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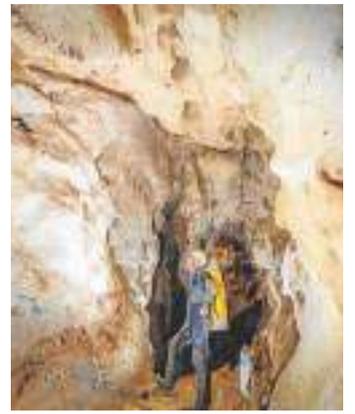
March 8th to 14th 2024  
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**vocento**

News .....	2
Comment .....	16
Lifestyle .....	18
What To Do .....	26
Food&Drink .....	30
Health&Beauty .....	31
Sport .....	32

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La Araña cave in Malaga, full of rare stegamites, is of great scientific value, report confirms **P8**



## Equality still a long way off, stress messages on women's day

8 March marks a celebration of rights gained and calls for greater efforts to fight discrimination

Events, exhibitions, awards ceremonies and, above all, huge rallies are taking place across Spain this Friday, 8 March, to mark International Women's Day. The national equal-



ity ministry called on all women to "fill the streets" as "there is still so much more to do". The colourful march in Malaga city leaves Plaza de la Merced at 7pm and promises an atmosphere of celebration, although a statement to be read later in Plaza de la Marina will touch on issues as important as the salary gap and violence against women and call for policies to achieve real equality. **P3**



Authorities and organisers of the dinner next to the dome in the German parliament building. **ÑITO SALAS**

## Andalucía aims for the top at ITB travel trade fair in Berlin

This week tourism professionals and politicians from Andalucía, including the Costa del Sol, have been wooing the German market in Berlin. The region wants to attract the most German tourists ever in 2024 by promoting new products and holiday ideas. SUR and Torrox council organised a reception at the world-famous Reichstag parliament in the capital. **P2**

**A political activist, an empowerment coach and a fighter with disability: women's day features** **P18-20**

**'Eyesore' hotel complex to be demolished after 16 years of neglect in Benalmádena** **P6**

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# Andalucía predicts 2024 will be a record year for German tourists

SUR took part as usual this week at the large ITB travel fair in Berlin including hosting a dinner in the Reichstag with the support of Torrox council

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

BERLIN. Beneath blue skies on Tuesday this week at the opening of ITB Berlin, the world's largest tourism trade fair, the Junta de Andalucía's tourism minister, Arturo Bernal, was very optimistic.

"2024 will be a record year for Andalucía in the German market," said Bernal, adding that he forecast growth of at least 5.5% above the last record year of 2019.

"This will mean welcoming between 1.2 and 1.5 million German tourists," he explained, with high hopes for what is the second biggest market after the British for the region including the Costa del Sol. "The average spend of German tourists in 2023 was 128 euros a day, fifteen euros more than in 2022," he said.

The regional minister said that to consolidate this growth, Andalucía plans to invest one million euros in 23 promotional activities this year in Germany at fairs and forums to appeal to a new generation of visitors.

Bernal said, "Andalucía is growing and it is doing so in the segments we are most interested in



Uwe Scheele, SUR in German editor, and David Andrews of the commercial team hand out the SUR supplement. **n.s.**

by attracting a new type of German tourism that goes beyond sun and beach. We want German tourists to visit and stay in a greater number of Andalusian municipalities. If in 2023 they visited 270 towns during their stay in the region and stayed overnight in 37, now we want them to discover 300 towns with new routes and new attractions based on their uniqueness or appeal, such as food and drink. We have to diversify the offer and re-

**Airlines will offer around 700,000 seats to the Costa from Germany between March and September this year**

distribute the business to make it more sustainable."

This same excited atmosphere was reflected on the Costa del Sol's

own stand at ITB, a 200-square-metre stand located next to the 500-square-metre Andalusian zone.

**Do the job well**

The mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, and the mayor of Rincón de la Victoria, who is also the president of the Turismo Costa del Sol tourism board, Francisco Salado, met in this area, together with the mayor of Torremolinos, Margarita del Cid, and mayor of

Ronda, María de la Paz Fernández, who shared a long conversation with the Spanish minister of Tourism, Jordi Hereu, during his visit to the stand. Hereu stressed that, while the forecasts were positive, "the important thing is to do the job well". He added, "The diversity of the offer is unbeatable."

**More flights from Germany**

Airlines have confirmed they will offer some 700,000 seats to the Costa del Sol from Germany between March and September this year, which is 14.3% more than the same period of 2023. Salado emphasised the better air connections, both in terms of frequencies and new routes and announced Malaga Airport will have a new connection to the northern German airport of Hanover.

Business was brisk at the meeting tables at the fair on Tuesday, although the sales representatives on the stands suggested a weaker first day than usual in terms of the number of professionals from the German travel industry coming to visit.

The SUR media group has also been playing a part at the Berlin tourism fair this week as usual. On Tuesday, a dinner was held in the prestigious location of Germany's iconic Reichstag parliament building. There, beneath the famous dome by Norman Foster, representatives of the local tourism industry in Spain and the German travel trade met. It was supported by Torrox council, a Costa municipality with a high percentage of German residents.

A special supplement had also been published by SUR deutsche Ausgabe, the group's German edition, and distributed during ITB.

## Torremolinos promotes Europride 27 bid in Berlin

The final decision of which place will host this major event will be taken in October and the Costa town sees itself as well placed to win

JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ CÁMARA

TORREMOLINOS. The Costa del Sol resort of Torremolinos presented its candidacy to host the 2027 Europride celebration at the ITB show in Berlin this week, with the presence of the mayor, Margarita del Cid.

It will be up to the European Pride Organisers Association, EPOA, to decide in October if this major event will be held in Torremolinos.

Key criteria for winning are the experience of the organisers presenting the candidacy, the relevance of Pride and the support

from public authorities and the private sector, factors that can be decisive in the case of Torremolinos, where the LGBT+ community plays a key role in its day-to-day life.

The mayor said from Berlin, "Torremolinos is a candidate to host Europride 2027 for many reasons. Firstly, we are a town proud of its diversity, of the way we live our freedom, of experiencing love without any rules or restrictions. Secondly, because of our long history of defending human rights for more than sixty years, when in many other places in Europe, talking about diversity was a forbidden subject. And thirdly, because none of this would make sense if we did not continue to be a reference in the defence of human rights in those parts of the world where there is still a need to reaffirm our commitment to them."

## Malaga rolls out the red carpet for its annual film festival

The Malaga film festival kicked off last Friday night with a glamorous gala event complete with red carpet. This high-profile festival of Spanish-language film grows each year and many well-known Spanish and Latin American actors, writers, producers and media stars have been in the city this week drawing adoring crowds. The event rounds off this coming Sunday with the final awards ceremony at Malaga's Teatro Cervantes, which was also the venue for the opening night. The festival has been a real boost to the city's tourism industry as usual. Hotel occupancy was up 15% on the previous week and a representative of owners of self-catering apartments said they were 85% full, compared to 50% this coming week.



MARILÚ BÁEZ



# Gender salary gap shrinks by five points in the region but remains around 20%

International Women's Day, celebrated today (8 March), is a time to reflect on the pace of change towards equality locally and nationally

H. BARBOTTA / R. C. PICO

SEVILLE / MADRID. The salary gap between men and women in Andalucía has fallen by almost five percentage points in the last five years. The news came from the Andalusian regional minister for Equality, Loles López, ahead of International Women's Day which is celebrated today, 8 March.

According to data from the Junta de Andalucía, between 2019 and last year, the salary difference between genders went from 24.4 to 19.8 per cent.

López said there are 15.8% more women in work than in 2018 and 11.2% fewer women out of work. This, in her opinion, shows that progress is being made but there is still a long way to go to achieve equality.

The minister spoke in favour



A lively march, like this one from 2023, will take place in Malaga. M.F.

of "pushing aside ideologies that separate us and making equality an objective for all, involving both men and women in all areas of

society".

López added that Andalucía will sign an agreement with the federation of municipalities

(FAMP) to bring in measures towards a better work/live balance in Andalucía. According to López, a lack of shared responsibility prevents real and effective equality. Awareness campaigns will be aimed at schools and colleges as well as society in general.

## National picture

Meanwhile, for Spain as a whole, an association recently went so far as to estimate just how long Spain will take to close its gender salary gap: 39 years.

At the end of February, ClostinGap published its fourth index drawn up with consultants PwC analysing 28 variables across industries, as well as the economic impact of the difference.

If total equality is 100%, Spain is currently at 64.9%, the report found. Change over the last decade has been positive, but slow. In 2015, the index was 60.1%. The analysis of this speed of change is what leads to the prediction that full equality will take the best part of four decades to reach.

## Mijas to honour diabetes group founder as part of events to mark Women's Day

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Events are being held the length of the Costa del Sol today (8 March) to mark International Women's Day and reflect on the role of women in local society.

Among the most important will be the 16th Mijas Women's Gala, where, among those to be recognised for their work, will be British La Cala resident Anne Bowles. Mijas council said Bowles had been chosen for her more than twenty years of raising awareness of diabetes through La Cala Lions Club. The ceremony is being held from 6pm today at Teatro Municipal Manuel España in Las Lagunas.

Elsewhere on the Costa, local councils and associations are organising activities. In Malaga there will be a gathering at 12pm in Plaza de la Marina and an evening march through the city centre leaving Plaza de la Merced at 7pm.



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# The 'water highway' that could end drought crisis in the northern part of Malaga province

The world's largest olive oil producer is championing a 700m-euro project to pump water from treatment plants through a 120-kilometre pipeline

MATÍAS STUBER



MALAGA. The president of the world's largest olive oil producer is urging authorities to consider a water project that he believes will end the drought crisis in the northern part of Malaga province.

In an interview with SUR, Dcoop president Antonio Luque detailed plans he and the rest of the Dcoop irrigation community - a newly formed association made up of some 900 farmers - drew up for a so-called "water-highway". The group measured 60 cubic hectometres of water being dumped into the sea by treatment plants in Malaga each year due to a lack of infrastructure to process the water and direct it to areas where it is needed.

Luque and the Dcoop irrigation community are proposing this water should instead be pumped into dry areas of the northern part of Malaga province



via 120 kilometres of pipelines that would guarantee the irrigation of 33,000 hectares. It would cost between 700 and 750 million euros. "Who is going to say no to a project that would guaran-

tee our future," Luque told SUR. "Technically, it is viable," said the manager of Cooperativas Agro-Alimentarias, Carlos Cinta, who believes the project can be "a solution to the problems of

drought for an entire region".

When asked how to pump the water, Cinta said everything had been studied: "The idea is to take the route along the Guadalhorce river. Initially, we would use a one-metre diameter pipe. But the ideal would be to lay two, so that the other pipe could be used to bring water for human consumption to the entire northern part of the province. As long as that water is not needed, we would use that second pipeline anyway. It would allow us to pump the water at lower pressure and thus save energy," Cintas said.

## Who would pay?

Asked who is going to finance the project, Cintas pointed to the authorities. "There are more than enough reasons. Firstly, for the social good of the project. It would benefit our farmers and their ailing economy and would help to recover the state of our aquifers," Cintas added.

The project has the backing of various mayors in the province following questions from SUR. Antequera mayor Manuel Barón expressed his full support for the idea. "It would benefit the province and the whole of Andalucía," he said. Mayor of Villanueva de Algaidas Juan Cívico pointed out the project would protect the municipality's economy as agriculture accounts for 80% of it.

## Three times the province's current water reserves needed to escape drought crisis

CHUS HEREDIA

MALAGA. The province of Malaga would need reservoir levels to increase threefold to escape from the current drought crisis. An estimate by national weather agency Aemet puts the water reserves needed at 250 cubic hectometres; the province's reservoir can hold a total of 611 Cubic hectometres while the current level is around 87.

The levels of drought are declared according to the district. In the case of Malaga province, which has been in a drought situation for three years, the Axarquía was the first to reach a 'serious' level, followed by the Costa del Sol and, finally, Malaga city and the Guadalhorce valley.

The amount of rainfall needed varies according to the district, however Aemet has been clear: March is the last chance for any significant rain to relieve the situation.

"We are now entering a period in which it is highly unlikely that the drought can end by the summer," said local Aemet boss Jesús Riesco.

Meanwhile some relief to the depleted reserves was expected this weekend as the rain that started on Thursday was forecast to continue until Monday.

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## Mijas residents evacuated as La Loma warehouses destroyed by fire

LORENA CÁDIZ

MIJAS. Residents in La Loma and Pueblo Don Silvero in Mijas were evacuated from their homes as a precaution on Thursday after fire broke out in nearby industrial units. Three warehouses were destroyed, one belonging to the Zoco Home furniture store, another containing pool products and a third that was unused.

According to the furniture firm, the eight members of staff working on Thursday morning reported smelling smoke coming from outside the premises. They were able to leave unhurt before the blaze reached their store.

The dense plume of black smoke was visible from all over the Mijas and Fuengirola areas, with the emergency services receiving more than 70 calls within minutes of the fire breaking out at around 12.30pm.



The plume of black smoke was visible from a distance. P. MEEHAN

Mijas firefighters and Local Police officers were at the scene, as well as fire crews from other stations on the Costa del Sol and members of the Junta's Infoca wild-fire brigade. The rain that fell on Thursday aided the firefighting op-

eration. Authorities reported that the fire had been controlled and residents were allowed back to their homes later on Thursday afternoon. No injuries were reported. An investigation into the cause of the fire is under way.



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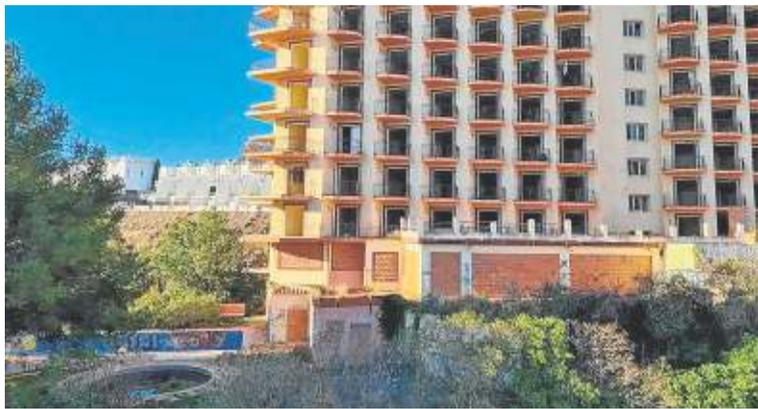
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Hotel Los Pintores in Benalmádena is abandoned. L.C.

## 'Eyesore' hotel complex to be demolished after lying empty for 16 years

### BENALMÁDENA

**LORENA CÁDIZ.** Following years of uncertainty, Benalmádena town hall has announced that the former Hotel Los Pintores is scheduled to be demolished to make way for a new development on the site, which is 300 metres from the beach on Benalmádena Costa.

The three buildings that make up the complex, which has been abandoned since it was forced to close during the financial crisis in 2008, have been labelled an eye-

sore by locals seeing as they have been boarded up for some time to prevent squatters from getting in.

The hotel, which had been immersed in bankruptcy proceedings for years, has recently been acquired by real estate company Aliseda as payment for a debt. The company is now in talks with the town hall to proceed with the demolition of the three buildings with the objective of selling the land to be developed for either residential or tourist accommodation.

## Police tape off unprotected two-metre-wide well in Estepona after tip-off from public

### ESTEPONA

**EUROPA PRESS.** The Seprona nature and environment protection unit of the Guardia Civil has sealed off a dangerous well in the El Velerín area of the municipality of Estepona. Police took action after receiving a tip-off from a member of the public reporting the existence of a large, two-metre-wide well - the top of which was flush to the ground - which presented a danger to people and animals. Officers said there was no cover of any sort and no warning or protection measures.

The well had water in it, some four or five metres below the top, although the total depth was unknown. The well also appeared to be in a state of disuse or abandonment as it had no water extraction system or approved meter.

The owner of the land was tracked down and the police reports were made for the alleged safety offences committed.

### HERE AND THERE



Scene in the ravine. SUR

### MARBELLA

## Car plunges into 70m deep Marbella ravine

**E.P.** Marbella fire crews have rescued the injured driver of a vehicle which, for unknown reasons, left the road in the La Montua area of the municipality and plunged into a 70-metre-deep ravine on Monday. The steep terrain made access to the car and the rescue difficult so specialist techniques had to be used. The fire brigade was supported at the scene by the drone unit of the town's Local Police force and the emergency health services.

### TORRE DEL MAR

## Man's body found in Costa del Sol park

**I.Q.** The body of a 44-year-old man was found in a park in Torre del Mar, on the eastern strip of the Costa del Sol, on Thursday morning. The discovery was made at about 4am in the Islas del Sol gardens. According to sources, initial investigations would suggest a natural death. However, National Police investigators are waiting for the results of an autopsy to confirm this.

### ESTEPONA

## Cyclist dies after being struck by car on A-7

**SUR.** A 58-year-old cyclist died in the early hours of Monday after being struck by a car in Estepona, according to 112 Andalucía. The accident happened on the A-7 at around 00.45am and an eyewitness told emergency call centre operators that a car had struck a man on a bicycle at kilometre 1060 of the road, in the direction of Cadiz. An ambulance crew confirmed the death of the man at the scene of the accident.

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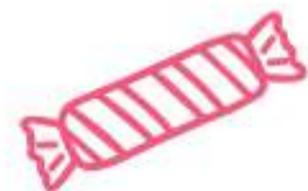
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# Shelter for up to 600 animals opened by town hall in Marbella

The centre, run by Triple A, guarantees the welfare of cats and dogs with their own enclosures, recreation area and veterinary care

MARÍA ALBARRAL

MARBELLA. The new animal shelter in Marbella is now operating, guaranteeing the wellbeing of up to 600 abandoned cats and dogs, with their own spaces, recreation areas and a veterinary centre with operating rooms.

Marbella mayor Ángeles Muñoz visited the facility, built by the town hall, on Monday accompanied by the president of Triple A animal association, Bettina Pietsch. Muñoz said, "It has the highest quality standards and is



Mayor Ángeles Muñoz (c) visits the new facilities. JOSELE

adapted to the new animal welfare legislation."

"The facilities have been designed with the help of Triple A and municipal health specialists,"

Muñoz stated, adding, "Marbella has always shown itself to be animal-friendly and required facilities which were up to par with this municipal commitment."

# Major works on road from Elviria to La Mairena under way to improve safety

The Marbella town hall project to revamp Avenida de España leading up the hill is expected to take three months

M. ALBARRAL

MARBELLA. Avenida de España in the Elviria district of eastern Marbella is one of the Costa municipality's most-used residential roads. Due to its rundown state, the town hall has launched a major renovation project that will take around three months to complete in an effort to improve road safety.

