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June 2nd to 8th 2023
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**PUSHING THE
BOUNDARIES
WITH TAROT**

Devan Shimoyama
launches a 'radical act' at
Malaga's CAC with a fun
message against racism
and homophobia **P32**



NITO SALAS

THE COSTA MEANS BUSINESS

Entrepreneurs from the international community gather for
the SUR in English awards and business guide launch **P6-8**



Winners, speakers and guests at the networking event held at Holiday World, Benalmádena, on Wednesday. **S. SALAS**

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Your free copy of the first Top
International Business Guide



Spain set for an early general election after Socialists do badly in local voting

The PP party was the winner of last Sunday's council and regional elections as the country moved to the right

The defeat of the PSOE in last week-end's nationwide elections was bigger than anyone expected. The Partido Popular saw its share rise. It won seven of the eight provincial capitals in Andalucía and left the PSOE with three of the 17 devolved

regions, among many other examples. Far-right Vox did well too and will hold the balance of power in many areas. PM Pedro Sánchez saw red and called a general election for 23 July before the Socialist position gets any worse. **P2-4**

**A direct flight from
New York is back
for the first time
since 2019** **P10**

**On board the only
naval ship with a
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Over three quarters of Malaga province residents will have a PP mayor for the next four years

The conservative party has increased its hold on almost all larger towns as well as Malaga city following last Sunday's voting for local councils

ANTONIO M. ROMERO / SUR

MALAGA. Three out of four people living in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, will have a mayor from the conservative Partido Popular (PP) party for the next four years. This follows last weekend's local elections, when all council seats were up for grabs. New mayors and councillors will be sworn in formally on 17 June.

A blue wave swept across the province last Sunday, with the

PP picking up 57,742 more votes than four years ago, gaining eight percentage points in support and increasing its number of councillors locally in the province by 111 on the last elections in 2019, bringing it up to 508 and making it the leading political party in the province. In second place in the province was the PSOE Socialist party with 439 councillors, down 44.

In terms of the number of local mayors it has in Malaga province, the PP has added eight more than it had last week to get to 40 of the 103 in the province including twelve of the sixteen towns

with more than 20,000 residents, where it will govern with an absolute majority.

This is the best performance for the PP in its history, with the last record in 2011 when it secured 34 of the local town halls.

In addition the Partido Popular was also the most voted party but without an overall majority of councillors in six further places; Alhaurín el Grande, Archidona, Arenas, Comares, Humilladero and Vélez-Málaga. In these six towns and villages, effective government will depend on deals with other parties, although Spanish electoral law allows the most-voted party to govern alone without a majority if no other party coalition can beat it.

With these figures, the PP will

TOTALS OF COUNCILLORS

508

for the PP, up 111 on 2019

439

for the PSOE, down 44 on 2019

run the local authority of 1,324,951 Malaga province residents, which represents 77.1% of the total number of residents in the province.

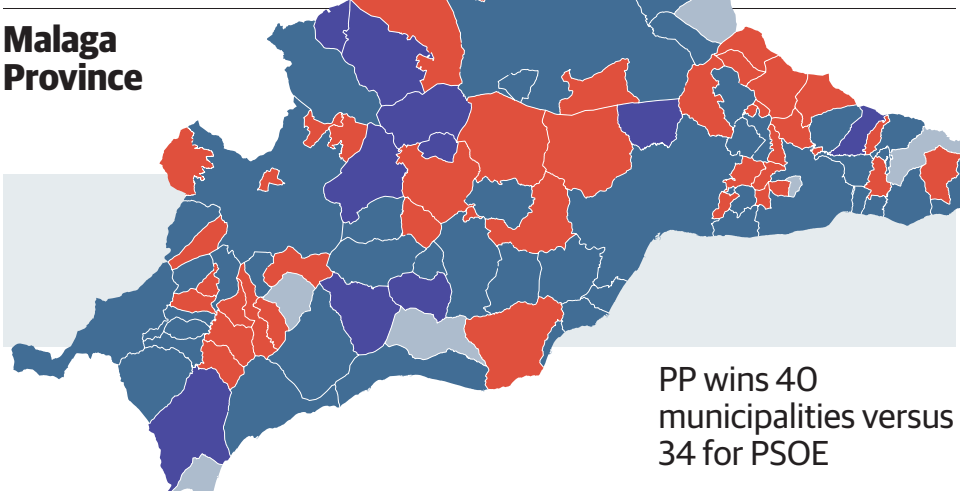
The PP's strength on Sunday

came in the larger towns and Malaga city. Support for veteran PP mayor, Francisco de la Torre, increased in the city, giving him an outright majority for the first time in eight years.

New absolute majorities for the PP were won in Torremolinos, Benalmádena and Nerja as well as Ronda and Rincón de la Victoria. Meanwhile, conservative strongholds such as Marbella, Fuengirola, Alhaurín de la Torre, Coín, Antequera and Estepona, were held.

If the PP was the big winner, the biggest losers were the PSOE Socialist party and especially Ciudadanos which, as in the rest of Spain, saw its vote disappear.

Among the biggest upsets was in Benalmádena, where existing



Malaga city

PP 17 | PSOE 10 | CON AND. 2 | VOX 2

+3

De la Torre has got back his full majority after eight years

Marbella

PP 14 | PSOE 8 | OSP 3 | VOX 2

=

Muñoz is back in, PSOE falls and Vox comes in

Mijas

PSOE 10 | PP 9 | VOX 3 | CS'2 | PMP 1

+2

Josele González will need a deal with a rival party to stay in

Torremolinos

PP 17 | PSOE 5 | CON AND. 2 | VOX 1

+8

Del Cid sweeps up and strengthens PP position in the town

Vélez-Málaga

PP 9 | UA 6 | GIPM 6 | PSOE 3 | VOX 1

=

PP wins but there is also a big rise in the Andalucía Por Sí vote

Fuengirola

PP 15 | PSOE 5 | VOX 3 | CON AND. 2

=

Mula is still in, PSOE goes backwards and Vox rises

Estepona

PP 17 | PSOE 5 | VOX 3

-4

García Urbano wins a comfortable majority again

Benalmádena

PP 13 | PSOE 9 | VOX 2 | CON AND. 1

+6

The PP turns the tables and pushes out PSOE

Manilva

COM 5 | CON A. 4 | PP 4 | PSOE 3 | VOX 1

=

Compromiso is most voted but the PP has grown a lot

Torrox

PP 9 | PSOE 5 | CON A. 2 | VOX 1

=

Óscar Medina keeps his overall majority in this Axarquía town

Alhaurín el Grande

PP 9 | 100% 6 | PSOE 3 | CON A. 2 | VOX 1

-2

The PP won the vote but it is not enough for a majority

Alhaurín de la Torre

PP 13 | PSOE 6 | CON AND. 1 | VOX 1

+1

Villanova adds to his power by gaining a councillor

Nerja

PP 12 | PSOE 8 | CON AND. 1

+2

Armijo is back in charge with an overall majority

Benahavís

PP 8 | PSOE 4 | Vox 1

+1

The PP is back in power with an overall majority

Coín

PP 11 | PSOE 6 | UA 2 | Vox 2 | Con And. 1

=

Francisco Santos stays as mayor with 11 councillors

PSOE mayor, Victor Navas, lost power after eight years. Speaking this week after the result, he said, “The people are king and they have wanted the PSOE to go into opposition. We are going to be a constructive opposition, like I would have wished for when I was mayor.”

Incoming mayor of Benalmádena, the PP’s Juan Antonio Lara, said he aimed to be “in every corner of the municipality, and here to listen to locals. If there is something that I want to get across, it is the ability to manage”.

Mijas in the balance

It was a different story in Mijas. There, current PSOE mayor Josele González bucked the trend and successfully beat off a challenge from the PP’s Ángel Nozal to lead the biggest single party.

However, it was not enough for a majority. Juan Carlos Maldonado, who entered the election with a different party, Por Mi Pueblo, now holds the key to giving the mayor’s job either to the PP’s Nozal or González of the PSOE in Mijas. All three of these men have been past mayors of Mijas and are known for not being on the best terms.

Marbella relief

In Marbella, there was relief for Ángeles Muñoz when she kept her majority as the count went down to the wire.

“I am proud the PP has won the elections again,” she said. Muñoz kept her 14 councillors, the PSOE dropped two seats, the San Pedro OSP party won three in total and Vox gained its first two councillors in Marbella. Ciudadanos lost its only seat in the town.



Ángeles Muñoz (PP) celebrates renewing her majority in Marbella. JOSELE



The PSOE's candidate for Mijas, Josele González, at the polling station. SUR



Juan Antonio Lara (PP) votes in Benalmádena. SUR

Diputación provincial authority stays blue after the council elections

Francisco Salado could be reappointed by his party again after the PP gained 18 seats, two above a majority, in this indirectly elected assembly

ANTONIO M. ROMERO / SUR

MALAGA. The Partido Popular (PP) has won control of the Malaga provincial authority again, claiming 18 seats compared to 10 for the PSOE following last Sunday’s local election.

The win continues the party’s hold on the province-wide authority, known as the ‘Diputación Provincial’, which has been conservative since 2011.

The Diputación result impacts locals especially in rural areas away from bigger towns, including many foreign residents, as it runs pooled services for smaller town halls, such as social services and local road maintenance. It also controls the Costa del Sol tourist board, among other responsibilities.

According to official figures,

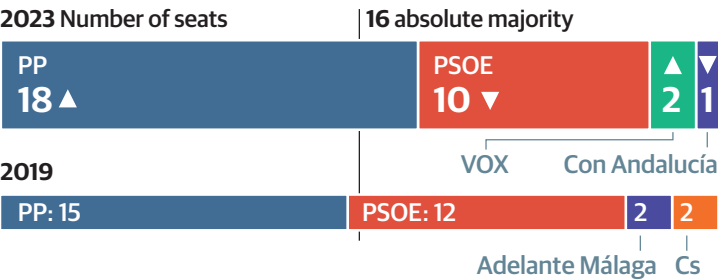
the PP won 18 seats, two more than a majority and three more than it currently has.

The PP’s Francisco Salado has led the provincial authority since 2019 - the year in which he replaced Elías Bendodo, who now coordinates election campaigns for the PP nationally from Madrid. Salado, who is also mayor of Rincón de la Victoria, could be reappointed leader by his party.

Unlike for the local councils, the Diputación is not voted on directly by the public. Instead, the party that controls it is worked out by a formula dividing the province into five zones - Antequera area, Malaga city area, Marbella area, Ronda area and Vélez-Málaga area - and calculating representatives from each area based on the vote share of the parties there.

The PSOE was left with only ten seats, two fewer than it had until now. Con Andalucía, the coalition of IU and Podemos, also suffered, with just one representative in the Diputación, compared to two previously.

Diputación provincial 31 seats



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Sánchez calls snap general election after bad result for his PSOE party last Sunday

With the surprise news, the prime minister hopes to stop any further increase in support for parties on the right

SUR

MADRID. Not even his closest confidants all knew what Pedro Sánchez was going to announce as he stood on the steps of his La Moncloa prime minister's office in Madrid on Monday morning. With

news of his PSOE party's significant defeat across Spain in the previous day's local and regional elections still sinking in, he had decided to call an election for the national parliament on 23 July.

The Cabinet had not been officially consulted and the PM had not been expected to end his coalition government before he was constitutionally required to by December this year.

With the surprise news, Sánchez hoped to stop any further increase in support for parties

on the right - the conservative Partido Popular (PP) and far-right Vox.

In addition, commentators said, his swift move was, in part, to distract attention from himself within his own party, as many of the biggest names in the PSOE had just lost power in the regions and municipalities. Sánchez had led a campaign seen as focusing on himself, which was viewed as having backfired.



Pedro Sánchez

The prime minister stressed that he believed that the best thing was for the Spanish people to "have their turn to speak" in an early national election, "in view of the results of the elections held yesterday" which saw many of his party's "magnificent mayors and leaders" being removed despite having an "impeccable track record".

Immediately all political par-

ties' general election teams started to get to work preparing for 23 July. Ciudadanos, nursing a virtual wipeout in Sunday's vote, soon declared it would not be presenting candidates in July.

It is the first time that a general election is being held in Spain during a summer holiday period and commentators were divided as to whether this would favour the left or right.

One thing was clear however; there has been a surge in people registering for a postal vote already this week, as some voters expect to be away from home at that time. The election campaign will officially begin on 7 July.

Mark Naylor: The Euro Zone - Page 18

Spain swings to the right with PP party claiming local elections victory

There was a drop in support for Ciudadanos and Podemos, political newcomers in the last 15 years, but a rise for Vox

SUR

MALAGA. Voters turned their backs on the Socialist party and other left-of-centre parties across much of Spain in last Sunday's municipal elections. With almost all the results of the over 8,000 councils counted by midnight on voting day, it was clear it had been an even better night than expected for the right-of-centre Partido Popular (PP) and far-right Vox.

Adding up the results from all town halls, the PP won 31.5% of the national vote, up from 22.6% at the last local elections in 2019. The Socialist PSOE got 28.1%, down from 29.3% last time. In third place came Vox on 7.2%, up from 3.6% in 2019.

Bad news for Ciudadanos

One of the biggest stories of the night was the collapse in the vote of the Ciudadanos party, which fell from 8.3% to 1.4%. Much of their support went back to the PP, observers said.

There was bad news too for another newcomer party on the political scene in the last 15 years, Podemos, which dropped votes in most areas. It failed to get a single member on Madrid city council or in the Madrid regional assembly, in a city which had been held up at one time as a bastion of its support.

The surge in the vote for the right gave rise to similar headlines across Spain. In Andalucía, one seen as a stronghold of the



PP supporters celebrate outside their party's Madrid HQ on Sunday. AFP

As usual, local election results in more nationalist-minded regions followed different patterns

Socialist PSOE, the conservative PP took the town halls in seven of the main cities in each of the eight provinces in the region, including highly prized Seville, the regional capital.

In Madrid, the PP secured an overall majority on the city council and Valencia city saw the PP emerge as the biggest party.

Despite the PP's success, in many town halls the party will need to consider pacts with Vox in order to govern.

As usual, local election results

in more nationalist-minded regions followed different patterns, especially in Catalonia and the Basque Country.

In Barcelona city, the ruling left-wing mayor lost out to the more right-wing pro-independence candidate, although the vote was as usual heavily split between several parties in Spain's second city.

Over in the Basque region, the big news was the rise of left-wing party EH Bildu, viewed by the right as political heirs to the defunct ETA terrorist group. Voters in the region replied to that criticism from the rest of Spain by increasing EH Bildu's share of the municipal vote at the expense of the PNV, the long-standing, more conservative Basque nationalist party.

New mayor's have to be sworn in across Spain on 17 June.

Socialists defeated as well in votes for regional parliaments

SUR

MALAGA. As well as local councils being decided last Sunday, there was voting for 12 of Spain's 17 devolved regional governments.

Pedro Sánchez's PSOE lost its position as biggest party in all but four of the 12 regions up to vote: Asturias, Canaries, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura.

In the Castilla-La Mancha region there was a nail-biting wait to see if the PSOE's respected Emiliano García-Page would get enough votes to stay in power. He had been critical of parts of the government nationally. In the end, he won a majority of seats for the Socialists by a whisker.

In Extremadura, the PSOE was outnumbered and the rule there looks likely to fall to any form of PP and Vox agreement.

In the Madrid region, the PP, led by Isabel Díaz Ayuso, won a landslide outright majority, removing her need to depend on Vox to govern this time round.

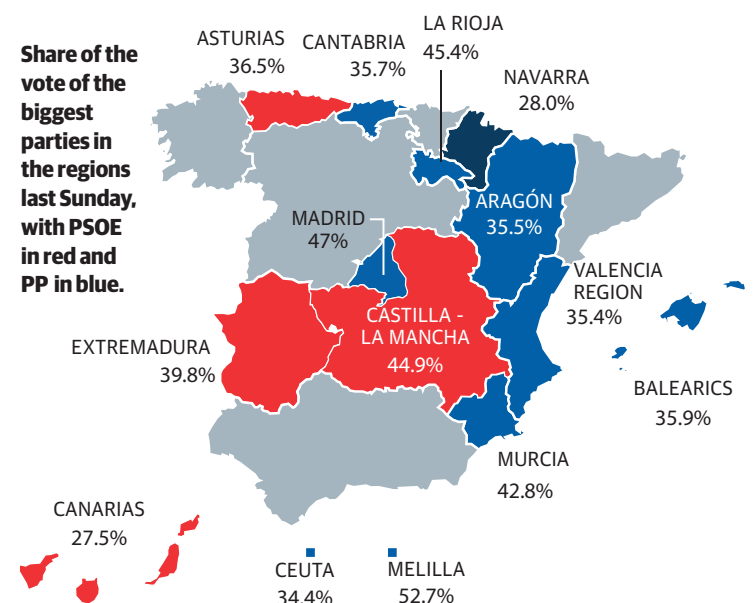
The previously Socialist-led regions of Valencia, Aragon and

Balearics swung to the right with the PP coming out on top. However the party will need some sort of coalition or abstention deal here too with Vox to be able to govern.

The fear on the left of hard-right Vox entering more governments in Spain was one of the main themes emerging after Sunday and as a general election for July was called. In the Cantabria region, the left-leaning regionalist PRC party, which lost power on Sunday, has already said it will help the PP to govern without the support of Vox that the PP would otherwise need.

The PP's national leader is wary of how it will look to some voters in the July national election if he is negotiating regional deals at the same time with Vox. Alberto Núñez Feijóo said this week, "If the PP has won, nobody should get in the way of what is decided at the ballot box."

Regional elections were not held on Sunday in Andalucía, Catalonia, Castilla y León, Galicia or the Basque Country.





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SUR in English hosts a celebration of international business on the Costa del Sol

This newspaper's Top International Business Guide and Awards were launched at an event on Wednesday in Benalmádena

RACHEL HAYNES

BENALMÁDENA. More than 100 representatives of businesses in Malaga province attended the launch this Wednesday evening at the Casamaña Apartments at Holiday World, Benalmádena, of the first Top International Business Guide, which can be found inside this week's edition of SUR in English.

The guide was conceived as a celebration of business success stories among the international community on the Costa del Sol and in the south of Spain in general, as well as a directory for clients and customers.

It covers most sectors that make up the local economy, from construction and property to legal and financial advice, education, health, renewable energy and culture and leisure.

The contribution of the international community to the local economy was discussed during the launch event by SUR in English's editor-in-chief, Manolo Castillo, who pointed out that this was the first of what is set to become an annual publication and event.

Representing the event's sponsor, commercial manager for eastern Andalucía at CaixaBank, Gerardo Cuartero, spoke of the services his bank offers to the international community in the south of Spain.

Annual publication

The Top International Business Guide has the support of about 90 businesses of all sizes and sectors, offering goods and services to residents of all nationalities in the south of Spain.

