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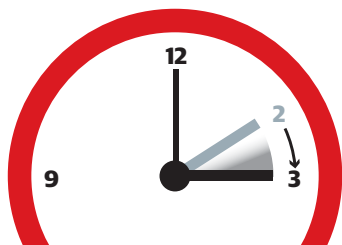
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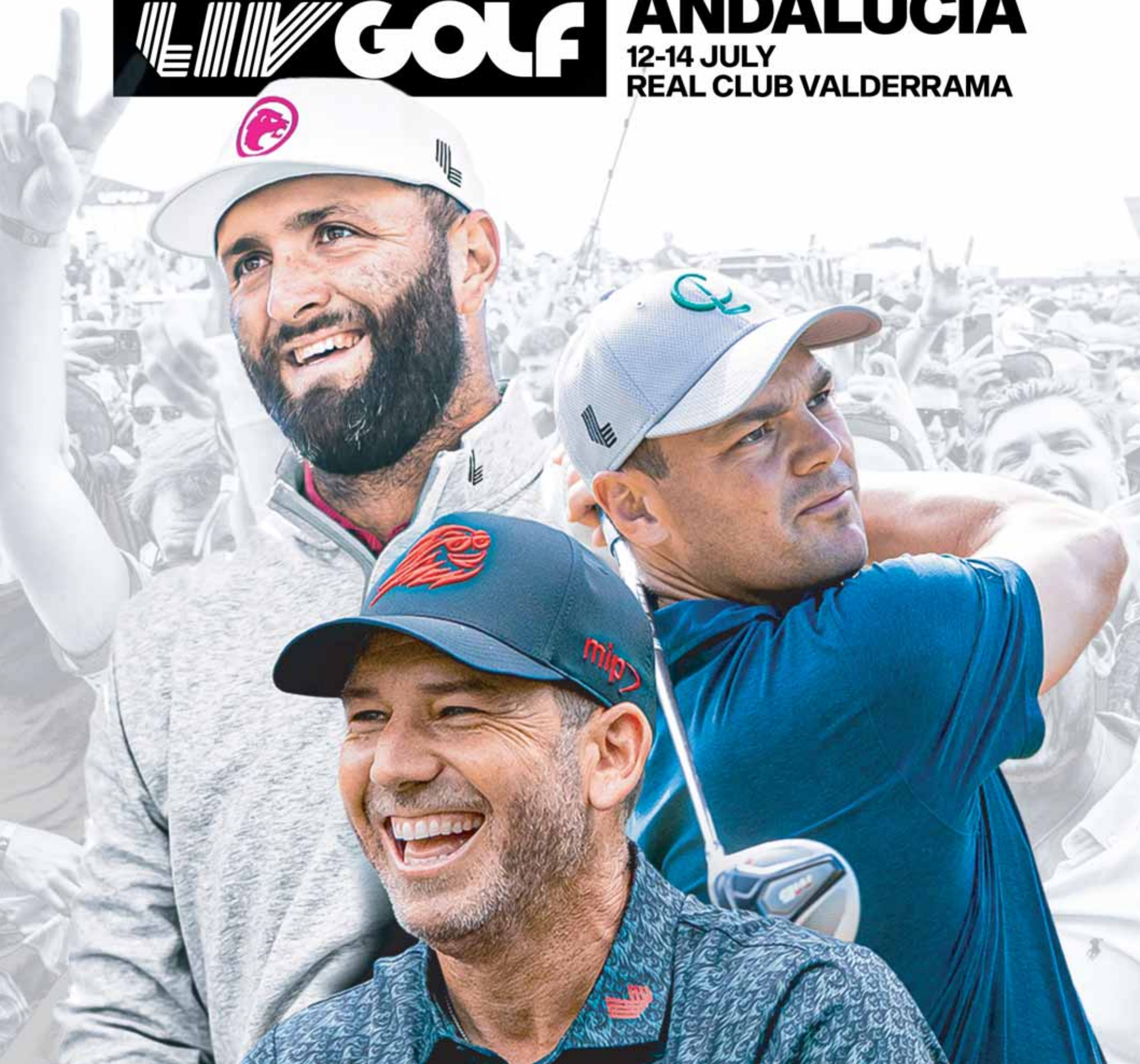
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Rain dampens Costa holiday week plans