Councillor for Works Diego López described this road to La Mairena as "one of the most important arteries in the area, used

by more than 15 buses every day and which numerous families with children in the local schools use as well as local residents, so it is a very necessary and in-demand project."

López said, "The work will be carried out between the Antonio Zarco and La Mairena roundabouts, where the road surface is in the worst shape and where tree roots have caused potholes and bumps that pose a risk to the safety of vehicles."

The councillor explained that the work, which is estimated to take three months to complete, will focus on resurfacing on three sections of the road, the elimination of potholes caused by tree roots, improvement of the road surface to make it less slippery and the installation of protective barriers.

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## HERE AND THERE

### ESTEPONA

#### Largest open-air climbing wall in Spain almost ready

M. A. Estepona is just a few weeks away from having the largest open-air climbing wall in Spain. "It is going to be a unique space because so far there is none that covers the three categories of speed, difficulty and bouldering," Francisco Jiménez, a local mountaineer, told SUR. The new 1.6-million-euro facility will be floodlit and of a standard to host ama-



Nearing completion. SUR

teur, national and even international competitions for elite sportsmen and women.

### MIJAS

#### Stalled sports centre extension works resume

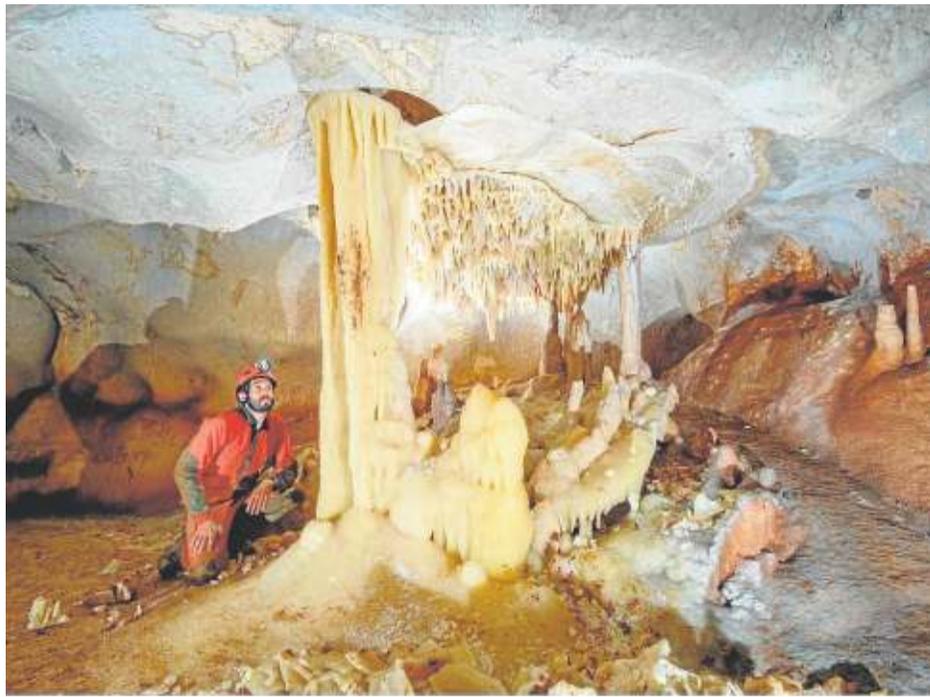
L. CÁDIZ. The long-overdue expansion work on the Regino Hernández Martín sports complex in Las Lagunas has resumed, five years after the project first began, mayor of Mijas Ana Mata has announced. Work started in spring 2019 with

a planned completion period of 18 months but the project remained unfinished after problems with the original construction company, delays caused by the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The new building at the centre, which serves some 60,000 residents in the district, will include a 20-metre therapy pool and an area for low-impact exercises.



#### Painting the town red to mark the feast of St David

Hundreds of locals and visitors gathered in Plaza de la Mezquita in Arroyo de la Miel last Friday to celebrate the feast of St David, an afternoon of live entertainment and typical cuisine organised by the Welsh Society Costa del Sol. The large-scale event, which this year was in aid of Cudeca, raised more than 3,000 euros.



Images taken inside the cave that form part of the report compiled by the University of Granada. UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

# Maximum protection to be granted to newly discovered La Araña cave

Located on the eastern edge of Malaga city, the cave features rare stegamites of great "natural and scientific importance"

**REGINA SOTORRÍO**

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía has said it intends to protect the Cave of the Stegamites (La Cueva de las Estegamitas), in the area of La Araña quarry on the east-

ern edge of Malaga city. The underground cavern features rare stegamites which are formed in black calcite and appear as ridges along the cave floor. This type of formation has only been found elsewhere in caves in Australia,

Puerto Rico and Slovakia. The Malaga cave was discovered by chance in 2021 when a cavity opened up after one of the quarry's blasting operations.

After a report was commissioned from experts from the University of Granada, the ministry of Sustainability and Environment of the Andalusian regional government has confirmed its intention to provide the "maximum protection for the geological value of the cave".

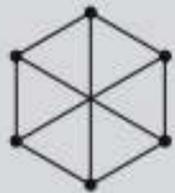
The location has "a high natural and scientific importance from a geological point of view and should be preserved in its entirety" said experts from the university.

However, the Junta has said that a final study is still pending. This is a report from the national government's Mines department commissioned from another Spanish university, which it has not yet received. Depending on what this work concludes (whether or not the site is accessible, whether it can be used for tourism, etc.), the protection status will be more clearly defined.

Meanwhile, the 142-page study by Granada University clearly states that the cave should be included in the Junta de Andalucía's inventory of georesources and activities in the area (some 25,000 square metres) restricted. How this will affect the operation of the Araña quarry in which it is located will have to be analysed.

La Araña cement works, which has halted all activity in the area around the cave, declined to comment on the matter this week. However, the company has always been willing to collaborate with the investigation, facilitating the work of the experts. This was reflected by the University of Granada's own team, who expressly thanked the owners, Votorantim Cimentos, for the help received at their facilities.

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# Pepita: the 10,000-year-old star of the new Nerja cave audio guide

The audio story was directed by Benito Zambrano who was on the Costa to present his latest film, *El Salto*, at the Festival de Málaga

## FRANCISCO GRIÑAN

**NERJA.** A new audio story about Pepita, the 10,000-year-old woman discovered in the Nerja cave in the 20th century, was released on Monday at the cave itself.

The dramatised guide was directed by filmmaker Benito Zambrano, who was also in Malaga to present his new film, *El Salto*, at the city's festival.

Pepita's remains date back to the Epipalaeolithic period and are the best preserved in Europe. An AI reconstruction of her face made last year revealed what she may have looked like.

"Instead of the narrator's voice you always find in audio guides, the project uses Pepita as the guide, telling her story and that of the Cueva de Nerja," Zambrano explained to SUR.

The new narrated audio provides updated information about the popular tourist attraction, where scientists are still discovering areas beyond those open to visitors.

The latest studies on Pepita reveal that she is around 9,900-years-old and that she was about 19 when she died. The cause of death cannot be determined exactly, al-



The presentation of Pepita at the Nerja cave on Monday. SUR



An AI image of Pepita. SUR

though statistically it was most likely due to childbirth or postpartum complications.

Pepita was 1.5 metres tall, meaning she was shorter than the average woman at the time, she was left-handed and suffered from a severe infection in her left ear,

which left a scar on her skull.

Analysis of her skeleton has also revealed similarities to those of some present-day African populations and that Pepita would have been black.

Zambrano's film *El Salto* (The Jump) shows the harsh reality of people from Africa as they wait on Mount Gurugú for an opportunity to cross the fence in Melilla to get to Europe.

The director compared the story of modern migrants to that of Pepita. "She was an African woman who arrived here along with the rest of our ancestors ten thousand years ago. If they had come across a fence, Pepita wouldn't exist," reflected the director.

The new audio story is available in Spanish with an English version coming at the end of the month.

## Port skyscraper protest group appeals for funds to go to court

### MALAGA

**IGNACIO LILLO.** A group of local people against the skyscraper hotel planned for Malaga Port has launched an online campaign to raise funds to fight the project in court. Defendamos Nuestro Horizonte (Defend Our Horizon) wants to raise 30,000 euros on a crowdfunding site and has appealed to

members of the public who share concerns about the project funded by Qatari investors to help them fight the plans.

The group's legal arguments against the approval of the plans are based on the possible breach of the Andalusian planning law, the ports law, environmental legislation and a violation of historical heritage.

## Handicrafts and hobby store giant Milbby to open its first branch in the province

### FUENGIROLA

**JUAN SOTO.** Milbby, a creative leisure chain specialising in

handicrafts and hobbies, will set up store at the Miramar commercial park, in Fuengirola, and it will do it in a big way, as it will occupy premises covering 800 square metres. Milbby will open in the unit between Schmidt Cocinas and Merkal, near Norauto.

The national firm is already fitting out the new retail space and recruiting staff. It hopes to be able to open its doors to the public during the final weeks of March.

## Marbella passes new regulations for users of electric scooters in the town

### MARBELLA

**MARÍA ALBARRAL.** Marbella has decided it is now necessary to introduce local laws regulating the use of scooters in the town. From now on, electric scooters cannot exceed 20 kilometres per hour, they must be ridden in a bike lane and have liability insurance. Riding is banned on pavements, walkways and in pedestrian areas, as well as on crossings, inter-urban roads, main roads and motorways. The maximum allowed speed is 20km/h with some routes limited to 10km/h and scooters must have adequate liability insurance. Riders must be over 14, wear a helmet and suitable footwear. Headphones are not allowed.

## HERE AND THERE

### NERJA

## Three companies bid for river access contract

**E. C.** Three companies have submitted bids to take over management of the popular Río Chilar beauty spot in Nerja. Hermanos Campano S.L., from Ardales, Viajes Verano Azul S.L., from Nerja and Construcciones Sánchez Domínguez (Sando), from Malaga have all submitted proposals.

All three submissions include charging between five and 12 euros to enter and have daily limits on the numbers of peo-

ple that can access it.

The project comes after over a decade of environmental consequences and accidents caused by overcrowding and a total lack of access control.

On some days in the summer months it is thought that over 3,000 people have accessed the river. It was closed during the pandemic and Nerja town hall decided to close access altogether last summer until it is regulated.

A period of public consultation is open until 18 March whereby interested parties may present objections or comments on the three bids.



Illegal campers were evicted off the site on Tuesday morning. JUNTA

### MARO-CERRO GORDO

## Police break up illegal 'nomad land' in Maro-Cerro Gordo beauty spot

**E. C.** Junta de Andalucía officials, Guardia Civil and Local Police officers have broken up an illegal campsite on Las Alberquillas beach in Maro-Cerro Gordo, on the border between Malaga and Granada provinces.

The officers arrived at the site in the early hours of Tuesday where they ordered the eviction of around twenty motorhomes and a number of tents.

Photos of the operation were

posted on social media with a reminder that camping and overnight stays are not permitted in the protected area.

Axarquía-based environmental group (GENA-Ecolistas en Acción) has been reporting the illegal presence of motorhomes and tents during the winter months in recent years and the last time was at the end of January this year, when they referred to it as a "nomad land".

### NERJA

## Facility for disabled people to get extension

**E. C.** The Taller de la Amistad in Nerja is set to get 400,000 euros from Nerja town hall and the Andalusian regional government so that it can extend its service to children and young people with disabilities. President and founder of the organisation, Gloria Matutano, and director, Victor Gil, explained that it will create a comprehensive care centre for children and teenagers called "Taller Tea".

### TORROX

## Call for more resources to tackle rural crime

**E. C.** Councillors in Torrox agreed during a town hall meeting on Monday to ask Spain's central government to increase the number of police officers and resources in Malaga province and in particular the Axarquía area following a rise in the number of burglaries in rural areas. According to councillor José Manuel Fernández, who proposed the motion, there has been a "constant rise" in break-ins in recent months.



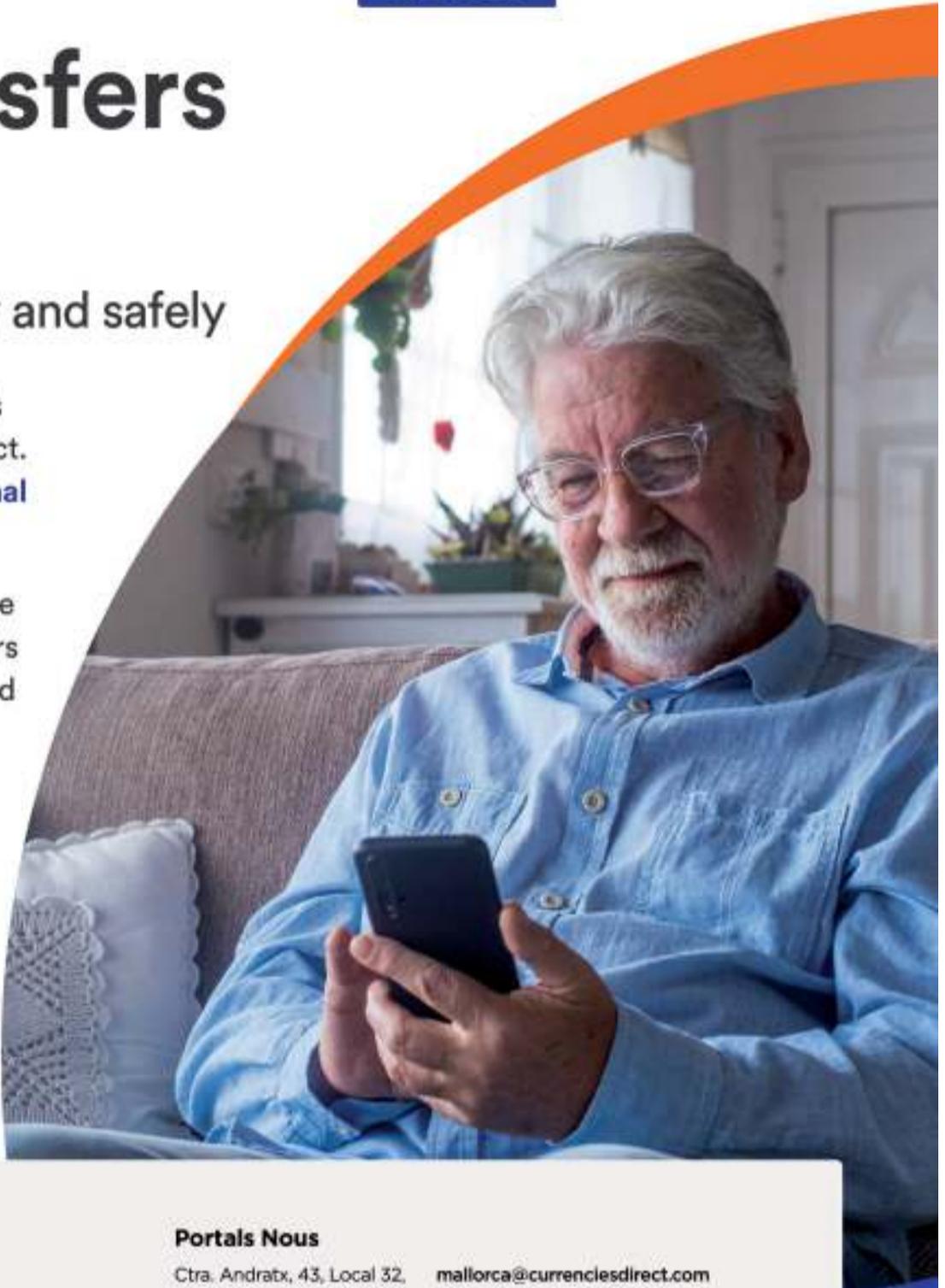
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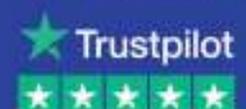
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## Local jobless total fell last month, bucking usual winter trend

Malaga was the second Andalusian province that created the most jobs in February with an increase in the services sector

**NURIA TRIGUERO**

**MALAGA.** The province of Malaga including the Costa del Sol recorded 923 fewer unemployed people in February and 4,253 more new workers registered in the Social Security system than in January, figures released this week showed.

The data means the province has managed to buck the usual trend earlier than usual of increases in unemployment over the winter outside peak tourist season. Data in March will confirm whether February's positive result is an early start to the high season for employment or if it was just a one-off.

Malaga province closed February with 134,243 people registered as unemployed. The de-

crease was fuelled by the services sector, where unemployment dropped by 1,317 people.

In terms of numbers in work, Malaga province recorded 684,115 registered workers at the end of February. It is the second Andalusian province that created the most jobs in the last month: 4,253.

Annually, Malaga added 21,778 new workers between February 2023 and February 2024. Malaga accounted for a third of all jobs created in Andalucía in the past year and is close to doubling the number of jobs generated by the second most dynamic province, Seville.

In Spain overall, the number of unemployed registered with the public employment services at the end of February fell by 7,452 across the country compared with the previous month. The number out of work was 2,760,408 people in Spain in February. Compared with February 2023, unemployment year-on-year fell by 150,607 people (-5.17%) nationally.

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## The science and art of portfolio construction



**S**uccessful construction of an investment portfolio for the long term requires full measures of science and of art. The late David Swensen, chief investment officer of the extraordinarily successful Yale Endowment, gives insight on how to achieve this in his book *Unconventional Success: A Fundamental Approach to Personal Investment*. If investing in risk assets like equities, the time horizon over which the investor wishes to invest is crucial. If wishing to protect existing capital or grow capital by investing in risk assets, the investor must be comfortable holding investments for a minimum of seven to ten years. This assumes that the investor has made provision for income from other sources. There is nothing more damaging to an investment strategy than selling securities to raise capital at the wrong time. If done regularly, this will render the strategy impotent and produce poor investment results.

Common-sense incorporation of individual characteristics into the allocation of assets is key to constructing an investment portfolio. Devoting significant time and knowledge to the science and art in designing long-term portfolios increases the likelihood that investors will maintain a steady course amid the turbulent crosscurrents endemic to security markets.

Diversification provides the only free lunch to the hungry investor, helping produce risk-adjusted returns, and a bias towards the risk asset of equities promises the possibility of greater wealth accumulation. However, you can over diversify.

Individual personal preferences play a critical subjective role in a portfolio decision, and if an investor does not wholeheartedly embrace a particular portfolio structure, failure is guaranteed. Positions held with little conviction invite casual reversal, exposing vacillating investors to the costly consequences of being

whipsawed by the market. By adopting asset allocation targets, investors vastly increase the odds of success.

Individual circumstances introduce important considerations to the structuring of a portfolio. Non-financial assets so often ignored by investment managers, such as homes, mortgages and personal loans, should be considered when making asset allocation decisions.