The publication is also backed by institutions such as the Junta de Andalucía, the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain, the British Embassy in Madrid and the consular corps in the province of Malaga, whose representatives have contributed the opening articles.

Wednesday's launch of the guide was all about recognising the strengths of the international business community and their achievements.

Encouragement came from speaker Ali Meehan, founder of the social and business community for women across Spain and business growth coach.



SUR in English's editor-in-chief Manolo Castillo addresses the assembled audience at Holiday World in Benalmádena. **SALVADOR SALAS**



Master of ceremonies David Andrews, of SUR in English. **S. SALAS**



Speaker Ali Meehan. **S. SALAS**



Gerardo Cuartero, CaixaBank. **S. S**

She congratulated all business owners who had managed to set up a business in Spain.

"If having a business was easy, everyone would be doing it. It's not easy running a business in any country which is not your own, and Spain is no exception," she said before stressing the importance of forming part of a community.

Business awards

The first edition of the Top In-

ternational Business Guide comes hand in hand with the first SUR in English Top International Business Awards.

On Wednesday evening two awards were presented during the launch event.

One of these awards went to AnyTech365, a young, fast-moving IT security and support firm that was founded in Marbella in 2014 by Danish entrepreneur Janus R. Nielsen. He was handed the award by SUR in English edi-

The guide covers a wide range of services, from real estate and construction to legal advice, health, education and leisure

tor Rachel Haynes.

Also selected by the SUR in English team for an award, this time for more than 50 years of doing business on the Costa del Sol, was The Experience Group. Founder Alan James received the award from Gerardo Cuartero of CaixaBank.

After the launch and awards, guests enjoyed drinks and canapés around the pool at the Casamaña Apartments at the Holiday World venue.

The Experience Group Alan James

A pioneer in building on the Costa del Sol

Alan James founded The Experience Group 53 years ago when the Costa del Sol was a lot quieter

ANNA CLIFT

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol was a very different place when Alan James founded The Experience Group back in 1970. After 15 years in the construction industry in the UK, the Londoner had seen the potential of the property market in the south of Spain as the demand for holiday homes and expat residences grew.

He arrived and, as he explained, "I could see the potential straight away." Within 10 years, there were 17 companies in The Experience Group.

Speaking at the Top International Business Guide event he said, "We are truly honoured to receive the award." He admitted that he was a "serial entrepreneur" and thanked the Costa del Sol "for allowing us to develop as

we have." James's group has had more than 20 firms employing thousands of Spanish and expats. He described them as "a collection of companies that have evolved from the demand of clients on the coast."

One of his most successful businesses has been construction: "I have built and sold more than 5,000 homes on the coast between Torrox Costa and Sotogrande."

He also has telecommunica-

tions and property management businesses and has built and owned golf and lawn bowling clubs. During his speech James highlighted his contribution to local communities, mentioning when he built a footbridge over the motorway to link the resorts of Benamara and Benavista to prevent more accidents.

He also spoke about the development of the area during his 53 years here. "Before none of this was here," he said gesturing to the buildings of the Holiday World complex. Alan James said that "serving the coast has been an honour" and told guests at the event that his main piece of business advice was to know your company figures inside out.



Alan James (left) receives his award. S. SALAS



Janus R. Nielsen accepts the accolade. S. S.

AnyTech365 Janus R. Nielsen

An IT company providing support in 24 languages

AnyTech365, a Marbella-based IT security and support company, is the fastest-growing technology company in Spain

A. CLIFT

MARBELLA. AnyTech365 was created by Danish businessman and IT entrepreneur Janus R. Nielsen. It is a security and support

company that provides users and small businesses with a threat prevention technology called IntelliGuard to secure their devices.

The company, based in Marbella, provides support in 24 languages.

Speaking at the SUR in English event, Nielsen expressed his gratitude for the award.

He said one of the key factors of success in his company was the fact it is based in the Costa del Sol, "the number one holiday destination in Europe".

He explained that this makes it easy to attract talented young professionals who speak a range of languages.

AnyTech365 was only founded in 2014, but has already been named the fastest growing technology company in Spain as well as the 27th fastest in Europe across all sectors in 2019 by the Financial Times magazine.

This award adds to an existing list collected by AnyTech365, which includes the Andalucía Excelente 2021 and Premio del Comercio de Marbella.

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TOP INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS GUIDE LAUNCH



Award-winners, guests, sponsors and organisers all posed for the photographers at the launch of the SUR in English Top International Business Guide. S. SALAS / K. SMALLMAN

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'We want the Malaga-New York flight to be more than a summer romance'

Antonio de Toro Country sales manager for United Airlines

The first plane on the new route arrived from the Big Apple on 1 June and there will be flights three times a week until 28 September

PILAR MARTÍNEZ



MALAGA. On 1 June the first flight of the new service between the Costa del Sol and New York landed at Malaga Airport. The route will operate three times a week throughout summer.

Country sales manager for United Airlines, Antonio de Toro, explained the company's plans, saying that "the idea is that the Malaga-New York flight is more than a summer romance and it becomes a permanent route". However, we will have to wait until at least October to know if the service will be carried on into next year.

-I have heard that you are well connected with Malaga, so it was easier to pitch the city as a destination to United Airlines...

-Well, yes I know Malaga well. Just then I was talking with colleagues in the US who are going to visit for the first time. I keep telling them

that they are going to love it. And well, everyone is keen to come and get to know Malaga.

-What is your connection with Malaga?

-It comes from when I was a child. I spent my summers here and now I have a house in San Pedro Alcántara where I go to unwind when I can.

-And when did you join United Airlines?

-I've been working for United Airlines for 25 years. I started when it was Continental Airlines and I have watched the company grow.

-What does the launch of this flight mean for the airline?

-United Airlines is seeing huge demand for all international flights from the US. After Covid there has been a large increase in bookings overall. For us this new flight means more growth, another destination in Spain. In fact, this summer United Airlines will be the American company with the most direct connections to this country. I think that is an important milestone and a clear commitment to the Spanish market.

-How many seats will the Malaga-New York route offer?

-This summer we will have 52 return flights, offering 17,000 seats in both directions.

-How are the sales going? Are they going as expected?

-Yes. We are happy with how sales are going. We are seeing demand in both the US and Malaga. Here



Antonio de Toro. **SUR**

in Malaga we are doing a lot of promotion of the flight. There is a lot of excitement from our partners in travel agencies and the general public too. The sales are matching our expectations.

-What level of seat occupancy do you predict for the summer?

-The seat occupancy level is quite high and I think that generally good occupancy rates as well as good prices are expected. It is often easy to fill a plane, but filling it with different types of prices is more challenging. I can say that

things are in line with previous cases of launching new destinations.

-Is it possible that the frequency will increase from three times a week, and could the route continue next summer or throughout the year?

-This year we don't intend on increasing the frequency or time period of the flights. It is to do with planning of the planes and the crews. This doesn't mean that we're ruling it out for upcoming years.

-When you talk about upcoming years, is that because it is possible that the route will return in the summer of 2024?

-Everything will depend on how this year goes. These decisions are made in October. At the end of the day we want to make profit, so we can't make any promises. The probability is high but I can't say for sure. After the last flight on the 28 September, the flight's performance will be evaluated and it will be decided whether it will return, how frequent flights will be, the type of plane and for how long. Of course the intention is that it will return, but we have to see how this year goes.

-What possibilities are there that this becomes a permanent route throughout the year?

-We are closely watching the patterns of demand, not only in summer but the rest of the year too. The patterns of demand

from both sides of the Atlantic are analysed and taken into account. I can assure you our team is adaptable when it comes to making the necessary positive changes.

-Is the company considering connecting Malaga with other North American destinations?

-Right now our objective is to establish Malaga as a successful destination. If we can increase frequencies or the season, then we want to do it.

-Will an increase in flights be seen if Malaga is selected for the 2027 exposition?

-Of course. United plans for this to be a lot more than a summer romance, and to instead be a route that establishes itself and is an option for Americans to visit Andalucía and Andalusians to visit the US.

-What is the typical profile of an American who flies to the Costa del Sol with you?

-There are all kinds of passengers because on our planes each seat is a different product. We are targeting premium passengers, who fly in our Polaris class, which has 16 places with seats that turn into beds. Naturally those seats are more expensive. There are passengers willing to pay this. Then we have economy class with all types of passengers: families on holiday, those doing active tourism and backpackers.

The first United flight to link the Costa with New York touches down at Malaga Airport

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. At 7.25am yesterday morning, the first United Airlines flight connecting Malaga with New York touched down at Malaga Airport. This comes after four years without any direct flights between the cities after Delta Airlines withdrew the route in 2019.

The Boeing 725-200 took off from Newark airport on Wednesday at 5.55pm, with all 169 seats filled, 16 of them in the famous Polaris class. The event was marked by the cutting of a ribbon at terminal C, situated in the state

of New Jersey and just 25km from the Big Apple and Times Square.

The new route will operate three times a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, until 28 September. It will offer over 17,000 seats in both directions on the 52 scheduled flights.

The local tourism industry has highlighted the opportunity to consolidate a market that is booming and that is of great interest for its spending power and longer stays. Mayor of Malaga Francisco de la Torre said that "efforts are progressing so that the direct connection with New

York is not just seasonal," and he has said he will hold a meeting with the company to "encourage them to see how here there is a tradition of year-round flights, not seasonal, and how the flights Malaga has to Canada are all year round and therefore encourage them to see Malaga as an opportunity".

"We do not want to be exclusive, we want this route to be useful to Malaga, to the coast, to the province of Malaga, and also to Granada, to Cordoba and Seville, at the service of the rest of Andalucía," the mayor said.



The first United Airlines plane to land at Malaga Airport. **SALVADOR SALAS**

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Heavily armed Guardia Civil officers at the scene of the tense stand-off. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Police arrest gunman after tense La Cala de Mijas stand-off

MIJAS COSTA

The paralysed 21-year-old was in a wheelchair and was the victim of an alleged revenge shooting in Calahonda last year

JUAN CANO

MALAGA. The young man who barricaded himself inside a property in La Cala de Mijas on the Costa del Sol on Monday afternoon has

been arrested after a tense stand-off. The individual, 21, apparently fired several shots at Guardia Civil officers who tried to negotiate with him to turn himself in and one of them was injured in the foot.

The gunman is known to police. Last October he was shot five times in an apparent revenge shooting in Calahonda. He was left paralysed from the waist down and now moves around with the help of a wheelchair. The young man, who is Spanish and of Moroccan origin, has been arrested several times by police for serious offences

since he was under-18.

Family members apparently raised the alarm initially when they realised that the man was armed, and called for help from the Guardia Civil headquarters in Mijas. The force's rapid action group (GAR) went to the scene to negotiate but the individual - according to sources - responded by opening fire on them. The tense situation made it necessary to cordon off the entire area while a specialist intervention unit (UEI) was mobilised and sent from Madrid to the Costa del Sol.

Man detained after woman falls to death from window

MARBELLA

IRENE QUIRANTE. National Police officers on the Costa del Sol have arrested a 43-year-old man in Marbella for his alleged involvement in the suspicious death of a woman who fell from a fourth-floor property in the Las Albarizas district of the town. The inci-

dent happened in the early hours of last Sunday. After the alarm was raised a police patrol located the lifeless body of the woman, who was found lying in a pool of blood. Police located all those who resided in the floors above, except for one of them, the inhabitant of the room where it was believed the woman had plunged

from. The occupant was not in the house, although the door had been left open. On Monday he appeared with his lawyer at the police station in Malaga and, initially, gave a statement as a witness. Apparently, the suspect acknowledged that he spent the night with the deceased and that they were using drugs. However, police said, during his testimony there were a number of contradictions. This, added to the evidence collected by forensic officers, led to his arrest as allegedly involved in a crime of homicide.



Piled-high rubbish. **SUR**

Father arrested and teen found living in a 'sea of rubbish' taken into protective care

ESTEPONA

JUAN CANO. Police officers accustomed to working with children, many of them in extreme situations, have said a recent case in Estepona was one of the worst they have seen in years. A 14-year-old boy was found living with his father and grandmother in a "sea of rubbish". There were also more than 20 dogs in the property, some of them with diseases and infections, which, according to the investigators, were not usually allowed out, so their faeces accumulated everywhere. The property had also been without water and electricity for a long period of time. Officers estimate that the teenager may have been living in extremely precarious and deplorable unsanitary conditions for at least five years. However, the case remained undetected until a neighbour raised the alarm. The authorities will now investigate how this was possible. The boy has been admitted to a child protection centre and his father arrested for an alleged breach of parental duties.

Mummified body lay in Fuengirola property for a year until found by housekeeper

FUENGIROLA

J.C. The mummified corpse of a man has been found by a housekeeper at a home in Fuengirola. The grim discovery was made on Monday, and although the National Police have not yet been able to scientifically confirm the identity of the man, all the evidence indicates that it is the owner and inhabitant of the house, an 86-year-old citizen of Japanese origin. According to the initial police investigation, the corpse could have been lying there undiscovered for around 12 months. Police say that they have not found any evidence of the participation of a third party, so everything points to a natural death.

Bomb squad called in after explosive device unearthed on Marbella beach

MARBELLA

J. DUEÑAS. The Tedax bomb squad was called in after an explosive device, presumably from the Spanish Civil War, was discovered on a beach in Marbella this week. Specialists safely removed the artifact from Guadalmina beach after it was found by archaeologists who were carrying out a survey on a house located near Marbella's Roman baths on Tuesday afternoon.

Archaeologist Miguel Vila said the 40cm artefact "was very rusty", and it is more usual to find these on the beaches from Malaga towards Almeria as a result of the bombardment of the civilian population during the flight from the city."

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Cruise ships christened

Two cruise ships will have been christened in ceremonies at Malaga Port this week. The events, in which tradition dictates that a bottle of champagne is smashed on the ship's hull, are rare on the Costa del Sol. On Wednesday, it was the turn of the Marella Voyager from the British shipping company owned by TUI, although the late-night fireworks did cause some disquiet to local residents as it sailed from the city. Tomorrow the super-luxury vessel, the Scenic Eclipse II, will be christened. It has two helicopters and a submarine on board offering tailor-made trips for the passengers.



MARILÚ BÁEZ

Manilva gets its beaches ready for summer visitors with extra improvements

VANESSA MELGAR

MANILVA. Manilva town hall, specifically the beaches department headed by Eva Galindo, continues to focus its efforts on preparing the town's beaches for the summer. The town council has improved the children's playground that is located on Los Granados beach, and moved it away from the

coastline as it suffered damage from the latest storms, said the councillor for Parks and Gardens, Francisco Becerra. "This leisure area for the little ones can now be enjoyed by residents and holidaymakers alike as all the elements in it are fully approved, complying with the safety regulations for their use - as have all the parks in the municipality," said Becerra. Additionally the treatment of the palm trees in the parks and green areas is being performed at the moment. "The treatment of the palm trees is essential to preserve them and ensure that the threat of insect pests that are harmful to the species are eradicated," said Galindo.

Iconic Marbella hotel to become flagship of luxury group

The five-star Los Monteros will reopen this year after a major reform and head the offering of the exclusive Kimpton brand

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MARBELLA. The emblematic Los Monteros hotel in Marbella will reopen this year after the comprehensive reform it is undergo-

ing under the luxury brand Kimpton, one of the top-end offerings of IHG Hotels & Resorts.

The goal is for this five-star tourism icon, bought last year for 47-million euros, to be the flagship of the brand in southern Europe. Until now, only two establishments in Spain have this signature: the Kimpton Vividora Barcelona and the Kimpton Aysla Mallorca. The new Kimpton Los Monteros Marbella will have 178 rooms and suites.



Visualisation of one of the new pools at the Marbella resort. SUR

Arrival of digital nomads helps push residential property prices up, according to market survey

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. The arrival of new digital nomads has confirmed Marbella as a luxury residential destination, according to the annual Marbella Real Estate Market Re-

port produced by Diana Morales Properties, regional representative of international consultancy Knight Frank. It noted that, "according to the sales and purchase data record, 2022 saw the highest annual growth in high-end prices since the global financial crisis".

The price of high-end homes in the town witnessed a 7.1% increase last year, according to the consultancy's Prime Residential Price Index. The buyer profile has not changed much from the previous year and the overall ranking is led by clients from Belgium, followed by the Netherlands and Poland.

HERE AND THERE

MANILVA

Divers stage seabed clean up in Duquesa

V.M. Divers from the Asociación Subacuática de Casares will carry out a special seabed cleaning day in Puerto de la Duquesa tomorrow (Saturday) to mark World Environment Day, Manilva town hall has reported. The underwater activity will begin at 10am.

"This type of event seeks to help reduce the amount of rubbish that reaches the marine environment and acknowledges the importance of volunteers who help care for our environment. In addition, it helps make the public aware of the enormous problems that we find in our oceans and how it increasingly affects marine flora and fauna, added the council.

BENALMÁDENA

Put your best foot forward for charity

T.B. The Cudeca foundation's annual fundraising charity Walkathon will take place in Benalmádena tomorrow, Saturday 3 June. As in previous years, it will consist of 10km and 5km routes along the promenade in Benalmádena. Pre-registration can be made on the www.cudeca.org website and costs ten euros for adults (12 euros on the day) and seven euros for children under the age of 12 (eight euros on the day). The longer walk will start from the Sunset Beach Club at 10am, while the shorter walk will leave at 11am. It will include live music, a giant paella for the walkers and a popular Holi festival of colours.

MARBELLA

TEDx offers event for innovators and thinkers

SUR. TEDx Marbella is promising an afternoon of learning, inspiration and networking for English-speakers, whether attendees are seasoned entrepreneurs or budding enthusiasts. The start-ups and entrepreneurship-themed event will feature nine distinguished speakers and will start at 5pm on 9 June at the Andalucía Lab in Marbella. It will offer a unique opportunity to connect and engage with like-minded individuals. Early bird tickets are now available on the official TEDx Marbella website, www.tedxmarbella.com. As well as attending in person, the event will also be available via a live stream at The Pool Marbella.

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Fifth edition of SIX magazine released for Pride month

The SUR publication, which celebrates the LGBT community, can now be picked up free in various locations across the province

CRISTINA PINTO

MALAGA. On Wednesday this week the fifth edition of SIX magazine was launched at Hotel Meliá Costa del Sol in Torremolinos, two days before the beginning of Pride celebrations in the town. The magazine can now be picked up free in locations across the province.

The event started with SUR journalist Iván Gelibter's emotional tribute to Sandra

Almodóvar, who was the front page of SIX's first edition and who sadly passed away last week.

"She spoke with a kindness and politeness that contrasted with everything she had faced in her life; a raid on the Pasaje Begoña in Torremolinos put her in prison and she was badly treated," Gelibter explained.

