses was positive, she carried on contacting other councils in the area, one of which was Moclinejo. There, the Councillor for Culture, Domingo Alcaide Fernández, showed an interest.

"I rang Moclinejo town hall, thinking that as they had more space they might want the pictures. They said they couldn't buy the collection, but they offered me the chance to exhibit them there for several months and then, afterwards, they would look after them for me," she explained. And that is how it all began.

It was this offer from the team at Moclinejo town hall that changed Victoria's mind about selling her collection of works by Malaga artists. "I didn't know anyone there personally, but they came straight away to pack up the pictures and set up the exhibition; I was so impressed by their generosity that I decided to donate the 40 paintings to them. I would have had to keep them packed away in our apartment, but they really ought to be on display. They deserve to be seen.

**The exhibition can be seen in the Antonio Segovia Lobillo exhibition room (Moclinejo) until the end of January**

Also, I know Moclinejo through my husband, who had family there, and because the council is known for the work they do in terms of culture," she said.

In Moclinejo, they still find it hard to believe that Victoria Mandly has donated this collection of works from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, which are valued at over 30.000 euros, and they are overwhelmed by her generosity.

"We got on really well together, but when she said she was going to give us the collection I couldn't believe it. I kept thinking that things like this don't really happen. But it was true," says Domingo Alcaide. "It was like love at first sight," says the curator of the exhibition, Víctor Manuel López.

Now, the Antonio Segovia Lobillo exhibition room in Moclinejo is displaying the 40 works from

EXHIBITIONS

**Paleontological Museum**  
**ESTEPONA.** C/Matías Prats.  
The museum boasts the largest collection of Pliocene remains in a single venue in Europe. This collection has just been given a boost as the museum has acquired further fossils of vertebrates and mollusks which lived in the area 1.8 million years ago. The museum also has a small collection of fossils from the Upper Triassic period which are over 210 million years old.

**Casa de Art**  
**BENAHAVÍS.** Parque Botánico Resort and Country Club, Las Lomas de Guadalupe.  
The gallery exhibits some of the works of the artists as well as a hammered copper wall relief by the late sculptor, Rudy Haynal.

**Museo Ralli**  
**MARBELLA.** Urb Coral Beach, Río Verde.  
A selection of European contemporary art as well as unique pieces from emerging Latin-American artists in the permanent exhibition entitled Arte Europea: Surrealismo de Giorgio de Chirico a Francis Bacon. Free entry.

**Photography exhibition**  
**MIJAS.** Until 30 January. Casa Museo.  
An exhibition of photos by Curro Alarcón called Mis Paseos Chichilargos which documents the photographer's daily walks around the town.



Exhibition, La Cala de Mijas

**Joint exhibition**  
**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** Until 23 January. Centro Cultural.  
A selection of paintings by Natalia Antonenko and Marja Saario.

**Edu Rosa**  
**TORREMOLINOS.** Until 21 January. Sala Elena Laverón, Picasso Cultural Centre.  
The exhibition, titled 'From contemplation to the appropriation of the landscape', brings together a collection of work produced by the artist over the last few decades.

**Sala Alfajar**  
**MALAGA.** Until 31 January. C/Cister1.  
**Mar del Norte** An exhibition by artist Ana Posada. www.alfajar.es

**Museo Picasso Málaga**  
**MALAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.  
**Collection.** Dialogues with Picasso. Collection 2020-2023 is composed of 120 works by the artist. These include the cubist sculpture Glass of Absinthe (1914) and the painting Susanna and the Elders (1955).  
**Picasso / Chanel.** The Thyssen art gallery in Madrid is loaning two paintings by Picasso to the museum. These are Los Segadores (1907) and Corrida de Toros (1934). www.museopicassomalaga.org.

**Museo Picasso Casa Natal**  
**MALAGA.** Until 28 May 2023. Plaza de la Merced.  
The Mallorcan artist Bernardí Roig will be exhibiting his works entitled El último rostro y la afonía del Minotauro. He is also exhibiting at the Museo Ruso and the Pompidou.

**Museo Ruso**  
**MALAGA.** Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.  
**Shadow Dancers.** Until 28 May 2023. The museum will be exhibiting an installation by Mallorcan artist Bernardí Roig which consists of four, bronze dancers suspended from the ceiling. The sculpture explores the influence Degas had on Picasso's work. Opposite the dancers is a large format painting called Cap Negro



Bernardí Roig, Museo Picasso

2021, the frame of which conceals a recording of a clock ticking.  
**Sputnik, La Odissea del Soyuz 2.** Until 5 June.  
The truth and the tales about Soviet cosmonaut Ivan Istochnikov and his mysterious disappearance during the space mission, which was reportedly covered up by the Russian authorities  
**For Sale!** Until 5 June. The installation For Sale! is a reconstruction of a room in an abandoned house, left with sheets covering the furniture. It was created in the 1990s by Russian conceptual artists Ilya and Emilia Kabakov.  
**An English Look at Russian Art.** Until 5 June. British business woman Jenny Green is loaning her collection of Russian art, which includes works by Aivazovsky and Kandinsky, to the Russian museum for this exhibition.  
**Ausentes.** Until 5 June. Photographer José Manuel Ballester will be exhibiting an extensive collection of his works which reflects the absence of Russian art works in galleries in Malaga as a result of Russia's war with Ukraine.

**Centre Pompidou**  
**MALAGA.** Muelle Uno. https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/  
**Yaacov Agam.** Until 6 February 2023. The artist invites children and families to an immersive experience to understand his works which are based on an orchestration of moving elements.

**El laberinto de Luz y la Cabeza del Minotauro.** Until 28 May 2023. The museum will be exhibiting an installation by Mallorcan artist Bernardí Roig which consists of 25 polystyrene blocks forming a labyrinth.  
**Pablo Capitán del Río.** Located inside the cube is a sculpture by Pablo Capitán del Río representing the famous 'elephant's foot' inside the reactor at Chernobyl: a radioactive mass created after the explosion and one of the most toxic on earth. Just a few minutes in its presence will bring certain death to any living organism. The sculpture, which can only be seen from a distance, symbolises that which inhibits life in all its forms.

**Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA.**  
**Eduardo Sarabia,** Until 12 February. 'Tú eres otro yo' is Sarabia's first individual exhibition in a European gallery. It consists of a mural and thirty acrylic paintings by the artist.  
**Christian Boltanski.** Until 29 January. Coeur is the title of this exhibition by French artist Christian Boltanski. The installation includes a flickering bulb accompanied by a recording of a beating heart.  
**Miquel Navarro.** Until 5 March, 2023. The retrospective exhibition Dominio y Sueño covers forty years of the works of Miquel Navarro, one of the most influential sculptors in the 70s. His works combine architecture and sculpture.  
**MALAGA.** CAC Málaga - La Coracha.  
**María Egea.** Until 26 March. Malaga artist María Egea is exhibiting around 40 works created since 2010.

**Ten Years Without Francisco Hernández**  
**MALAGA.** Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja de Málaga. Plaza del Obispo. An exhibition of the late artist's work commissioned by his sister.

**Museo de Málaga**  
**MALAGA.** Palacio de la Aduana. There is an exhibition space in the Museo de Málaga named after the artist Eugenio Chicano and it contains an exhibition of 52 of his works. The museum also houses a huge collec-

tion of archeological artifacts as well as religious and pictorial art from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

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

**Galería JM**  
**MALAGA.** C/ Duquesa de Parcent, 12. La Trama del Sí Mismo y el Otro by Federico Miró is the title of the latest exhibition at the gallery.


**Ania Sáenz de Buruaga**  
**MALAGA.** Until 5 February. Casa Amarilla, C/Santos.  
The new exhibition at the Casa Amarilla is called De Norte a Sur by Ana Sáenz de Buruaga.




Ana Sáenz, Malaga

**OXO Videogame museum**  
**MALAGA.** Opens on 27 January, Plaza del Siglo.  
The museum, which features original models of videogames and consoles, also has an attic restaurant, Terraza Catedral. Tickets: www.oxomuseo.com/entradas


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EXHIBITIONS

Bienal de Fotografía Africana Ozangé

**MALAGA.** Until 29 January. La Térmica and Centro Cultural La Malagueta. The exhibition Ozangé in the Centro Cultural La Malagueta will have an exhibition of photographs by 36 African artists including Owantu with contributions by Cristina de Middel (Spain), Nicola Lo Calzo (Italy) and Elsa Bleda (Turkey/France). The exhibition in La Térmica, entitled Capturando la Evolución Cultura, pays tribute to the Lagos Photo Festival organised by the African Artists Association founded byAzu Nwagbogu.