The heart of the investment process lies in producing a coherent set of portfolio targets that reflect the science of applying fundamental investment principles whilst incorporating the art of meeting investor needs and preferences. Thoughtfully constructed and individually chosen allocation targets provide the strongest foundation upon which to build a successful investment programme. How is your portfolio structured?

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

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## Gib police officer receives Inspirational Female award

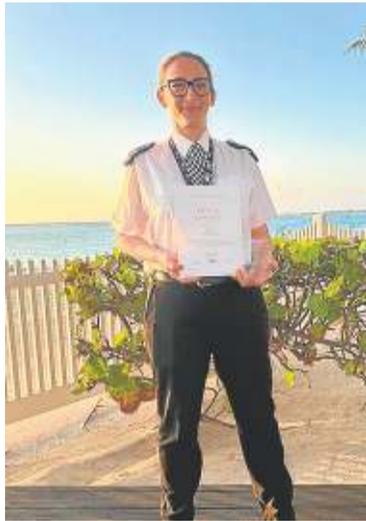
Sergeant Patricia Gonzalez feels "privileged to work side by side with amazing women"

### SUR IN ENGLISH

GIBRALTAR. Royal Gibraltar Police officer Sergeant Patricia Gonzalez received an Inspirational Female award at a British overseas territories conference in the Cayman Islands on Wednesday. Gonzalez was presented with the award ahead of her attendance at the International Association of Women in Police (IAWP) conference, which finishes this Friday.

Hosted by the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) and supported by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), around 200 women police officers from around the world attended both conferences, which were run as part of International Women's Month.

Sergeant Gonzalez, who works in the RGP's Criminal Justice Unit and File Preparation Unit, said: "I'm honoured and truly humbled to be the recipient of this award,



Sgt Patricia Gonzalez. SUR

and feel privileged to work side by side with amazing women."

The ceremony saw officers nominated and voted for by their respective forces, before an independent panel gave a final decision on the winners.

During the week, they attended talks by speakers from law enforcement backgrounds and gained exposure to additional training, including artificial intelligence, cybercrime, human trafficking and effective communication.

## Celebrating influential Gibraltarian women

The 2024 Ladies That Rock The Rock awards ceremony took place on Tuesday at a gala dinner held at the Sunborn Hotel. Organised by author and businesswoman Ayelet Mamo Shay, the event recognised the accomplishments of women who have most influenced Gibraltar's social, economic and cultural life.



SUR

## Ministry of Equality holds events to mark Women's Day

MYRTO KALTSIDOU. Gibraltar's Ministry of Equality organised several events to mark International Women's Day this week. One of these is a performance of the play La Maleta (The Suitcase), put on by the Gibraltar Academy of Music and Performing Arts

(GAMPA). This interactive show explores the identity of Gibraltarian women and pays particular tribute to the generation who lived through the evacuation in the Second World War. One performance was held on Thursday and two more will take place at 6.30pm

and 8.30pm this Friday at the GEMA gallery ([www.buytickets.gi](http://www.buytickets.gi)).

There was also a panel discussion event that took place on Monday with the theme Inspire Inclusion, in collaboration with the Gibraltar Garrison Library.

Minister for Equality Christian Santos encouraged "boys and men to be part of these celebratory events and most importantly to be part of the conversation around gender equality and women's rights".

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# Amnesty law text changed to satisfy separatist concerns

The PSOE party has reached a new deal with Catalan nationalists Junts and ERC despite saying it would not touch the original text

PAULA DE LAS HERAS / SUR

MADRID. The PSOE Socialist party announced a new deal with Catalan separatist parties Junts and ERC for its proposed amnesty law this week.

On Thursday, parliament's justice committee approved a revised text for the law and this will now probably be voted on in Congreso next week before going to the Senate upper house. Here it could be delayed up to two months by the conservative-controlled chamber.

It is reported that Junts President Carles Puigdemont is expecting to be able to return to Spain in



Minister Bolaños on Thursday. EFE

July free of charges for offences. He fled and self-exiled to Belgium in 2017 to avoid trial over the illegal Catalan independence process and related accusations.

Junts torpedoed the draft law's first trip to parliament in January, demanding the government do more to protect those involved from prosecution. The fragile support

of Junts' MPs is needed to shore up the PSOE-led government.

Despite the PSOE saying it would not touch the proposed law further, in the end, the party of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has given in to Junts' demands. Changes include adapting the definition of terrorism offences to EU norms instead of Spanish ones and omitting embezzlement of public funds if the person being investigated did not benefit personally.

Justice minister Félix Bolaños, of the PSOE, justified the deal to journalists on Thursday "This agreement is a definitive step," he said.

Cuca Gamarra of the opposition PP criticised the pact. "They want an amnesty for the most serious crimes in democracy in order to keep them in power," she said.

Jordi Turull of Junts said, "We have an amnesty, now we are going for self-determination."

# World's oldest person celebrates her 117th birthday in Catalonia



María Branyas with her birthday cake and candles this week. EFE

EFE

GERONA. Catalan woman María Branyas, the oldest person in the world following the death in January 2023 of French nun Lucile Randon at the age of 118, turned 117 on Monday this week in Olot, in Gerona province in the north of Spain.

The American-born Spanish supercentenarian has some mobility and hearing issues but her biological age is described as "much younger". Born on 4 March 1907 in San Francisco to Catalan parents, she has lived in a seniors home for more than two decades.

Branyas is the oldest person in the world by just a few days, ahead of Fusa Tatsumi in Japan, according to the Gerontology Research Group, a group founded in 1990 at the University of California Los Angeles that promotes scientific research and which is associated with the Guinness World Records.

At the residential home, where she survived Covid in 2020 at the age of 113, her family brought her a cake and fellow residents gave her a gift to celebrate, her daughter Rosa Moret explained.

Maria has a profile on social media called Super Àvia Catalana, which is managed by her family and on which she publishes her thoughts.

"Good morning World. Today I turn 117. "I have come a long way," she posted this Monday.

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

# Power corrupts



As a columnist, I'm always spoiled for choice when looking for corruption cases in Spain to write about. Usually, of course, it's politicians or business leaders who are revealed to be limitlessly greedy and unencumbered by principle: take banker and ex-minister Rodrigo Rato and his 'Tarjetas Negras', or any of the protagonists of the ERE or Gürtel cases, for example. But over the last year or so, it has started to seem as if the world of Spanish football might be almost as murky as the country's politics.

Unlike in most political fraud cases in Spain, the recent allegations against Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti (so far) concern his personal finances only: state prosecutors suspect that he hid substantial chunks of his income from tax authorities during his first stint as the team's coach between 2013 and 2015. They seek a prison term of almost five years for Ancelotti, who returned to Real Madrid in 2021.

If the allegations against Ancelotti are proven, they will raise the same question as the scandal that ended Rato's career: 'Why?'. Though not necessarily easier to condone, fraud cases of any kind are easier to understand if they concern people trying to boost an inadequate income. Match-fixing allegations in tennis, for example, usually involve players at the bottom of the rankings who struggle to earn a living from the sport. Yet as Real Madrid's coach back in 2013, Ancelotti was reportedly earn-

ing ten million euros a year; and as president of Bankia between 2010 and 2012, Rato's salary was around the two-million euro mark.

But this we already know about corruption: it is hardly ever about the poor getting rich, but almost always about the wealthy becoming wealthier. Even someone as financially secure as Spain's ex-king Juan Carlos is allegedly not averse to making a few extra million on the side, if the opportunity presents itself.

Ancelotti's suspected misdemeanors haven't so far affected the reputation of the club he coaches. But in the biggest corruption scandal to hit Spanish football recently, an entire team was under suspicion, just as the Popular Party as a whole was found guilty of fraud in the Gürtel investigations. In the so-called Negreira scandal that broke last year, Barça FC was accused of bribery by making payments to the vice president of Spain's technical committee of referees.

In this case, the question of motivation concerns glory rather than enrichment: why would a team so good want to influence refereeing decisions in its favour anyway? Ultimately, though, Negreira reveals what all the most recent corruption cases in Spain have done, whether in business, football or politics - that power fosters a sense of impunity and is often exercised by those who have it solely for its own sake. Power corrupts, but perhaps corruption also empowers.

## IN BRIEF

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Hepatitis A alert over Moroccan strawberries

SUR. Farmers in Valencia have expressed "concern" and demanded "urgent measures" after an EU alert went out on Monday this week warning of "Hepatitis A in strawberries from Morocco" detected at an entry point of Spain. The risk classification is "serious" and the contaminated produce "pose a danger to public health... due to the irrigation of farms with faecal water".

### AIR TRAVEL

#### Passengers board with facial recognition app

E. MARTÍNEZ. Passengers boarding Binter Canarias planes can now pass through security checks using facial recognition technology. The Canary Islands carrier has launched a system that allows travellers to go through the gate without showing any identification. The service is voluntary. Binter is a domestic airline flying within Spain.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Water, water

Your article last week setting out the list of projects aimed at increasing the province's water resources is testament to the fact that after years of inactivity the authorities appear to be finally taking seriously the consequences of the current drought. Unfortunately the majority of the initiatives are only at the planning stage or already under construction. With no sign of any serious rain and water supplies currently experiencing cuts or reduced pressure what is really needed are some measures which would have an immediate impact. Water has never been an expensive resource and it may now be the time to dramatically increase its cost since only when it hits consumers in the pocket are they likely to take seriously the idea of conserving the water supplies. In my most recent invoice of 67 euros from Hidralia, only 10 euros represented water consumption, the remainder being a series of fixed charges. Another possible immediate measure arose out of a recent trip to Tangier. With no plug for the bath I enquired as to why it was missing and was informed that it was a measure to save water. With thousands of hotel rooms in the province of Malaga, the savings may not be huge but could be significant. **PETER SANDERSON**

The 'water highway'  
to end the crisis

Seven hundred million euros is a lot of money...it seems that all of a sudden the whole province has woken up to the fact that we're already in the middle of a drought crisis and no one has a viable solution!  
**LEE WEBB**

Persistent rain  
forecast

The rainy period in January did not help to improve the drought situation because it didn't rain where the reservoirs are. Let's hope that this time it will, and not in places where the water just seeps away. **HARRY NGUYEN**

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## Identity crisis

**L**anyards - those things people hang around their neck with some form of identity card on them - date back to 15th century France, apparently, when soldiers and pirates would use them to keep their weapons both secure and within reach. These days a lanyard is more often used to give an air of dubious self-importance to those who might otherwise spend their days going largely unnoticed.

The twenty-seventh Malaga film festival is in full swing and the city is awash with people in horn-rimmed spectacles making a horn-rimmed spectacle of themselves. Look here, my friends, there's no need to wear a lanyard to the pub - we're not proud, we let more or less anyone in, Manchester United fans included. Actually, I'm thinking of putting a sign on the door - 'No beachwear,

no stag/hen parties, and, categorically, no lanyards', to see if that might have an effect.

The world of film-making is an odd environment where the protagonists (and often the not-so-protagonistic) bathe in the glow of real or imagined admiration for doing something which doesn't really seem to be that difficult to do compared to, say, working down a coal mine or being a single parent. As far as I'm aware, in neither of these cases are the people concerned generally given to awarding themselves prizes or walking on red carpets, though it would be perfectly understandable if they did. Where, then, does this cinematic hubris have its roots?

It must surely be a throwback to the golden age of the silver screen (if that's not a contradiction) when wide-eyed youngsters would queue for a ticket

to the cinema in order to see the exotic actors and actresses ply their trade on gigantic screens, at a time that most households still didn't have a TV. If you were twelve years old and left your two-up two-down terraced house to spend an hour-and-a-half watching John Wayne handing out just deserts like sweeties or Ava Gardner gliding across The Snows Of Kilimanjaro, then you'd be inclined to think it was all some kind of glorious miracle which, I suppose, in a way, it was.

These days, however, when most of us watch films on devices the size of a sandwich and anyone can send a message to anyone on social media, you'd think the mystique would have lapsed.

Actually, I suspect it has - it's just that most people in the film industry haven't realised yet. Hence the lanyards.

## IDÍGORAS

Malaga  
Film  
Festival  
2024

Unforgiven



**SUR** in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE  
JENNIE RHODES

## Keeping women

**S**exist microaggressions may be defined as "brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioural or environmental indignities (intentional or unintentional) that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative sexist slights and insults toward women".

All women have suffered them at one time or another. Mostly they are unintentional and the perpetrator would probably be hor-

rified if they realised they had committed such a slur. Over the years I have had male friends and colleagues suggest that if I started going to certain work-related events, or certain places on the Costa del Sol (you can guess which ones), I might meet a rich man and be able to give up working. In other words become a 'kept woman'.

In my view this is a sexist microaggression. Perhaps women make similar com-

ments to men, but I haven't heard of such cases. Please forgive me if I am wrong.

A friend of mine was recently told by a (now ex) boyfriend that she "wouldn't need to worry too much about working" and that she'd "save a lot of money" if she moved in with him as he earned enough for them both.

I was once told something similar by a boyfriend. Needless to say, I ended the relationship soon after.

Do men still think that we women only work because we have nobody to look after us? I can look after myself, thanks, as did my mother who worked as a teacher, only stopping for a short period of time after I and then my brother were born. She is still happily married to my father, but also happily financially independent.

Neither of my grandmothers worked once they were married because society then for-

bade, or at least frowned upon it. One had trained as a schoolteacher before marrying and the other had worked during World War II while the men were off fighting.

Like the vote, women before us fought for our right to be able to study and work and I have no intention of giving up that right by marrying a rich man.

Should I win the lottery or get to a stage in my life where I am in a position to retire early because I have worked hard to afford to do so, then great; who - men or women - wouldn't like to give up working and lead a stress-free life?

And of course, if a woman chooses not to work for whatever reason, then that is also her right. But please men, stop suggesting to those of us who do work that we're only doing so because we haven't found a rich man to keep us.



F U G A R O



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**A**ugust 1976. Spain was taking its first steps towards democracy during the transition period following Franco's death. Adolfo Suárez had been president of the Spanish government for just a few weeks after replacing Carlos Arias Navarro. It was after dark on 13 August when 19-year-old Javier Verdejo Lucas was shot dead by a Guardia Civil officer. He was killed for painting graffiti on a wall near El Zapillo beach in Almeria. His accomplices managed to get away.

This political activist and member of the Guardia Roja (Red Guard, the youth wing of the Partido del Trabajo de España, PTE, the Labour Party of Spain) and son of a pharmacist who was a Franco supporter and former mayor of Almeria, had been writing the slogan 'Bread, Work and Freedom' when shot. He didn't get past the fourth letter.

### Indignation

His death caused indignation among his fellow communist activists across many parts of Andalucía. In Malaga a service was organised in the parish church of Santo Domingo. Party members made a call to the people of Malaga to attend the service, travelling to different parts of the city to distribute leaflets. In the Capuchinos district the person in charge of leaflet distribution was a young woman from a left-wing family, María del Carmen Sánchez Aranda. She herself was only 19, still regarded as a minor under the laws at that time. She was also a member of the Guardia Roja, having enrolled during her time as a senior pupil at the Santa Rosa de Lima secondary school. Today, of course, she is known as one of the Socialist (PSOE) opposition councillors at Malaga city hall.

### Arrest

It was while she was delivering those leaflets that she was arrested. "Although we were being careful, at one point a man put his hand on my arm and said: 'I'm a police officer, you're under arrest.' He was dressed in civilian clothes because he was from the secret police [undercover police monitoring political subversion]. He called for reinforcements, a police van showed up and they put me into it. My only moment of fear was when I stepped into the van because I was reminded of other colleagues who had been mistreated by the police but, in all honesty, they treated me fairly at all times," says Sánchez Aranda in conversation with our newspaper.

The final destination of that police van was the provincial police station for the then Policía Armada force, located in the Aduana



Sánchez Aranda, outside the old provincial prison in Cruz de Humilladero. SALVADOR SALAS

## A city councillor jailed for her political beliefs

**Flashback.** At the beginning of Spain's transition to democracy María del Carmen Sánchez Aranda, currently a Malaga councillor, spent a month in prison accused of disturbing public order

ANTONIO M. ROMERO



customs building that is now the Malaga museum.

More recollections: "When I arrived at the police station they put me straight into a cell. My mother's cousin was a police officer and was on duty. When he spotted me, he spoke to me and asked me if my parents knew anything of this and I told him no, and so he took me out of the cell to another room, where I sat and waited for someone to take me before the commissioner to take my statement.

"Once before the commissioner I acknowledged the facts as they stood as I had been carrying a bag full of leaflets and I could not refute the evidence. He treated me properly at all times, except for his parting comment that, given that I looked younger than I was, had I been his daughter, he would have given me a beating and slammed me against the wall," she says.

After questioning, and once her

relative in the police had notified her parents, "who were very upset, especially my mother", as she recalls, María del Carmen Sánchez Aranda was transferred to the courthouse at Muelle de Heredia, where her hearing barely lasted "a quarter of an hour".

### Prison pending trial

The judge decreed that she be detained, pending trial, at the provincial prison located at that time in Cruz de Humilladero. The charges were for crimes of public order nuisance and distribution of subversive propaganda.

"There, I met another girl I knew, Encarni, who was a member of Bandera Roja [Red Flag - the Communist Organisation of Spain, a Maoist party] and had been detained by the Guardia Civil. She had been beaten and threatened."

Sánchez Aranda spent around one month in the women's section of this Malaga prison. "I was for-

tunate that prison staff were polite and fair and the other inmates also treated me well because they had great respect for political prisoners. In the three days that I was in isolation (part of prison procedure), I had a lot of time for reflection and I realised that I had taken a very important step in my commitment to politics. Although it pained me to see my family upset by these events, I was acutely aware that democracy was just around the corner and so I gathered the courage to spend that time in prison in the best possible way, no dramas," she says. Still, she does add that the worst thing about it was the prison food, which

**"A one point a man put his hand on my arm and said: 'I'm a police officer, you're under arrest,' the councillor recalls**

was "disgusting".

It was her mother, living nearby in the district of Carranque, who brought her lunch and dinner every day as well as toiletries and bedding. All goods were handed over to the prison officers to give to her daughter, whom she got to see on a couple of occasions.

Meanwhile, the family had also hired the services of a lawyer to organise her defence. That same lawyer filed an appeal against her continued detention, requesting her release on licence while the trial was ongoing on the grounds that an amnesty law was being negotiated at national level that would likely favour prisoners.

The court heeded the defence counsel's request and, less than a month after her arrest, María del Carmen Sánchez Aranda left the prison to await a trial that was never held. The amnesty law came into force in October 1977, which pardoned her for the alleged crimes for which she had gone to prison.