Like the example of Sandra, it is important to tell the stories of members of the LGBT community and the challenges they have overcome. The magazine has testimonies full of diversity and hope, contributing to making our society more fair. Next to speak at the event was Manolo Castillo, editor-in-chief of SUR. In response to why the newspaper started and has con-



Organisers, SUR journalists, collaborators and some of the people featured in the published articles. S. SALAS

tinued SIX magazine, Castillo said "Because a newspaper reflects the reality we live in and it was unthinkable to turn our backs on the community. We are fortunate lots

of people at SUR are involved and committed to sustaining it; hence we are the only newspaper in Spain that has a publication like this."

The magazine has been made

possible thanks to those sharing their stories, SUR journalists and other partners such as the Andalusian government, Torremolinos council and Turismo Costa del Sol.



The campaign bid is launched in Torremolinos. SUR

Torremolinos launches bid to host EuroPride

The campaign aims to position Torremolinos as one of the priority destinations for the gay community throughout Spain and Europe

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The association of LGBT traders of Torremolinos (ACOGAT), has presented its official candidacy to host EuroPride 2027, an international event to promote the visibility of the gay community.

An event to launch the campaign was attended by the town's mayor, Margarita del Cid, the regional director of EuroPride for Southern Europe, Juan Carlos Alonso, and the president of the

traders' association, Nacho Martínez.

"This is an unparalleled opportunity to publicise Torremolinos throughout the continent and to make the rights of the LGBT community visible," Martínez said.

He also pointed out that culture, sports, leisure, human rights and diversity will be fundamental pillars of the candidacy bid.

The winning bid will be announced in October 2024. Key criteria are the relevance of the candidates' Pride celebrations and the support of public authorities and the private sector. Factors beneficial to Torremolinos are its LGBT history, as well as being a town where the gay community is fully integrated.

EuroPride is the most important LGBT event in Europe.



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SALVADOR SALAS

Malaga bacon: the secret of ramen in Japan

Faccsa -Prolongo. The Japanese market is now the third largest export destination for the local company

NURIA TRIGUERO

In the huge meat processing plant of Faccsa-Prolongo, in Estación de Cártama, there is a part of the shop floor where the thickness of each slice of bacon is measured to the millimetre and there is a person in charge of removing any piece that does not meet the set measurements or the exact percentage of fat. The labels on the packages of deep-frozen meat display the destination for these pampered products: Japan. Furthermore, it is not uncommon to find a Japanese inspector monitoring this line. "Importers come every two weeks to conduct audits," explained Ramón Soler (junior), director of operations for this 200-year old company that claims to be the only one in Andalucía - and one of the few in Spain - selling pork to this Far Eastern nation.

Japan has become Faccsa's third largest export destination. Sales to this highly demanding market are growing by 20% annually, with 2022 reaching sales of 25m euros (or 6m kilos by weight). Only the Spanish, French and Chinese markets exceed the land of the rising sun in turnover. Those 25 million, by the way, represent half of the total of goods exported from

Malaga to Japan in 2022.

This large volume of exports rests almost exclusively on two products: bacon and pork loin, the raw materials to be braised as 'chashu', a key ingredient of ramen. "We are the largest European supplier to ramen restaurants," said Soler, who explained that in Japan there are several major chains with thousands of small establishments specialising in this popular dish.

Faccsa's bacon also has another culinary destination in Japan: marinated and smoked to become part of the 'bento' meal (individually-packed lunch-boxes with ready-to-go food that usually includes rice, fish or meat and a veg-based garnish or side-dish). These portioned trays, which make up the daily lunch or dinner for many Japanese, are sold in high street stalls, supermarkets and franchises. So, how did bacon 'made in Malaga' manage to become the star ingredient of street-food noodle soup in Japan? Ramón Soler admitted that the road was long and difficult. In 2001, this Cártama company obtained authorisation to export to Japan, but up to 2007 it had failed to sell a single slice of meat. "We went to trade



Tradition
A bowl of ramen (meat noodle soup). s. s.



Travel
Miguel Ángel Álvarez and Ramón Soler in Japan with a packet of Faccsa meat. s. s.

fairs every year, but nobody bought from us. We didn't understand the market", explained the director of operations, who lived through that tortuous learning process firsthand as, at that time, he was responsible for exports. "We did not begin to understand it until all those responsible for the production process went to Japan and we scheduled a series of meetings with companies."

This is how they discovered several important things about Japanese culture: their obsession with perfection, for continuous process improvement; a zero tolerance for mistakes and an innate fear of germs and foreign materials or bodies getting into the production process. "You have to do things exactly as their protocol says: even if the result is perfect, if you have not followed the process to the letter then it doesn't count," explained

Soler, who has a cover of the Japan Times recorded in his memory that he read on one of his travels: "They had closed a factory in Thailand of four thousand employees because a person had found a bit of a glove in a McNugget from McDonald's. It was a huge scandal."

At last they understood what the Japanese wanted. But another challenge remained: to 'Japan-ify' the factory. So for that they brought the people in charge of an importing company to Estación de Cártama. "We had them in the plant for a month: they reviewed the production process from top to bottom and told us how to adapt to their standards." The managers of the company make an important distinction here: it is a matter of the processes being different, not that Japanese sanitary and quality requirements are more exacting than those in Spain. The factory is already in compliance with Spanish regulations. "People don't have much of a clue as to the sanitary controls that exist in a slaughterhouse. Analyses are carried out daily on all production lines and every day we have Junta registered vets assigned to do a thorough job of inspection," they stated.

Now, Faccsa is reaping the fruits of all that effort. "The best-paid kilo of meat is in Japan," said the current sales manager for this market, Miguel Ángel Álvarez. Trade relations follow the highly regulated Japanese business method. "We do not sell to end-user customers, only to importers. There are just ten of them: mega-corporations with centuries of history and many different sectors: over there their names are as well-known as Yamaha or Honda...", said Soler. Along the way, Faccsa has also found another market niche: Japanese restaurants across Europe that also buy bacon and pork loin cut in the Japanese style.

Faccsa had a turnover of 280 million euros last year, of which 45% came from overseas trade. If Prolongo (with its cured and pre-packed meat products) and the transport subsidiary are added, the group's aggregate sales exceeded 300 million. This year the forecast is to surpass the 400 million, but not because of increased production, but because of the increase in prices. "The price for a live pig last year was at 1.05 euros per kilo and now it is at 2", explained Álvarez.

The company, owned by Ramón Soler and María Dolores Ciurana, exports to more than 25 countries and has more than 800 employees. It is deeply rooted in the town of Estación de Cártama, the municipality where its production plant is located and where it plans to build a new factory that will allow it to multiply that capacity.

Ikea marks 15 years in Malaga with a 4m shop revamp and weekend of special activities

JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Ikea relaunched its Malaga store this week after a four-million-euro makeover. The mayor of Malaga and the head of Ikea in Spain were among those at a special ceremony on Wednesday.

Malaga is said to be the busiest of the Swedish furniture giant's stores in Spain and the firm is marking 15 years since it opened in the city. In that time, the company said it has had 42 million visitors - three million in the last year alone. It has a workforce of 635 in Malaga.

The revamp has included improvements to the layout and displays in the store to improve the shopping experience.

To mark the fifteenth birthday of the Malaga operation, entertainment is being laid on this weekend (2-4 June). This includes live music, home decoration demonstrations, children's entertainment and tastings.

German campaign to boycott Spanish strawberries is launched amid water-use fears

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

SEVILLE. A campaign has been launched to try to get German shops to boycott Spanish strawberries over fears of environmental damage from crops grown close to a delicate wetland for migrating birds.

Campact, a group that says it has no links with specific parties, launched an online petition this week demanding large retail chains do not sell strawberries from Spain. They argue that their production is contributing to the drying up of Doñana National Park in Andalucía.

Germany is also a producer of berries and Spanish ones are seen as a direct competitor in this market.

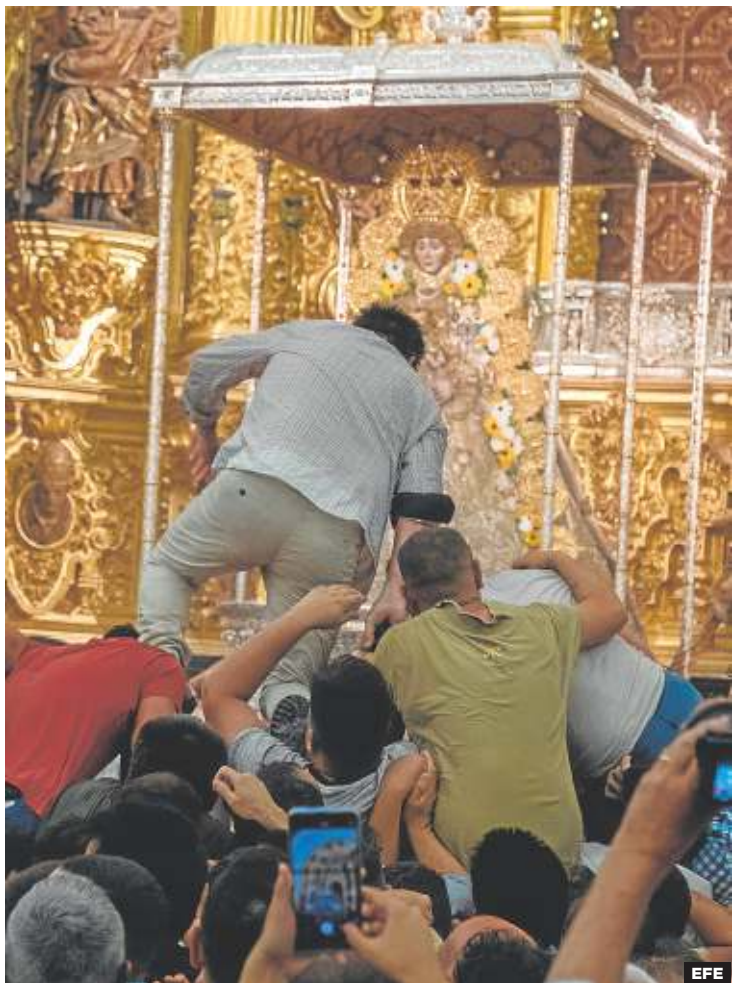
The petition posted online by the group, which has already received over 150,000 supporters, refers to last Sunday's election results in Spain and says that, as a result of the PP party's success, "there is now a danger that water theft will become officially permitted".

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Locals pile into statue of Our Lady

At 3am on Monday, the people of Ayamonte in Huelva province took part in the traditional storming of the railing protecting the iconic Virgen del Rocío before the annual procession of the statue in front of thousands of devotees.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Three scenarios



With Spain poised to take up the six-month rotating presidency of the EU Council at the beginning of July, the Spanish left's defeat in regional elections last weekend comes at an inconvenient moment. Yet Pedro Sánchez is convinced that an early general election gamble will pay off and that his Socialist-led coalition will ascend to the EU throne as planned. Is this wishful thinking, or further proof of what his supporters say is an infallible political instinct?

Spain last held the presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2010. Then led by Socialist prime minister José Luis Zapatero, its most controversial move was to lift Brussels' two-decades arms embargo on China, imposed after the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989. Sino-Spanish relations - which have been economically beneficial to Spain, especially during the last financial crisis -

are also a priority for Sánchez, who is urging the Asian country to mediate in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The international stage required to perform such complex diplomacy, though, might only belong to Spain for a very short act.

The best possible result for Sánchez and Brussels - let's call it Scenario A - is that the Socialist leader is returned to office on July 23rd with a strengthened mandate, as happened to his Portuguese counterpart, Antonio Costa, last year. But there are crucial differences between the situations in Spain now and in Portugal at the beginning of 2022. Sánchez faces a stronger opposition than Costa did, one riding high on emphatic victories across the country. Of the smaller leftist parties from which Sánchez requires backing, fledgling Sumar is an unknown quantity and Podemos is in decline: it now has no presence in six of the twelve regions

that voted on May 28th.

The other possibility, which seems more likely than Scenario A, is that Spain starts its six-month term at the helm of the EU under a Socialist government and switches, after about four or five weeks, to a Conservative leadership propped up by or in formal partnership with Vox. Quite apart from the upheaval this would cause in a period requiring stability and outward (rather than domestic) focus, both the Popular Party (PP) and Brussels would likely have problems with Eurosceptic Vox - although the latter party's pro-Ukraine stance is in complete agreement with that of the current Spanish government.

A third possibility, Scenario C, seems more likely than both A and B, especially when you look at the last few general elections in Spain. This is that, following July 23rd, the country will drift without a properly functioning government for months, as either the PSOE and Podemos attempt to repair a coalition weakened by internal disagreements, or the PP and Vox try to replicate delicate regional arrangements at the national level. Brussels will be hoping for Scenario A at the same time as suspecting, with good reason, that either B or C will materialise.





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Bales of drugs seized by HM Customs Officers in Gibraltar. **SUR**

Two tonnes of drugs worth nine million pounds seized from sea off Gibraltar

SUR IN ENGLISH. HM Customs officers have seized 53 bales of cannabis from the sea off Gibraltar. The discovery was made during a routine patrol, when officers on board the customs vessel Tango 4 saw suspicious packages of different sizes and wrapping floating at the eastern side of the Rock.

A preliminary assessment found that there were approximately two tonnes of drugs, worth around nine million pounds.

The success of the drug seizure

shows the dedication of HM Customs officers to protecting the community from the effects of drugs trafficking. Collector of Customs John Payas highlighted that it was “a stark reminder to organised criminal groups that their activities will not go unchecked”.

Chief Minister Fabian Picardo praised HM Customs officers, saying they “work tirelessly to keep drugs off Gibraltar’s streets and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate them on this interception”.

Carmen Gomez to be officially invested as mayor in ceremony on 6 June

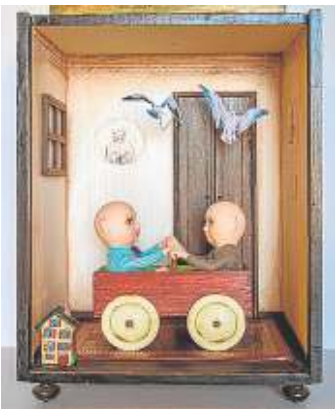
SUR IN ENGLISH. On Tuesday, 6 June, the investiture of Carmen Gomez as Gibraltar’s 20th mayor will take place in a special ceremony in the Mayor’s Parlour at Gibraltar’s City Hall.

Ms Gomez, a former Miss Gibraltar and actress, who is replacing Christian Santos, is enthusiastically looking forward to the challenges she will face in her new position.

She said, “I have been appointed to represent our community; to be of service to it, and to have its well-being and interests at heart. All the superlatives in the world could not possibly express the sentiments I carry with me regarding this Rock of ours. Having said this, it is my great honour to accept this appointment with pride, and I look forward to my tenure and the challenges ahead.”

The new Deputy Mayor, Nicholas Guerrero, will also be appointed during the ceremony at the City Hall.

IN BRIEF



Art by Shane Dolmedo. **SUR**

ART

Rock artist makes international strides

SUR IN ENGLISH. Artist Shane Dolmedo has been selected for the 2023 Royal Academy of Arts summer exhibition. Only one thousand of the 16,000 submitted works were accepted. Shane’s piece focuses on confinement and connection. The artist is locally known and gaining international popularity. The summer exhibition is the world’s largest open submission exhibition, displaying art of all mediums from established and emerging artists.

PRIDE

Rainbow flags for Pride month

SUR IN ENGLISH. To commemorate Pride month this year, rainbow flags will be hoisted at the frontier, at N°6 Convent Place, St Bernard’s Hospital, outside the offices of the Care Agency and at the Royal Gibraltar Police Headquarters, New Mole House. The Moorish castle will also be lit up on 24 and 28 June. On 24 June will be the Pride march from Case-mates Square, organised by the Rock’s LGBT group.

VISIT

Swiss ambassador visits Gibraltar

SUR IN ENGLISH. Markus Leitner, the Swiss Ambassador to the UK, visited Gibraltar’s Chief Minister last week. Various topics of interest were discussed, as the Chief Minister took advantage of the opportunity to inform the ambassador about negotiations between the UK and the EU. The ambassador was joined by General Consul of the Embassy Thomas Wagner and Honorary Consul for Switzerland in Gibraltar Andreas Busingier.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Tourist anxiety

I lived for years next door to a flat that was rented out for tourists. Years of noise, annoyance and stress. The situation got worse with the pandemic. The anxiety every time I heard the lift come up, the noise at any time of the night, the parties... The tourist boom has been at the cost of the people who only want a quiet life, they are the ones who have ended up being pushed out. Wouldn't it be better to promote the hotel sector? Encourage other sorts of tourists, ones who come to the city centre to eat, drink and sleep over but not stay here.

REBECA MUÑOZ

Victims of our own success

Your editorial regarding Marbella's catastrophic traffic problem ignored the only possible solution to the problem. Congestion has become so bad and with real estate construction continuing at full spread there is only one way to alleviate traffic and prevent the A-7 from becoming a total car-park. This is the opening up of the AP-7 and making it free of charge. Of course whatever contractual arrangement that is in place with the franchise own-

ers will need to be addressed but that's a job for the government. Anything else is just tinkering with the problem. We have become victims of our own success and tourism is now suffering from this increasing congestion. Might I also suggest the recent introduction of a law regarding lane changes to avoid cyclists on the A-7 or any two lane highway is ridiculous and extremely dangerous for all. Cyclists practising their sport on the A-7 is of questionable wisdom, to say the least.

SEAMUS WHOOLEY

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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Capital gains facts

The long-awaited low-cost AVE train between Malaga and Madrid makes its debut this month and, with ticket sales of more than 19 000 in the first 24 hours, the signs are that there is a huge market to be tapped into if the companies concerned can deliver a quality service. Prices will be available from as little as seven euros if you book far enough in advance and an average journey time of three hours 12 mins is only about forty minutes longer than the regular AVE service.

So, there's no excuse now for not nipping up to the capital to get a flavour of big city life if you haven't already done so. Having stayed there for six months fruitlessly pursuing a vague opportunity in the world of music quite a few years back, I feel fully qualified to offer a handy guide to help first-time visitors get the most from their sojourn.

First off, don't use terms from Malaga for things like a standard

coffee (un mitad) or a small roll (pitufo) because they'll just laugh at you as they did me, especially if you're a foreigner. The fact that 'pitufo' also means Smurf doesn't help matters much either, to be honest.

Secondly, make sure to wander aimlessly at all times. For all its Prado museums and Gran Vías and El Retiros, by far the best thing a chap can do in the grand metropolis is mosey about, nonchalantly losing himself in endless labyrinths of side and back streets where, owing to the prohibitive rents on the main thoroughfares, all the best independent shops, bars and galleries are to be found. After dark, adapt your wanderings accordingly.