Museo Carmen Thyssen

**MALAGA.** C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday. **Arte Belga.** Until 5 March. Del Impresionismo a Magritte. The exhibition includes works by Hippolyte Boulenger, Constantin Meunier, Jan Toorop, Théo Van Rysselberghe, Émile Claus, Anna Boch, James Ensor, Fernand Khnopff, Félicien Rops, Léon Spilliaert, Jos Albert, Jean Brusselmans, Gustave de Smet, René Magritte, Paul Delvaux and others. [www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org](http://www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org)

Museo Revello de Toro

**MALAGA.** C/Afligidos. **Malagueñas.** Until 29 January. The latest exhibition by distinguished Malaga artist Félix Revello de Toro, is based on the women of Malaga and includes a portrait of his own cousin, completed in 1973, who he often used as a model in paintings.

Coby Bloemsma

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

The Rara Residencia

**VILLANUEVA DEL ROSARIO.** Until 20 January, C/ Carrera, 38. The group exhibition brings together the ideas of Vanessa Morata, Isabel Rosado and Cyro García on questions that have to do with the art market and the economy. Also on display are works by Daniela Miazzo and Quan Zhou.

Pillars of Hercules Gallery

**GIBRALTAR.** Gibraltar National Museum. The gallery spans approximately eight thousand years, from the East-

ern Mediterranean in the Neolithic, some 7,400 years ago to Roman artifacts from the 5th Century CE. Artifacts include Egyptian, Phoenician, Greek, Carthaginian and Roman. Locally made artifacts from southwestern Iberia, notably Tartessos, are also represented.

MUSIC AND DANCE

La Cochera Cabaret

**MALAGA.** Avda de los Guindos. **14 January, 12.30pm.** Digo Lo Bien, flamenco blues with audience participation. **15 January, 8-11pm.** Swing party. Tickets: [www.lacocheraentradas.com/](http://www.lacocheraentradas.com/)

Clarence Jazz Club

**TORREMOLINOS.** Calle Danza Invisible, 8. **13 January, 10pm.** Iñaki Moreno and the Crazy Busters. **14 January, 10pm.** Diego Amador Trio. **15 January, 6pm.** Piano jazz special. **19 January, 10pm.** Alhambra jazz jam session. Tickets: [www.clarencejazzclub.com](http://www.clarencejazzclub.com)

Velvet Club

**MALAGA.** C/Convalecientes, 11. **13 January, 10pm.** Mía Turbía. Tickets: [www.entradium.com](http://www.entradium.com)

Sala Trinchera

**MALAGA.** C/ Parauta. **13 January, 10pm.** Rufus T Firefly alternative rock with guest band Ballena.

Theatro Club

**MALAGA.** C/ Lazcano **14 January, 9.30pm.** Los Chill, glam / punk rock.

Cazbah Live Lounge

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** Torrenueva, Avenida de Jerez. **2 February.** Ladies night. **3 February.** Coyote Ugly night, Karaoke and the Money Makers Band. **4 February.** Old Skool and reggae, DJ Mikey B, Larry Jazzz and Major D. **9 February.** Queen of Magic tribute band. Info: the Cazbah Live Lounge Facebook page. Tickets: [www.eventbrite.es](http://www.eventbrite.es)

Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

**NERJA.** Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Granada. **13 January, 8pm.** The 16 StringsTrío with Carlos Pino (guitar); Phil Wilkinson (guitar) and Francis Posé (double bass). [www.ventana-abierta.es](http://www.ventana-abierta.es) Call: 690073871

Downton Abbey

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 14 January, 8pm. Auditorio Martín Recuerda. The Ensemble Ancora will be playing theme tunes from the popular series Downton Abbey.

The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

<http://orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com/> **MALAGA.** Teatro Cervantes. **15, 16 January, 8pm.** Music by Roldán and Strauss with soprano Vanessa Goikoetxea in the first half followed

Winter exhibition kicks off 2023 at Artsenal Inoxis



The Artsenal Inoxis art space in Alhaurín el Grande. sur.

TONY BRYANT

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** The Artsenal Inoxis art gallery in Alhaurín el Grande inaugurates its Winter Exhibition on Saturday 14 January. The new collection of paintings and sculptures includes the works of more than ten local artists that can be viewed until Sunday 26 March.

Among the artists taking part are textile artist Jolanda van den Broek, who uses natural products such as leaves, flowers and bark; silk screen artist Chandy Haggett, whose works depict colourful landscapes and scenes of the Andalusian countryside; and Sebastian Echevarria, a painter of Argentine origin whose portraits of celebrities like Hendrix, Monroe and Chaplin are full of life and executed with a great variety of colour.

The exhibition, which is free, is officially opened at 8pm and includes a concert by Cristina Mateo at 9pm.

The art works can be viewed on Thursday between 5pm and 10pm, and between 7pm and 12pm on Friday and Saturday.

As a platform for all artistic expression, which was set up by a group of like-minded enthusiasts, the Artsenal Inoxis space offers local artists a chance to showcase their works. It also hosts film nights, painting courses, and open mic sessions on the second Saturday of the month, although this month's session has been rescheduled for Saturday 21 January due to the inauguration of the exhibition.

by Mussorgsky and Ravel.

Museum concerts

**MALAGA.** Free. **Museo Ruso.** **28 January, 12pm.** The Ensemble Músicos Concerto Málaga will play pieces by Falla and Diaghilev.

Louie Louie Bar

**ESTEPONA.** Estepona port. **13January, 11pm.** Rob Sas and David rock duo. [www.louielouierockbar.com/](http://www.louielouierockbar.com/)

Piano recital

**MALAGA.** 21 January, 7pm. St Georges Church, Avd Priés. Philip Lange, an accomplished solo pianist will be in concert. <https://www.stgeorgeschurchmalaga.org/>

Rob Sas

**BENALMÁDENA.** 15 January, from 6pm. Bar de Las Motos. The Rob Sas Rock Duo will be in concert. **SABINILLAS.** 18 February, 9pm. O'Callaghan's.



Rob Sas Band, Estepona

**ESTEPONA.** 24 February, 11.45pm. Louie Louie.

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

Falling in Jazz

**MARBELLA.** 21 January, 6pm. Casa

Las Mariposas.30€. Arturo Sierra (vibraphone) and José Carro (piano) are in concert. [www.musicaconencanto.org](http://www.musicaconencanto.org)

Richard Ray Farrell, The Best of Blues

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 21 January, 7pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. Blues musician Richard Ray Farrell will be in concert. Tickets from the box office .

The Magic of Disney

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 22 January, 7pm.Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. A tribute to Disney by the Elenco teatro. Tickets from the box office or [www.bravoentradas.es](http://www.bravoentradas.es)

Noches de Tango

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 27 January, 7pm.Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. A tribute to Disney by the Elenco teatro. Tickets from the box office.

Ancient Music

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 29 January, 7.30pm.Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. Classical music by the Ensemble Serendipia of the Juventudes Musicales de Almuñécar. Tickets from the box office.

Da Bruno

**MARBELLA.** Da Bruno Sul Mare. Thursdays piano music with Nikki and Sundays Sax and piano with Diario and Nikki. . **18 January, 9pm.** The Vintage Experience and DJ. To book a table call 95290 3318 or 637535383, or make a reservation online: [www.dabruno.com/es-sul-mare](http://www.dabruno.com/es-sul-mare)

Piano and trombone recital

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 13 January, 7.30pm. Casa de la Cultura. The Juventudes Musicales de Almuñécar orchestra are offering a concert with Alba Gálvez Jiménez (piano) and Manuel Álvarez Jiménez (trombone).

Salon Varietés

**FUENGIROLA.** 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipation **Beyoncé and Bruno Mars tributes.** 14, 15 January. A tribute to the modern-day king and queen of pop.