### Political commitment

Once she had regained her freedom, Sánchez Aranda continued her commitment to the youth organisation, the Joven Guardia Roja (where she met her husband, Antonio Utrera), and the main PTE party. She would still encounter some highly risky moments such as when leaflets calling for freedom flew off the motorcycle she was riding, landing in front of the Guardia Civil barracks in Capuchinos. A patrol gave chase, but she managed to elude them.

As the years went by she joined the regional Labour Party, led by Isidoro Moreno, and she became involved in several political movements such as the one for Peace, Disarmament and Freedom and the founding of Los Verdes (a green movement).

In 1992, encouraged by the former Socialist councillor Amparo Bilbao, whom she knew from the PTE, she joined PSOE, the party for which she stood as councillor from 1999 to 2011 and again from 2019 to the present day.

"I have no regrets. I came from a left-wing family that had been through very tough circumstances. In those final years of the dictatorship and then the transition to a democratic government, I fought for what I believed in, which was democracy. I was aware that I was involved in a political set-up that carried risks with it, that I could be arrested, or even something worse like what happened to my colleague in Almeria, but I believed that it was what I had to do and I did it," she concludes.



▲ Sánchez Aranda during her time as an activist for the Labour Party of Spain (PTE). PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COUNCILLOR



## IN THE FRAME

# 'Women must be able to make the big choices about health-care and abortion'

**Feminism.** Vréneli Stadelmaier has 17 years' experience of coaching professional women to break through barriers and the infamous glass ceiling

JENNIE RHODES



Rudolf and Vréneli with Mette Frederiksen and BoTengberg. **SUR**

**W**hen the Danish prime minister Mette Frederiksen and her husband, film director Bo Tengberg, spent a holiday in Cómpeeta in the Axarquía last month, it turns out that feminism was among the reasons for their choice of accommodation.

They stayed at Málaga Hills boutique and wellness B&B, which is run by Vréneli Stadelmaier and her husband Rudolf, and the PM was attracted not only to its eco-ethos and the promise of peace and tranquility, but also to the fact that it is described as a 'feminist' hotel.

The Dutch couple bought the place in 2018, signalling a change in career for Vréneli after 17 years of empowering women and helping them break the infamous glass ceiling.

Vréneli, 61, co-founded She-Consult in 2007 in her native Amsterdam and the company has coached thousands of professional women over the years.

The idea to start her own consultancy came to her because she was "so frustrated" that women still had trouble "getting a place at the table" and this came from her own personal ex-

perience of being director of a major health company.

Vréneli says she felt excluded from decisions being made by her fellow directors - all of whom were men. "There were things that were happening that I didn't understand." She admits that she started to doubt herself but realised "it was the system", not her.

### TEDx talk

This was the inspiration behind a TEDx talk that Vréneli gave in Delft in March 2018 on so-called 'impostor syndrome', which according to the Cambridge dictionary, is "the feeling that your achievements are not real or that you do not deserve praise or success".

During the talk Vréneli speaks candidly about being a young mum of three children and how she saw for herself the experience that so many women go through of ending up at home with the children, while the husband "works more".

Vréneli thinks things have moved on since she set up her consultancy, although there's still a long way to go in her view.



Vréneli Stadelmaier

"There are more women working and more opportunities, but still it doesn't go fast enough." She adds that there is still a lot of sexism, unconsciousness bias and microaggressions in the workplace.

She says that it still seems to be the case that when a couple has a baby, it is still the mother who takes a step back from her career and considers it "very important that women are financially independent because that gives them a choice". She

goes on to say that women "must be able to make the big choices that countries make, like abortion and women's healthcare".

### Award

She has also written two books, *Sure She Can* (in Dutch and English) and *A Smart Girl Is Prepared for Her Future* (in Dutch). Vréneli won the Joke Smit award in 2015, a biannual award organised by the Dutch government recognising those who help to "advance the position of women in society". The prize is named after the Dutch feminist Joke Smit (1933-1981), who played a prominent role in women's emancipation in the Netherlands.

Vréneli has now sold half of the company but will continue in the role of adviser and ambassador, meaning she has more time to focus on the hotel.

With regard to Frederiksen's stay, Vréneli highlights, "We

really had a good time, we had breakfast together, we did a lot of talking with her and her husband. There were a lot of discussions about her being a female leader."

The hotel certainly provides plenty of inspiration for conversations about women's issues. The rooms are named after prominent women: Beyoncé, Malala, Oprah (Winfrey), Leymah (Gbowee, Liberian peace activist) and Irene (Montero, the former Spanish equality minister who introduced the 'only yes is yes' sexual consent law and paid period leave.

The bar is named after French philosopher and writer Simone de Beauvoir and there is a large library with an extensive collection of books on feminism and by female authors.

Vréneli says that there could be another book at some point, but for now she can share her feminist (and environmental) philosophies "here in the hotel".

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# 'You have to accept the way you are'

**No holds barred. A degenerative disease left her blind in her teens, but Lía Beel Quintana has always followed her own star: this former Paralympian and now a recent arrival to Malaga - an "accessible, but not easy" city - wants to enjoy other sports and teach Braille to adults**



CRISTINA VALLEJO



**T**aking control of your life means accepting you have a problem - a disability - and then living a normal life, being independent and happy." This definitive statement should be patented by Lía Beel Quintana, a Paralympian who has recently retired from professional sports and who is a Malaga resident since last summer. Her retinitis pigmentosa, the degenerative disease she was diagnosed with at the age of three and which has now left her blind, does not stop her.

"There have been hard times. I had to come to terms with it as a teenager, which was not the easiest time, but from that moment on I assumed that my life was going to be like this and I decided that I was going to do what I wanted, that I was not going to stay chained down by this. From then on, no barrier has stopped me doing anything," she says. Apart from that tough time in her teens, she has suffered a further, severe loss of vision in the last three or four years, but she has not had to go through a new cycle of acceptance - the job has already been done.

She shows an enviable level of maturity for a 28-year-old: "I lead a normal life, I don't think of myself as being blind, I take my guide

dog and walk out of the house," she says. Still, sometimes she encounters problems, like a few days ago when it was pouring down in Malaga and the traffic lights were out, leaving her stranded for what seemed an eternity until some girls helped her across the street. "That makes you feel awful, but it's to be expected," she says. "In everyday life your problem isn't one of not seeing, rather whether you can adapt."

We met up when she was practising FitBoxing in a gym in the El Perchel area of Malaga. She has left track athletics, the sport she started as a hobby and later took up professionally. She retired after coming ninth in the last World Championships held in July in Paris because, looking at her previous personal bests, she felt that she was now tired, that training no longer made her happy and she did not want to feel obliged to continue.

"I'm not afraid of change," she

states. But sport continues to be her thing and she wants to continue overcoming challenges, be that with this new discipline of FitBoxing or Brazilian jiu-jitsu, a martial art where she is making seriously good progress.

She has been at the top of her game for most of her professional running career. Born in Australia, she then grew up in Burgos, moving to Madrid for her studies. As a pro athlete she has participated in nearly all the top-level competitions except for the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics due to injury. In her second year as a professional she took part in her first ever World and European Under-23 championships, where she won bronze and gold medals respectively.

## Constitutional change

SUR met up with Lía in the same week that MPs were assembled in parliament to approve a change in the text of the Spanish Constitution, replacing the term 'dismi-

nyday vocabulary. To talk to a person with a disability you don't have to change words. You just have to be more natural about it. Most of us have totally accepted our disability, we know what's going on and we won't mind if someone asks us anything," she explains. In fact, because of her curiosity and her profession - she studied Sports Physiotherapy - she tends to ask a lot of questions: "What happened to you, what have you done to yourself? In the end, behind every person there are always life stories that bring something to yours".

## Earning a living from sport

Lía's working life is also proof that it is very difficult to make a living from any sporting activity. She has always earned her living through her job, not through sport. Paradoxically, even as a professional athlete, many is the time she has had to limit her sport to hobby status, even though she won medals. Thus, depending on the circumstances, she has had either to reduce working hours to be able to train more, or vice versa, but always taking away time from her personal life. For this reason, she demands more private sponsorship and more public support for athletes. Those in the top four at competition level can probably live well, but the next four cannot, and yet they are also in the rankings, she argues.

As a newcomer to Malaga, she carried out her own survey of the city's level of accessibility for people with disabilities. Her summary: "accessible, but not easy".

"The metro and traffic lights crossings are easy to use, in general it is a very accessible city, but it is not an easy city to navigate in that it has many crossroads, wide streets, tiny streets, huge roundabouts. When you first arrive you have to learn the routes, and I don't think it's an easy city". Is that in comparison with Burgos and Madrid? "In Madrid you can go by metro, and it's very straightforward". As for Toledo, especially the old town, she considers that city as very complicated for a blind person.

Lía doesn't stop: she gets up at six in the morning and goes to bed after midnight. She has moved to yet another city, she's teaching Braille, she throws punches when FitBoxing, she wants to get ahead in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, she is also learning to play the guitar, she really likes reading and she's a film buff. Her only break is at mealtimes, the time that she shares with her husband, who was her sighted running guide. She has a very clear vision of what disability is, how to handle it, and a good feel for how urban planning can be made simpler for society as a whole.

## FitBoxing.

Lía Beel Quintana, after leaving professional track athletics, has taken up FitBoxing that requires lots of effort to judge distance.

ÑITO SALAS

## Training.

Lía with her gym trainer, Selu, at Brooklyn FitBoxing, and her guide dog, Spencer. ÑITO SALAS

nuido' (handicapped) in the document with the phrase 'persona con discapacidad' (person with a disability). Lía appreciates that this is a step forward but demands that words, while important, should turn into real action, to policies that support people with disabilities.

She highlights how attitudes and behaviour in wider society must also change so that our interactions with others, including those with a disability, become second nature. She feels that sometimes we don't know how to treat people with diverse abilities.

"There are many people with a disability and everyone knows what disability means - it is pretty obvious. Therefore, if anyone comes across a blind person who is a bit lost, all you have to do is ask: 'Excuse me, can I help you?'

"The same thing happens with this example: naturally I still use the verbs 'see' or 'read', it's our eve-

**As a pro athlete, Lía participated in nearly all the top-level competitions apart from the Tokyo Paralympics**

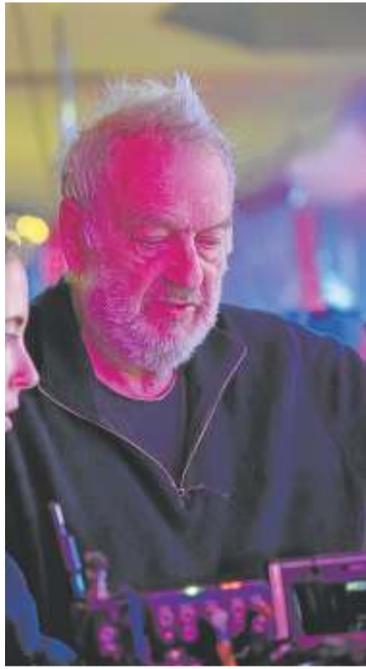
# Leading figures of film, literature, architecture and journalism head to Seville for Hay Festival Forum

The festival will include exhibitions, screenings, shows, and lectures by renowned celebrities, including British film director Stephen Frears

## TONY BRYANT

SEVILLE. The Hay Festival Forum returns to Seville between Thursday 14 and Saturday 16 March, with an international gathering of experts and leaders in the field of ideas, architecture, literature, film and culture. The event, now in its second year in the Andalusian city, will be staged in two locations: the Cajasol Foundation headquarters, the venue for literature, film and flamenco events, and the Valentín de Madariaga y Oya Foundation in the former United States pavilion of the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition, which will house sessions on architecture, urban planning and art.

Organised by the Hay Festival Foundation Ltd ([www.hayfestival.com](http://www.hayfestival.com)), the forum has been organised in the lead-up to the centenary celebration of the 1929



Film director Stephen Frears. HBO



Economist Ha-Joon Chang. SUR



Architect Yvonne Farrell. SUR

world fair, a landmark in the contemporary history of Seville, and one which shaped the city's modern image on the world stage.

Its work in Spain has included events in Castilla y León (Segovia) for over 19 successive years, along with celebrating two suc-

**The three-day festival in Seville will offer 15 events and more than 30 visiting guests from the UK, Ireland and South Korea**

cessful festivals in Andalucía. The charity was awarded the 2020 Princess of Asturias Award for Communication and Humanities.

### Guest appearances

The three-day festival in Seville will offer 15 events, and more

than 30 visiting guests, which will include celebrated Spanish author Luis Mateo Díez, world-renowned British filmmaker Stephen Frears, Irish architect and academic Yvonne Farrell and South Korean economist Ha-Joon Chang, together with other leading names in literature, art and journalism.

Cinema plays a leading role in the forum, and, along with the chance to listen to Frears talking about his long career in the film industry, visitors will have the chance to see three of his most celebrated films - My Beautiful Laundrette, Dangerous Liaisons and The Queen.

Other highlights will include a talk by prestigious British journalist Helena de Bertodano, noted for her interviews with major international personalities, from the Dalai Lama to Al Pacino and Prince Albert of Monaco, among others.

Festival director Sheila Cremaschi said, "Since the 1929 fair, Seville has exemplified the role of culture in transforming a city, and we are excited to continue this journey."



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

# Astydamia latifolia

Plant of the month for March at La Concepción botanical gardens in Malaga is this amazing perennial, *Astydamia latifolia*. Native to the Canary Islands and the coast of North Africa, *Astydamia latifolia*, commonly called Canary sea fennel, Canary samphire and sea lettuce, is a herba-

ceous perennial and member of the Apiaceae (carrot/celery) family. It is the only species in the genus *Astydamia*.

Its fleshy, pinnate, light-green leaves have wide lobes with a waxy surface which makes them resilient

to salt spray. Its flowers are yellow and form in umbels up to 12cm across and attract bees and other pollinating insects. Once mature *Astydamia* can reach up to 40cm high.

In the wild, it is found growing in sand or on rocks in coastal areas and will grow in very poor soils provided it has good drainage.

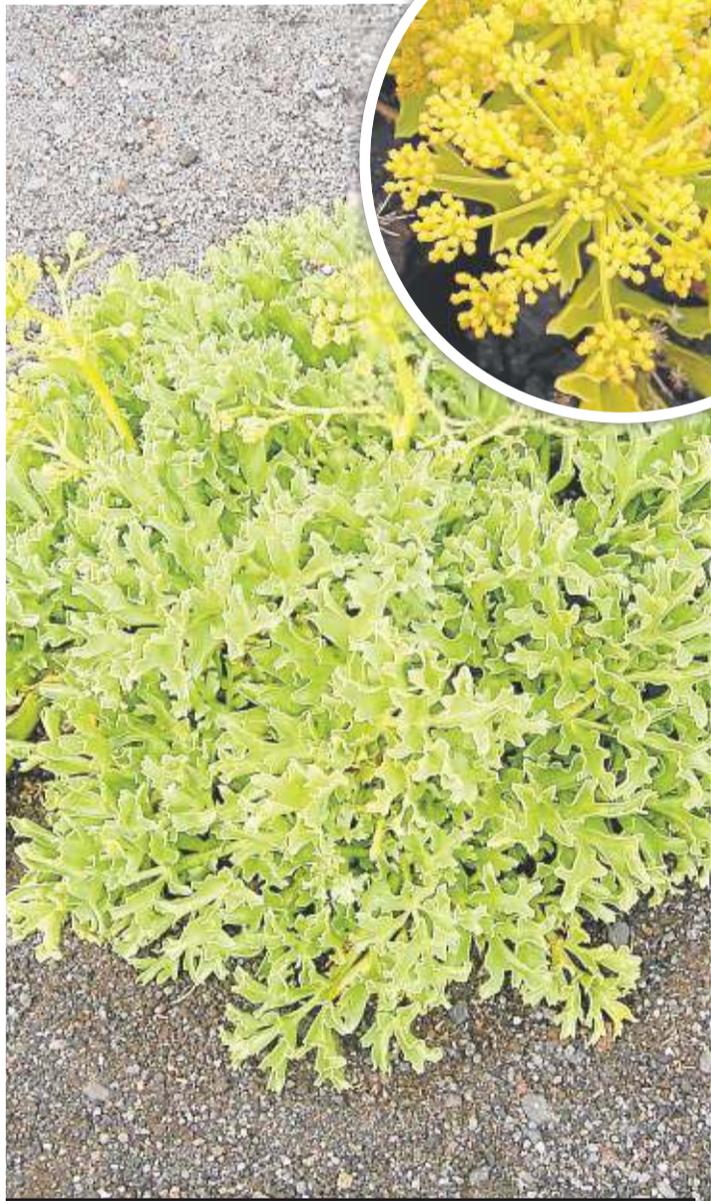
Once established, Canary samphire is drought resistant but will benefit from occasional watering during the summer. In the winter months watering should be reduced considerably and the soil should be kept dry.

The leaves are high in potassium and can be eaten raw in salads. Traditionally they were used in times of food shortage. The whole plant was also used medicinally to make infusions to treat digestive problems, regulate menstruation, help sleep and as a diuretic.

Tests have shown that chemicals in the plant have similar attributes to the drug Furosemide which is used to remove extra fluid from the body and reduce high blood pressure.

*Astydamia latifolia* can develop large tubers, up to 7cm in diameter once fully grown, and these help it to overcome extended periods of drought.

The genus is named after *Astydamia*, the nymph daughter of the Greek god Oceanus. The specific epithet, *latifolia*, comes from Latin 'latus' which means 'wide leaves'.



*Astydamia latifolia* and close-up of a flower umbel (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



RICHARD ASFOUR AND DOUG COLEMAN

## Billbergia nutans

This photo of *Billbergia nutans*' delicate flowers was sent in by Richard Asfour and Doug Coleman. The common name for this unusual bromeliad is queen's tears.

## Devil's backbone



CAROLINE SELLERS

*Kalanchoe daigremontiana*, (synonym *Bryophyllum daigremontiana*) commonly called mother of thousands or Devil's backbone, is native to Madagascar. It is a succulent with a very clever method of reproduction, it creates 'thousands' of tiny baby plants along the edges of its leaves which drop onto the soil below and take root. This photo was sent in by Caroline Sellers.

PHOTOS

### Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies, and some like to take photos of plants they see when they are out and about. Why not share them with others?

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

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## THE STORY BEHIND A PLACE NAME

# Alfarnate

## A flour mill until Sakura took over

The village is known as the Alps of the Axarquía as it sits at 900 metres above sea level in the Alhama, Tejada and Almirajara mountain range

Tejada and Almirajara mountains to the north of the Axarquía. It is the highest village in the area and is known as 'the Alps of the Axarquía'. Thanks to the cooler climes, Alfarnate is well-known for its excellent cherries.

In spring the village celebrates its annual 'Sakura' festival which means cherry blossom in Japanese - a nod to the country famed for its stunning trees.