Next, be sure to tuck into the justifiably much-vaunted local dish, cocido madrileño. This is a piping hot chick pea stewy thing, laced with all manner of vegetables and meat plus a random lump of fat for good measure. During the unforgiving winter in the

capital, it's a life saver; in summer, it's just as tasty. While we're on that point, and contrary to all conventional wisdom, I think the best time to visit Madrid is the summer. This is when most of the natives have fled to their second homes on the coast, theatrically mopping their collective brow and whimpering about feeling faint or something. Pull yourselves together, people. It's really not that hot and, anyway, everywhere is air-conditioned, so I'm not sure what all the fuss is about. Still, you get lots of lovely places all to yourself and riding on the metro is like having a personal train driver.

Mind you, Madrid in the winter is wonderful, too, especially in the run-up to Christmas. The biting cold, the lights, and the crowds all combine beautifully to offer the perfect yuletide vibe.

On top of all this, you might even bump into a Real Madrid fan who's actually from Madrid. Imagine that.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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Bad advice from a bird

After the electoral thrashing some have had, I hope they finally get the message. One thing is reality, which shows itself in number of votes, and another is Twitter, which is a parallel universe and really bad for giving sound advice. Elisabeth Noelle-Meumann's theory of the Spiral of Silence becomes fully valid in a brief analysis of the messages and trends of this network. The supposedly majority voices, those that make the most noise, tend to silence the rest? And then

comes the truth, plain and simple, in the form of an absolute majority for Francisco de la Torre, who has been the most voted candidate even in the epicentres of political controversy, such as the old town (tourist apartments) and Repsol land (towers). What is most criticised on social media is massively supported by the voters. Little more to add.

Anyone who doesn't know the reality of Malaga could say, because of what comes through this channel, that it is a disaster-

ous city, where no one can live unless they are practically a millionaire; and which has severe social differences and terrible problems. The reality is that Malaga is a thriving city, a reference for thousands of people from other provinces who come to make a living; it attracts talent and companies; it is a fashionable city for national and international tourism, and the dream place for many to live. And this is the basis of the problem, because residential demand far exceeds supply.

Social media has tried to polarise the campaign debate around several symbols of the mayor's administration, and the first one is the Torre del Puerto. From the results, it seems it will only disturb the landscape for a few, although it may be very noisy; while the majority either don't care or see it as an opportunity for work and business. And what about the urban for-

est and the dilemma over the Repsol towers? It has not occurred to any advisor to think that for most of the neighbours in the area, what they see is an opportunity for their old apartments in the area to be revalued, as has already happened in the Martiricos area.

But what is really shocking is the frontal attack on tourist apartments. It is clumsy to lose sight of the fact that thousands of families eat every month, or supplement their meagre pensions, thanks to that. And they are many more than the young people affected by the housing shortage, who undoubtedly need to be helped, but by offering facilities to buy their own home, which is what most of them want.

In short: for the next one, which is just around the corner, I recommend less Twitter and more street...

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IN THE FRAME

A divine calling to move to Nerja during the pandemic

Community. Nick and Linda Miller first came to Spain in 1993, but when they returned to the UK in 2004 they didn't think they would return to live here

JENNIE RHODES



Nick Miller is the current pastor at Nerja's New Life Church. He and his wife Linda have lived in the town since July 2020, but their relationship with the area and indeed Spain goes back much further.

Nick, 70, was born in London but lived in a number of places in the UK as the family moved around because of his father's job. He worked as a navigating officer in the merchant navy from 1970, until an accident meant that he had to leave in 1980. "I got to see the world," Nick says of his time in the navy and with two uncles who were master mariners he says that the sea "is sort of in the blood".

After leaving the merchant navy, Nick got a job at the London department store Selfridges, working in the health, safety and fire department, where he stayed for four years. But with the compensation money he received from the accident he had

while in the navy, Nick set up his own painting and decorating business and the couple settled in the Essex seaside town of Frinton-on-Sea.

He said it was during that time that Nick became a Christian and the couple got involved in the local church.

They spent three years at Birmingham Bible Institute and Nick explains that they "had a calling to serve God abroad". In 1993 the couple, along with their young daughter Natalie, emigrated to Madrid where they worked with an English-speaking church.

During their time in Madrid, Linda was involved in a women's prayer group through which she had contact with other English-speaking churches in Spain and in particular along the Costa del Sol. They became close friends with a lady called Jean Parker, who was involved in the then Fellowship of the King church in Nerja and they came down to



Nick and Linda Miller in Nerja. SUR

"We had a phone call from the estate agent saying a local family wanted to buy the flat and less than 24 hours later, a call from the church"

visit her regularly. While they were in Nerja, they would go to the church with Jean.

Nick and Linda stayed in Madrid for 11 years. However, in 2004 a combination of their parents' declining health and Na-

talie away studying at university in England, made them decide to return home.

But their love affair with the country they had called home for 11 years hadn't ended and in 2006, Linda and Nick decided to buy a flat in Algarrobo pueblo, which meant that they continued to visit regularly and whenever they came, they would go to Nerja and to the church.

In 2017, and with plans to retire in the UK, they decided to sell the flat. But, Nick explains, "for three years, nothing happened. We had different estate agents and only had two viewings."

What happened in July 2020, four months into the Covid pandemic, can only be described as a miracle. "Out of the blue we received a phone call from the estate agent saying that a local family wanted to buy the flat. Less than 24 hours later, we had another phone call from someone at the Nerja church asking us if we would go over and help out. The then pastor had left and the church was struggling," Nick explains.





So with no plans to return to Spain to live, Nick and Linda's lives did a complete U-turn. Three years later, was it the right decision? "Absolutely" confirms Nick, who says that he and Linda "are very much a team".

Although Nick is officially the pastor, the couple work together to keep the church and its various activities going. Nick says that attendance has gone up, they have a core membership of around 15 people and a lot of returning visitors. The church attracts mainly British, but also Irish, Dutch, Belgian, Scandinavians, Finnish and Americans. "It's a lovely mix" Nick says.


The church works closely with Club Internacional de Nerja where Nick is quiz master for their regular quiz night. They worked together to support the Ukrainian refugees who came to the Axarquía on the bus organised by Nerja residents in March 2022. The church also supports Nerja Solidaria foodbank.

At the church in Pasaje San Miguel in Nerja, they organise activities for people including bible study, prayer groups, games afternoons and regular breakfast meetings and weekly Sunday services take place at 11am.

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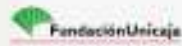
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On board the Tagomago: the guardian of the seas

The P-22 patrol boat is the only Navy ship with a marine base in Malaga and the only one in service despite coming under fire on the Saharan fishing bank



SUSANA ZAMORA



A light northwesterly blows on a morning where the sea haze obscures a promising sunrise aboard the Tagomago patrol boat, the only Navy ship of its kind based in Malaga since July 2012. The 11C flashing up on the city's street thermometers are blamed as we arrive at pier 8, where this vessel now berths after being moved from the Marqués de Guadiaro dock due works to convert it into a yacht marina. She remains in the city, but has become invisible. No more the object of the curious gaze of tourists and passers-by on pier one. Now it is neighbour to a few fishing boats returning at that hour amid a deafening flock of seagulls.

Ahead is an 80-mile journey in the direction of Gibraltar, with an expected return time at sunset. The sea is calm after a week of strong Levante (easterly) winds. The forecast is for waves no higher than 50cm. It is 8am and the crew have been at their posts for the last few minutes: "Tagomago, man the flag, man the flag, to the stern",

comes the order from the bridge. Then, with extreme solemnity, they raise the flag of Spain with the national anthem playing in the background.

From that moment on, the entire crew gets to work, making routine checks of equipment and systems so there is nothing affecting safety. "The operating procedure of the ship takes one hour, but we can be ready to go in 40 minutes if urgent," says José Antonio Parejo Cabezas, who assumed command of the Tagomago in July 2022. In two months' time the commander will change to Víctor Moya Abarca, who will come from the Victoria frigate, where Parejo Cabezas will probably be sent on a new mission in Somalia in October.

From a very young age, Parejo Cabezas was always attracted to the Navy, so much so that he dropped out of studying physics to embark on this life goal. "I was 22 years old and at the age limit to enter. I always liked travelling and I felt that it was the best place to see the world", confesses this naval lieutenant, who passed out in first place from the Naval Academy of Marín (Pontevedra) in 2012. He was stationed in Germany and has participated in vari-

ous peacekeeping operations. Married with two children, he does not regret the decision he made, although he does not hide the personal and family sacrifices that it entails. "It means, for example, not being able to go to your sister's wedding and almost missing the birth of your son," recalls the commander, who took advantage of a 12-day stopover in Catania during a peacekeeping mission, to attend the delivery. "In the end, they had to induce labour because, if not, I would have had to return to duties without meeting him," he says.

The Tagomago is one of the ten patrol boats of the Anaga class designed for coastal surveillance, fishing and maritime rescue

Now, with barely two months left of his service on the Tagomago, Parejo Cabezas proudly admits that he will be taking away memories of 30 comrades "who are practically family" (three officers, five non-commissioned officers, the rest being troops and sailors). "It can be said that it has been the most important work experience that I have had during my years in the Navy. Professionally I take away the experience of having commanded an Anaga class patrol boat. Being the first

in command tests you and you learn a lot. In addition, you make some very important links with guilds and other institutions across the city."

The Tagomago is 44.26m long, 6.60 wide and 3.3 deep, capable of reaching a maximum sustained speed of 15 or 16 knots and its consumption barely reaches 2,000 litres of fuel per day. She can sail unaided for one week although this limitation is not so much for fuel, but for the fresh food and drinkable water that can be stored on board.

This boat is one of the ten patrol boats (only three remain in service) specially designed for coastal surveillance, fishing and rescue services in case of shipwreck or accidents at sea. Each of them bears the name of an island or islet off the Spanish coast. Tagomago is an islet located to the northeast of the island of Ibiza.

The Tagomago is one of the ten patrol boats of the Anaga class designed for coastal surveillance, fishing and maritime rescue

Built by the Bazán National Factory (now IZAR) and delivered to the Navy on January 30, 1981 at its shipyards in San Fernando (Cadiz), the Tagomago is now part of the maritime action force (FAM) within the main Spanish fleet. FAM is made up of a set of units whose objective is to prepare to protect national maritime interests and to control areas of national sovereignty. As part of this protection work, the Tagomago covers Almeria to Huelva, preventing the use of improper fishing gear, foreign fishing vessels from fishing without permission in Spanish waters, or ships with the flag of another country from anchoring without authorisation. Other tasks include monitoring and reporting to other authorities in the maritime field any unusual activity in the Strait such as small boats, dinghies, unlicensed fishing boats.

At present, it is the only naval boat to remain in service after coming under machine-gun fire on the Saharan fishing bank. A plaque on the bridge commemorates that life-changing event in her history. On September 21, 1985, when she was looking for the fishing boat Junquito, she received 48 hits from the coast. In



The Tagomago has a gun on the prow and another on the stern. **ÑITO SALAS**



▲ The engine room is continually checked so that there are no problems with safety.
ÑITO SALAS



Tagomago crew members on return to Malaga Port. **ÑITO SALAS**

◀ Navy Lieutenant José Antonio Parejo Cabezas: current commander of the patrol boat.
ÑITO SALAS



Training exercise. **ÑITO SALAS**

the attack a second corporal died and several crew wounded. To repel that attack, her main weapon was deployed - a three-inch Mk22 semi-automatic cannon located at the bow, with a firing rate of 15 to 20 shots per minute. At the stern, there is an Oerlikon automatic cannon, model 5-TG 20/120 mm, fed by 20-round ammo belts, firing some 280 rounds per minute.

Despite that encounter and the years adding up, her commander insists that she is in good shape, that she is a "tough" boat, withstanding "all kinds of sea conditions."

"This type of boat is probably the worst in the entire fleet to pitch and roll, but it recovers very quickly. I have gone flying sometimes in my cabin," he recalls. However, he acknowledges that she is one of the "best ships" to command as a lieutenant, not only

because she is older, but also because of the missions she carries out and because of the crew. "She is not a frigate, but with respect to the other types of patrol boat, this model is the most sophisticated," he claims.

The Tagomago typically heads

out monthly, for five to seven days, mainly focused on maritime surveillance, but also on shared duties with others. Training is non-stop.

"The sweat from training prevents blood in combat. Train as you fight, fight as you train" insists the commander. In this case, they are heading for two frigates, on operational trials in the Alboran Sea, to carry out a series of exercises.

The first mission is to leave the port via a dredged channel, a lesson in following a risk-free route. Once at full speed, the next exercise begins with the cry of 'Man overboard!'. The crew leap into action and one crew member hoists the 'Oscar' flag (flag names follow the international radio alphabet and each has an unmistakable meaning) to alert any nearby ships of the incident, in this case, an

inflatable doll falling overboard. Meanwhile, on the bridge, the horn is blown six times and a sailor, already geared up in a diving suit, rushes to the rescue. Both are picked up and returned to the Tagomago by dinghy.

Before the next exercise, the crew's stomachs need a refill. SUR accompanies the commander to a small officers' mess, presided over by a photo of King Felipe VI. On its walls hangs, in addition to numerous metopes (square panels) gifted by other vessels, an image of the Virgen de la Soledad de Mena, signed by Revello de Toro, symbolising the boat's link with Malaga. On the menu, potato omelette and meat on skewers, with a yogurt for dessert, part of the daily budget of 8.79 euros per person.

On-board safety is the focus of the next training manoeuvre. "Basically, it is handling fire, flood or any other safety risk that might occur on board. Why? Because in the end, when you are at sea, the firefighters are the vessel's own crew," explains the commander.

One of two Malaga-born crew aboard

A native of the Campanillas area of Malaga province, Antonio Muñoz had always liked the armed forces, especially the Navy. He studied a higher degree in administration and finance and took his first steps in civilian life, strongly advocated by his family. "My mother constantly urged me not to sign up, terrified that they would send me to some war," he recalls. However, with the Navy he saw a way to better himself that he could not find in civilian life. "Here I have found job stability that I never achieved on the outside, despite the fact that I gained great experience in the different companies in which I worked," says Muñoz, whose first posting has been to his own city aboard the Tagomago. "I have been very lucky, the tears are yet to come," jokes the man from Malaga.

In this case, the exercise simulates a medium-sized fire on board of medium proportions with the crew on standby, everyone in position ready to then walk through the tasks they would have to perform in the assessment of the fire, its extinction, damping down and monitoring.

For the last part of the day and before heading back to Malaga port, the Tagomago engages in the exercise with the two frigates, assuming the role of a hostile patrol boat. The goal of both frigates to achieve their certification is to locate this boat, positively identify it as the boat they are seeking, and then engage with it using surface-to-surface missiles.

Returning to port, the coast is clearly visible. The sea haze has almost completely vanished. It's 8pm. At the end of the day it is time for the solemn lowering of the flag and then the loudspeaker on the Tagomago, as happens on every ship in the fleet, calls the crew to the sailors' prayer at sunset. The commander takes his leave by unexpectedly announcing a day off for the crew, who celebrate the news with military composure. Their faces say it all.

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◀ Sheila Hicks, in front of Lianes de Beauvais.

SALVADOR SALAS

Travelling Threads arrive at the Pompidou in Malaga

Sheila Hicks. The museum by the port hosts the first solo exhibition in Spain by this world-renowned textile artist from the US

FRANCISCO
GRINAN

As soon as you enter the gallery, a knotted fabric from Madagascar crosses your path as though it were a curtain. Your instinct tells you to walk round it rather than touch it since it has all the earmarks of being a work of art. The artist Sheila Hicks confessed that her objective was to unsettle the visitor. But with this first encounter the American artist has achieved her goal: to put the spectator on guard and have them make an effort to de-

cipher what they see. What they will see is a remarkable exhibition in which there are no paintings, even though some pieces look like canvases, there are no bronzes even though some are actually 'sculpted' and there are no installations, even though how they have been assembled is no different in some cases.

All these sensations of sculpting, painting and creating have a common thread running through the heart of this exhibi-

tion: textiles, with which she has woven her own journey as an artist from small, hand-made pieces to monumental works of contemporary art. There is a second journey here too, illustrating all the contacts this American has had with cultures from all continents and their ways of making rugs and tapestries. These journeys can be viewed now at the Pompidou Centre in Malaga, where her Travelling Threads exhibition stops for a while.

"I travel a lot, but I confess that I am not a tourist, rather I try to communicate in each place," Hicks assured us, adding that for this she uses the "international language of threads" and fabrics. The exhibition is entitled Travelling Threads and is the first exhibition by the artist in Spain, although the Pompidou has previously shown some of her work. This retrospective, on show until September, brings together sixty pieces from the 1960s to the present day in which Hicks - still making art at 89 years old - exhibits her evolution from her small weavings to the most monumental creations, the fruits of keeping in regular contact with how people weave across Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

"Our way of dressing defines us," said the artist, giving an example of the universal language of fabric by pointing to an "elegant" gar-

ment worn by the director of the Pompidou Centre and head of the public office for municipal museums, José María Luna. The man in question cannot hide his surprise, but then pulls up his trouser leg to reveal a sock bearing the image of a puppy, for which the artist was applauding him.

Approachable, spontaneous and fun, Hicks has turned her talk and walk through the exhibition into a practical guide on textile art, switching seamlessly between Spanish and English with some French thrown in. She was once married to a Chilean and she lives in France, which gives us a sense of that multiculturalism that also lives in her art. She then takes one of the bamboo rods covered with coloured threads from the work *The Talking Stick* (2020) and, as if it were a baton that granted the power of speech, she hands it to different attendees of the press conference.

The exhibition that starts in Madagascar also passes through Chile with the aforementioned talking stick. Then it takes in prayer rugs from Morocco, placing them on the wall, turning them into "doors to paradise". From Japan it borrows the steel fibres used to weave or wrap horses' tails until the tapestry develops such form that it has become a sculpture. "I was inspired by a visit to Andalucía where I passed the Mezquita and that is why it is called Cordoba", explained Hicks, handing over the talking stick of twisted threads to the curator Michel Gauthier, who takes the floor to speak of the outstanding contribution to contemporary art made by Hicks. "Sheila's great journey has been to take textile art from the walls to the floor and to the space between both," reasoned the expert who added that, 50 years ago, such work "was stuck in a box, but now it is regarded as sculpture and Sheila has been playing a fundamental role in that since the second half of the 20th century".

Gauthier has chosen travel as the leitmotif for this exhibition "because it is such a central theme in her work". Ever since she started her journey through Latin America in the 1950s, travel has transformed her way of viewing the world and art. "If you would allow me to say so, you left as a painter of fine art, but after that trip you decided to dedicate yourself to textiles and turn it into a grand material", he stated. Just like Cordes Sauvages (Wild Ropes), a 'tapestry' totally free of the wall and whose jungle-like form creates a sense of being both a sculpture and an art installation. "It's alive", are the closing words of the curator, using the power of the talking stick.