El Molino de Cajiz

**CAJIZ.** El Molino de Cajiz. **15 January, 6pm.** A night of music and poetry from celebrated Spanish and German Romantic musicians and writers. Interpretation of works by Robert Schumann, Joaquín Turina and Isaac Albéniz. Tickets: [cornelia.lenzin@bluewin.ch](mailto:cornelia.lenzin@bluewin.ch) or call 672 731 117.

Ugly Duckling Dance Festival

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 28 January, 7pm.Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. The Urban Dance School are performing a winter festival Tickets from the Escuela de Danza Urbana, C/Alonso Contreras, Motril.

FLAMENCO

Flamenco show

**ESTEPONA.** 13 January, 9.30pm. Peña Flamenca de Estepona, C/ Fuer-

zas Armadas.

A flamenco show with Rocío Alcalá (vocals), Julián Bedmar (toque) and Jessica Ruiz, Sheila López and Antonio Trujillo (dance). For more information or reservations, call: 952803183 or 683141136

#### THEATRE AND PANTO

##### Salon Varietés

**FUENGIROLA.** 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. Calle Emancipation.  
**Sylvia.** From 25 until 29 January. A comedy with love and laughter. Bookings can be made by calling the box office Monday - Friday 11am-2:30pm, or on the website: www.salonvarietes.com

##### Audition for a musical

**FUENGIROLA.** The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipation. Director John Gale is looking for cast members for My Fair Lady (March). Anyone wishing to audition, call John: 627 59 50 59.

##### Carmen

**MÁLAGA.** La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos.  
**15 January, 6pm.** A contemporary adaptation of the classic opera Carmen.

#### CHARITY

##### La Cala Lions

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** 13 January. El Olivo de la Cala restaurant. The La Cala Lions are holding a charity event. For tickets contact Dave Greenwood: 672 584 489 or Anne Bowles: 607 879 450

#### FIESTAS AND FERIAS

##### San Hilario de Poitiers



Piano and trombone, Almuñécar

##### COMARES.

14 January. Comares celebrates its patron saint with live music, a procession and tastings of wines and local dishes.

##### Fiesta de San Antón

**MARO.** 14, 15, 17 January. A programme of activities including live music, dance performances, a large bonfire in the Plaza de la Iglesia (9pm, 14 January), a procession of the village's patron saint San Antón and the traditional blessing of animals (17 January, after midday mass).

#### MORE IDEAS

##### Replica Sailing Ship

**MÁLAGA.** Until 29 January. Muelle Dos. The replica of the ship that made the first circumnavigation of the world, the Nao Victoria is docked in Malaga to celebrate the five-hundredth anniversary of that event.

##### Lux Mundi

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 952 543 334, luxmundi@lux-mundi.org.

**Trip to Puerto Banús and La Cañada Shopping Centre.** 26 January. Various departure points. 16€ with Friends of Lux Mundi card or 18€. Bookings: 952543334 or email: lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org

#### 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

**MÁLAGA.** Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.  
**Savage Salvation:** 20.20 (Tues).  
**Avatar The Way of Water:** 12.00 (Sun); 16.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Mon-Thurs).  
**M3gan:** 18.20 (Tues).  
**Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre:** 12.35 (Sun); 17.10 (Tues).  
**Poker Face:** 20.20 (Tues).

##### Yelmo Cines, Rincón

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** C/ Arroyo Totalán.  
**Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre:** 19.40 (Tues, Wed).  
**M3gan:** 22.05 (Tues, Wed).  
**Avatar The Way of Water 3D:** 18.30 (Tues, Wed).  
**Poker Face:** 21.30 (Tues, Wed).

##### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

**MÁLAGA.** Centro Comercial Vialia.  
**Emily:** 17.05 (Tues).  
**M3gan:** 22.25 (Tues).  
**Avatar The Way of Water 3D:** 13.30 (Sun); 17.15, 21.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.30, 21.15 (Fri, Wed).  
**Avatar The Way of Water:** 12.00 (Sun); 20.45 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).  
**Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre:** 17.10 (Tues).  
**Poker Face:** 13.00 (Sun); 17.50 (Tues).

##### Cinesur Miramar

**FUENGIROLA.** Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.  
**Avatar The Way of Water:** 11.45, 21.00 (Sat, Sun); 20.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Avatar The Way of Water 3D:** 12.10, 16.20 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Puss In Boots:** 12.15, 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**M3gan:** 21.40 (Fri, Mon-Wed); 22.20 (Sat, Sun).  
**Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre:** 19.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.15 (Fri, Mon, T).  
**Emily:** 16.00 (Sat, Sun), 17.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Living:** 17.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window:** 20.00 (Tues).  
**Big Trouble in Little China:** 20.00 (Thurs).

##### Cinesur Ingenio

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Avda Juan Carlos, Póker Face: 18.00 (Tues).  
**Savage Salvation:** 18.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).  
**Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window:** 20.00 (Tues).  
**Big Trouble in Little China:** 20.00 (Thurs).  
**Ballet: Like Water For Chocolate:** 20.15 (Thurs).

##### Cine Albéniz

**MÁLAGA.** C/ Alcazaba, 4.  
**Living:** 16.30, 20.30, 22.30 (every day).  
**Aftersun:** 18.30 (every day).

##### Red Dog

**PUERTO BANÚS.** Avda Julio Iglesias.  
**A Man Called Otto:** 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 21.45 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**The Book Of Life:** 15.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.30 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 19.30 (every day).  
**Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre:** 17.30, 19.45, 22.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.40 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Strange World:** 12.30 (Sat, Sun).  
**Puss in Boots:** 12.00, 15.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (every day).  
**Avatar The Way of Water 3D:** 11.30, 15.00, 18.30 (Sat, Sun), 17.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Avatar The Way of Water:** 11.45, 15.15, 18.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.17, 20.45 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Poker Face:** 15.30, 19.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**M3gan:** 19.15, 21.30 (every day).  
**Ballet: Like Water For Chocolate:** 20.15 (Thurs).

##### Autocine Málaga

**MÁLAGA.** Guadalhorce Industrial Estate.  
**Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre:** 21.30 (Fri-Thurs).



OFM, Malaga

## Monkey Tennis bring their personalised style to Bonnets on Fuengirola port

#### TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** The Bonnet live music venue in the Fuengirola port has lined up several free concerts for its winter season, which include some of the Costa del Sol's top blues, rock and pop bands.

On Friday 27 January, the bar, which has become one of the top music establishments on the coast, presents Monkey Tennis, a band known for their personalised style.

The Fuengirola-based soul, funk and rock band have built up a strong following, playing at music venues and clubs, as well as at weddings and functions, along the Costa del Sol for more than 20 years.

Formed in 2000, the group was originally an acoustic outfit, although the band decided to broaden their repertoire to suit a wider audience,



Monkey Tennis will perform at Bonnets Bar in Fuengirola. **sUR**

and their set now includes the hits of iconic bands like Cold Play, The Doors and Pink Floyd, to Paul Weller, Billy Joel and Stevie Wonder among others.

Fronted by the classically trained pianist Mike Dickin-

son, the band took its name from the comedian Steve Coogan (Alan Partridge) meme, Anyone for Monkey Tennis.

Their gig in Fuengirola starts at 11pm, although early arrival is advised due to the popularity of the band.



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## Case studies

ANDREW J. LINN



**W**ine critics are usually expected to guess how long wines will last before they become undrinkable. Should not restaurant critics be required to make similar predictions about the probable lifespan of a restaurant?

The scenario is familiar to every foodie: an avant-garde chef opens a new restaurant with a menu like none ever seen previously. Dishes made from the rarest and unlikely ingredients are listed at astronomic prices and there is a three-month waiting list. The awards begin to pile up, and the chef-owner is all over the media. Until....

Noma is a perfect example. This Copenhagen restaurant won the World's Best Restaurant nomination 2011 to 2014 and 2021. It took the top spot in the first ever World's 50 Best Restaurants with three Michelin stars. It has just closed, owing to the fact, according to owner Redzepi, that 'continuous innovation at high-end restaurants is unsustainable. Financially and emotionally, as an employer and as a human being, it just doesn't work.'

A new Copenhagen 'star', Alchemist, is announcing 500-euro menus released three months in advance that sell out

in seconds. Are the dishes attractive though?