However, the name of the village has nothing to do with its cherries and instead comes from the Arabic word Al-farnat, meaning 'flour mill'.

The first written reference to 'Los Alfarnates' (Alfarnate and neighbouring Alfarnatejo) dates back to the tenth cen-



Alfarnate sits at 900 metres above sea level. SALVADOR SALAS

tury, when the area is described as a "farmstead with a large flour production", hence its name.

The area didn't really grow into a village as such until after the Reconquista in 1487 and people started to settle there from around 1489. At that point the two villages were in fact just one and until the eighteenth century when they split into two.

The old Venta de Alfarnate (today a restaurant-museum) was frequented by personalities such as King Alfonso XIII, Miguel de Cervantes and the infamous nineteenth century bandits, José María el Tempranillo and Luis Candelas.

As well as cherries, the village is home to olive groves, almond trees, wheat and chickpeas which are said to be of the highest quality, so much

so that even the Spanish author Juan Valera spoke of them in his book Juanita la Larga, although in the book he claims to have found ones even better than those of Alfarnate: "The land was very generous and produced the most buttery, fat and tender chickpeas that were eaten in the whole province, and in comparison the famous chickpeas of Alfarnate were like bullets."



JENNIE RHODES

**A**lfarnate is situated 900 metres above sea level in the Sierra Alhama,

### LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Sierra	Mountain range
Nivel del mar	Sea level
Cereza	Cherry
Cerezo	Cherry tree
Flor de cerezo	Cherry blossom
Primavera	Spring
Molino	Mill
Harina	Flour
Referencia	Reference
Escrito	Written
Alquería	Farmstead
Dieciocho	Eighteen
Personalidad	Character
Bandolero	Bandit
Almendra	Almond
Garbanzos	Chickpeas
Trigo	Wheat

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**EXHIBITIONS****Isthmus Exhibition**

**GIBRALTAR.** *Until 9 March. The Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery*  
Isthmus: Art From Across The Straits is an exhibition of Moroccan art in collaboration with Gallery Kent Tanger and the JM Memorial Foundation. The artists showing their work are Abdelkrim Ouazzani, Ilias Selfati and Mohamed Benyaich.

**On The Rugs, Roman Řehák**

**MARBELLA.** *Until 31 March. SIN Studio Gallery, Avda. Ricardo Soriano, 59.*  
On The Rugs is an exhibition of photos of famous personalities created by Czech artist Roman Řehák on his mobile phone. The protagonists of his work have been Czech personalities like Karel Gott, Marta Kubišová, Jan Saudek and Václav Havel, Hollywood actors like Pierce Brosnan and Antonio Banderas, and the vocalist of Deep Purple Ian Gillan, among others. Email: marbella@sinstudiogallery.com.

**Museo Ralli**

**MARBELLA.** *Urb Coral Beach, Río Verde.*

The Ralli Museum of Marbella collection contains works of contemporary art of mostly Latin American and European origin. Permanent exhibitions: Surrealisms. From Giorgio de Chirico to Francis Bacon; Contemporary art in Oaxaca. Vanguard, Myth and Tradition; Figurative art in Contemporary Latin America. Temporary exhibition: American Abstraction. Carlos Mérida. Free entry. [www.museoralli.es](http://www.museoralli.es)

**Mirador del Carmen**

**ESTEPONA.** *Until 10 March.*

The Mapfre foundation has organised an exhibition of 18 prints of Goya's works entitled Goya. Disasters of the War, demonstrating the effects of war on the civil population. Entry is free for residents on the padrón in Estepona.

**Ocean Collection**

**BENALMÁDENA.** *Until 31 March. Centro de Exposiciones de Benalmádena, Avd. Antonio Machado.*  
The Centro de Exposiciones in Benalmádena is holding an exhibition - curated by founder and designer of Fashion Art, Manuel Fernández - which features works by 25 artists using their art to denounce the effects of climate change on the world's oceans. Free entry.



Charlotte, Casa Museo Mijas.

**Tres Miradas, Tres Historias**

**BENALMÁDENA.** *Until 15 March. Castillo El Bil Bil.*

An exhibition entitled Three looks, three stories... (Tres miradas, tres historias...), which features the work of three Russian artists who have lived in Spain for over a decade. The collection includes works created using various techniques, such as acrylic, watercolour and oil painting. The exhibition's central theme is Andalucía.

**Charlotte Gordon**

**MIJAS.** *Until 12 March. Casa Museo de Mijas, Plaza de la Libertad.*

An exhibition in tribute to Charlotte Gordon (1930-2023), a multidisciplinary artist born in Philadelphia, USA and resident of Mijas Pueblo for over 50 years. The organisers say that of all the places where she exhibited her art, Casa Museo was the closest to her heart, which is why they have chosen it as the location for this tribute to her life and work. The exhibition is described as "mini-retrospective" and will contain showings of her art from all the disciplines in which she worked: graphic design, photography, engraving and sculptures.

**Lotta Leon**

**MIJAS COSTA.** *Until 18 March. Centro Cultural la Cala.*

German-born artist Lotta Leon will exhibit her latest collection of abstract and semi-abstract works that present her impressions of Andalucía - Fantasías Andaluzas.

**Nuevo Enfoque**

**MIJAS COSTA.** *Until 31 March. Urb El Coto, Los Olivos.*

A selection of photographs by the Nuevo Enfoque club.

**Museo Picasso Málaga - MPM**

**MALAGA.** *Calle San Agustín.*

**The Echo of Picasso.** *Until 31 March.*  
Works by over fifty artists, including Willem de Kooning, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Louise Bourgeois and Jeff Koons, that create a direct dialogue with the works of Picasso. [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org).

**Todo Por Tu Amor 1923-2023**

**MALAGA.** *Until 31 March. Salas Minogorance del Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal.*

The historical-artistic exhibition commemorates the centenary of the dedication of the Virgen del Amor, co-titular of the El Rico brotherhood. The exhibition, titled Todo Por Tu Amor (Everything For Your Love) showcases the heritage of the El Rico brotherhood through a diverse collection of historical documents and valuable pieces such as embroideries, gold, jewellery, sculptures, paintings, sketches, and photographs.

**Museo Ruso**

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

**Images Cities.** *Until 5 May.* A photograph exhibition by Russian photographer Anastasia Samoylova which includes not just photos of her birthplace (Moscow) but also of many other cities around the world.

**Jorge Fin.** *Until 16 June.* A large mural at the end of the escalator painted by Madrid artist Jorge Fin especially for MaF (Málaga de Festival). It represents a scene from the film 'Ivan's Childhood' by Russian director Andréi Tarkovsky.

**Pensando en Bucle.** *Until 16 June.* An audio-visual exhibition by Boris Gruys which includes clips from films, musicals and documentaries forming a collage of moving images and sounds.

**Centre Pompidou Malaga**

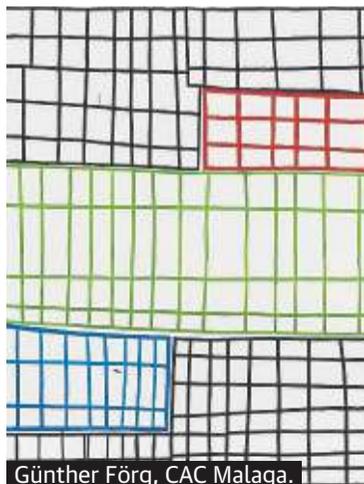
**MALAGA.** *The Cube, Muelle Uno.*

<https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>  
**Fósiles Futuros.** *Until 9 April.* The new installation at the Pompidou explores virtual environments. The video is the result of a collaboration between artists Ida Kvetny and Diane Velasco.

**CAC Málaga.**

**MALAGA.** *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. C/ Alemania.*

**Günther Förg.** *From 15 March until 26 May.* The Legacy of Modernism is the title of this exhibition that concentrates on the works by the late German minimalist artist, Günther Förg.



Günther Förg, CAC Málaga.

**Theresa Chromati.** *From 15 March until 2 June.* The works of this American artist explore the traditional boundaries of painting through fragmented forms and abstract figuration through various layers of femininity using bright colours and vibrant textures.

**Noé Martínez.** *Until 28 April.* The audiovisual work Hasta Cuarenta Cuerpos Fueron Trocados Por un Animal de Carga by Mexican artist Noé Martínez, focuses on a deep investigation of the legacies of his indigenous ancestors. He provides a moving symbolic representation of the exchange of people for animals in the 16th-century slave markets.

**CAC La Coracha**

**MALAGA.** *CAC Málaga - La Coracha.*

**Viola.** *Until 7 April.*  
Seville artist Fran Ramirez (Viola), presents a collection of his anime characters in this neo-pop exhibition entitled One Summer's Day.

**Little: Keep It Cute.** *Until 7 April.*  
Cordoba artist Pablo J. Rodríguez (Little) is exhibiting a collection of works reflecting the balance between adult and infancy, between maturity and the ingenuous.

**Student photography exhibition**

**MALAGA.** *Until 11 March, Calle de León Tolstói, Puerto de la Torre.*

The Galería Central in the Faculty of Communication Sciences (UMA) is holding a photography exhibition, created by Alba Cantero, Belén López, Judith Castañeda, Jerónimo Leal and Vicente Muñoz, journalism students from the University of Malaga. The exhibition is about the history of Palestine.

**Víctor Lafuente**

**MALAGA.** *Until 10 March. Calle Larios.*

An open-air exhibition of 80 'snaps' taken backstage at the Malaga Film Festival last year. The photographs were taken by Madrid photographer Víctor Lafuente.

**Revello de Toro y Sus Maestros**

**MALAGA.** *Until 28 April. C/Afligidos.*

A total of eleven works make up this temporary exhibition which demonstrates the artists who influenced the Malaga painter. They include Manuel Benedito, Federico Bermúdez Gil, Fernando Labrada, Enrique Martínez-Cubells, José Nogales Sevilla and Julio Moisés. [www.museorevellodetoro.malaga.eu](http://www.museorevellodetoro.malaga.eu)

**Magnum. Contact Sheets**

**MALAGA.** *Until 27 March. La Malagueta bullring.*

Renowned photography agency Magnum Photos has made a collection of its most iconic photographs from the last 70 years. Free to attend and open Tuesday to Sunday.

**La Térmica**

**MALAGA.** *La Térmica. Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 8.30pm*

**Presente Continuo.** *Until 17 March.*

La Térmica is offering a new exhibition, Presente Continuo to celebrate a decade of its Creadorxs programme. It is a collection of work by various artists who have stayed at La

Térmica. The exhibition addresses a variety of themes from the climate crisis to popular culture.

**Aaron Johnson.** *Until 1 June.* We Are Made of Stardust is an exhibition of 16 paintings by American artist Aaron Johnson, with the collaboration of the Almire Rech Gallery

**Museo del Patrimonio Municipal**

**MALAGA.** *Paseo de Reding.*

**Colección Castillo Torreblanco.** *Until 25 August.* The exhibition of 19th century and early twentieth century works includes paintings by artists Moreno Carbonero, Emilio Ocón, Antonio Reyna Manescau, Guillermo Gómez Gil, Ricardo Verdugo Landi and Julio Romero de Torres among others.

**Tomar Posición, Tomar Posesión.**

*Until 26 May.* Drawings, paintings and sculptures created over the decades by Malaga residents.



The Black Dress, MAM.

[Info.mupam@malaga.eu](mailto:Info.mupam@malaga.eu)

**Vino. Arte y Símbolo**

**MALAGA.** *Until 21 April. Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja, Plaza del Obispo.*

The Museo Vivanco de la Cultura del Vino de Briones (La Rioja) has loaned a selection of its collection for this exhibition which highlights significance and relevance of wine depicted in art since Mesopotamia up to present day. The 80 works on display include art by Picasso, Warhol, Chagall and Sorolla among others.

**Museo Carmen Thyssen**

**MALAGA.** *Plaza Carmen Thyssen, Calle Compañía.*

**Man Ray.** *Until 21 April.* Man Ray, Fotografías Selectas' features over sixty pieces signed by Man Ray - the pseudonym of Emmanuel Radnitzky (Philadelphia, 1890 - Paris, 1976) - on loan from a private French collection. The exhibition has three themes, nudes, portraits and personal rayographs (rayographs are created without a camera by placing objects on photosensitive paper and exposing them to light for a few seconds).

**Modernidad Latente.** *From 16 March until 8 September.* Over 70 pictures, the majority from the Colección Telefónica, cover a period in Spanish art marked by a historic change: from before the Spanish Civil War and over Franco's era. [www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org](http://www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org)

**The Black Dress**

**MALAGA.** *Until summer. Museo del Automóvil y la Moda de Málaga.*

The new spring exhibition at the Automobile and Fashion Museum is



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Marino Amaya, Ronda.

called The Black Dress. A trend made famous by Coco Chanel, the 'little black dress' broke with convention as wearing black was, at the time, vetoed for social occasions. The collection includes designs by Givenchy, Dior, Balmain, Nina Ricci, Versace and Dolce & Gabbana.

#### Ateneo

**MALAGA.** *Ateneo, C/Compañía, 2 Alejandro Montiel.* Until 29 March. Going Back Forward is the title of this exhibition by Alejandro Montiel. The artist has used classic paintings and added surreal elements. An example is the portrait of Felipe IV painted by Velázquez which Montiel has seated riding an inflatable T-Rex dinosaur.

#### Casa Gerald Brenan

**MALAGA.** Until 26 April. *C/Torre molinos, Churriana.* The winter exhibition is by sculptor Elena Laverón and includes small, medium and large sculptures as well as some of her drawings.

#### Model exhibition

**ANTEQUERA.** Until 29 March. *Sala Manuel Cascales, Museo de Ciudad de Antequera.* The Art of War is an exhibition of models of war machinery created by Antonio Lara Villalodres. The scale models are of weapons used by the Ancient Greeks, Romans and in the Middle Ages.

#### Photography Exhibition

**ANTEQUERA.** Until 31 May. *Fundación Unicaja.*

Fundación Unicaja is holding a photography exhibition *Entre Luces y Sombras* (Between Lights and Shadows), which showcases the work of Alicante photographer, writer, teacher and industrial technical engineer Juan Ferrete. The exhibition includes over a hundred snapshots of plants from Doñana National Park as well as from other natural flora in Spain.

#### Unicaja Art Competition

**RONDA.** Until 30 March. *Museo Unicaja Joaquín Peinado.* The entries to the competition are on display and consist of 39 works by 38 artists.

#### Marino Amaya

**RONDA.** Until 30 April. *Fundación Unicaja, C/Sor Ángela de la Cruz.* The *Pastor Que Quiso Ser Un Sculptor* (the priest who wanted to be a sculptor) is the title of this exhibition of works by Marino Amaya.

#### CAC Vélez-Málaga

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** *C/ Félix Lomas, 27.* **Lúmina.** Until 30 March. A light installation by Pablo Berenguer in the gardens of the CAC. **Los Colores de Atardecer Preparan Los del Alba.** Until 31 March. An exhibition by Quique Sarzamora.

#### Women in Art

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 17 March. *Sala de Exposiciones Rowland Fade.* An exhibition of works by female artists for International Women's Day.

#### MUSIC AND DANCE

#### La Cochera Cabaret

**MALAGA.** *Avda de los Guindos.* **8 March, 10pm.** VVV Trippin You. **9 March, 10pm.** Chippi La Canalla. **16 March, 10pm.** Mercedes Cañas. Tickets: [www.lacocheraentradas.com/](http://www.lacocheraentradas.com/)

#### Clarence Jazz Club

**TORREMOLINOS.** *C/Danza Invisible.* **8 March, 10pm.** Bratia. Gypsy, jazz.

## Brazen American cowpunk band roll into Estepona



The Supersuckers will play at Louie Louie in Estepona. SUR

#### TONY BRYANT

**ESTEPONA.** The Supersuckers, one of America's most brazen rock and roll bands, will stop off at the Louie Louie live music venue in Estepona tonight (Friday) to perform one of just two dates the band will perform in Spain during their current tour of Europe and North America.

Formed in 1988, the band's music ranges from alternative rock to metal, country and cowpunk, and they have gained a reputation for their outsized personalities and for pledging allegiance to sex, cannabis and Satan.

Originating from Arizona, the trio began performing punk rock stylised by thrashy

guitar riffs and controversial lyrics, cutting their teeth in the clubs and venues of Seattle, where they headed in 1989. The band have since released more than a dozen albums, including *The Evil Powers of Rock and Roll* and *Motherfuckers be Trippin*, as well as touring all over America and Europe.

Their current tour will include Barcelona (10 March), before heading off to Austria, Slovakia, Germany, Canada and America.

Their gig in Estepona is sure to attract a large crowd, as the band are no strangers to Spain, so ticket reservations are advised. Tickets for the concert, which will start around 11pm, cost 18 euros in advance ([www.woutick.es](http://www.woutick.es)), or 24 euros at the door.

**9 March, 10pm.** Tono del Barco Trio  
**13 March, 10pm.** Blues jam session.  
**14 March, 10pm.** Jazz jam session.  
**15 March, 10pm.** El Oso y sus Sabandijas. Chicago blues.

**16 March, 10pm.** Pascalle & Co.

#### Sala Paris 15

**MALAGA.** *C/ de la Orotava.* **9 March, 9.30pm.** Festival de Málaga:

La Bien Querido.

**9 March, 23.59pm.** Abstract.

**16 March, 9pm.** Hens.

<https://paris15.es/>

#### Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

**NERJA.** *C/ Granada, 3.* **8 March, 8pm.** Carlos Liger Quartet. Call 690073871 or email: [ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com](mailto:ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com) Web: [www.ventana-abierta.es](http://www.ventana-abierta.es)

#### La Posada

**MALAGA.** *Vincci Posada del Patio, Pasillo de Sta Isabel.* 8.30pm every Friday. **8 March, 8.30pm.** Flower Power. **15 March, 8.30pm.** Dana & Gianni. [www.tallerblues.es](http://www.tallerblues.es)

#### Museum concerts

#### MALAGA.

**Museo Carmen Thyssen.** [www.carmenthysseomalaga.org/](http://www.carmenthysseomalaga.org/) **16 March, 8.30pm.** The Cuarteto Carmen Thyssen will be playing pieces from Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ*.

#### Festival Bach-Marbella

**MARBELLA.** *Iglesia de Ntra. Sra de la Encarnación, Pl. de la Iglesia.* **10 March.** Ángel Hortas - Organist at the Catedral de Jerez (Spain).

#### Concert

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 10 March, 7pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.* The Young Symphonic Orchestra Granada and the Mediterranean Chamber Orchestra will be in concert. Tickets: Casa de la Cultura box office, Viajes Azulmarino or [www.bravoentradas.es](http://www.bravoentradas.es).