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Textile art was once stuck in a box, but now it is regarded as sculpture

THE STORY BEHIND A PLACE NAME

Salobreña

A strategic island abundant with salt

The first written evidence of the name Salobreña dates back to a Phoenician settlement called Selambina; the union of Sel and Ambina



JENNIE RHODES

According to the Real Academia Española (Royal Spanish academy) Salobreña refers to a piece of land that is “brackish or contains an abundance of salt”. The seaside town of Salobreña is located in the south of the province of Granada, between the towns of Motril and Almuñécar to the east and west respectively. According to Manuel Márquez Cruz, a Latin Lexicographer at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, in his thesis ‘Sobre el término Salobreña’ (about the term Salobreña) the first mention of the name comes from the Phoenician period and a settlement



The old town of Salobreña sits high up on a hill. SUR

called Selambina. Márquez Cruz also discusses an important connection with salt saying that especially from the town’s Punic and Roman eras there is evidence “indicating the activities of a salting factory. As for the name Salobreña, Márquez Cruz explains that Müller, cited in J.L. García Alonso’s paper, La Península Ibérica el Geografía de Claudio Ptolomeo, suggests that it was formed from the union of two forms ‘sel’ and ‘ambina’.

Sel came from the old Indo-European word for sal (salt) and is related to the proximity of the sea. Márquez Cruz goes on to give the proposed definitions of ‘stream of water’, ‘sea’ and ‘salt’. “It is also true that there was a salting factory in the area of El Peñón in the Augustan period”, he explains. Ambina or, possibly Ambisna, would have its origins in the Indo-European word ‘mobhi’, meaning ‘around’. “The ambiguity of the term leads us to propose also

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Sal	Salt
Terreno	Land
Costa	Coast
Fenicio	Phoenician
Asentamiento	Settlement
Fábrica	Factory
Siglo	Century
Conexión	Connection
Duodécimo	Twelfth
Estratégico	Strategic

a Gaelic-Irish origin ambi-(s)na, with a suffix (s)na which is a form of Old Irish used with some frequency to refer to abstract names, and which is related to the word Ambisna, meaning ‘enclosed place’ or ‘dam’. By the twelfth century AD, the pronunciation had changed, giving rise to the word Xalubi-niya and three centuries later it undergoes two new linguistic evolution: the first ‘i’ becomes an ‘a’ sound and then the ‘iy’ becomes one phoneme. The final transformation, Márquez Cruz explains, takes place after the Reconquista around the end of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth century when the name Salobreña is the product of a final vowel change.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Clematis ligusticifolia

The Western white clematis, or *Clematis ligusticifolia*, is native to the western US. Other common names include virgin bower and pepper vine. It is a deciduous perennial vine with clusters of fragrant, creamy-white blooms, 2.5 cm across, from late spring until midsummer. It is a very prolific flowerer and will cover the foliage with its blossoms.

Once established, this clematis is drought resistant but will benefit from being kept moist during the hottest months. It is also tolerant of very low temperatures and frost when dormant.

Like all the clematis clan, *Clematis ligusticifolia* likes to 'have its head in the sun and its feet in the shade' and, in the hot Andalusian summers, will probably appreciate being completely in the shade in the afternoons.

Clematis ligusticifolia is deciduous but it has spectacular fluffy seed heads which provide interest during the winter and



Clematis ligusticifolia. WIKIMEDIA

also attract birds and small mammals to feast on the seeds.

Propagation can be carried out by seed, softwood or hardwood cuttings. It will also root from the nodes when lying on the ground and is sometimes used on slopes to prevent soil erosion. It looks best growing up over a pergola or some other support and will reach around nine metres high although in its natural habitat it can grow up to 20 metres.

This plant belongs to the group of clematis that flower on new season's growth so to keep the

vine vigorous and from getting too woody it should be cut back hard, to around 30cm above soil, in the late winter or early spring.

All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and most animals however, native Americans once used it extensively to treat ailments. Poultices were made to reduce swelling, heal burns and cure toothache and rheumatic pains. The stalks and roots were used as a contraceptive and to make a shampoo. An infusion was used to treat colds and sore throats and as a stimulant.

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 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)).

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Frank Weiss





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The Star. ÑITO SALAS



The Madman. ÑITO SALAS

Devan Shimoyama, a queer arcanum, exhibits at the CAC

Non-normative. The artist, who claims a non-normative gender, creates his subjects from classic tarot figures using glitter, sequins, Swarovski crystals and flowers

REGINA SOTORRÍO



The Hermit. ÑITO SALAS

There is the magician, the hermit, the devil, the force, the hanged man, the lover, the star, the madman and the judgement. Nine major subjects of the classic tarot of the 15th century that break with all conven-

tion. The figures shed their traditional image and are decorated with jewel-like eyes, Swarovski crystals, flowers and a lot (but a lot) of bling. All of them, moreover, are black.

Devan Shimoyama declares

his Afro-American and queer identity, presenting himself as a contemporary and diverse arcanum, a 'radical act' with which he launches a message against racism and homophobia with a cheerful aesthetic.

Tell Me, which will be in Malaga until 27 August, is the Philadelphia artist's first exhibition in Spain and consists of fifteen pictorial collages around two metres high and in which he deploys a stack of colours and materials. Oils, pencils and vinyl paint are mixed with sequins, brooches, crystals, pieces of clothing and glitter. The result is attractive compositions with a "magical and joyful aura", says Helena Juncosa, curator of the exhibition together with Fernando Francés. A look that refers to the world of drag, queer culture, anime, cinema and fashion, the universe that surrounds Devan



Devan Shimoyama

Shimoyama, 34. They are elements of "a zone of interstice" between the two identities, masculine and feminine, in which he feels "safe".

Devan says that he became interested in tarot during the pandemic. In these cards he found a tool to answer the transcendental

questions that assailed him in those moments of uncertainty and fear. They made him question his own beliefs and allowed him, at the same time, to learn about himself. He was alone, so his reference image was him. And that is why he is the main character of this still unfinished series, which is enriched with others from his environment. The hierophant, pope or high priest is his grandfather; the popess, his grandmother; and the empress, his mother. "They have helped me grow," says the artist, who holds a master's degree in Fine Arts from Yale University.

A minor arcane (the jack of clubs) and two small pieces on reading cards complete this "journey of transformation" for the artist and "for any viewer" who can identify with what it represents. It is inspired by the traditional Marseilles deck, but also by the Rider Waite Smith tarot from the early 20th century, which had illustrations by Pamela Colman Smith, an African-American artist who introduced modernism but was "erased from art history" for being a woman and black. This is her particular "tribute".

Each piece is a jewel in itself, with crystals of different colours scattered throughout the painting and brooches for the eyes. He represents the characters in classical postures, with influences of "Caravaggio or Goya", but introduces elements of his childhood and his environment. In The Magician, the cup, sword and staff appear, but instead of the pentacle, two of the seven dragon balls from the popular Dragon Ball series can be seen. In The Madman, the cat Kirara from the series Inuyasha occupies the place that usually had the dog on that card. And the lion in The Force is the cat Jiji from the Studio Ghibli film Nicky, the Sorcerer's Apprentice.

They are "daring" and cheerful representations of the male figure that, despite appearances, speak of racism, homophobia and violence. His work is an exercise in activism. Devan Shimoyama believes it is necessary to "educate the gaze" towards such non-normative representations "to push the boundaries and stereotypes and deconstruct racist history". Because the world in general, and the US in particular, "is full" of examples of racial tension. A sometimes structural racism: "Black communities live in more isolated places and with more physical pressure making it more difficult to climb socially". He also denounces a regression in sexual freedom, with cases of homophobia and transphobia in many states "where they can't do drag shows or live normally."

"By presenting my narrative here, by putting myself in the spotlight and giving recognition to black artists, I also send a message of non-racism and equality," he concludes.



Top international artists head to Marbella's Starlite stage

More than 60 rock, pop, soul, jazz and flamenco concerts will take place in the Nagüeles quarry in Marbella between 21 June and 2 September

TONY BRYANT

MARBELLA. The renowned Starlite Occident music festival will return to Marbella this month, and, as in previous years, a schedule of celebrated British and American singers and bands, along with national artists, are scheduled to perform throughout the summer.

This musical extravaganza has been filling the Nagüeles quarry in Marbella since it began in 2010, and organisers are hoping that this year's festival will be even better than last year, which was a record-breaking year, as the cycle of concerts was attended by 362,000 music fans, 80,000 more than in 2019.

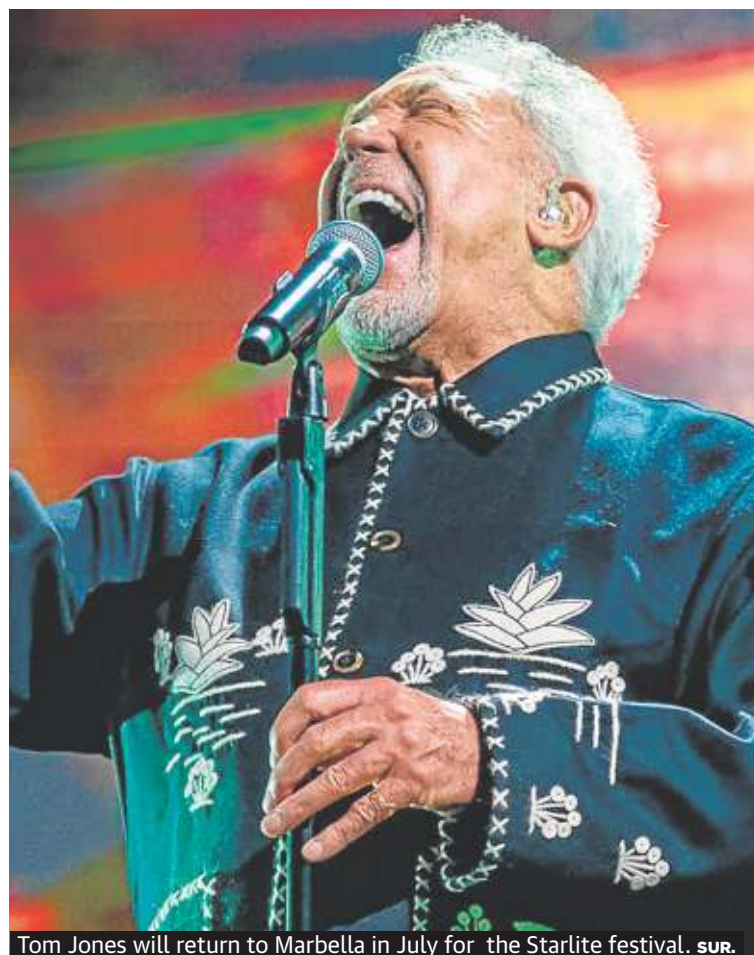
More than 60 rock, pop, soul,

jazz and flamenco concerts will take place in the two main spaces – the auditorium and the main stage and session area – between Wednesday 21 June and Saturday 2 September.

The festival will kick off with a performance by one of the UK's most progressive singer/songwriters, a singer known by the name of Yusuf, although during the height of his career in the 1970s, he was better known as Cat Stevens.

This will be the singer's first performance in Spain since 1976, so it will be a unique chance to hear him perform hits from his epic catalogue of songs, which includes Can't Keep It In, Wild World, Moon Shadow, The First Cut is the Deepest and Father and Son, among others.

World renown artist Michael Bolton will perform for the first time at Starlite on Friday 30 June, in what will be his only concert in Spain this year. The soft-rock balladeer, who is celebrating 50 years in the music



Tom Jones will return to Marbella in July for the Starlite festival. SUR.

industry, will perform hits from Spark of Light, his first album of all original material in almost 15 years.

Another top international artist to perform is Lionel Richie, who will return to Starlite

on Thursday 6 July. The former Commodores frontman has sold more 125 million albums as a solo artist, and has had worldwide hits with All Night Long, Penny Lover, Stuck on You and Dancing on the Ceiling.

Others will include the soul singer, Seal (7 July), who shot to fame during the late 1980s with hits like Crazy, and Kiss from a Rose; the legendary Welsh icon, Tom Jones (10 July); the queen of soul, Anastacia (12 July); Scottish rocker Rod Stewart (21 July); global phenomenon Nora Jones (27 July); and one of the most dynamic stage performers of all time, Iggy Pop (2 August).

These will be joined by some of Spain's most celebrated rock and pop performers, including the leading Latin musical figure, Ricky Martin (14/15 July), whose performances will be his only two dates in Spain this summer; the Latin Grammy winner, David Bisbal (24 July/30 August), who is currently in the middle of his Me Siento Vivo Tour 2023; Rafael (24 August), one of Spain's most commercially successful singers of all time; and Mónica Naranjo (31 August), the most powerful and inspirational Spanish voice on the international music scene.

Fans of flamenco can choose from a variety of different performances, including dancers Farrucito (4 August) and Sara Baras (9 August), guitarist Vicente Amigo (19 August), and the singer Pitingo (20 August). More details on www.starlite-marbella.com

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EXHIBITIONS

Here In England

FUENGIROLA. *Until 30 June. Colección Imagen, C/Maestro Aspiazu, Pueblo Lucía.*

David Tomé and Martín Carradini are exhibiting a collection of photographs explore corners of Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and London.

Elena Camacho and Marta Bernad

MARBELLA. *Until 7 June. Casa de Las Tejerinas. Plaza de las Flores.* Twenty-five works of mixed media are on display in this exhibition by artists Elena Camacho and Marta Bernad.



Luis Feito, Thyssen Malaga

Art Gaucín

GAUCÍN. 2, 3, 4 June.

Studios and galleries will be open to the public and in some cases, will have guest artists painting live. www.artgaucin.com

Museo Ruso

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

Sputnik, La Odisea 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.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA.

Imon Boy. *Until 4 June.* El principio de algo (The Start of Something) is the title of this exhibition. It is the first time that Imon Boy has held a solo exhibition at the CAC.

Joan Cornellà. *Until 4 June.* Dek Tau is the first solo exhibition by Joan Cornellà in a museum in Europe. The artist uses satire to show the dark side of human nature and surrealism to show exaggerated situations.

Museo Carmen Thyssen

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

Luis Feito. La pintura misma. Colección del artista (1956-1962). *Until 11 June.* A collection of paintings by Luis Feito.

Street Life. Lisette Model and Helen Lewitt in New York. *Until 25 June.*

The exhibition consists of around 20 images from the Mapfre Foundation of street life in the 1940s taken by women photographers Lisette Model and Helen Lewitt. www.carmenthysseomalaga.org

Maria Carmen Polo

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. *Until 17 June. Convento de San Francisco.*

Mi Tierra... Mi Gente is the title of this exhibition which focuses on the Axarquía and consists of landscapes and portraits as well as religious images and some of the fauna and flora of the area. The artist uses mixed media: oils, watercolours, acrylics and inks.

Fantasías

ALMUÑÉCAR. *Until 13 June. La Galería.*

Members of the Arte Sur Association Laura López Zárraga, Michel Romezin, Pamela Pérez Bernal, Esther Martínez Recuero, Julián Carro Pascual and Franziska Straube will be exhibiting some of their works.

Mediterranean colours

ALMUÑÉCAR. *From 8 until 11 June. Casa de la Cultura, Sala Rowland Fade.*

A joint exhibition of art works, sculp-



Fantasías, La Galería Almuñécar

ture and photography by Michaela Maierhofer and Juan Fernández Alvarado.

MUSIC AND DANCE

La Cochera Cabaret

MALAGA. *Avda de los Guindos.*

2 June, 9pm. Sarria.

3 June, 9.30pm. El Cebri.

4 June, 7pm. Tribute to Silent Heroes by Parasiempre.

Tickets: www.lacocheraentrada.com/

Clarence Jazz Club

TORREMOLINOS. *Calle Danza Invisible, 8.*

2 June, 10pm. Gary Bartz and Scatter The Atoms That Remain.

3 June, 10pm. Jonás Molina Band.

8 June, 10pm. Jazz jam session. Tickets: www.clarencejazzclub.com

Sala Trinchera

MALAGA. *C/ Parauta.*

3 June, 9pm. The Baboon Show.

<http://salatrinchera.com>

Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

NERJA. *Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Granada.*

2 June, 7pm. Jon Urrutía Trío. www.ventana-abierta.es Call: 690073871

La Posada

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

2 June. Daphne & Nicky.

9 June. Rosa Ruiz & Foki. www.tallerblues.es

The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA.

2 June, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

First part: Shostakovich Concerto for

cello and orchestra with cellist Julian Steckel. Second part: Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

<http://orquestafilarmonicade-malaga.com>

International Chamber Music Festival

MALAGA. *Until 4 June.*

2 June, 8pm. At the Echegaray theatre, 'Escándalo.' Pieces by composers Stravinski, Bizet, Verdi, Rochberg, Puccini and Rossini.

3 June, 8pm. At the Echegaray theatre, 'Pioneros' Pieces by composers Alban Berg, Arnold Schoenberg and Anton Webern.

4 June, 8pm. At the Cervantes theatre, 'La Grandeza de Beethoven'.

Sabatic Fest

MALAGA. *From 2 June until 24 September. Autocines Málaga. Guadalhorce Industrial Estate.*

The event includes performances by Bonnie Tyler, Gloria Gaynor, Boney M and Village People as well as a Reggae night, flamenco and 90s night among others. The concerts are followed by parties and there will be food zones and drinks available. <https://autocines.com/sabatic-fest-malaga/>

Alameda Festival

ALAMEDA. 2, 3 June from 6pm.

Explanada, Alameda Industrial Estate. Spanish rap, pop and rock groups such as SFDK, Ayax y Prok, Fernando Costa, Raule, Miguel Campello, La Plazuela, Kaze, El Niño de la Hipoteca, Rapsusklei, Aslandticos, Arco, Mix and Noise and Anuschka. Tickets: www.alamedafestival.com or Wegow

Gram Russell

PUENTE DE DON MANUEL. 2 June, 8pm. Scirocco, C/Venta Baja.

Gram Russell plays a repertoire which includes original ballads and blues, with classic covers. He is accompanied by Alfred Braun and special guests.

Malaga Blues Society concert

MALAGA. 3 June, from 12-7pm.

Teatro Cervantes

The event 'Málaga, enclave de blues' will feature performances from Tabletom, Javier Ojeda, Lito and Richard Ray Farrell to celebrate ten years of the Malaga blues society. Tickets 20 euros from www.teatro-cervantes.com

US choir concert

MALAGA. 3 June, 7.30pm.

St George's Church, Av Pries, 1.

As part of their 2023 European Tour, The Southern Crescent Chorale from the US will be in concert. The Chorale performs major choral works, as well as opera, spirituals, and Broadway favourites. Reservations: www.stgeorgeschurchmalaga.org

Javier Perianes piano recital

MALAGA. 3 June, 7pm. Sala María

Cristina.