Blood drop-shaped ice cream is served with a QR code that links to an organ donor; a chicken foot served in a cage emulating a factory-farm's cage; thanks to silkworm farmers collecting silkworm excrement, a protein that can be spun into a light meringue and brewed into tea; a yoghurt made with ants. Tests are currently being conducted on butterflies to understand how seasonality affects their flavour. Anyone else got some silly ideas?

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Fino CB Alvear

Montilla wines have been referred to as 'poor man's sherry', but they do no lack devotees. Made from PX grapes rather than Jerez's Palomino, the taste is unquestionably different but not necessarily better or worse. This classic wine from one of the oldest bodegas is a good buy at around 8 euros.



Pajarete 1908 commemorates a historic Pedro Ximénez grape harvest. **SUR**

## The most popular wine at the Antigua Casa de Guardia

**A liqueur wine. Pajarete is fortified and aged for a minimum of two years to create its distinctive sweet taste**

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

**F**ew places in Malaga can boast of being 127 years old. The Antigua Casa de Guardia tavern is one of them. The current location, despite dating back to 1895, is its third in the centre of the city.

Apart from the charm of the years, the aroma of old wines that hits you as soon as you walk through its doors and the mix of local customers and visitors around the bar, where the waiters still write down the tab with chalk on the counter, the great heritage of this bar are its wines and its vermouths.

Several Malaga wines are available from the barrels that line the wall behind the huge bar: Pedro Ximénez, Moscatel, Lágrima Añejo, Guinda, Moscatel, Seco, vermouth, and the flagship, the Pajarete 1908.

What exactly is a pajarete? The term is almost unknown outside Malaga, although it was also used in the province of Cadiz. But while it fell into oblivion there, in Malaga it continues to have popularity, largely thanks to this historic bodega.

#### High sugar content

Pajarete is a liqueur wine (i.e. fortified with alcohol to reach 15 degrees and stabilise it), made from Pedro Ximénez or Moscatel grapes and aged for a minimum of two years. Unlike other traditional Malaga wines, pajarete cannot contain 'arropé' (the must reduction used to darken some wines).

It has its natural colour, a more or less dark amber. As far as sugar is concerned, the regulations of the Denomination of

Origin for Malaga wines are quite loose. It can contain from 40 to 140 grams of residual sugar per litre. The Antigua Casa de Guardia is at the maximum limit. "When the DO Málaga made the regulations for the production of its wines in 1927, we had already been making pajarete for a hundred years."

"Originally it was sweeter, but to adapt it to the regulations we reduced the sugar to 140 grams per litre," explains Cayetano Garijo, the bodega's current manager, who adds that the name '1908' was given by his grandfather, José Garijo Ruiz, a lawyer, winemaker and key figure in the history of DO Málaga.

"He did it for two reasons: first, because our pajarete is made with Pedro Ximénez and in 1908 there was a historic harvest, and second, because that was his year of birth," he says.

Pajarete 1908 is also sold bottled. It can be bought in the bodega itself, in wine shops and in some grocery stores in the city of Malaga. It is also sold online on the winery's website. It is a perfect wine for aperitifs.

In the tavern it is eaten with seafood and the pickles they sell, but it goes perfectly with cod dishes, with Malaga salad, and Cayetano Garijo recommends trying it with Japanese food. "Sushi goes wonderfully with pajarete," he says. Salud!

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# The 'loca': a little cake of sunshine unique to Malaga

This cream-filled puff pastry was created in the city in the 1950s by a footballer and named after a popular song at the time

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MÁLAGA. For several generations of 'Malagueños', tasty 'locas' form part of childhood memories, unknown to people outside the city and its surroundings. When Malaga started to become a tourist destination, the bright orange colour of those round cakes and their ubiquity in the windows of patisseries and bakeries began to attract the attention of visitors. The Confitería Tejeros bakers, key to the popularisation of this puff pastry dessert, had the bright idea to consecrate it as a symbol of the city and create an edible souvenir, launching small formats, fun packs and cocktail snack versions.

Today, ice-cream shops such as Nonna make ice-creams made of loca, and chefs such as Pepo Frade, from Aire Gastrobar, make a savoury version.

Locas are not refined or luxurious. Quite the opposite.

"It was born in the post-war period, when people expected a good and satisfying cake," explains Manuel Ruiz, the current manager of Tejeros.

## The creator

The creator was Eduardo Rubio Cao, a footballer from Barcelona who signed as a defender for CD Málaga football team in 1950. At the time, professional sportsmen's salaries were not as high as they are today and they had to supplement their income. Rubio, a pastry chef by trade, came up with the idea of filling two puff pastry discs with crème pâtissière, covering them with an orange glaze and finishing them off with a dot of icing.



A tray of the puff pastry locas. DANIEL MALDONADO

In 1954, the song A lo loco se vive mejor, by Luisa Linares and the Galindos, (roughly translated as 'life's better if you go a bit crazy'), took the radio by storm, and the sunshine of that little cake, which brought joy to a sad and grey society, was identified with joie de vivre.

The sweet started out as "loco", but when Rubio's employees, José Ruiz and María Jesús Fernández, Manuel Ruiz's parents, opened their own bakery in Tejeros street in the Victoria neighbourhood of Malaga, it changed to "loca".

Over time it has become a spe-

ciality in almost every city bakery has shrunk in size and begun to travel to distant countries as a souvenir of Malaga (with the added advantage of not having to be kept chilled). Look for them in city bakeries, grocery shops or in the Tejeros bakery in Calle Obispo Salvador de los Reyes.



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# Do you look your age?

**Clues.** Anti-ageing experts can give us some idea of how some of the best known celebrities like Tom Cruise and George Clooney stay looking young

SOLANGE VÁSQUEZ

**S**ome people are expert at guessing the age of others at first sight because their brain, consciously or otherwise, processes certain variables which help them to evaluate how old the other person is. And some are the opposite: they are the ones who should keep their mouths shut when it comes to guessing someone's age in order to avoid offence, because when they open their

mouth they seriously put their foot in it. Because few things upset us as much (let's be honest) as when people think we are older than we are.

Even if we can count ourselves among the first group, the ones who calculate age well, with some individuals it is very difficult because they look much younger than they really are. What features do they share, to give that impres-

sion? Three experts - a plastic surgeon, a dermatologist and one of Spain's most renowned anti-ageing experts - give us an idea.

## 1 The way someone moves and their posture

As we age, our back tends to curve because of changes to the discs between the vertebrae. This means that as we get older we are less erect when we walk and we can even become shorter. This phenomenon starts around the age of 30 and although it takes time to be noticeable, it is there. It is a sign of our age. So, if someone does not have that curvature of the spine, they immediately appear to be younger. "Young people stand straighter and that influences the appearance of the abdomen and their way of walking, which is lighter," explains José Serres, president of the Spanish Society of Anti-Ageing Medicine and Longevity (SEMAL) and one of the best-known experts in anti-ageing medicine in Spain.

"Moving awkwardly makes you look older,"



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**SUR**  
in English



agrees plastic surgeon José Manuel Béjar, of the San Juan de Dios hospital in Vizcaya. So if we want to look young, we have to avoid stiffness and a swaying walk as well as certain gestures that send a message to the brain of anyone watching us that 'there goes an elderly person'. Rubbing our eyes, putting our hands on our kidneys and arching our backs, leaning forward as we walk or walking very slowly...anything that makes us look tired also makes us look old.

## 2 Well cared-for skin, no sagging

Wrinkles, blemishes, sagging jaw, bags and dark circles under the

eyes - if any of these are obvious then we are going to look older than we are. A good skin is not a matter of luck: genes are important, yes, but it is also a matter of the care (or martyrdom) to which we have subjected ourselves. Also, skin is very quick to show age and wear and tear.

"People who have spent too much time in the sun or in tanning cabins will already look older than they are by the time they are 30 or 35," says Natalia Jiménez, a dermatologist at the Ramón y Cajal hospital in Madrid and specialist in the look of skin. A dry skin needs more work in order to look good, she says, otherwise, it adds years to us. "If we look at celebrities who look good for their age, none of them look tanned and there's a reason for that. Johnny Depp, Tom Cruise and Penelope Cruz are just some of the famous people who are ageing well," Jiménez says.