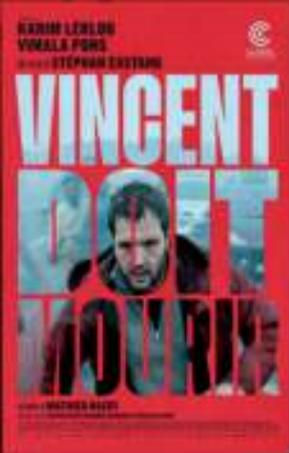
#### Cello and Piano Recital

**GIBRALTAR.** 13 March, 8pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.* Virtuoso cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan will be in concert with pianist Georgy Tchaidze. More information: [www.philharmonic.gi](http://www.philharmonic.gi)

#### Suites Para Una Vida

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 14 March, 7.30pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.* The saxophone and piano duo Suites Para Una Vida will be in concert. Tick-

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#### MUSIC AND DANCE

##### Sala María Cristina

**MÁLAGA.** Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina.

**16 March, 7pm.** The Orquesta de Cámara Promúsica. Easter Concert with music by Eduardo Ocón with the Sta María de la Victoria choir and with Mari Carmen Vicente Téllez (soprano), Iván Villa Domínguez (tenor) and Javier Moreno Ramos (bass).  
<https://www.fundacionunicaja.com>

##### Salon Varietés concerts

**FUENGIROLA.** 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre,



Sala María Cristina, Málaga.

C/Emancipación

**9, 10 March.** The Abba Experience. [www.salonvarietestheatre.com/](http://www.salonvarietestheatre.com/) or call: 952 47 45 42

##### La Cosa y La Fuerza

**ESTEPONA.** 9 March, 8pm. Centro Cultural Mirador del Carmen. Dance performance with Luz Arcas. Tickets from the box office two days before.

##### Britannia Duo

**MARBELLA.** 9 March, 6pm. Villa Las Mariposas, Urb Marbella Hill Club. A concert with Britannia Duo. Monica Forrester-Becko (piano) and Michael Kevin Jones (cello).

##### Sacred and Ancient music

**VARIOUS.** 8, 9, 16 March.

**8 March, 12pm.** Vélez-Málaga, Centro de Participación Activa. The Spinto Ensemble. Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

**9 March, 12.30pm.** Frigiliana, San Antonio de Padua Church. The Spinto Ensemble.

**16 March, 12.30pm.** Almáchar. San Mateo Apóstol Church. Sacrum Ministries.

#### FLAMENCO

##### Peña Flamenca Estepona

**ESTEPONA.** 8 March, 8.30pm. Plaza Fuerzas Armadas.

Rosa Lineros (vocals); José Fernández (toque) and Laura Guerra and Daniel Romero (dance). Reservations: 952803183 / 683141136



Oscar Wilde, Arts Society lecture

##### Jaime El Estampio and Company

**ALMUÑECAR.** 15 March, 7pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. Tickets: Casa de la Cultura box office, Viajes Azulmarino and Librería Contreras.

#### THEATRE, BALLET AND OPERA

##### Salon Varietés

**FUENGIROLA.** 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipación.

**Grease:** From 21 until 31 March the Rock'n'Roll musical Grease with a cameo appearance by Johnny G.

##### The Assassination of Julius Caesar

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** 15

March, 9.30pm. Cueva del Tesoro. 5€. A production by the Calíope Teatro company. Tickets: [www.turismorincon.es](http://www.turismorincon.es)

#### LECTURES

##### The Arts Society

**COSTA DEL SOL.** 11 March, 4.30pm. Salon Varietés, Fuengirola.

[www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org/](http://www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org/) Oscar Wilde Up Close. Lecturer Giles Ramsey explores the enigma of Oscar, devoured by his fame, exuberant decadence, and "the love that" - in Victorian England - "dare not speak its name". Members free, visitors: 10€. Members of other Arts Societies: 8€.

**NERJA.** 12 March, 4pm. The Cultural Centre, C/Granada.

[www.theartsocietynerja.com](http://www.theartsocietynerja.com) See above. Members free, visitors 10€. Members of other Arts Societies and students 5€.

##### Financial Planning Seminars

**MÁLAGA.**

Blevins Franks Wealth Management holds seminars each spring to provide an update on the tax, inheritance and financial planning issues affecting UK nationals living in Andalucía. This year the seminars will be small group sessions with an open, friendly and engaging atmosphere, giving guests plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

**12 March, 11am.** Urb. La Noria Golf, La Cala de Mijas.

**19 March, 11am.** The Oasis Business Center, Marbella. Reservations and information: [www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com) Call freephone 900 670 047 or email [events.spain@blevinsfranks.com](mailto:events.spain@blevinsfranks.com).

#### CHARITY

##### Feathers Fitness Open Weekend

**SOTOGRADE.** 8-10 March, from 10am. Plaza Blanca in Paniagua. As well as giving the community the chance to try a range of classes and take part in nutrition workshops and wellness experiences, this event will also be raising money for the youth centre Contigo in La Linea. To book a session at the Open Weekend email: [bella@feathersfoodfit.com](mailto:bella@feathersfoodfit.com) or send a WhatsApp to 689479035. [www.feathersfoodfit.com](http://www.feathersfoodfit.com).

##### ACE Spring Dinner

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** 16 March, 7pm. El Olivo de La Cala, C/Butiplaya 5. A three-course-meal with ½ bottle per person of red, white or rosé wine, beer, or soft drinks. Live music from Nick Cripps and a raffle with quality prizes. Tickets 45€ (includes a 10€ donation to ACE) in advance from Restaurante El Olivo de La Cala, Ibex Insurance (Fuengirola), call: 711039124 or email: [info@ace-charity.org](mailto:info@ace-charity.org)

##### Lend a Hand Spring Festival

**GAUCÍN.** 23 March, 11am-6pm. Plaza

# Have a laugh in Malaga as stand-up comedy in English arrives in the city

Sheila Belo is a London-based comedian who packed her passion for comedy into her suitcase when she headed to the Costa del Sol in January

#### JENNIE RHODES

**MÁLAGA.** Malaga Comedy – English Stand-Up Comedy in Malaga is the brainchild of Sheila Belo, a stand-up comedian based in London, who has been in Malaga since January.

The two nights that Sheila has already organised at the Escuela de Baile MalagaSalsa in the city's Cruz del Humilladero district have sold out and there are another three happening throughout March. Tickets are free and can be reserved on EventBrite. The performances start at 7.30pm.

Sheila, 51, who is originally from Rio de Janeiro, but has lived in London for 30 years, started doing stand-up in London last October after completing a six-week course at The Comedy Store in the UK

capital.

She admits that she "had no desire to do stand-up" despite her friends telling her that she was funny. Eventually one friend dared her to go for it and, inspired by a quote Sheila had read that said you should "do things that scare you" - although she adds "within reason" - she decided to give it a try.

As the final week of the course was approaching Sheila confesses she didn't think she'd make it to the 'showcase' which all students do to complete their training.

She decided to call up everyone she knew and invite them to go and watch her; that way she knew she "had to get onto the stage". It paid off and Sheila says that from that moment she "became



A Malaga Comedy night. SUR

#### Sheila Belo

hooked". She has since been doing three or four nights a week in different clubs around London.

Sheila came to Malaga in January wanting to "escape the British weather" but wanted to continue with her new passion. However, she

found that there was no English-language comedy, despite the large foreign community in the city. Sheila posted on foreign community social media groups and the feedback was instant. "There were lots of people interested in both watching and participating," Sheila says.

Around 10 comedians perform at each event and most do between five and seven minutes, with professional comedians doing between 10 and 15 and they even have a magician. Some of the comedians are Malaga-based and some fly over especially to take part.

Sheila says that the English-speaking community is "thirsty" for comedy and she's planning to return on a more permanent basis to build the comedy nights into a regular thing, with classes and workshops to help people starting out.

"There's already a group of people who would like to carry it on, but the barrier at the moment is to find a permanent venue. My dream is that it becomes a community, somewhere people can meet up and perform together. Comedy can help people with depression, loneliness and of course helping people to discover that they have a talent.

The next events are on Saturday 9, Saturday 16 and Saturday 23 March, all at MalagaSalsa.

**i Tickets:** [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) - English Stand Up Comedy in Malaga

*del Santo Niño.*

A plant sale, auction, Easter Bonnet competition as well as food and drinks. Live music by the Alpha Dogs and the Gaucín International Choir. To raise funds for Médicos sans Frontières. More information Lend A Hand - Gaucín Facebook page.

**Furlentine's Day**

**MARBELLA.** 10 March. Triple A Animal Shelter.

Triple A Marbella Animal Shelter has organised Furlentine's Day, which gives you the opportunity to go on a 'furst' date and enjoy a romantic walk with one of their shelter dogs. The event includes a bar, photo wall, heart-shaped treats for your date, raffle and kids activities. Reservation can be made via Instagram DM (@tripleamarbella) or by phoning +491734010503. Dates begin at 10am and the event itself starts at 12pm.

**Walking tours for Alzheimer's MIJAS.**

Discover the history and secrets of Mijas Pueblo on a three-hour tour led by Alan Boardman. The route is easy with only one flight of steps which can be avoided. A minimum donation of 5€ is required with all the money going to charities. Book by Whatsapp: 610522605

**FIESTAS AND FAIRS**

**Día de la Vieja / Partir la Vieja**

**ARRIATE.** 10 March.

This festival dates back to at least 1700 and the term 'partir la vieja' refers to dividing Lent into two parts. Nowadays, families take the opportunity to have a picnic in the countryside.

**Fiestas Patronales de San José LA HERRADURA.**

From 16 until 19 March.

To celebrate the patron saint of the town, San Jose, various activities have been organised such as a tennis, football, padel, fishing and ping-pong tournaments, children's games, a family cycle ride, live music (including Chenoa on Sunday evening), flamenco performances, procession, offering of flowers etc.

**St Patrick's Day Party**

**BENALMÁDENA.** 16 March, 8pm. Puerto Marina Dársena de Levante. Kaleido Puerto Marina is hosting a celebration to mark St Patrick's Day.

**MORE IDEAS**

**International Women's Day conference, Costa Women**

**COSTA DEL SOL.** 8 March, 9.30am. Full-day conference at Andalucía Lab in Marbella. The conference promises a diverse line of key speakers from the fields of marketing, coaching and mentoring, among others, including Laura Charles, Mari-Liis Vaheer and Raimonda Jankunaite, founder of Women Thrive Media.



ACE Dog Charity, Mijas.

**Gala Mijas en Femenino**

**MIJAS.** 8 March, from 6pm. Teatro Municipal Manuel España. Free. Mayor of Mijas, Ana Mata, will pay tribute to local women for their work in society. Included in the list is Anne Bowles who will be recognised for her work to help diabetics.

**English Cemetery tribute to women**

**MALAGA.** 9 March, 11.30am and 1pm. Avda de Pries, 1. A tour of the fascinating lives of the women buried in the churchyard. From Marjory Grice-Hutchinson and Gamel Woolsey to Renata Brausewetter and Priscilla Livingstone. The tour is narrated in Spanish. Tickets 8€ from wegow or from the cemetery ticket office.

**Lux Mundi**

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Lux Mundi Ecu-menical Centre 952 543 334, email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org.

**Trip to see Grease the musical.** 23 March

**Taize Prayer.** 23 March, after mass at the Parish Church of San Andrés, Torre del Mar.

**Trip to Ronda.** 7-9 June. For the Ronda Romántica Feria.

**O. V. FILMS**

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

**Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor**

**MALAGA.** Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.

**Dune Part 2:** 12.45 (Sun); 18.30 (Fri-Sun), 19.15 (Tues); 20.45 (every day).  
**Kung Fu Panda 4:** 14.00 (Sun); 20.05 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Rincón**

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922.

**Dune Part 2:** 19.15 (Tues); 21.00 (Fri-Sun).

**Yelmo Cines, Vialia**

**MALAGA.** Centro Comercial Vialia.

**Dream Scenario:** 13.25 (Sun).  
**Dune Part 2:** 12.10 (Sun); 17.55 (Mon-Thurs); 18.30 (every day); 19.15 (Tues); 20.15 (Sat); 20.45 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 21.30 (Mon-Thurs).  
**Kung Fu Panda 4:** 14.25 (Sun), 20.05

(Tues).

**Oppenheimer:** 20.00 (Sat); 20.10 (Sun).

**Priscilla:** 13.30 (Sun).

**Poor Things:** 14.00 (Sun); 19.35 (Tues); 20.00 (Fri).

**Cinesur Miramar**

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

**Poor Things:** 12.00 (Sat, Sun).

**Bob Marley One Love:** 12.15, 15.45 (Sat, Sun).

**Oppenheimer:** 20.00 (Sun). (Fri-Thurs).

**King Fu Panda 4:** 11.45, 16.30, 18.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.40, 19.40 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

**Dune 2:** 11.45, 16.20, 20.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.30, 20.40 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 18.30, 19.30 (Fri, Sat, Wed);

**Cinesur Ingenio**

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

**Kung Fu Panda 4:** 12.10, 16.30 (Sat, Sun).

**Dune 2:** 11.50, 15.50 (Sat, Sun); 19.00 (every day); 20.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

**Kinepolis La Cañada**

**MARBELLA.** Crta Ojén. La Cañada Centro Comercial.

**Kung Fu Panda 4:** 12.15 (Sun); 16.30 (Fri-Sun); 17.30 (Mon-Thurs).

**Dune: Part 2:** 12.00 (Sun); 15.55, 19.10 (Fri-Sun); 17.00, 20.15 (Mon-Thurs).

**Madame Web:** 22.25 (Fri-Sun).

# Rare plant show makes welcome return to Parque La Paloma

The event will present 50 horticultural specialists offering a variety of succulents, cacti, bonsai and rare and exotic plants

**TONY BRYANT**

**BENALMÁDENA.** Coinciding once again with the town's Holy Week festivities, Benalmádena will host the Feria de Plantas de Colección, the popular rare plant fair which takes place in Parque La Paloma from Friday 29 until Sunday 31 March.

The fair focuses on the promotion of families of little-known plants and succulents, and attracts serious collectors, along with keen amateur horticulturalists looking for ways of making their gardens more attractive.

Now in its 17th year, more than 50 local and national horticultural specialists will offer colourful collections of tropical and subtropical plants, cacti and succulents of varying shapes and sizes,



A previous rare plant show in Benalmádena. SUR

along with striking orchid displays and rare bonsai trees. In addition, there will be stands offering aromatic medicinal herbs, bulbs, seeds and fertilisers, as well as information, advice and tips concerning the cultivation and care of exotic plants.

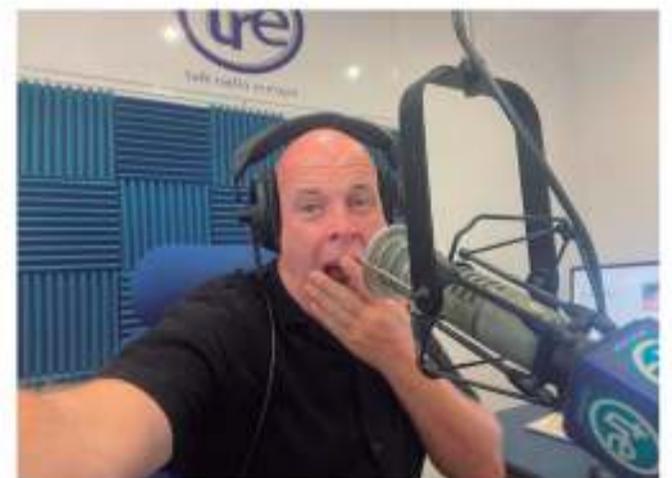
The fair, which is organised by the parks and gardens department of the town hall, was created for amateur and professional gardeners to meet in a friendly and relaxed environment.

The main objective of the fair is to encourage visiting tourists and locals to enjoy the 100,000-square-metre park and its many facilities. The town's largest green space houses a permanent collection of over 90 species of palm trees and one of the best collections of bamboo, cacti and other succulents in Europe: it is also home to dozens of species of wildlife.

Entry to the plant show, which begins at 5pm on Good Friday, is free.



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# Get a taste of Malaga in English at local food fairs this spring

The Diputación de Málaga has teamed up with The Food Experience Malaga to run activities and tastings in English at its Sabor a Málaga events

**JENNIE RHODES**

**TORREMOLINOS.** The English-speaking community were given the opportunity to learn about the wide variety of local products that come under the Sabor a Málaga brand, in English, at last weekend's taste of Malaga food fair in Torremolinos.

It was the first time a presentation has been given in English at a Sabor a Málaga fair. The initiative, organised by the Diputación de Málaga provincial authority and hosted by Hanni Martini through her company The Food Experience Malaga, is designed to "bring the flavours of Malaga to various foreign audiences, such as British, Americans, Dutch and Swedes".

The audience was introduced to the "qualities and flavours that characterise Malaga products",



A demonstration in English at the Sabor a Málaga fair in Torremolinos. **SUR**

through tastings and cooking demonstrations using local produce and products. Participants were shown how to make *ajoblanco* - a traditional cold soup made with almonds, garlic and olive oil - and learned about the processes of producing local wines and extra virgin olive oil (EVOO).

Hanni, who has been running her food tours in Malaga city since 2018, told SUR in English that the Diputación approached her with a view to "connecting people who

aren't Spanish with local producers through accessible activities and events" allowing them to get to know each other.

Hanni and her team will be running events in English at the Sabor a Málaga fairs in Benalmádena and Vélez-Málaga in April and in Nerja and Mijas in May.

For further information and exact dates (when announced) visit: [www.saboramalaga.es](http://www.saboramalaga.es) or Facebook: Sabor a Málaga; Instagram: [atasteofmalaga](https://www.instagram.com/atasteofmalaga).

## Water, water...

**ANDREW J. LINN**



"**C**on gas o sin gas?" sings the waiter as he circles the table, a bottle in each hand; (he will do the same later with the red and white wine). Many restaurant customers, particularly those of our host nation, will opt for tap water from a jug, and restaurants seldom dare to charge for this. Nevertheless, the appreciation of water, particularly top of the range mineral waters sold in small bottles, has seen a significant increase over the last decade, with enthusiasts treating water tastings as if they were wine tastings. In Spain, where a multitude of springs offer diverse mineral compositions, the appreciation for different waters is evident.

Water sommeliers analyse water with a level of detail comparable to wine connoisseurs. This trend has led to the establishment of water-focused businesses and the growth of the fine water industry, which last year attained record sales figures.