Javier Perianes will play pieces by Manuel de Falla, Claude Debussy, Isaac Albéniz and Enrique Granados. Tickets: www.unientradas.es

Sung Mass

ALMAYATE. 3 June, 7pm. Iglesia Sagrado Corazón.

The Amigos de la Música choir will be participating in the Mass.

The Best of Queen

ALMUÑÉCAR. 4 June, 9.30pm. Casa de la Cultura.

A tribute to legendary rock group Queen by Capitán Mercury.

Lark in the park

BENAHAVIS. 4 June, 6.30pm. Parque Torre de Leonera.

Amateur theatre group International Theatre Studio Marbella are hosting their annual charity event. They will be performing Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. The TAPAS choir will also perform a medley of popular music for dancing. Tickets available by donation to charity at www.internationaltheatrestudio.org

Chambao

MALAGA. 6 June, 7pm. Sala María Cristina, C/Marqués de Valdecañas.

This free concert by Spanish band Chambao presents their new album that is due for release in September.



Javier Perianes, Malaga

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Jackelin
Glass Bottom Boat

En la Cresta del Ahora is a fusion of flamenco and electronic music. They will also be headlining at the Brisa Festival in the bullring on 21 July.

Violin and piano recital

ALMUÑECAR. 8 June, 11am. Casa de la Cultura.

A recital by Mari Carmen Jiménez (violin) and Luis Arias Fernández (piano).

Open Mic with Leon James

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. 10 June, 8.30pm. Arsenal Inoxis.

Open mic night for poets, musicians, singers and songwriters. Bring your instrument and show off your talent. More information call Leon: 606 844 200

Da Bruno

MARBELLA. Da Bruno Sul Mare. Paseo Marítimo.

Thursdays piano music with Nikki and Sundays Sax and piano with Diarío and Nikki. Live music 9pm.

2 June, 9pm. Flamenco show

3 June, 9pm Kirtsy Hille electric violin.

7 June, 9pm. The Queen Tribute.

8 June, 9pm. Garalpine International Duo.

To book a table call 95290 3318 or make a reservation online: www.dabruno.com/es-sul-mare

Oriental Dance

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 3 June, 7pm. Teatro del Carmen. 10€.

The oriental dance group Helena will

perform La Mujer Chamana.

Peter Edgerton Concerts

MÁLAGA.

SUR in English columnist Peter Edgerton, singer, songwriter and musician, is performing live at two concerts as part of the city's Terral En Tu Zona festival:

3 June, 8.30pm. Parque Héroes de Combate, Teatinos.

FLAMENCO

Semana de Los Corralones

MÁLAGA. 2, 6 - 9 June.

The festival of Corralones (the interior patio of a block of traditional dwellings usually surrounded by a balcony the whole way round) in the districts of Trinidad and Perchel from 6 - 9 June will include tours of the decorated corralones, workshops, exhibitions, tastings of traditional foods and live musical performances. More information: www.somosbarrio.eu.

THEATRE AND OPERA

Frozen on Ice

MARBELLA. 10 June, 8pm. Marbella Arena.

An adaptation of the films Frozen 1 and 2 performed on ice with stars of the Cuban national crcus. www.entradas.com

Gala Opera and Dinner

SAN ROQUE. 9 June, 7pm. San



Lead singer of Chambao, Malaga

Roque Club, Patio de las Palmeras. Dinner with an opera organised by Mosayko Arte Música. Tickets range from 90-120€. Email: events@sanroqueclub.com or call: 647 649 482

CHARITY

Collective Calling Gala Dinner

MARBELLA. 2 June, 7.30pm. Hotel Don Pepe Gran Meliá. 145€ pp.

Sponsored by AIOKA, Collective Calling presents Rewrite the Stars, a three-course, gala dinner with live music and auction. Dress code: creative black tie. Tickets: 711006961 www.aioka.com

VII Caravana Solidaria

MÁLAGA. 4 June, from 11am. Museo Automovilístico y de la Moda.

Over 100 classic vehicles from various organisations will be travelling

around Malaga city. There will also be activities in the Plaza de Tabacalera including live music, face painting, crafts, food and drink and charity raffle to raise funds for Asha Kiran Foundation for projects in India.

ACE Midsummer charity gala

MIJAS COSTA. 10 June, 1.30pm. Restaurante La Sierra (Cerrado del Águila Golf Resort). 45€.

Live entertainment with Ricky Lavazza and charity raffle. Glass of cava on arrival, followed by a three-course lunch. All bookings in advance. Tickets from the restaurant or Ibex Insurance (Fuengirola) and Snack Attack (La Cala de Mijas). More info call: Carolyn 647647671 / or Martyn 711039124; or email: info@ace-charity.org

Camerata Sotogrande charity gala

SOTOGRADE. 10 June. Details of venue contact below.

La Camerata is holding its Summer Charity Gala in a large private garden with a variety of musical entertainment featuring professional guest artists and the Camerata singers. The charities being supported this year are Age Concern Estepona and Manilva; St George's Charity, Sabinillas and Collective Calling, San Pedro. Email: Colin@formula-won.co.uk or call: 683 24 70 34

Tres Delicias charity concert

COÍN. 10 June, 8pm. Venta Las Palmeras on Coín to AEG road. 5€

The harmony trio Tres Delicias will be in concert. Proceeds to the Gift Of Life charity. Tickets: Papelería Cristina (AEG) or call: 627293601 / 689814930

FIESTAS AND FAIRS

Corpus Christi

GRANADA. 3 -10 June.

The city centre and the fairground will be the main areas for the Feria de Granada with live music, dance and flamenco performances, traditional food as well as children's activities.

YUNQUERA. 9 June.

There will be a procession of the Santo Sacramento through the village adorned with aromatic plants from the countryside and placed on an altar of vegetation. The procession is accompanied by the children celebrating their First Communion.

Fiesta de la Primavera

ANTEQUERA. Until 4 June, fairground and town centre.

The spring fair is combined with the annual agricultural fair and offers live music and dance performances, show cooking, tastings, livestock fair and fair rides etc.

Triple Romería

LA VIÑUELA. Until 4 June.

The districts of La Viñuela, Los Gómez and Los Romanes get together for the triple romería with the religious icons of San José, la Virgen Milagrosa and La Virgen del Carmen.

A vibrant poster for the 'Listen to the Blues' festival. It features three musicians: Ben Poole on the left, Eric Steckel in the center, and Philip Sayce on the right, all playing electric guitars. The background is dark with blue and green lighting effects. The text 'Listen to the Blues' is prominently displayed in the center in a large, stylized font. The dates and locations for each performer are listed at the bottom: Ben Poole on June 16th at Marbella Arena, Eric Steckel on June 17th at Red Beans & Pepper Sauce, and Philip Sayce on June 18th at Manu Lanvin. The Hard Rock Hotel logo is also visible. At the bottom right, it says 'buy your ticket at ticketmaster®'.

June 16th
Ben Poole
Rozedale
Marbella Arena
June 16, 17, and 18, 2023

June 17th
Eric Steckel
Red Beans & Pepper Sauce

June 18th
Philip Sayce
Manu Lanvin
buy your ticket at
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FIESTAS AND FAIRS

Romería de la Fuensanta

COÍN. 3, 4 June.
The romería de Nuestra Señora de la Fuensanta is one of the big events of this town in the Valle del Guadalhorce. The 'romeros' start from the Alameda and head towards the hermitage where the main celebrations are held. The image is placed in a cave near to the hermitage and then transferred to San Juan church the following day.

Día del Caracol

RIOGORDO. 4 June.
Hundreds of people flock to this event every year to sample traditional stewed snails. There is also a livestock fair between 1st and 4th June.

Día de Pan Cateto

CORUMBELA. 4 June.
An exhibition of a traditional bread oven and the old method of making and baking bread is part of the festival which allows visitors to purchase a loaf made in the traditional way. There is also live entertainment.

Feria de San Bernabé

MARBELLA. 6-12 June.
Both the centre of the town and the fairground will have live music and activities and there will be the traditional romería to the Pinar de Nagüeles on Sunday, 4 June.

MORE IDEAS

Noche en Blanco

ESTEPONA. 3 June.
The Great Civilisations is the theme of Noche en Blanco in Estepona this year and all the museum spaces will be open for free from 8pm until midnight. Local shops will stay open until 2am and offer special discounts. At 8pm there will be a parade in Av de España followed by 'Aztec Fire' and 'Gladiator Fighting' in Plaza García Caparrós and Playa de la Rada respectively. Throughout the rest of the evening there will be live concerts.

ORIGINAL VERSION FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.
The Little Mermaid: 19.40 (Tues); 20.45 (Sat); 20.30 (Fri, Sun, Wed).
Strange Way of Life: 12.00 (Sun); 15.50 (Fri-Sun, Weds).
Knights of the Zodiac: 22.00 (Tues).
The Boogeyman: 17.55 (Tues)
Spider Man: Across the Spider-Verse: 12.00, 12.30, 13.00 (Sun); 16.25, 19.15 (Fri-Sun), 18.50, 19.50 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón



Día del Caracol, Riogordo

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es

Strange Way of Life: 16.05 (Sat, Sun); 17.55 (Mon-Thurs).
Spider Man: Across the Spider-Verse: 18.50 (Tues).
The Little Mermaid: 19.40 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
Guardians of the Galaxy volume 3: 20.30 (Tues).
Strange Way of Life: 12.20 (Sun); 16.15, 21.00 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 21.10 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
The Little Mermaid: 12.00 (Sun); 18.30 (Tues); 20.35 (Fri, Sun, Wed).
Knights of the Zodiac: 22.05 (Tues).
Spider Man: Across the Spider-

Verse: 12.10, 12.30 (Sun); 17.00, 18.50, 19.50 (Tues), 20.40 (Fri-Sun, Wed).
Raging Bull: 19.35 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.
Strange Way of Life: 16.30 (Sat), 17.15 (Fri, Tues-Thurs).
Little Mermaid: 12.15, 10.05, 19.05 (Sat, Sun); ; 17.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs); 18.00 (Fri, Wed).
Spider Man: Across the Spider-Verse: 12.10, 16.40 (Sat, Sun); 17.30 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
Fast and Furious X: 20.50 (Fri, Wed); 21.50 (Sat-Tues).
Boogeyman: 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
Bringing Up Baby: 20.00 (Tues)

Cinesur Ingenio

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.
Strange Way of Life: 18.00 (every day).
Little Mermaid: 11.50 (Fri-Sun).
The Boogeyman: 16.20 (Fri-Sun).
Spider Man: Across the Spider-Verse: 12.10, 17.00 (Fri-Sun).
Bringing Up Baby: 19.00 (Tues)

Red Dog

PUERTO BANÚS. Avda Julio Iglesias. <https://reddogcinemas.com>
Super Mario Bros: 12.00, 15.00, 16.40 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

Guardians of the Galaxy vol. 3: 18.20, 21.15 (Sat, Sun); 18.40, 21.20 (Fri, Mon-Thurs)
Fast and Furious X: 12.00, 15.30, 18.15 (Sat, Sun), 17.00, 19.30 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
Fast and Furious X 3D: 21.20 (Sat, Sun), 22.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
Little Mermaid: 12.00, 15.30, 18.10, 21.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.30, 22.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).
The Boogeyman: 15.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.30 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 19.30 (every day)
Spider Man: Across the Spider-Verse: 12.00, 15.20, 18.00, 20.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.30, 22.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Strange Way of Life: 19.00 (Fri-Tues), 22.15 (Fri-Sun, Tues).
Rebel Moon: 16.30, 20.45 (Fri-Tues).
Raging Bull: 16.30 (Mon); 20.45 (Fri-Sun, Tues).

Kineopolis La Cañada

MARBELLA. Crta Ojén. La Cañada Centro Comercial.
Fast and Furious X: 12.25 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Tues, Thurs).
Spider Man: Across the Spider-Verse: 12.30 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (Mon-Thurs); 20.50 (Fri-Sun).
Little Mermaid: 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.45 (Mon, Wed); 17.45 (Tues, Thurs).

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Flamenco festival offers weekend of authentic Andalusian culture

El Torre del Cante attracts some of the most illustrious Gypsy singers, guitarists and dancers on the circuit

TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. The summer season of flamenco festivals in the province of Malaga gets underway with the Torre del Cante in Alhaurín de la Torre, which takes place on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 June.

The popular festival has been running for almost 50 years and it attracts some of the most illustrious Gypsy singers, guitarists and dancers on the circuit, so it is a must for those who prefer the orthodox form of this art.

Organised by the town hall and the Peña Flamenca Torre del Cante, the two-day event will be held in the El Portón open-air auditorium from 10pm each night.

The festival gets going on Friday with local singer Virginia Gámez, a winner of the coveted Las Minas de La Unión contest who is renowned for her fandango;



José Mercé will perform at the Torre del Cante festival. AFP.

José Canela, a singer of the orthodox styles who descends from a long line of Gypsy artistes from the Campo de Gibraltar; and Jesús Reyes, a young singer from Jerez de la Frontera who is identified with the bulerías and soleares.

The main performer of the night will be José Mercé, a singer who made his name singing authentic cante gitano (Gypsy songs), and who has gone on to become one of Spain's top selling artists.

The festival continues on Saturday with Ezequiel

Benítez, a singer from the district of Santiago in Jerez de la Frontera, thought to be where the very first seeds of flamenco sprouted; so he is well-versed in the authentic styles of the area.

Remedios Amaya, known for her explosive voice and energetic dance routines, will also appear on Saturday; along with El Farru, a dancer from the Montoya dynasty, a family that has dominated the flamenco dance scene for more than 70 years.

Tickets available: 25 euros per night.

In search of the new king of sardines

Ruta del Espeto. The competition to find the best fish cooked on skewers on the Costa del Sol starts today and continues until 18th June

CARMEN ALCARAZ

Sardines on skewers, cooked over hot coals, have become a symbol of Malaga. This dish, which is popular throughout the summer, in all the months without an 'r', has transcended gourmet cooking and is now an icon.

The origins of the espeto as it is called, dates back almost 140 years to when Miguel Martínez Soler, a fisherman from El Palo known locally as Migué el de las sardinas, decided to thread the fish on canes stuck in the sand and roast them over hot charcoal next to his bar, La Gran Parada. This method of cooking intensified the flavours of the fish, added the smokiness of the coals and soon other seafood was also cooked this way.

It may sound like a simple method but in fact it needs a certain amount of skill to achieve a perfectly cooked sardine. Not only because of the high temperatures that the 'espeteros' have to endure (a secret passed on as a legacy between generations) but also because of the knowledge needed of the product, time and care needed. A true art that conquers and reconquers the diners that sample the result.

However there are some basic

rules to follow to be able to take part in this league of champions.

The first is always choosing the best quality product and the size, which must be consistent to ensure even cooking and that won't become dry or remain raw. The bones should be easy to remove, the skin crispy and the flesh moist and succulent after being over the intense fire for a few minutes each side.

In order to honour the espeto in the way that it deserves, SUR in English's sister paper, Diario SUR, has organised the sixth Ruta del Espeto, an important event for lovers of good food.

The event takes place from 2 until 18 June and is backed by the Sabor a Málaga brand and the Diputación Provincial de Málaga with the support of Cruzcampo and the Asociación de Chiringuitos (beach bars) de la Costa del Sol.

This year, a total of 42 establishments throughout the province will take part. Information on the bars and restaurants taking part are available at www.rutadelespeto.diariosur.es

Clients who vote for their favourite espeto will be entered into a draw for five vouchers, worth 50€ each, which can be used in one of the es-



The skewered fish are cooked over hot charcoals on the beach. **SUR**



Espeto of sardines. **JOSELE**

tablishments chosen by the organiser. To take part, all you have to do is sample the espetos at the venues on the list and mark them from 1 to 10 on the official page of the

competition: www.rutadelespeto.diariosur.es which is available from today.

The chiringuito that has the highest number of public votes will win

1,000 euros' worth of publicity in the SUR supplement, Málaga en la Mesa. A jury of experts, comprising of representatives from Sabor a Málaga, Cruzcampo, the Asociación de Chiringuitos and from SUR, including their food critic Enrique Bellver, will select the five candidates who will go forward to the final and who will have fifteen minutes to prepare the perfect espeto.

The candidate that prepares the best will be awarded the Premio al Mejor Espeto and given 3,000 euros of publicity.

Last year's winners

Last year, the jury's award went to Marina Playa, a family business with more than three decades of experience, and Narval Marisquería was selected with the best public rating.

Spanish picos

ANDREW J. LINN



The first edible item to arrive at the restaurant table is normally bread, with or without butter, except in Italian places, where we enjoy slapping butter on those grissini breadsticks.

Up-market establishments provide olive oil and classier places serve a selection of oils on individual platters. (Waiters have got used to seeing foreigners piling butter on their bread at dinner time, something that is reserved for breakfast.) Along with the bread come the picos, or regaña, and if they don't we should request them

('Nos trae unos picos por favor'). What was developed by accident from bread mistakenly left too long in the oven and becoming hard as nails, has become a national accompaniment to any dish.

There are regional differences, from the crostas of Baleares to the Valencian rosquilletas; they can be organic, flavoured with herbs, or made with olive oil.

British naval ships of Nelson's day carried enormous quantities of ship's biscuits. These were about as far away from what we know as a biscuit

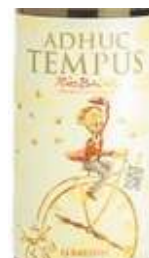
as is the American 'biscuit' today, being a simple mix of flour and water, and a punishment regime was to put sailors on a diet of these for weeks at a time. In reality they were more like today's picos.

Picos have entered the field of delicacies and are exported internationally. A small Cádiz bakery sends one kilo packs to many destinations. There is no particular mystery about making them, so it seems rather odd that something which can be made in Brasilia, Denver or Vladivostok has to be sourced from Spain.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Adhuc Tempus 2021

From the bodega's name, Bouza Do Rei, it is obvious that this is a wine from Galicia, or, more formally, from the Rías Baixas region. The winery's policy is to produce white wines of exceptional quality at reasonable prices. Lovely straw colour with a fresh fruit taste, around 10 euros.



Sugar: here's how food labelling can mislead us

Marketing. Groups warn that the terminology used on food packaging can be designed to confuse the consumer

MARTA FERNÁNDEZ VALLEJO



'No added sugars', with 'sweeteners', 'with whole cane sugar', 'contains naturally present sugars', 'low sugar content'.....These are the words we find on food labels that can mislead us. We don't know how to evaluate their meaning fully and they can lead us to consume some food believing that it has no sugar or very little when, in reality, it will cause our glucose levels to spike. Not only that - there are many untruths about how to sweeten food in a way that is less harmful to health.

Is it better to use honey or panela (unrefined cane sugar)? Or stevia? A study done by nutritionists from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) revealed some marketing 'tricks'.