## 3 Rounded face with few sharp features

"Some anatomical features are associated with young people. One is very important: people with a rounded face and barely notice-

able cheekbones look younger, more childlike," says Natalia Jiménez. Asians are a clear example: their faces have few sharp features and that is why they appear to withstand the passing of the years better. Their childlike appearance (round face and soft contours) lasts longer than in western people. Their pale skin and the fact that they avoid exposure to the sun also helps.

Then there are the everlasting teenagers, like Leonardo DiCaprio. "People with the face of a child always appear younger than they are, but that is totally genetic," says José Manuel Béjar, who explains that age causes the face to look more skeletal. "The subcutaneous cellular tissue, the 'fat' that we have below the skin, is gradually lost and the bones of the face become more noticeable. That makes us look older," he says. So in other words, the sharper the features the more aged or even ill we look. "It seems that as we get older our nose grows, but that isn't the case. What happens is that it becomes more noticeable," says Dr Béjar. So soft, barely defined contours help our faces to look young for longer.

## 4 Muscles are linked with youth

As we age we lose muscle and gain fat. And, as muscle means strength and firmness (it supports the skin so it doesn't sag), our appearance reflects the loss of these qualities which are linked with youth. This is why a person who, through exercise and good lifestyle habits, manages to maintain a suitable proportion of fat and muscle will always appear younger and avoid the bulging stomach and cellulitis (especially in women) which adds years. Look at actor Russell Crowe, for example, who now has a prominent belly and flabby arms. "He has aged a lot," says José Serres. "George Clooney and Tom Cruise, on the other hand, look very good for their age".

## 5 Sense of vitality

Someone who transmits vitality and cheerfulness tends to seem younger than a person who looks fatigued and sad. Think of the before-and-after photos used in advertisements for cosmetics or therapies. Sometimes there is not much difference between the images, but in the one showing the

'good results' the person usually appears happy and energetic, instead of looking worried or weighed down by life. Maybe this is Spanish presenter Jordi Hurtado's 'secret of eternal youth': he is always smiling, dynamic, tireless. "And then genetics, self-care and maybe a bit of sprucing up helps," says Serres.

## 6 Not too fat and not too thin

There is a saying that after a certain age we have to choose between our faces and our buttocks because we can't have both. There is no scientific basis to this, but it is more or less correct. "Obesity makes us overestimate someone's age, but if a person loses a lot of weight at certain ages it makes their face look tired and that is ageing as well," says Natalia. José Serres, meanwhile, adds that extra weight improves some wrinkles and flabby skin, but the downsides are poorer health, more clumsiness and a worse shape. The ideal is to find a balance and not follow 'yo-yo diets'. People who always maintain the correct weight will help their body to seem younger.

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# Malaga remain in deep relegation trouble despite comeback draw

Even after Rubén Castro's late equaliser against Tenerife on Saturday, the relegation battlers are now four points from safety ahead of their trip to league leaders Eibar this weekend

1-1  
TENERIFE-MALAGA

DARYL FINCH



MALAGA. Malaga remain in deep relegation trouble, despite coming from a goal down to draw 1-1 with fellow strugglers Tenerife at La Rosaleda on Saturday night. Veteran striker Rúben Castro scored a late equaliser after the home side seemed destined for defeat, after conceding the go-ahead goal with just 15 minutes left on the clock. Malaga dominated proceedings throughout the game but, as has often been the case this season, failed to convert their superiority into clear, goalscoring opportunities. The side managed by Pepe Mel, who was serving the first of his two-game touchline ban, con-



Rubén Castro as he sweeps home the late equaliser. **MARIANO POZO**

trolled possession, but lacked a cutting edge in the final third, only hitting the target on four occasions. In the first half, the clearest of these opportunities fell to Rúben Castro who had his close-range effort cleared off the line by Nikola Šipčić after it got the better of former Malaga keeper Juan Soriano. However, some speculative efforts aside, Malaga rarely troubled the opposition goal and Tenerife grew into the game in the second half, capitalising on sloppy play by the home side to threaten on the transition. So, when Iván Romero's cut-back from the byline was swept into the roof of Rubén Yáñez's net by London-born youngster Sam-

uel Shashoua after 75 minutes, it appeared it would be a case of the same old story repeating itself once again. However, Malaga showed good fighting spirit, backed by the home crowd in holiday spirit, and got themselves back into the game after a lengthy VAR check confirmed that Fran Sol wasn't interfering with play from an illegal position and that Rúben Castro's shot from the edge of the box would stand. Coach Nacho Pérez, stepping in for Pepe Mel in the post-match press conference, was visibly frustrated: "Having more possession and playing better hasn't helped us today. We would have loved to push on after our win against Alavés but we could only get the

SEGUNDA DIVISIÓN

Game week 22

Ponferradina-Villarreal B	2-1
Sporting-Levante	1-1
Leganés-Lugo	1-0
Andorra-Oviedo	3-1
Malaga-Tenerife	1-1
Alavés-Burgos	1-0
Granada-Cartagena	1-0
Zaragoza-Mirandés	0-0
Las Palmas-Racing	1-1
Eibar-Ibiza	1-0
Huesca-Albacete	1-1

Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Eibar	22	11	7	4	25	17	40
2. Las Palmas	22	10	9	3	25	13	39
3. Levante	22	9	10	3	23	14	37
4. Alavés	22	10	7	5	23	20	37
5. Granada	22	10	5	7	25	15	35
6. Burgos	22	9	8	5	19	12	35
7. Leganés	22	9	6	7	23	20	33
8. Albacete	22	8	9	5	28	26	33
9. Andorra	22	9	5	8	25	18	32
10. Cartagena	22	9	5	8	23	22	32
11. Huesca	22	7	8	7	18	19	29
12. Sporting	22	6	10	6	23	23	28
13. Villarreal B	22	7	7	8	24	27	28
14. Mirandés	22	6	9	7	25	27	27
15. Oviedo	22	7	6	9	14	18	27
16. Zaragoza	22	6	8	8	18	19	26
17. Tenerife	22	6	8	8	23	25	26
18. Ponferradina	22	6	6	10	22	30	24
19. Racing	22	5	7	10	14	18	22
20. Lugo	22	5	6	11	18	27	21
21. Malaga	22	4	8	10	17	26	20
22. Ibiza	22	4	4	14	14	33	16

draw. We're not happy but we can't let our heads drop." Despite the draw, Malaga remain second from bottom, now four points from safety following Ponferradina's 2-1 win over Villarreal B. Next up they face a tough trip to league leaders Eibar on Sunday afternoon (kick-off 2pm) but could have new signings available.

## Appiah trains with the first team as Lago Junior seals move to the club

A. GÓNGORA / B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Arvin Appiah, 22, is officially a Malaga player, having 'completed his loan move from Almeria on Monday. The England under-19 international, who came through at Nottingham Forest, joins until the end of the season and brings much-needed reinforcements for the wing. He was joined on Wednesday by Lago Junior, another winger, who joins on a free transfer from Mallorca until 2024. The 32-year-old takes the spot in the squad left occupied following the departure of full-back Juanfran to Oviedo.

## Futu to the rescue again for Femenino

Malaga's women's team re-started the year in the best way possible, returning from Las Palmas with all three points from their game with Unión Vieira on Sunday. This very even game was settled late on, with just four minutes left on the clock, when Torralvo redirected a deep cross back into the six-yard box where Malaga's top scorer with five goals, Futu, completely unmarked, couldn't miss. The side sit fourth in Group 2 of Segunda RFE and welcome third-placed Balears to Rincón de la Victoria next time out.

# Antequera and El Palo: clubs' promotion charges continue

A trip around the grounds in the province to sum up the third and fourth-tier football action

SUR

Segunda RFEF division

ANTEQUERA	2
SANLUQUEÑO	0

In Group 4, Antequera continued in their pursuit to be league champions with a 2-0 win over Sanluqueño. Second-half goals from Montori and Alcalde made it three wins out of three and they now sit

eight points clear of second-placed Recreativo.	
XEREZ	2
VÉLEZ	0
Vélez's shortcomings on the road were in evidence again as they suffered a capitulation in second-half stoppage time, throwing away a point as they lost 2-0. Goals from Ricky and Bello secured Xerez's first home win of the season, while Vélez sit in 11th.	
SEVILLA ATLÉTICO	1
TORREMOLINOS	0
Juventud Torremolinos remain	

in the relegation zone after losing 1-0 to Sevilla's reserve team, despite being a man up for the final half an hour and dominating many phases of the game. The only goal came from local boy Isra, a recent signing from Antequera, in the 25th minute.	
ESTEPONA	3
UNIÓN ADARVE	1
Estepona took advantage of their numerical superiority in the second half to sweep aside Unión Adarve in a dominant second half. It was 1-1 when Pineda was sent off in the 40th minute, pav-	

ing the way for the hosts to take a commanding lead in the second 45 through headers from Álvaro Sánchez and Lucas Pérez. Estepona remain in the Group 5 play-off places.