However, scepticism persists regarding the elevation of water as a luxury item, especially considering global water scarcity and environmental concerns associated with bottled water consumption. And it has been shown that many bottled waters are not as clean as tap water, and there are even brands that are mains-sourced. Additional lore manifests that drinking iced water with hot food is not good for the digestion, although this has yet to be conclusively proved. Nor has it ever been demonstrated how much water we should drink, although some medical sources quote the magic two litres per day figure, even though common sense dictates that if your urine is too yellow you are not drinking enough.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### La Felisa 2016

**Emilio Moro is one of the most respected bodegas in Ribera del Duero, and invariably the red wines will store well. This typical tempranillo is not a bargain but worth paying for. Organic. Only 9,500 bottles were produced. Around 35 euros.**





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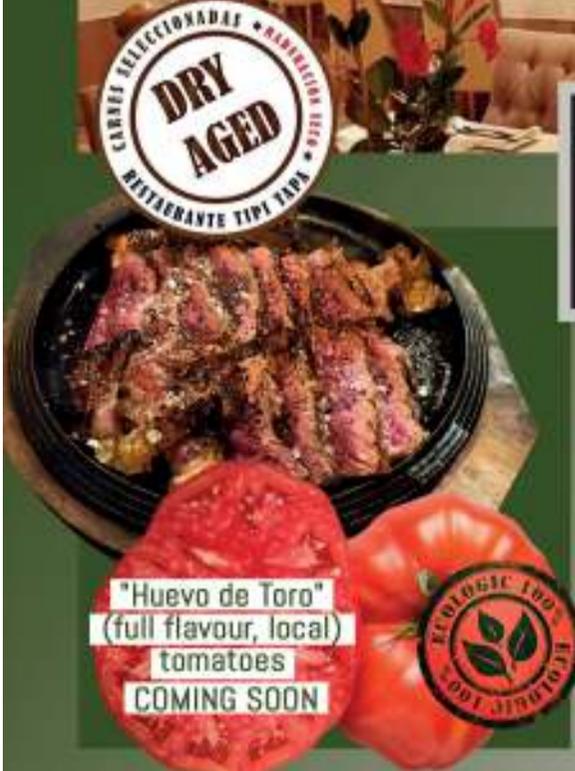
### Great Flamenco Show

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
19:30h



**Manuel Alcaide and his company**





**"Huevo de Toro" (full flavour, local) tomatoes**  
**COMING SOON**



Clive Marks (c) and the participants of last year's sprint triathlon. SUR.

## Campaign to highlight prostate cancer testing

More than 20 people will participate in a sponsored triathlon on 23 March to raise funds for PSA tests for men over 50 years of age

TONY BRYANT

COSTA DEL SOL. In order to continue raising awareness about the dangers of not being tested for prostate cancer, a Mijas resident has organised a second sponsored triathlon on Saturday 23 March. The event will begin at Bombo beach (La Cala de Mijas) at 9am, from where the participants will run to Cabopino beach (10am) to swim a distance of 750 metres, before cycling to Elviria and then on to Murph's Irish pub in Marbella.

Clive Marks, a 62-year-old British national, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2022. It was his brush with cancer, and especially the fact that he had no idea he had it, that prompted Marks, who is now in remission, to start the 'Don't be a man - get a blood test to check for pros-

tate cancer' campaign.

Last year's triathlon raised more than 7,000 euros, so Marks decided to make it an annual event to raise awareness of the disease, the second most commonly occurring cancer in men.

The money raised is used to pay for vouchers for a PSA test at the El Campanario medical centre in Calahonda. Marks believes that this service, and the fact that the staff at the clinic speak English, will encourage more men to have this "simple, although essential, test".

More than 20 men and women between the ages of 15 and 62 will take part in the triathlon this year, after which an after-event party will be held at the bar from 3pm. Tickets cost ten euros (five euros of which will go to the appeal) and include paella and entertainment.

"The campaign is to encourage men, and more so, for their spouses to encourage them to have this test, which can be life-saving," Marks said.

The free vouchers can be obtained from the clinic, or by phoning 622 356 056.

## Specsavers optical chain joins forces with charity to help find cause of Type 1 diabetes

There are collection tins and events happening in all nine Specsavers Ópticas stores on the Costa del Sol, Costa Blanca and in Mallorca

SUR

MALAGA. A major optical chain in Spain, Specsavers Ópticas, has signed an agreement to fundraise for the charity DiabetesCERO throughout 2024, and help them find a cure for Type 1 diabetes. The company aims to raise over 5,000 euros for the charity, to fund important research projects in Spain in their quest for a cure.

During the fundraising period, stores on the Costa del Sol, Costa Blanca and in Mallorca will be taking part in challenges and activities to raise funds. They will also be talking to customers and local residents about diabetic retinopathy, one of the leading causes of preventable blindness in the world.

Nerea Galdos-Little, store director of Specsavers Ópticas Marbella, explained why they chose

DiabetesCERO as their official charity for 2024, "Diabetes is a very big problem on a global level and one that is growing quickly, with an estimated 537 million people in the world suffering from the disease. This disease is associated with a range of potentially serious health complications, if not correctly controlled."

"We want to support DiabetesCERO to help them find a cure for this disease by pledging to raise 5,000 euros for the charity in

2024 and to also educate and inform people about the link between diabetes and vision loss. We encourage anyone with diabetes to have regular eye tests to check the health of the eyes and identify any nerve damage early," she added.

There are collection tins in all nine Specsavers Ópticas stores in Spain, where donations can be made to help fund vital research into Type 1 Diabetes. There will also be challenges, activities and events taking place through 2024 which will be available to sponsor and support. Information and sponsorship details can be found on Facebook @SpecsaversOpticas.

To find your nearest store to donate, or request a complete eye test, including vital health checks, visit [www.specsavers.es](http://www.specsavers.es)



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**ULTRASOUND SCAN**

# Dioni penalty seals valuable win for Malaga against promotion rivals

A 1-0 win over Ibiza at La Rosaleda on Sunday afternoon means the gap to second place is now just four points

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. In a tense showdown at La Rosaleda on Sunday afternoon, Malaga showed their teeth against promotion rivals Ibiza, closing the gap to the second-placed team to just four points after emerging with a hard-fought 1-0 win.

With another new record attendance set for this season (26,130), La Rosaleda transformed into a fortress for the home side for a must-win game to ensure hopes of automatic promotion weren't completely extinguished.

Backed by their passionate fans, Sergio Pellicer's team demonstrated resilience and determination, maintaining control of the game and defending stoutly against a hardworking and well-drilled Ibiza side.

Despite initial struggles in penetrating the opposition defence, Malaga kept their cool and continued to probe for openings.

Kevin, in particular, proved to be a constant threat with his pace and skill and, just after the start



Striker Dioni Villalba celebrates scoring his goal from the penalty spot on Sunday. **ÑITO SALAS**

of the second half, he earned the penalty that ultimately decided the game when his heels were clipped from behind as he was bearing down on goal and just about to pull the trigger.

Forward Dioni Villalba stepped up and smashed the ball into the top corner, leaving the keeper with no chance, despite going the

right way.

This sparked jubilation around the ground which would ultimately carry the team through some tough moments in the second half, including Ibiza's late attempts to equalise.

However, the hosts stood firm defensively to secure a crucial victory that brings them closer

to their promotion aspirations.

After the weekend's action, the Blue and Whites sit in fourth place in Primera RFEF, level on points with third-placed Cordoba but still nine off leaders Castellón.

Up next for Malaga is a trip to face Sanluqueño this Sunday (kick-off 4pm).

## Antequera put up strong fight in derby loss

Elsewhere in the regional divisions of Spanish football this weekend, Marbella and Estepona's promotion pushes received a boost

ANTONIO J. GUERRERO /  
JUAN RAMÓN PADILLA

MALAGA. Despite their best efforts against a well-drilled opponent, Antequera came away with nothing from the derby match against high-flying Cordoba at El Maulí on Sunday evening, losing 3-2.

Though the visitors took the lead through a close-range header from Antonio Casas in the 26th minute, Antequera looked the most likely to get the next goal. And so it proved: Luismi Redondo levelled the scores just after the break with a well-taken finish across goal.

However, Cordoba quickly regained the lead through Youssouf Diarra with a low strike from the edge of the box.

Then, after a missed chance by Luismi Gutiérrez, Cordoba extended their lead to 3-1 with Casas



Luismi Redondo. **A. J. GUERRERO**

squeezing the ball through defender and keeper just eight minutes later.

Despite the setback, Antequera continued to press for opportunities in the final half-hour, making substitutions to bolster their attack, and Franck Fomeyem reduced the deficit with a back-post tap-in with just five minutes remaining.

In stoppage time, Ale Marín had a clear chance to score for Antequera but was denied by Cordoba keeper Carlos Marín, who en-

sured victory for his side.

Antequera sit just one place outside the Primera RFEF play-offs, five points adrift of fifth-placed Recreativo Huelva.

### Marbella back on track?

In the division below, Marbella (third) secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Linense, reaffirming their promotion ambitions thanks to an Aitor Puñal header.

Their neighbours, Estepona, (sixth) broke their streak of three consecutive draws with a 3-1 victory against San Roque, despite playing with ten men from the 55th minute. They dominated the game, scoring through Omar Perdomo, Bonaldo and Rubén Mesa.

El Palo (17th), meanwhile, suffered another setback in their bid to escape relegation, losing to two second-half goals from Betis Deportivo.

Vélez (11th), amid news of new investors, couldn't keep a clean sheet despite a solid defensive performance and lost 1-0 to Águilas.

### Derby drama

In Tercera RFEF, there was a

lively atmosphere at El Pozuelo for the derby between Torremolinos (first) and Atlético Malagueño (fourth). In the end it was a thrilling 1-1 draw with both goals coming in the second half. A corner kick from Fran Castillo was headed in by Iker Burgos to give Torremolinos a 56th-minute lead. But shortly after, Chupete took advantage of some indecisive defending to head in the equaliser.

Torremolinos's title rivals Torre del Mar (third) couldn't capitalise on the dropped points, though, losing at home to Arenas Armilla (0-1) in a game highly influenced by strong winds.

In the battle for survival, it was a bad weekend for both Málaga City (14th) and Rincón (17th). Rincón lost 4-0 away at Almería B. They were already trailing 2-0 before the half-hour mark and after two red cards in the second half, they conceded two more in quick succession.

Meanwhile, Málaga City, playing in Torre del Mar on this occasion, lost 1-0 against Motril thanks to a Toni goal just before half time.

## New owners found for struggling Costa del Sol football club

JENNIE RHODES

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez-Málaga football club issued an announcement on its social media on Sunday (3 March) saying that new owners have been found and an official presentation was due to take place at 8pm on Thursday (after this newspaper went to press) at the club's Vivar Téllez ground.

The announcement comes after months of financial problems which have led to most of the club's key players, along with other staff, leaving the club after not being paid for four months.

In the statement, the two former owners of the club, chairman Jesper Norberg and vice-chairman Magnus Pehrsson, said that in October 2023 the club "was already in debt due to the French investors pulling out". They went on to say, "We chose to do everything we could to save the club from this difficult situation. We did it because of the promise we made when we came and because of the honour of being part of the club's long history. We also did it for all the good people we met in and around the club since we arrived."

### Clear ambitions

"The club entered the current 23/24 season with a new owner. On 1 August 2023 the contract was signed and the club passed into the hands of a new French investor with clear ambitions. All planning was based on the budget given by the new owner. Unfortunately, it was all based on lies and the funds and obligations agreed under the signed contract were never fulfilled at all," it went on to say.

The club became Sociedad Anónima Deportiva in 2022. According to the statement issued by Norberg and Pehrsson, this means "you cannot, as the owner of a company in Spain, simply decide to leave. The only two options were either bankruptcy and let the club dissolve, or bring in a new investor/sell the club to someone else to take over".

Norberg and Pehrsson said in the statement, "When we took over the club in the summer of 2020, we were clear about our intentions: we would totally transform a traditional amateur club and turn it into a professional and modern one with the ambition to promote the team to higher divisions." They concluded, "We sincerely hope for a great end of the season and a beautiful future for the club and the people of Vélez-Málaga."



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
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# Conspiracy theories increase

Gil Manzano is the unfortunate man who blew his whistle a second before Jude Bellingham headed the ball for what would have been a match-winning goal



**F**ootball clubs are continually breaking the data and science barriers to gain an extra edge, but Real Madrid are taking it to an unacceptable extreme.

Spain's least-watched television station is gaining notoriety for a Friday afternoon show that focuses on the team's referee for the forthcoming weekend. RMTV, Real Madrid Televisión, produces a feature of the whistleblowers' previous encounters with their players.

Referees have admitted it's having an effect on their performances. "I've seen some of these videos. You try and keep away but, in the end, they reach you," said Alejandro Hernández Hernández back in November. He'd been the subject of an eleven-minute special on the station. A few months later he was the VAR who made an unprecedented three decisions that fell in favour of Real Madrid when they beat Almeria.

Sevilla became the first team to complain to the Spanish FA ahead of their trip to the Bernabeu. Come match-day, referee Isidoro Diaz de Mera threw a curve ball by pulling a muscle mid-game and rookie Fernández Buergo stepped in. He hadn't officiated enough games for RMTV to make a video.

Stand by for an hour-long special on Gil Manzano. He's the unfortunate man who blew his whistle a second before Jude Bellingham headed the ball for what would have been a match-winning goal. All hell was let loose. Unfortunately for



Jesús Gil Manzano. SUR

Bellingham, the referee understood English swear words and the England international was shown a red card which will trigger a two-game ban.

Carlos Ancelotti attempted to show some decorum but the club website went with the headline: "An unprecedented refereeing decision prevents Real Madrid from winning at Mestalla."

It was the end of an evening Señor Manzano wanted to forget. He was chosen for his experience in managing heated matches. There was already an edge as it was the return of Vinicius Júnior to the scene of the disgraceful racist chants last season. There was one report of a child making a monkey sign at the player during the game.

Manzano would have to include it in his match report if he was made aware of the incident.

It was a game where Real came back from two goals down to make it two-two. Manzano gave Valencia a penalty with two minutes remaining but correctly overturned the decision after VAR intervention.

It was also a game where Mouctar Diakhaby suffered one of the worst injuries ever seen in Spanish football. His knee dislocation was described as 'terrifying' by a trauma specialist. Manzano was the first on the scene to witness his screams and called for medical assistance.

He couldn't wait for his shift to end but needed to add seven minutes of overtime for the stoppage. Typically, Real Madrid won a corner in the 97th minute. Referees are trained not to end a game if there's a goalscoring opportunity, so he allowed it to be taken. There was a slight delay as Real piled everyone into the area. The corner was cleared. Phew, here was his chance to blow up as he thought the ball was heading to the wing. He gave the whistle the biggest puff and it was clear that the game had ended a millisecond before the cross came in, but you try telling that to the Real players and their supporters. The conspiracy level had gone up another notch.

Señor Manzano is expected to be 'rested' this weekend. If I was him, I'd be avoiding any football and especially RMTV's Friday afternoon special.

## Carmen Arellano completes six of world's greatest marathons

Berlin 2014, Chicago 2015, New York 2016, Boston 2017, London 2019... And Tokyo 2024. It literally took a decade to achieve this feat, but finally, after many years of effort, Malaga flight attendant, 47-year-old Carmen Arellano, has done it. With this success she joins the exclusive group of 'finishers' of the 'Six Majors', or in other words, she has completed what are considered the six major marathons in the world.



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# Two more elite teams progress to European Cricket League finals week

English side Hornchurch and Jersey's Old Victorians are the latest sides to seal their passage to Championship Week

D. FINCH

MALAGA. European Cricket League (ECL) Championship action continued in the Malaga town of Cár-tama this week, with two more top-tier sides sealing their place in the finals week.

Joining Italian side Jinnah Brescia (who won Group A) in Championship Week, which will take place from 18 to 22 March, are English side Hornchurch and Jersey's Old Victorians.

Hornchurch progressed from Group B, despite finishing second, by beating Sweden's Huddinge by six wickets in the group final.

Old Victorians, meanwhile, came third in Group C, but progressed thanks to a 15-run win over Swiss side Olten in their play-off final.

This international T10 Tournament, often referred to as the 'Champions League' of cricket, is being hosted at the renowned Cár-tama Oval for the third consecu-



Old Victorians bowl during a Group C clash earlier this week. SUR

tive year.

A total of 35 top-tier European clubs, including defending champions Dreux CC from France, 2022 winners Pak I Care Badalona (Spain), and 2019 champions V.O.C. Rotterdam (Netherlands), are vying for the prestigious trophy.

Once the first three weeks of action have concluded, the group winners, determined by a play-off

between the top four teams, will vie for the championship title during the finals week.

For those keen on experiencing the excitement firsthand, a series of five 90-minute group stage matches, with each side restricted to ten overs, will be played daily until 17 March, from 11am to 9pm. Admission to the matches is free of charge.

# Carlos Alcaraz comes out on top in all-Spanish 'Netflix Slam' in Las Vegas

The 20-year-old required a super tie-break to see off veteran Rafael Nadal in a preview to the Indian Wells Masters 1000

ENRIC GARDINER

MADRID. World number two Carlos Alcaraz required a super tie-break to emerge victorious as the so-called Netflix Slam exhibition tennis match against Rafael Nadal entertained the masses both packed into the Michelob Ultra Arena in Las Vegas and via the online streaming service on Sunday night.

The exhibition, held in front of a capacity crowd of 12,000 spectators, provided a perfect blend of entertainment and competitive sport for celebrity attendees such as Charlize Theron, Lindsey Vonn, Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Dave Grohl, Ona Carbonell and Pau Gasol.

Alcaraz, who has been on the comeback trail from an ankle sprain sustained in Brazil, showcased his prowess by defeating

Nadal 3-6, 6-4 and 14-12 in their first encounter since the beginning of the year.

Despite the relatively relaxed atmosphere, both Nadal and Alcaraz exhibited moments of intensity, showcasing the level of competition expected in official tournaments. Nadal dominated the first set, capitalising on Alcaraz's weak second serves, while the latter bounced back in the second set.

In the decisive super tie-break, Nadal and Alcaraz elevated their game, demonstrating a fierce determination to win. Despite Nadal's valiant effort, saving five match points, it was 20-year-old Alcaraz who emerged victorious, clinching the trophy.

The spectacle initially set an optimistic tone for the upcoming challenge of the Indian Wells Masters 1000, where Nadal was looking to defend his title. However, the 37-year-old announced on Wednesday that he would have to withdraw because he didn't feel ready to compete "at the highest level" after undergoing some pre-tournament tests.

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January 21st - February 19th  
This week brings out the best in you. You'll be keen to take advantage of an opportunity that you've coveted for a while.

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
The Sun in a private zone reveals that your intuition is at a peak. You'll easily draw to yourself the items, opportunities and people you need.

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
As Venus moves away from zany Aquarius and into the creative and imaginative sign of Pisces, your dreams may gain in importance.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Let your instincts lead the way. Listen to them and you may be inspired to try for a golden opportunity or make a decision that benefits you.