The World Health Organization (WHO) makes it clear: the intake of too many 'free sugars' in our diet "is associated with obesity and the risk of suffering from numerous diseases." Therefore, it is important not to slip up.

"Phrases in the nutritional information such as 'no added

sugars' are used to attract and promote the consumption of the product. In other words, it is used as marketing", highlighted the guide Answers To Doubts And Misinformation About Food And Nutrition. Don't Take Their Word For It!, published by the University of the Basque Coun-

try, with content written by teaching and research staff from the nutrition and obesity group at the Department of Pharmacy and Food Sciences.

One needs to get the details right in the first place to interpret the information provided with the food we consume, as so

often the label can be like deciphering a hieroglyph. Sugar is present in our diet naturally and can also be added. The 'additives' are the refined sugars found in processed foods along with the sugars we spoon into our food and drink.

Others occur naturally in



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Different types of sweeteners. SUR

With sweeteners we must be careful how much we consume

Sweeteners – saccharin, stevia, sorbitol... – also have their own small print. There are chemical or natural sweeteners, those with or without calories, and some sweeten more than others. They also differ in their possible toxicity levels if consumed to excess. For this reason, it is important to look at the ‘recommended daily in-

take’, which is established by committees of experts as this sets the amount of an additive (in this case, a sweetener) that a person can consume daily without posing an appreciable risk to their health. When choosing one, you must also take into account its ‘glycaemic index’, which shows the increase in blood glucose concentration that occurs after eating a food with this type of sweetener, an indicator that is “very important for diabet-

thing,” indicated the authors of this study (Iván Gómez-López, Maitane González-Arceo, Helen Carr-Ugarte, Asier Léniz, María Teresa Macarulla, María del Puy Portillo Baquedano and Jenifer Trepiana).

Does the expression ‘no added sugars’ mean that it really is free of sugar? No, because, even if we remove that element, compounds such as modified starches can be added. They are from the same family as sugar and have a similar effect. “They are first cousins,” stated the team.

If the food does not contain added sugars, but it has a large amount of naturally occurring

sugars, then it must be labelled: ‘contains naturally present sugars’. The UPV/EHU nutritionists also clarified the meaning of other labels used, such as ‘sugar-free’: “It can be included as long as the finished product itself contains less than 0.5 grammes of sugar per 100 grammes or millilitres.”

And if the words ‘low sugar content’ are given in the nutritional information, they mean that the product does not contain more than 5 grammes per 100g of the product, or 2.5 millilitres if it is a drink.

We can check these proportions on the label, since the grammes of complex carbohy-

drates – starches and free sugars (mono and disaccharides such as lactose) – present in the food must be included.

As a guideline, the WHO recommends that adults with a normal body mass index should reduce their sugar consumption to about 25g per day, taking into account both the amount of sugar we add to our food and the quantities of sugars those foods already contain (from processing or in natural form).

Brown sugar, is it healthy?

The research group shed light on another very common mistake. They asserted that many consumers think that it is good to replace white sugar with brown sugar, thinking that it is more natural, yet “nothing can be further from the truth”. “Both go through an almost identical refining process and are mostly made up of sucrose.”

They also explain that with other substitutes “that are advertised as healthy alternatives” such as panela - known as unrefined cane sugar - or syrups, exactly the same thing happens.

“They are mostly made up of sucrose and other simple sugars, so they are not healthy options either.”

Is honey better than sugar?

It is a common myth: replacing sugar with honey is the best thing to do to sweeten coffee, yogurt, or tea. Yet honey “is not healthier than sugar.”

The notion that honey is healthier than sugar stems from the truth that honey contains some vitamins and minerals not found in refined sugar. But keep in mind that the amount of honey consumed daily, from 10 to 20g, is very small, so we cannot consider it a main “source” of these vitamins and minerals. As for calories, both provide almost the same amount of energy: a tablespoon of 10g of refined sugar is 40 calories, only four more than honey. “Both generate a similar rise in blood glucose,” the researchers stated. Honey also has another problem: since it is a natural product and many people think that it yields health benefits, “it can lead to greater consumption.”

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Young local players to be at the heart of Malaga's squad rebuild

New sporting director Loren Juarros promises a "very Malaga-based project" for next season in the third tier, with coach Sergio Pellicer set to stay

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Great uncertainty surrounds Malaga as the club prepares for life in Spain's third tier for the first time in 25 years. With the majority of the squad's contracts coming to an end this summer, the task of rebuilding the team is the job of new sporting director Loren Juarros, who was formally unveiled in the role last Thursday.

Facing the media for the first time, Loren said that he understood fans' concerns but that "we must take things step-by-step".

"My idea is to come to Malaga and stay here for ten years like I did at La Real," said the 56-year-old, referencing his time as sporting director of Real Sociedad during which he oversaw the club's rise from Segunda to an established top-half La Liga outfit.

Youth: key to the new project

The key part of his plan to "turn the club on its head", he said, is a



Loren at his presentation. **M. BÁEZ**

strong belief in young players, making the most of the club's academy and its ability to attract talent from the Costa del Sol.

Admitting he was unsure which members of the current playing squad would still be around next season (he confirmed just four players are under contract), Loren promised supporters "a very Malaga-based project" with young players from the local area set to be at the heart of next season's squad.

To achieve this, however, there may need to be changes to the academy set-up, he said. "Restructuring is under way in all areas and, as with all the coaches, we are wait-

ing to make decisions." This could mean that the position of former player and club legend Duda, currently the academy director, could be under threat.

Overall, Loren noted a lack of communication between the different parts of the club off the pitch and spoke of the need to rectify this going forward in order to have success on it.

Pellicer set to stay

Loren also highlighted the team's "lack of identity in general" during the past campaign but praised the influence of head coach Sergio Pellicer in bringing some sort of order in recent weeks.

"My idea is that he will continue. He has a contract and I have told him that I want him to stay on. With what I know of him from previous seasons and what he has done this season, I think he has earned the right to continue at the club," Loren said.

He also cited Pellicer's style of management and understanding of the new model the club wishes to put in place as key reasons for him to remain at the helm.

That said, despite his intention for Pellicer to continue, he is yet to receive a definitive yes from the man himself.

Club hoping to convince three star players to sign on for next year

B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. With most of the squad's contracts coming to an end, Loren has his work cut out keeping a select few stars to lead the club's promotion push next season. Sources close to the club suggest that talks are ongoing to convince forwards Rubén Castro and Lago Junior, as well as goalkeeper Rubén Yáñez, to sign new deals.

However, for any of these three players to stay on, this would re-

quire them to take a substantial pay cut, giving Segunda teams a significant advantage in the chase for their signatures.

In the case of Rubén Castro, who turns 42 in June, he will question whether he wants to drop to a level lower than he has ever played before. The club's top scorer this season with 10 goals has not openly discussed retirement and won't be short of offers from second division sides given his prolific record.

Another leading light in a dis-

mal campaign has been Lago Junior. The general feeling is that the 32-year-old could be convinced to stay given that he and his family have settled well since his arrival in January. The Ivorian has also experienced life in the third tier previously, both with Tarragona and, more recently, Mallorca, who he helped to consecutive promotions.

Finally, perhaps the trickiest renewal of the three is Rubén Yáñez. The goalkeeper, 29, who ended the campaign as number one, has attracted interest from several Segunda sides, including Real Zaragoza. That said, Malaga can offer him guaranteed playing time - something he's lacked in his career up to this point.



Arvin Appiah became the first Englishman to score for Malaga. **M. B.**

Final game of a dismal season ends in predictable stalemate

A half-full La Rosaleda demonstrated its displeasure towards the players and club management throughout a dire 1-1 draw with Ibiza

TOBY FRANCIS

MALAGA. Malaga headed into Saturday evening's clash with Ibiza with their doomed fate already sealed. Playing their first match since relegation to the third tier was confirmed, the home side failed to give a sparsely filled La Rosaleda stadium much to get excited about.

A very uneventful first half was followed by a slightly more open second. Arvin Appiah opened the scoring for Malaga when his long-range effort squeezed into the corner of the net in the 61st minute. However, in a manner befitting their season, Malaga failed to hold onto their lead, conceding late on when the aptly named Juan Ibiza turned home the rebound from a comically defended free-kick seconds before full time.

A funeral march

There was certainly no end-of-season carnival atmosphere from those who bothered to attend. In fact, a majority of the well under half-full stadium took every opportunity they could to jeer the players and club management - namely administrator José María Muñoz - who they believe have let the club down this season.

Many supporters also chose to wear black to "mourn the death" of their beloved club; the 'Grada de Animación' ultras, meanwhile, protested outside pre-game and didn't enter until the 25th minute - a nod to the 25 consecutive years of professional football that has now come to an end.

A match no-one wanted

On the pitch, the game itself was, in truth, a non-event. With Ibiza also having suffered the same fate of relegation, it was a game that neither side wanted or needed to play.

Former Sevilla wide man Coke came closest to breaking the deadlock when he chopped inside and clipped a shot onto the roof of Yáñez's net. Shortly before the break, Malaga created their best opening when Cristian got in down the left and forced Germán Parreño into action.

On-loan English winger Arvin Appiah was introduced by coach Sergio Pellicer at half-time to give Malaga a much-needed directness and, in what's likely to be his final match, the 22-year-old opened his account for the club with a fine finish from the edge of the box, becoming the first ever English player to score for Malaga.

Minutes later, Argentinian forward Pablo Chavarría could have put the game to bed before the game reached its inevitable conclusion: Yáñez failed to deal with Vázquez's free-kick and the ball presented itself kindly to Ibiza who slotted into an empty net.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, ESPN

The ‘Chosen One’

José Luis Mendilibar completed one of the greatest ever turnarounds to bring back the Europa League title



When José Mourinho is last seen chasing the referee around the stadium car park after hurling his loser’s medal into the crowd, you know you have succeeded as a manager.

José Luis Mendilibar completed one the greatest-ever turnarounds of a football team to bring the Europa League title back to Andalucía for a record seventh time.

This is a man who inherited a dysfunctional set of Sevilla footballers heading for the Segunda division back in March. Thursday night European football was just a distraction from the domestic dilemma.

The main target was surviving in La Liga. He took on a team that was just two points

away from the relegation zone. It was a team that hadn’t been inspired by the former managers of Spain and Argentina.

When the trend has been to go for young coaches in turtle-necks, sporting \$100 haircuts with an iPad accessory and a stack of stats, Sevilla opted for an old-school manager.

In his first week he screamed himself hoarse at players on the training pitch, told those who jumped out of tackles that they were “soft” and those who received a booking for removing their shirt in goal celebrations that they were “dumb”.

At the age of 63, into his fourth decade of coaching, he brought honesty and integrity to the Estadio Ramón Sánchez

Pizjuán.

The impact was instant. He selected his ‘A-team’ for the crucial weekend league games and used the Europa League matches to experiment and keep the fringe players active.

He’d previously fought relegation with the likes of Eibar and Alavés but had little involvement in European football. In fact his only previous experience was the Intertoto Cup when his Athletic Bilbao team lost on penalties to Cluj in 2005.

His debut was at the Theatre of Dreams where Manchester United sped into an early two-goal lead. A sign of what was to come was Sevilla forcing two late own goals from Ten Hag’s team. When they received the



José Luis Mendilibar. SUR

buoyant Brits in the red-hot atmosphere of Sevilla, they produced a cavalier display of football becoming of United in the glory days.

In the semi-finals, they adapted to the style of Juventus - toughing it out against Max Allegri’s seasoned pros.

When it came to the final,

they out Mourinho-ed Mourinho and co.

The “Chosen One” had never lost a European final and his style has always been to park the bus until the trophy presentation.

It was a dire match. I wrote on Twitter that referee Anthony Taylor had strived all his career to reach this officiating pinnacle and he was greeted by 22 players acting like seven-year-olds, high on roller cola.

As all others were losing their heads, especially Mourinho, Mendilibar managed the game magnificently. He acknowledged his team selection hadn’t been spot-on by making two half time substitutions. Younger managers may have panicked. He just strolled casually along the touchline, offering motivational tips to his players.

Mission accomplished! Relegation fought off weeks ago, a record seventh Europa League trophy for the club museum, a Champions League place assured, and Sevilla can deny a La Liga team a UEFA Conference place by finishing seventh.

Not bad for an old bloke coaxed out of semi-retirement on a three-month contract.





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Carlos Alcaraz gunning for glory as Roland Garros campaign gets off to a flying start

The draw for the French Open is set up for a semi-final with Novak Djokovic, but local star Alejandro Davidovich will have a say in the matter

TOBY FRANCIS

MALAGA. For the first time in 19 years, Rafael Nadal won't be in action at the French Open as injury prevents him from defending his crown. However, Nadal's loss could be fellow Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz's gain, presenting him with the opportunity to open his own account at Roland Garros.

The 20-year-old, who won his first Grand Slam at the US Open in September last year, comes into the tournament as the bookies' favourite. His comprehensive victories in the opening rounds over Italy's Flavio Cobolli on Monday and Taro Daniel of Japan on Wednesday will only have increased his belief that this could be his year in the French capital.

Next up for the man from Murcia today, Friday, is a potential banana skin opponent in



Alcaraz in a previous game with likely semi-final opponent Djokovic. EP

the form of Canadian Denis Shapovalov, who may be familiar to those who witnessed his country's Davis Cup success in Malaga last November.

Davidovich to face Djokovic

Alcaraz's primary competition for the title is expected to come from a familiar face in Novak Djokovic. Should both players

advance through their opening rounds, this will set up a semi-final epic next Thursday, 8 June.

Standing in the way of the 36-year-old Serbian is Malaga man Alejandro Davidovich, who followed up his victory over local favourite, Arthur Fils, on Monday with a comfortable win against France's Luca Van Assche on Wednesday.

Davidovich, seeded 29th, has shown mixed form during the clay court season up to this point, with his quarter-final defeat to Alcaraz in Barcelona the furthest he has advanced in any competition.

The man from Rincón de la Victoria will however take encouragement from his most recent meeting with Djokovic, at the Monte-Carlo Masters in April last year, where he won in three sets. The pair will meet again today, Friday.

The luck of the draw

In the other half of the draw, Brazilian qualifier Thiago Seyboth Wild blew the competition wide open with his first-round win over second seed Daniil Medvedev.

It certainly makes the draw look even more top heavy than previously and, after Medvedev's exit, not a single Grand Slam champion remains in the bottom half.

Nevertheless, this may benefit the likes of Alcaraz and Davidovich should they advance to the final to be played next Sunday, 11 June.

Marbella hosts the World Padel Tour once again with record investment

MARINA RIVAS

MARBELLA. After a gruelling year, with events literally all over the world, the best padel players on the planet have returned to the Costa del Sol this week for the Cervezas Victoria Marbella Masters.

Although the qualifying rounds have already been taking place at La Finca La Caridad in San Pedro de Alcán-tara for several days, the competition got under way in earnest on Tuesday and will run until Sunday.

This event, the highest category on the World Padel Tour, cost more than 1.5 million euros to set up - the "biggest ever investment" by the WPT, according to the organisation's deputy general manager, Luis Torres. The event, he said, will be broadcast in 150 countries and will reach around 10 million people.

There are several local players taking part who will be hoping to benefit from the partisan home crowd. In the women's draw, Bea González from El Palo, alongside Argentinean Delfi Brea, comes into the tournament in great shape having won her first title of the year in Denmark a fortnight ago, before finishing runners-up in Vienna a week later.

In the men's draw, the best-placed locals are Momo González, from Antequera, and Álex Ruiz. The former pairing, now both with Argentinian partners (Sanyo Gutiérrez, and Juan Tello, respectively), have gone from strength to strength since their split and tasting victory on home turf would be among their greatest achievements to date.


IN BRIEF

MARBELLA

International netball tournament returns


SUR. The Annual Summer Netball Tournament returns to Laude International School in San Pedro this Saturday from 9.30am.

With nine teams registered, including over 100 participants, hosts Marbella Netball Club, Costanets, Fetcham (A and B), Manilva, Madrid, BFG Gibraltar, AKS Gibraltar and Alhaurín de la Torre will face off in a series of games that are open to the general public.



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Stresnakova (second left) and Mi with their respective trophies. SUR

Stresnakova wins first-ever Costa del Sol Women's Open tennis tournament in Estepona

SUR

ESTEPONA. Slovakian Katarina Stresnakova was crowned champion of the first-ever The Flag Costa del Sol Women's Open tournament on Sunday, beating Tianni Mi 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in an intense final in two hours and 39 minutes.

The hard court at Bel Air Tennis Club in Estepona was the venue for the 25-year-old to win her first ever tournament, overcoming some serious obstacles on the way.

Stresnakova had to come back from a set down in the quarter-finals against up-and-coming Span-

iard Marta Soriano Santiago, before seeing off former world number 19 Varvara Lepchenko in Saturday's semi-finals.

In the final she had to face a tennis player who is already demonstrating a high level of tennis at just 18 years of age, China's Tianni Mi. Stresnakova was up against it throughout, losing the first set 4-6 then going behind 4-5 in the second. However, she took the remaining games to complete a comeback and win 7-5.

The exact same story then repeated in the third set, allowing the Slovakian to claim the ITF W15 trophy.