Tercera RFEF division

MARBELLA	3
MÁLAGA CITY	0

Marbella completed what turned out to be a comfortable victory in Coín to help their promotion push. The "hosts" went ahead through Agus Alonso from the spot in the 31st minute, but it wasn't until Márquez was sent off for the visitors in the 87th minute that Marbella added two more goals through a Juanpe free-kick and a classy shot from top scorer Dago. ATLÉTICO MALAGUEÑO 1 PORCUNA 1 An injury-time equaliser from David Jiménez was a cruel blow

for Malaga's reserve team who thought they had won it through Paco's headed goal ten minutes earlier. They sit in ninth place.

HUÉTOR TÁJAR	3
TORRE DEL MAR	0

Second-placed Torre del Mar suffered their second painful defeat at the hands of Huétor Tájar this season (4-1 in the reverse fixture). They were 2-0 down by half time with goals from Gadea and Armero, and in the second half the home side made it three through Gadea.

HURACÁN MELILLA	0
EL PALO	2

Despite missing a second-half penalty, leaders El Palo saw off bottom side Melilla with relative ease with the same two players combining for both goals. Esteban providing the assists and Falu Aranda scoring the goals.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, ESPN

## A national hero

Wales has never seen or will see again a sportsman who will rise to the standard set by Gareth Bale



**G**areth Bale arrived with a fanfare, filled football stadia with excitement, reached the pinnacle of the game, won cup finals with his individual brilliance - there can be no doubt about it, he's the finest footballer to emerge from Great Britain.

Sadly, his career ended in a whimper and, in his final years, his body prevented him from maintaining the exceptional standards he'd set over an incredible career.

Recency bias means that people remember a broken Bale rather than the one who gave Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi a run for their money to be the best player on the planet.

This is a man whose transfer broke the world-record, and he went on to give value for money.

The Tottenham hat-trick against Inter Milan announced him to the world. His sensational winner in the 2014 Copa del Rey final against eternal rivals Barcelona should have been enough to write him into Real Madrid folklore. The overhead kick in the 2018 Champions League final is the best goal ever scored in a European final.

Wales has never seen or will see again a sportsman who will rise to such a high standard. When he made his debut as a 16-year-old, the country was a footballing mess. By the time he'd reached the end of his ca-



Gareth Bale in Qatar. REUTERS

reer, they were one of the most feared underdogs in world football.

He led them to the semi-finals of the Euros in 2016. He scored seven goals in the qualifying stages, three at the tournament as well as setting up several for teammates. The man was a national hero and will be so forever. So, it's odd that he was close to becoming an anti-hero back in Madrid. This is a man who shared the spoils in five Champions League successes and scored in all the major finals.

The first whiff of an issue is when some at the Bernabeu booed him in 2015 for choosing to try to score for himself than pass to Cristiano Ronaldo. A couple of years later, he wasn't too keen to be moved to China when Real wanted to offload him from the payroll.

The fans - and the Spanish

media - didn't take too kindly when he posed with a flag that read 'Wales. Golf. Madrid. And in that order.'

There was no comeback from that. The body that engineered speeds other footballers could only dream of reaching was beginning to fail him. In his short loan return to Spurs, he looked a shadow of his former self. He needed to reach a deal with Los Angeles FC to tick over long enough to be ready to perform at the World Cup finals. Even then, he scored another cup-winning goal.

Thirty-three is young to call it a day, especially with Karim Benzema, Luka Modrić, and Lionel Messi still performing at the highest level at a more advanced age.

They are all fortunate that their bodies have allowed them to defy science. Bale is similar to Michael Owen - he's so finely tuned that once the calibration had gone, there was no way to reach the standards he'd set.

Ultimately, it proved to be human frailty that curtailed his career. Ironically, he'd reached levels that very few other humans could dream of.

He deserves to spend time with his family, release himself from the football bubble he's lived in since his schoolboy days, count his medals, and when he's got some spare time, work on his golf handicap of two!

## Carlos Alcaraz to miss the Australian Open due to injury

The world number one picked up an injury in training and won't be able to play in the first Grand Slam of the season

ENRIC GARDINER

World tennis number one Carlos Alcaraz will miss out on the first Grand Slam of the year after picking up a leg muscle injury in training this week.

The blow came just days before the start of the Australian Open and as the 19-year-old was looking to complete a successful pre-season after a separate injury hampered his end to 2022.

The youngster from Murcia, who won his maiden Grand Slam title at the US Open in September, missed the ATP finals in Turin and the Davis Cup finals in Malaga due to a torn abdominal muscle during the last Masters 1000 of 2022 at Paris-Bercy.

"I've worked so hard to get to my best level for Australia but

unfortunately I won't be able to play the Care A2+ Kooyong or the Australian Open. It's tough, but I have to be optimistic, recover and look forward. See you in 2024 @australianopen," the Spaniard wrote on social media.

Djokovic over his shoulder

Alcaraz's absence in Melbourne will put his privileged position at number one in jeopardy. The Spaniard is 1,050 points ahead of second-placed Rafael Nadal but, as reigning champion, he cannot make any further gains in this tournament.

However, the same cannot be said of Novak Djokovic, who didn't participate last time out because of his deportation. The Serbian is 1,910 points behind Alcaraz and would overtake him if he wins his tenth title at the Rod Laver Arena.

That said, if Alcaraz's injury heals as planned, the young tennis star will return at the ATP 500 in Rio de Janeiro, a tournament he won last year and which runs from 20 to 26 February.



Carlos Alcaraz

## Local boy Davidovich heading to Melbourne in great shape

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich will go into the Australian Open in confident mood after a strong week in which he came runner-up in the Montecarlo Masters 1000 and

reached the quarter-final of the Adelaide International 2, losing to Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3 6-2 on Thursday morning.

Davidovich will face Alexander Bublik, from Kazakhstan, in the first round of the Australian Open on Monday.

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## Local amateurs hopeful of completing Dakar mission

Malaga-based Alfredo Rubio and Alberto Benedito are making their dream come true while raising funds for Cudeca

CRISTINA PINTO

MALAGA. It's a "dream come true" for two Malaga-based motor racing enthusiasts currently taking part in this year's edition of the famous Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia.

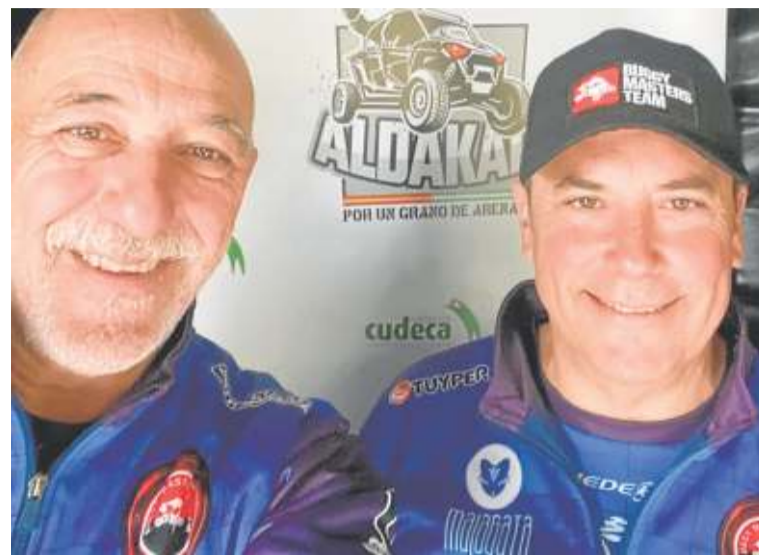
The pair had owned buggies since 2017, had raced in Morocco for more than ten years, competed in the Spanish Championship in 2021... "It was either now or never," said Alberto Benedito, 62, accompanied by Alfredo Rubio, 55.