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Venus's entrance into Pisces may benefit your career and ambitions. Use your charm and networking skills to make useful connections.

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Next week you'll see the possibilities that might come from letting go of anything that's working against you, and you'll be ready to take any necessary action.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
The opportunity to escape, even for a few days, could do you the world of good. As Venus moves into a sector of change and intimacy, you may want to keep a budding romance under wraps.

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Venus's entrance into Pisces can help smooth over any difficulties in a key bond and act as a balm if healing is needed. If you're looking for romance, this convivial planet might assist.

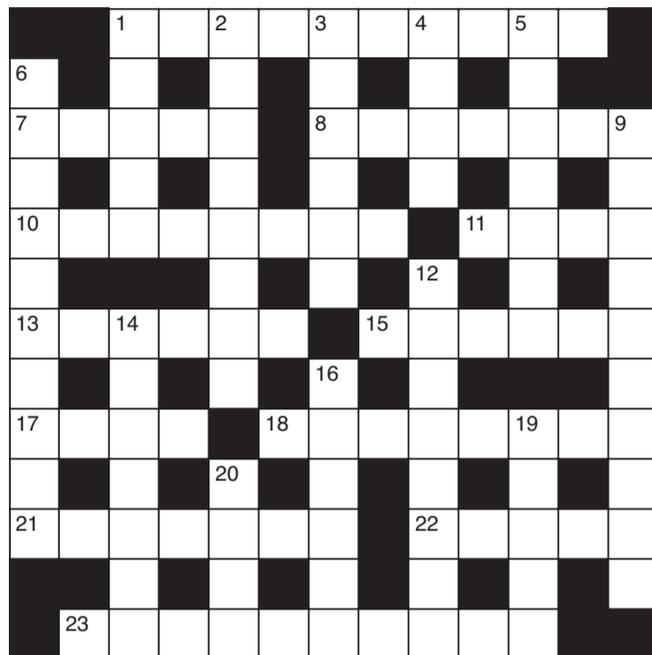
**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
With Venus dancing into your sector of work and wellness, you may be tempted to indulge. You deserve to enjoy yourself, but don't go completely off track, especially if you've been trying hard to maintain a healthy diet.

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Mars in Aquarius puts the focus on family matters and spending time with loved ones. And this dynamic influence could coincide with an idea for a home-based business.

**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Next week can bring fresh encounters. And with a Quarter Moon in Gemini, the opportunity to take a friendship further may lead to a fresh and exciting start.

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
As Venus enters Pisces, consider closing deals, negotiating and connecting with family. Need to hold a tactful discussion? Now is the time!

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11614**



**Across**

- 1. Marvellous bit of bowling that can be enchanting? (5,5)
- 7. The value of a new timer (5)
- 8. Coal pit out of sight (7)
- 10. Despair when sheep loo is moved (4,4)
- 11. Raise 51 feet (4)
- 13. It provides cover for those in flight (6)
- 15. Person breaking leg in wringer (6)
- 17. One in the community (4)
- 18. Investigate the sequel (6,2)
- 21. So larch is cultivated by student (7)
- 22. Disease a girl has a right to take to America (5)
- 23. 'Angry' and 'irate' used in these (10)

**Down**

- 1. A boy's money (5)
- 2. Appoint a senior teacher and make progress (3,5)
- 3. Rough or rough-hewn (6)
- 4. Head for the spread (4)
- 5. Short of resin and a ruler (7)
- 6. Are they of less than sixty minutes between midnight and dawn? (5,5)
- 9. Job for the landlord in the mail? (10)
- 12. Trip as winter arrives in America? (4,4)
- 14. Not one in there, perhaps (7)
- 16. Hire some sub or rowing boat (6)
- 19. Hospital rooms under the control of a guardian? (5)
- 20. Beers in the sale? (4)

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**CODEWORD**

	2			13				20			24	12	16	23	24
20	12		1		17	19	21	23		4					17
		21			19			21		23	18	8	19		4
7	22	12	4	15	22	13	13	15							19
		12				8				25		15			6
12	5	11	13	17	3	24			23	19	17	4			10
			13					19					8		
23	19	17	21	22			2	17	13	5	25	4			10
7			14		12			8							23
22					9	8	15	25	23	3	23	5			21
13	26	23	17	19			17				23				25
		23			7			12	5	11	23	7	21		24
2	17	23	7	14				26			21				22
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			

**THE WORDPUZZLER**

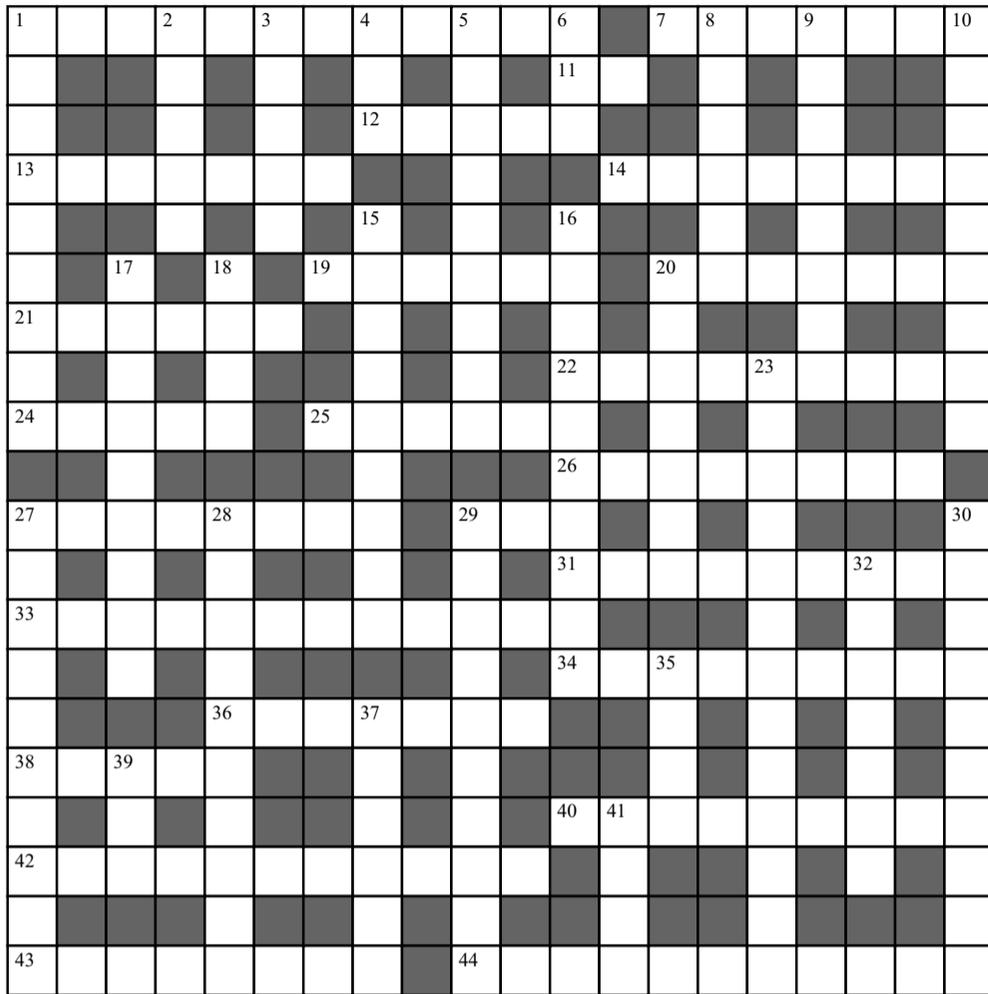
B	S	I	N	P	E	S	O	L	Y
A	P	P	E	T	I	T	L	E	D
T	I	P	U	N	T	R	U	M	R
T	R	E	F	I	F	E	M	M	E
R	R	O	T	B	O	S	S	A	M
O	G	E	R	A	R	S	K	I	A
I	T	H	O	M	M	E	S	S	Y
S	O	J	U	G	E	D	H	O	G
T	R	O	G	A	R	C	O	N	E
Y	Q	R	E	P	E	L	E	G	O

Translate the following words into French and find them in our puzzle grid.  
1. Man  
2. House  
3. Little  
4. Three  
5. Boy  
6. Woman  
7. Very  
8. Red  
9. Nine  
10. Mother

**Instructions**

Each number in the codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



Across

- 1) Personality (12)
- 7) Written (f) (7)
- 11) Ace (2)
- 12) Brains (5)
- 13) Steering wheel (7)
- 14) Waste (8)
- 19) Flour (6)
- 20) Quality (7)
- 21) Picture (6)
- 22) Eighteen (9)
- 24) Tree (5)
- 25) Mill (6)
- 26) Speech therapist (8)
- 27) Renown (8)
- 29) Foot (3)
- 31) Respected (m) (9)
- 33) Cherry blossom (4,2,6) (12)
- 34) To substitute (9)
- 36) To affect (7)
- 38) They are (5)
- 40) Spring (9)
- 42) Delicatessen (11)
- 43) Farmstead (8)
- 44) Sea level (5,3,3) (11)

Down

- 1) Province (9)
- 2) To dry (5)
- 3) North (5)
- 4) The (f.pl) (3)
- 5) I distributed (9)
- 6) You give (3)
- 8) Mountain range (6)
- 9) Whirlpool (8)
- 10) Almond trees (9)
- 15) Red mullet (9)
- 16) Bandits (10)
- 17) Chickpeas (9)
- 18) Front crawl (4)
- 20) You hang (7)
- 23) Impressive (13)
- 27) Reference (10)
- 28) Midnight (10)
- 29) Precaution (10)
- 30) To stand out (10)
- 32) Adjustments (7)
- 35) I went up (4)
- 37) Cherry (6)
- 39) Aunt (3)
- 41) Monkfish (4)

QUIZ

On this day in 1702, which Queen became the last Stuart monarch?

- 1. Elizabeth 2. Anne
- 3. Mary 4. Victoria



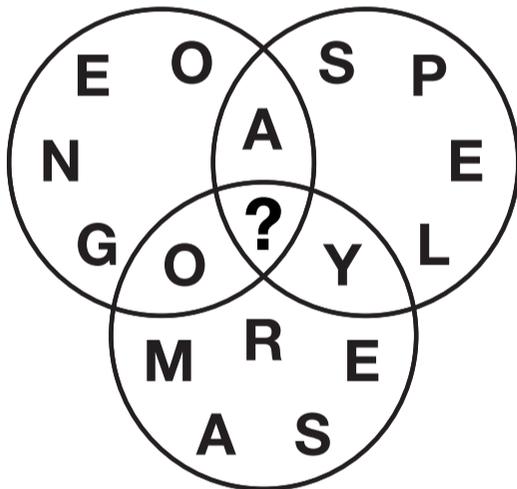
What was Virginia Woolf's first novel?

- 1. The Voyage Out 2. Orlando
- 3. Mrs Dalloway 4. A Room of One's own

Who declared, "One is not born but becomes a woman"?

- 1. Virginia Woolf 2. Simone de Beauvoir
- 3. Frida Kahlo 4. Eleanor Roosevelt

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?

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

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At SUR in English we are proud of our reputation for publishing a wide variety of Spanish news of interest to our readers, and as part of the SUR media group we have access to all the best and most reliable sources. Another part of our remit is to publish all the local news concerning the English-speaking community in Andalucía, and for that, we have several sources including our team of roving reporters and you, the

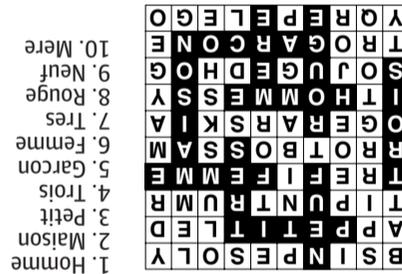
reader!  
We often get calls asking the question "Can you mention this in SUR in English?" The "this" can be anything from an art exhibition to an event in aid of charity, a change in church service times, or a dolphin washed up on the beach. The answer to all of these is "yes". If it is of interest to our readers we can mention it, and if it is a big story we can send one of our team of journalists to write about it. Contact us at [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es) or on social media, on X at @SUR\_English or Facebook @SURenglish

SWERS

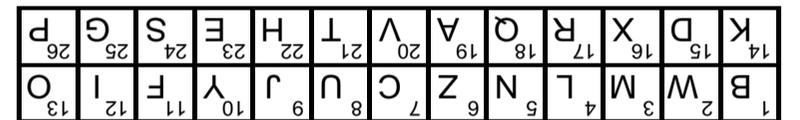
Quiz answers

**Answer:** Anne  
**Of interest:** On this day in 1702, Anne became the last Start monarch of Great Britain, having agreed to the Act of Settlement of 1701, which designated as her successors the Hanoverian descendants of King James I published her first novel, The Voyage Out, through her half-brother's publishing house, Gerald Duckworth and Company.  
**Of interest:** The Second Sex, published in 1949, had a decisive influence on post-war feminism. Her declaration that "one is not born but becomes a woman" continues to reverberate in contemporary discussions of gender.

Wordpuzler solution



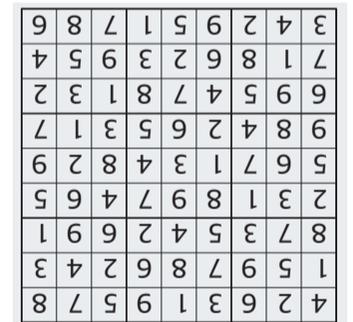
Codeword



Language Crossword



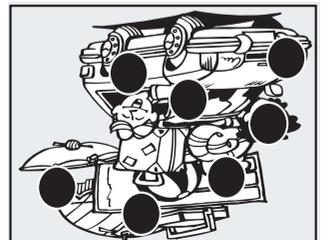
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is R. Organo, Parsley, Rosemary, all herbs.  
**Cryptic Crossword**  
Across: 1 Magic spell; 7 Merit; 8 Optical; 10 Lose hope; 11 Lift; 13 Hangar; 15 Mangle; 17 Unit; 18 Follow up; 21 Scholar; 22 Virus; 23 Crosswords. Down: 1 Marks; 2 Get ahead; 3 Chippy; 4 Pate; 5 Lacking; 6 Small hours; 9 Letter-post; 12 Fall over; 14 Neither; 16 Borrow; 19 Wards; 20 Ales.

The seven differences



Americans living in Malaga province were able to vote in their presidential primaries this Tuesday through the new local chapter of Democrats Abroad. The group borrowed the offices of the Spanish Socialist party in the city's Calle Ollerías for Super Tuesday. This was the day on which the most US states voted for the candidate they prefer to lead the ranks of the Republican and Democratic parties in the presidential elections that will take place, as every four years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November - which this year falls on 5th.

Carey Ramos, alma mater and chair of the Malaga Precinct of Democrats Abroad, told SUR that the group dates back just five months. With this Tuesday's meeting, Malaga joins the five Spanish cities where voting has been taking place for years: Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Alicante and Valencia. But with one difference: in Malaga the vote is still remote. US nationals went to Calle Ollerías to fill in the ballot paper, but then they had to take a photo of it to send it by email, while in the other five Spanish cities people can vote as if they were in any American district. The Malaga group hopes that the system will be in place here for coming elections.

#### Malaga more important now

What motivated them to come together to vote in the first place was that they are growing in numbers. Previously, they said, the favourite Spanish destinations for Americans wanting to retire to Spain were Valencia and Alicante. But now Malaga is more popular and word is spreading.

The other big motivation is political, and can be summed up in a phrase with which most of the people who turned out to vote early on Tuesday morning agree: "These are scary times: American democracy is in danger." And it is, they said, because of a possible victory of Donald Trump. Those speaking, of course, are members of (or sympathisers



## Super Tuesday: American voting in Malaga

**Primaries.** Members of the recently formed local chapter of Democrats Abroad got together to cast their votes. "These are scary times: American democracy is in danger"

CRISTINA VALLEJO



with) Joe Biden's Democratic Party. But there is no equivalent local organisation to Democrats Abroad in the Republican ranks.

Most of those voting at ten in the morning - this unusual polling station was open from 10am until two o'clock in the afternoon - are retired and have only been in Malaga for a very short time (a few months or a little over a year).

Susan and Steven Isacoff settled in Malaga after coming here for most of the last few years; he was studying Spanish in Salamanca, then they discovered Marbella first, and then Malaga. Eventually they closed up their Massachusetts home and moved here.

"We have come to meet people, to vote and to give our support to democracy, which is at risk be-

US nationals keep a close eye on American politics from their homes in Spain. "Every vote counts"

cause of Trump," said Susan when asked why they had gone to the improvised polling station.

"The truth is that Trump scares me," added Steven. And Terry Adams, from Virginia, spoke of the risks he sees in the Republican candidate who could be running for a second term: he does not respect constitutional norms or laws and is causing people to lose confidence in institutions. In everyone's mind are the events of 6 January 2021, when Trump did not accept the election result, a view many US citizens still maintain to this day.

#### Needs a younger candidate

But Steven expressed a widely shared wish: he would prefer a younger Democratic candidate, although in his favour he claims Biden has a lot of institutional experience and, above all, that "he's not going to do anything crazy".

Terry also pointed out that he would like to see more choice, more parties: "We need more

Americans resident in Malaga got together under the banner of Democrats Abroad on Super Tuesday. SALVADOR SALAS

voices. In practice, only Republicans and Democrats have a chance of winning presidential elections."

Myriam Juarbe is married to a Galician and settled in Malaga a little over a year ago after 35 years living in New York. She said her motivation for voting in the primaries is that her granddaughters are in the United States and she wants to defend the rights women have earned: "We can't go back to the past and if Trump wins we could lose many of our rights," she said. "No government is perfect, but I like Biden's because it is more inclusive, there is more diversity, it has many voices, women, people of colour, and it is decent," added Juarbe.

"Every vote counts. You have to vote, it's very important," said former Florida resident Ethel Kurland. "Republicans and Democrats are very close in the polls. In reality, the election will be decided in half a dozen states; it will be 100,000 votes that tip the balance one way or the other. There is a lot of work to be done between now and November," Ramos added.

#### Staying connected

Above all, said Jan Baskin, voting in the primaries "is an opportunity to stay connected to our country."

"In Spain there is a more global view of what the implications of the US elections might be, in the US we are more focused on ourselves," Baskin pointed out: there is Nato, the wars in the world, women's and minority rights. She added that the media in Spain are more neutral, more even-handed in how they portray the electoral dispute.

The participation of these US citizens in Malaga is not limited to their elections. They meet once a month and make the most of the opportunity to take part in events in their new place of residence. And they are already planning to join the LGBT+ march in Torremolinos, organise beach clean-ups and, of course, take part in the rally this 8 March, International Women's Day.

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