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Local (municipal) Police	092	Tourist Office	952467625	Town Hall	952548400
Medical	061	Town Hall	952589300	Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401
Fire	080	Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	TORREMOLINOS	
Guardia Civil	062	MALAGA		Bus Station	902143144
Sea Rescue	900202202	Bus Station	952350061	Taxi Service	952380600
Crime report	902102112	Railway Station	902240202	Tourist Office	952371909
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		Taxi Service	952345693	Town Hall	952379400
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	Tourist Office	951926020	Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	BENALMÁDENA		Bus Station	902450550
Age Care	952933409	Bus Station	955038665	Taxi Service	952441545
Age Concern (Estepona)	722606347	Taxi Service	952774488	Tourist Office	952442494
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		Tourist Office	952768760	Town Hall	952374231
Salud Responde	955545060	Town Hall	952761100	Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494
(Doctors' appointments and advice)		Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760	VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA	
ESTEPONA		MIJAS		Bus Station	952503162
Bus Station	955038665	Town Hall	952485900	Taxi	952540016
Taxi Service	952802900	Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952802002	Taxi	952478288	Tourist Office	952541104
Town Hall	952801100	Tourism Office	952589034	GIBRALTAR	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
CONSULATES		NERJA		Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	Bus Station	902422242	Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
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MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Scenic Eclipse 2	03/06	Cartagena	Marbella	08.00	23.59
Silver Moon	03-04/06	Cartagena	Gibraltar	13.00	23.00
Mein Schiff 2	06/06	Palma	Cadiz	08.00	19.00
Azamara Journey	06/06	Cartagena	Sevilla	08.00	23.00
Viking Mars	09/06	Cartagena	Leixoes	08.00	19.00
Aidastella	10/06	-	-	08.00	18.00
Borealis	12/06	-	-	08.00	18.00
Europa	13/06	Ibiza	Cadiz	07.00	22.00
Costa Fortuna	14/06	-	Fuerteventura	07.00	17.30
MSC Orchestra	14/06	Marseille	Alicante	08.00	19.00
Star Pride	16-17/06	-	-	09.00	23.00
Norwegian Getaway	17/06	Lisbon	Ibiza	06.00	17.00
Marella Discovery	18/06	Gibraltar	Cartagena	08.00	23.00
Seabourn Sojourn	19/06	Port Vendres	Gibraltar	08.00	23.00
Aidastella	20/06	-	-	08.00	18.00
MSC Orchestra	24/06	Marseille	Cadiz	08.00	19.00
Seven Seas Voyager	28/06	Almeria	Cadiz	06.00	19.00





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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
If someone challenges you this week, you'll need to show them that you can bark as well as bite. Make it clear that you have no intention of pretending everything is okay when it isn't.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Powerful forces are at work, encouraging you to do something about your lifestyle and routines. It's time to work smarter rather than harder.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
There's an intense start and end to the week, with both Venus and Mercury aligning with Pluto. So if your emotions get out of hand, this is why.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
As Pluto glides back into Capricorn, the cosmos hints that there's something you're not done with yet. Reflect deeply, and when you know what it is.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
If you're convinced that you'll miss out on an opportunity, you might use your skills to force the pace. Let them know that you have no intention of giving in.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
To make the most of the days ahead, it's wise not to let things get to you. A lovely Venus tie over the weekend is perfect for an upbeat get-together and for putting any worries to the side.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Pluto moves back into Capricorn and your lifestyle sector, which means health and wellness will be on the agenda. If you're keen to get fitter, now is the time, Leo.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Don't be pressured by someone who thinks you have an unlimited supply of energy. As Venus glides into Leo and a secluded zone, it's a time to unwind and be kinder to yourself.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Over the weekend, Venus's angle with Jupiter hints at a desire to indulge in comforting treats. If there's something that would make you happy, enjoy it!



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
If you change allegiances this week, especially those related to career and ambitions, it may be difficult to get key people back on your side. Tempted to take a gamble in other ways?

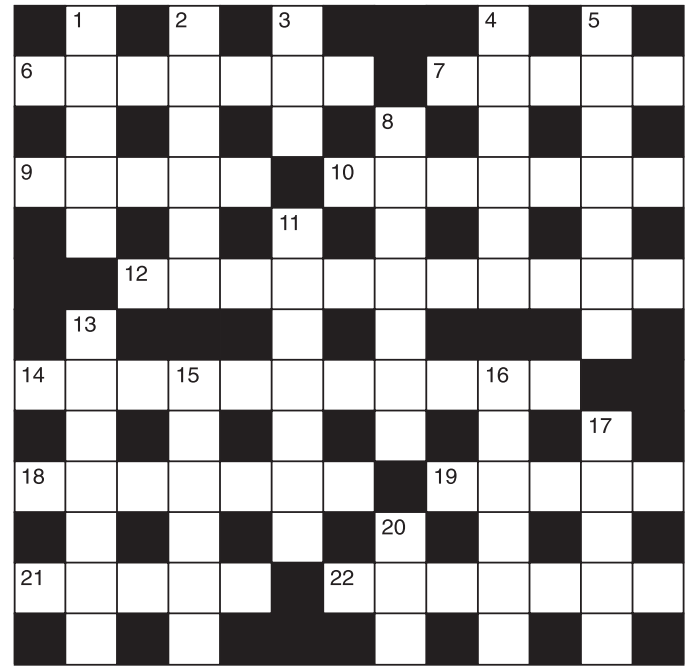


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Venus' face-off with Pluto could find you pitted against someone with a powerful desire to succeed. Your determination could mean you win in the end.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
The coming weeks can be a time of intense desires, but earlier this week you'll be smitten with something you really want. It may not bring you the happiness you deserve.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11572



- Across
- Down
- 6 Attempt to equal a dead bird (7)

7 Continue to play cricket with a stick (5)

9 He may go on living to 100 (5)

10 What a medium drinks? (7)

12 Getting wrong corpse out in court action (11)

14 Involved having gone along with an animal inside (11)

18 Tries hard to write melodies (7)

19 You have to change out of them in the car (5)

21 Beginning to rewrite notes (5)

22 Making a loan of a pound at the finish (7)
- 1 Show amusement when miles out (5)

2 Plant left inside the lid (6)

3 Some plates of food consumed (3)

4 Standard rubbish from a bird (6)

5 A game like bridge? (7)

8 Place is arranged for part-time policeman (7)

11 Appoints idiot to sing out (7)

13 Satisfied with what is inside (7)

15 A sportsman such as Gary? (6)

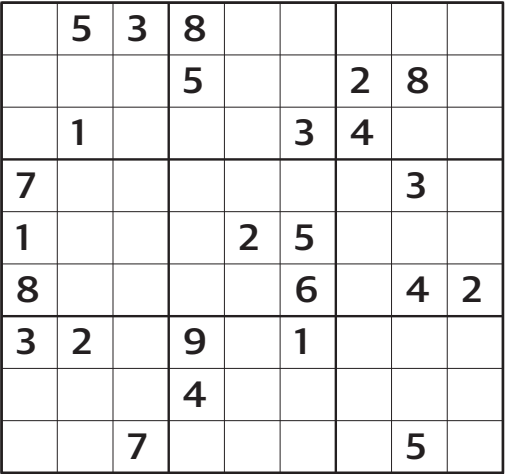
16 Corrects like journalists taking people in (6)

17 Doctor taking writing fluid as refreshment (5)

20 Encountered force (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER



Can you find the currencies which are or have been associated with the 10 countries listed below?

1. Portugal

2. Austria

3. USA

4. India

5. France

6. Italy

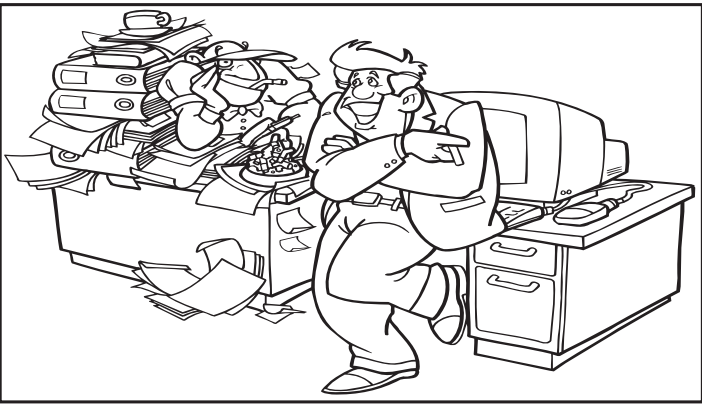
7. Spain

8. South Africa

9. Japan

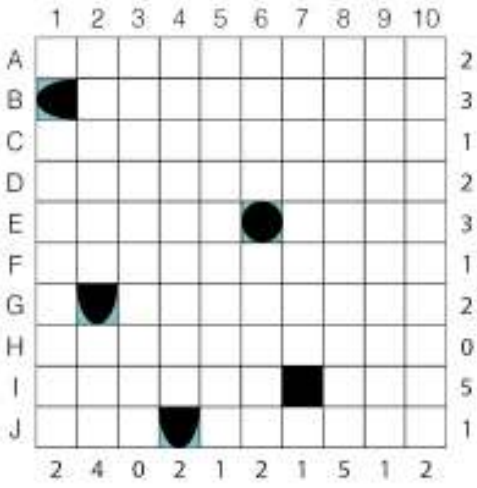
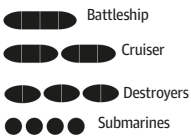
10. Algeria

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES

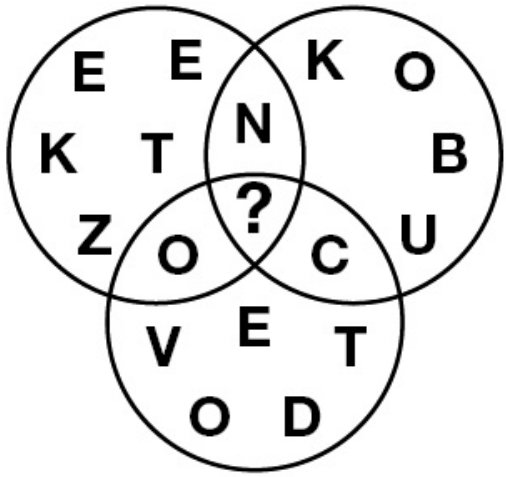


BATTLESHIPS

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

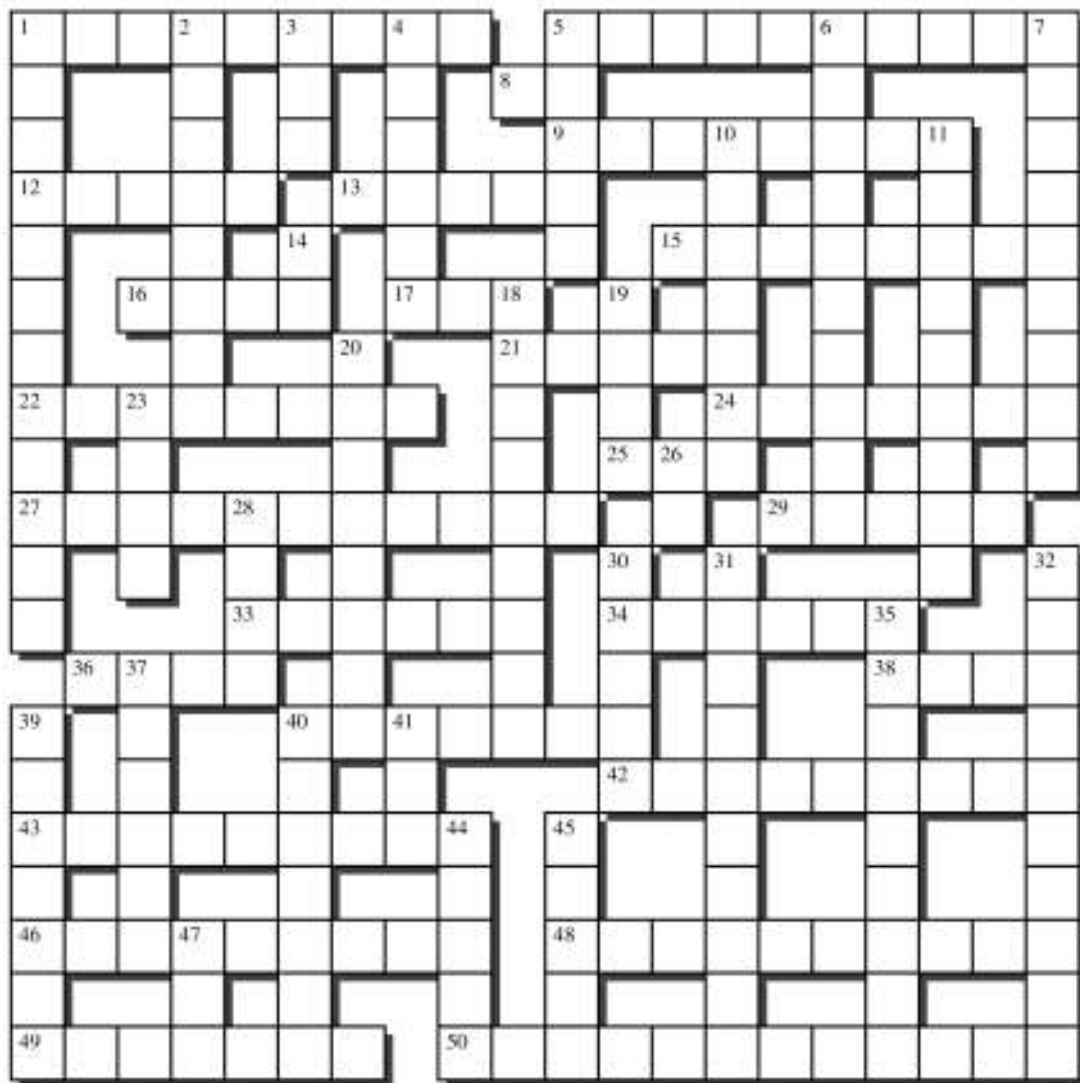


CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



Across

- 1) Tonnes (9)
- 5) Requirements (10)
- 8) It goes (2)
- 9) To forgive (8)
- 12) Ship (5)
- 13) Fleet (5)
- 15) To explode (8)
- 16) Island (4)
- 17) Wave (3)
- 21) Figure (5)
- 22) Breakfast (8)
- 24) Boiler (7)
- 25) Wing (3)
- 27) Refrigerated (m) (11)
- 29) Damage (5)
- 33) They were burning (6)
- 34) Hold (6)
- 36) Smell (4)
- 38) Headquarters (4)
- 40) Post office (7)
- 42) Motorway (9)
- 43) Blast (9)
- 46) Translator (m) (9)
- 48) To enrich (10)
- 49) To indicate (7)
- 50) Assessments (12)

Down

- 1) Workers (12)
- 2) Survey (8)
- 3) Garlic (3)
- 4) Ring (6)
- 5) Bird of prey (5)
- 6) Squat (exercise) (10)
- 7) Safety (9)
- 10) She stands out (7)
- 11) Watchmakers (9)
- 14) Already (2)
- 18) Accident (9)
- 19) It makes ugly (4)
- 20) Fire (8)
- 23) Settee (4)
- 26) The (f) (2)
- 28) To hoist (4)
- 30) Obese (f) (5)
- 31) He identifies (10)
- 32) Burns (10)
- 35) Shipyard (9)
- 37) Clean (f) (6)
- 39) Dead (m.pl) (7)
- 40) Harvest (7)
- 41) River (3)
- 44) North (5)
- 45) Unhurt (f) (5)
- 47) Day (3)

QUIZ

Which country is the largest producer of cotton?

1. Egypt 2. Brazil
3. China 4. India



Which city was known as the Cotton Capital of the world in the 19th century?

1. Calcutta 2. Rio de Janeiro
3. Manchester 4. Alexandria

Roughly how many varieties of the cotton plant are there?

1. 40 2. 50
3. 125 4. 525

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

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We know you love to read the print edition of SUR in English as soon as it hits the streets every Friday morning. But why limit your enjoyment of all the important news and information of interest to the international community in Andalucía to just one day a week? Our reporters at SUR also contribute to the constantly evolving and complementary website www.surinenglish.com, where we can bring you all the latest news, always with a Spanish angle, as it breaks - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And, because it's on the web, we can also live up online articles with photograph galleries, videos, maps and graphs to explain the stories more clearly or link to related news. You can also browse the classified ads or read all past editions of the newspaper in PDF form. Staying close to the local news has never been easier. We're also on Twitter at @SUR_English, Facebook at @SURenglish, and you can contact us via email surinenglish.su@diariosures.es.

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: India has surpassed China in the last couple of years and produces around 40% of the world's total.

Answer: India

Of interest: The high humidity and climate ensured the perfect environment for spinning cotton. It became known as Cottonopolis in the 19th century and was filled with merchants, mills, warehouses and canals.

Answer: 50

Of interest: Of the 50 species of the cotton plant, only four are used to produce cotton for cloth. The most luxurious cottons come from plants grown in Egypt and from Supima cotton from the USA

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is R. Koertzen, Bucknor, Doctrove, all cricket umpires.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 6 Emulate; 7 Braton; 9 Clive; 10 Spirits; 12 Prosecution; 14 Complicated; 18 Strains; 19 Gears; 21 Onset; 22 Leading; Down: 1 Smile; 2 Clover; 3 Alt; 4 Perrot; 5 Portnoo; 8 Special; 11 Assigns; 13 Content; 15 Player; 16 Emends; 17 Drink; 20 Met.

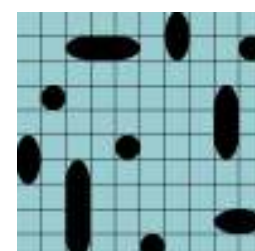
Wordpuzzler solution



Language Crossword



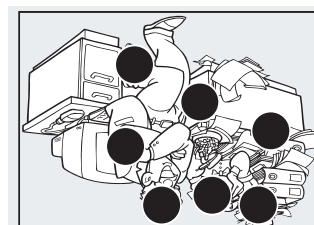
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



A historic patio full of glass birds

Malaga Glass Museum. The extension has created an Andalusian-style courtyard which can be enjoyed without having to pay admission to the full collection

A collection of glass birds by Finnish artist Oiva Toikka.

MARILÚ BÁEZ



1,200

works of art are on display in the Museo del Vidrio y el Cristal de Málaga, which is celebrating 14 years since it opened

JESÚS HINOJOSA



Views of San Felipe Neri church from the upper gallery of the new patio. MARILÚ BÁEZ

Gonzalo Fernández-Prieto seated on a copy of a ceramic bench from Malaga's Parque gardens. MARILÚ BÁEZ



The renovations have uncovered an antique kiln which belonged to the Chinchilla family of potters

11am to 7pm.

The expansion cost 800,000 euros. "They told me to do accommodation for tourists to make money, but this is not a question of money, it is a question of love. I think we have saved the neighbourhood," Fernández-Prieto said.

Designed by architect Ignacio Dorao, the courtyard is surrounded by a gallery with columns in which some of the museum's most valuable pieces are displayed. Specifically, these are works by the Finnish glass designer Oiva Toikka.

"They are not just doves, some are specific species of birds that we are going to put labels on so that parents can show them to their children when they visit this courtyard. This is something for Malaga," Fernández-Prieto said.

Behind a door in the courtyard, is an area not yet open to the public. A space has been reserved to display one of the pottery kilns that were discovered during archaeological excavations carried out during the extension works.

"It is the last kiln in this potters' quarter, and it belonged to the Chinchilla family, who gave their name to the street," Fernández-Prieto said. He is also planning to place a glass fountain in the patio area where a water spout was found that supplied what was once a servant's house.

But this will happen after he financially recovers. Despite receiving a grant from the council of 150,000 euros, most came out of his own pocket.

"I have had help from the town hall, but this has been a big effort," said this historian from Madrid, who worked from 1980 as a home renovator in Britain before coming to Malaga over 20 years ago.

Last Friday marked the 14th anniversary of one of Malaga's most fascinating attractions, the city's privately owned Museum of Glass

(Museo del Vidrio y el Cristal).

The museum's popularity continues to grow thanks to the untiring efforts of its owner, the collector Gonzalo Fernández-Prieto.

Six years ago he decided to expand the museum, which is one of the most important of its type in the world, into an adjacent building. The new extension includes

an Andalusian-style patio overlooking San Felipe Neri church and it can be enjoyed without having to pay admission to the collection, from Tuesday to Sunday, from



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