Having completed the ninth of the 14 stages in total, the pair shared their experiences with SUR on their rest day. Driver Alfredo Rubio said: "Those who are here and know the Rally well are saying it's the hardest in history. We've been through everything: the rain, the cold... Going through the dunes at night is impressive. You can't see anything and it makes navigation difficult, but this is an exciting adventure. The places we pass through are very beautiful."

The pair's modest aim is simply to finish. "We're not going to win anything because we're not professionals," says co-driver Alberto Benedito, who admits the second half of the rally, in which they are now fully immersed, is supposed to be much easier.

The drivers are hoping to share their "child-like" enthusiasm with a wider audience and are broadcasting insights into the rally on Instagram through their project Al Dakar por un Grano de Arena, as well as raising funds for the Cudeca Foundation.

The hospice charity is selling raffle tickets for prizes such as some of the materials and equipment used in the race, as well as for shirts signed by football players such as Isco, Joaquín and Koke Contreras, who have been collaborating with them since they started up their project.



Alberto Benedito and Alfredo Rubio, during the competition. SUR



The pair's buggy, tackling sand dunes in Saudi Arabia. SUR

## Carlos Sainz drops out after accident and brave attempt to continue

DAVID SÁNCHEZ DE CASTRO

MADRID. There won't be a Spanish winner in this year's competition after both Carlos Sainz and Joan Barreda had to pull out following crashes which resulted in hospitalisation.

In the case of 60-year-old Sainz, his vehicle overturned during the ninth stage after a

hard crash in the sand dunes. Despite damage to his back, the veteran decided to make a surprise return and would have continued if it weren't for irreparable damage to his Audi's chassis.

This crash prevented Sainz from completing his 16th Dakar Rally, but the veteran has vowed to return in 2024.

## Spain's future stars to play in Torremolinos next week

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. High-level football returns to Torremolinos on Wednesday 18 January, as Spain's under-19s take on Italy in a friendly game.

Around 3,000 tickets, available for just five euros, have already

gone on sale and can be purchased online or at the Juventud Torremolinos ticket offices.

This will be José Lana's first camp with his new squad after taking over from Santi Denia, who has now filled the vacant under-21s post. This happened following Luis de la Fuente's pro-

motion to senior team head coach.

This game will be a good test for Spain's future stars as they prepare for this summer's European Championship in Malta, where La Roja have been drawn alongside Ukraine, Denmark and Luxembourg.

This fixture is the second high-profile game to take place in the town in recent times, coming just weeks after Sevilla visited the modest ground in the Copa del Rey to take on Juventud Torremolinos.

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MSC Lirica	15/01	Ceuta	Alicante	07.00	18.00
Norwegian Sun	24/01	Gibraltar	Cadiz	07.00	20.00
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Norwegian Sun	14/02	Gibraltar	Cadiz	07.00	20.00
MSC Lirica	14/02	Ceuta	Alicante	07.00	18.00
Aidastella	14/02	Arrecife	Cartagena	10.00	19.30
Norwegian Sun	24/02	Gibraltar	Cadiz	07.00	20.00
MSC Lirica	24/02	Ceuta	Alicante	07.00	18.00



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Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola  
C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga  
Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga  
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Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola

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952474891  
951516019  
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Alameda Principal, 35, Malaga  
Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga  
Calle Córdoba, 6, Malaga  
Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga  
Dr Manuel Perez Bryan, Malaga  
Calle Marín García, Malaga  
C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga  
Av. de Velásquez, (Crce aeropuerto) Malaga

954293200  
902502512  
646060972  
952212435  
952310358  
95225689  
952661200  
952771850  
952236966

THE STARS



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
The New Moon in your sign means you'll be proactive. You're ready to experiment with fresh options that might resolve lingering matters and make life much easier for you.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Are there tensions in your social circle? If so, these may ease over coming weeks. For now, you might benefit from taking time to yourself.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
As the solar emphasis shifts to Aquarius, a sense of relief may be felt as there's less of a focus on goals, ambitions and authority figures.



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
With the radiant Sun moving into a prominent sector for four weeks, this is the time to let others know how talented and amazing you are.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
You'll be ready for a breath of fresh air and a chance to escape taxing and emotional situations. This week brings the chance of a new beginning if you're ready to take the plunge.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
The Sun's link with Pluto encourages a change of heart, which could bring about a transformation in someone close. And as Mercury presses ahead, any misunderstandings can heal too.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
You can breathe a sigh of relief as the planet of talk and thought turns direct, enabling you to get on with life. You'll need to knuckle down to get something urgent out of the way too.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
With the Sun newly in your lifestyle sector this week, it's a good time to revamp your routines. Letting go of what's no longer working will make a positive difference.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
The Sun's move into Aquarius for four weeks can find you motivated to hone your art or craft skills and to involve yourself in activities you enjoy .



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
The New Moon suggests it's time for a clean sweep and for overdue changes. Things will be easier with Mercury turning direct, and you can make progress at last.

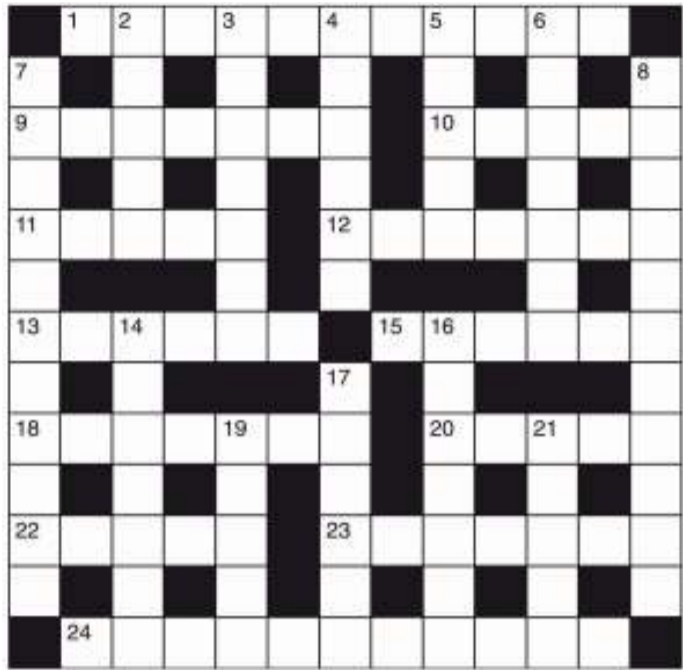


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
With the Sun entering your communication sector, this is one of the better times for linking up with those on your wavelength.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
There are opportunities for impulsive buys as the New Moon angles towards Jupiter. If an outing, experience or purchase calls out to you, give it some thought first.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11549



- Across
- Down
- 1

By no means all of it (3,1,3,2,2)
- 2

Over one ounce of sea air (5)
- 9

Court practice? (5-2)
- 3

Bands of legend? (7)
- 10

Bad lighting? (5)
- 4

I am given an appointment as a duty (6)
- 11

The 'I' in topic? (5)
- 5

Some took a picture of an animal (5)
- 12

Terribly English feature of a beach (7)
- 6

Penetration able to be seen (7)
- 13

He's not awfully truthful (6)
- 7

They are bound to be drawn in (11)
- 15

Change positions of men on the board (6)
- 8

Perhaps resenting it being fascinating (11)
- 18

The first bowlers getting Cork out? (7)
- 14

Require to get conducted when annoyed (7)
- 20

Spring found under a bank? (5)
- 16

Go on a sub? (7)
- 22

Furnaces in which links are forged (5)
- 17

Enters office uninvited? (6)
- 23

Exhausted when knocked over by a car (3-4)
- 19

Some support for an artist? (5)
- 24

Teenagers out to see Scotland (11)
- 21

Craft about to change (1-4)

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

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

F	L	E	T	F	I	L	L	E	T
L	E	T	T	U	S	L	E	A	M
E	T	A	M	U	L	E	T	T	O
A	V	R	O	L	E	T	T	H	D
B	A	L	L	E	T	H	E	L	E
F	L	I	E	T	U	E	R	E	L
L	E	S	T	I	C	L	E	T	E
S	T	O	H	C	O	W	L	E	T
E	C	H	A	L	E	T	E	R	E
M	A	L	L	E	T	A	T	E	L

- Can you identify the words that contain 'let' from the clues listed below?
1.

Epistle
2.

Small night bird
3.

Boneless piece of meat
4.

Dance
5.

Deadly
6.

Small island
7.

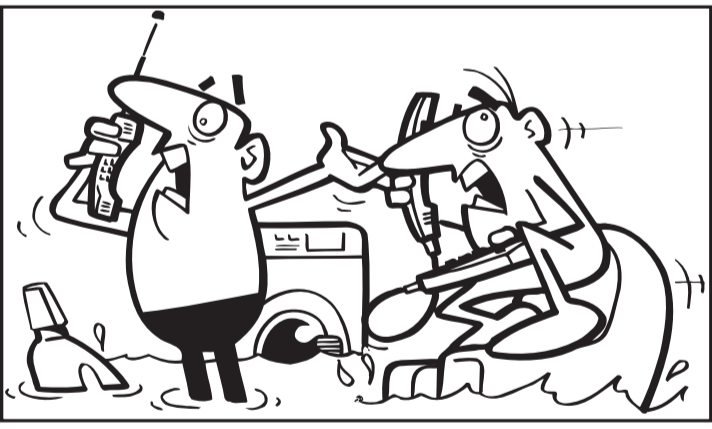
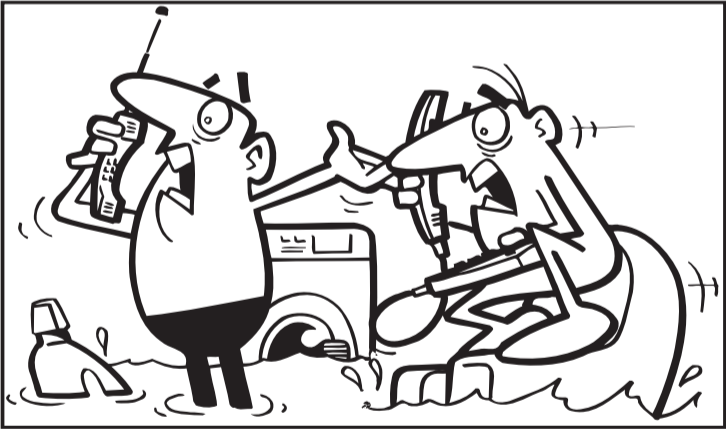
Wooden hammer
8.

Cross out
9.

Trinket
10.

Manservant

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



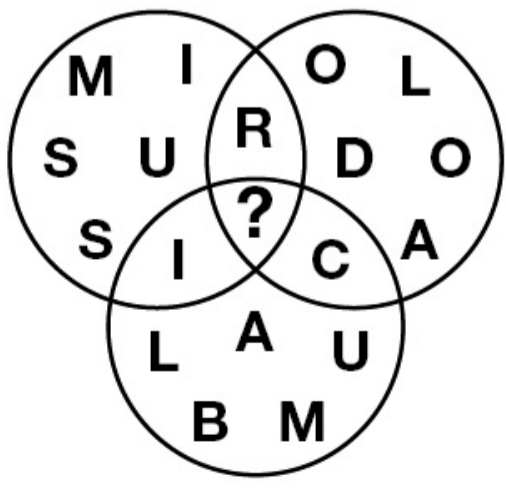
BATTLESHIPS

**Instructions** Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.

- Battleship
- Cruiser
- Destroyers
- Submarines

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

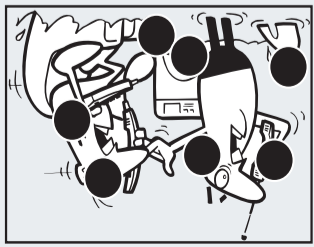
CIRCLEGRAM



**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?

1) Owners (12)  
6) Arrival (7)  
11) He blesses (7)  
12) Historian (f) (12)  
15) They cancel (8)  
16) Obesity (8)  
18) They go in (6)  
19) To hear (3)  
21) Oyster (5)  
23) Muslim (f) (9)  
24) Grape (3)  
26) Pub (3)  
27) Diagnosis (11)  
30) To highlight (8)  
35) Customs (10)  
36) With (3)  
37) Bar (5)  
38) I warned (5)  
39) To return (8)  
41) I'll go (3)  
42) Currently (11)  
44) Handle (3)  
46) Us (3)  
48) Pressure (7)  
49) Fin (5)  
51) Obligation (10)  
52) Cobbled (f) (9)

- 1) Population (9)
- 2) To pedal (8)
- 3) Charm (7)
- 4) Ace (2)
- 5) Illicit (m.pl) (8)
- 7) I read (3)
- 8) Year (3)
- 9) To abandon (9)
- 10) Place name (8)
- 13) You give (pl) (4)
- 14) You sleep (7)
- 17) It's (2)
- 20) Captain (f) (8)
- 22) Term (9)
- 24) Location (9)
- 25) Scaffolding (7)
- 28) Illustration (11)
- 29) Birth (10)
- 31) Whitewashed (f) (8)
- 32) Reference (10)
- 33) I transferred (9)
- 34) Visitor (9)
- 40) Cough (3)
- 43) To be (5)
- 45) Suitable (f) (4)
- 47) Salt (3)
- 50) She reads (3)



**J**osé Amalio González, better known as Pepe, is the parish priest in Coín and he is also president of the Cetrera del Sur (Acesur) falconry association. His enthusiasm for his hobby recently led him to represent Spain at a competition in Dubai, in which ten countries participated.

This was the beginning of a collaboration to create an International Foundation of Falconry Racing and Sports, of which Pepe and his colleagues from Andalucía will be members.

"It was a great experience for us. We have learned about another type of competition and we want to develop that same format in Spain," he says.

Falconry is an activity which involves hunting with trained birds of prey, and the priest is a great fan. His birds have become part of everyday life in the municipality because he looks after them at his home, opposite the San Juan Bautista church. He combines his work in the parish with a hobby which has led him to be the president of an association which currently has 150 members.

"Last September I received a call from the Arab Emirates Falconry Federation. They wanted to start a collaboration with us and after several video calls we agreed that we would go there and visit them," he explains.

In December Pepe went with José Ignacio Pérez, the secretary of the association, to Dubai. They had been invited with all expenses paid, by Prince Ahmed bin Mohamed, to attend the final of the 2022 racing competition, a form of falconry which has been developed in the United Arab Emirates.



## From Coín to Dubai: the priest who represents Spain at falconry

**Sport.** The priest, a keen falconry enthusiast, took part in a convention with nine other countries that aim to create an international federation

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



"We learned a lot about it and we are going to do more courses online so we can learn even more and be able to start organising competitions here. In Spain falconry is a type of hunting but there

is no prey in the desert in Dubai so they invented a speed format instead," Pepe explains.

As the representatives from Spain, they signed a collaboration agreement with the other

countries which took part in the convention, including Italy, Argentina, Morocco, Iran and Egypt, among others.

The aim is to create an International Federation of Falconry

**The priest, president of the Asociación Cetrera del Sur, was invited to visit Dubai by Prince Ahmed bin Mohamed**

Racing and Sports, and they hope to have it accepted as an Olympic Sport. If they are successful, the board of Acesur would be part of the International Olympic Falconry Committee. "This collaboration could be very important," the priest says.

In addition to visiting the desert and the competitions, the Spanish representatives also got to know Dubai in detail. "It is a city with a great many excesses: impressive cars, the tallest buildings in the world... what surprised me most was the different classes, which is something that doesn't happen here," says Pepe, who wore his official clothes during the visit. "I had no problems at all, it is a very westernised society. Sometimes more people have looked curiously at me in the street in Spain than they did in Dubai," he says.

What most surprised the Spanish visitors was the buildings in Dubai, including a shopping centre dedicated specifically to falconry. "It was a very interesting trip in general and we were proud to be able to represent the falconry of Spain," he says.

This journey was the first contact in what is planned as a long collaboration, including possible visits by officials from the UAE federation and joint competitions. "Most of the bird breeding centres are in Spain so they know the market and country well. We will continue working together to achieve important things for falconry," says Pepe González.

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