A young carrier at the base of the Virgen del Dulce Nombre image in Malaga reflects sadly after his procession was called off. **TXEMA RODRÍGUEZ**

Most Holy Week religious processions have been cancelled or shortened this week and hotel occupancy is down

It rained on the Costa del Sol's parade this week, literally. After month's of praying for water, it started to come at just the wrong moment for the thousands due to take part in Semana Santa, causing huge disappointment. **P2-3**

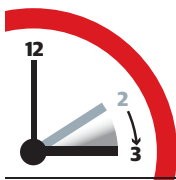
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Fuel sales rise in Malaga province despite there being more electric and hybrid cars on the road **P8-9**

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SEMANA SANTA IN PICTURES



The Rescue brotherhood in Malaga made its way through the streets on Tuesday. **LUIS M. GÓMEZ POZO**



Antonio Banderas consoled members of his brotherhood. **AFP**



A penitent during a procession. **S.S.**



Marbella's Palm Sunday images stayed indoors. **J.C.D.**



In Malaga the La Pollinica brotherhood was able to leave. **S. SALAS**

'Tears and favours' in a bitter-sweet Semana Santa

There was disappointment for many faithful this Holy Week but also joy for some who avoided the downpours

Holy Tuesday was the best day for Easter processions in Malaga province this week so far as the skies stayed largely clear into the afternoon and evening. All the massive processions, with images of Jesus

and Our Lady, in Malaga city left on time, although elsewhere, including in Marbella, there were still cancellations even on Tuesday.

On other days of Semana Santa this year, the brotherhoods and their hundreds of

penitents and carriers have been less lucky.

On Palm Sunday, when only one of Malaga city's processions had been able to leave, among those affected was the Lágrimas y Favores (tears and favours) brotherhood of which actor Antonio Banderas is a member.

Banderas was seen consoling other members who were crying with disappointment inside the city's San Juan's church as they realised they would not be able to take the

priceless images out into the street as planned due to the rain.

Explaining that the historical value of the images and floats meant that it was not worth the risk of getting them wet, Banderas added, "It is what it is for this year and that's that. 'Semana Santa' is a metaphor for life. Sometimes there are tears and at other times there are favours. And this year it is our turn for tears," in reference to the name of his brotherhood.

Rain mars Easter with processions and hotel bookings cancelled

Occupancy in hotels will be a lot less than 2023 with fewer last minute reservations now but the water is welcome news for local reservoirs

SUR

MALAGA. In exactly the week of the year when many people in drought-stricken Malaga province were praying for it not to rain, Easter processions have been disrupted by the unsettled weather.

Many of the world-famous Holy Week activities across Andalucia in general have been affected with cancellations and changes to routes to try and dodge the downpours.

The poor weather has also hit holiday reservations. The Costa del Sol hoteliers association (Aehcos) said on Wednesday that the occupancy in hotels over the ten-day Easter period will be an estimated 75.9%, almost ten percentage points down on the same holi-

day period last year and 12 points down on the 84.2% of 2019, ahead of Covid.

"Undoubtedly, the weather has been a factor, with constant rains throughout the province and the forecast of precipitation for the rest of the week having a very negative influence. These have caused many visitors to change their minds," said the president of Aehcos, José Luque.

The sad news for Holy Week faithful and hoteliers alike translated into better news for the area's water levels. The Axarquía and the Costa del Sol have already started to see improvements in their reservoirs, meanwhile Malaga city appears to be out of the most serious level of drought.

Malaga province's reservoirs were at 18.62% full on Monday this week. This was just half of what it was at this time last year.

Every day of the Semana Santa processions had been affected by the rain (or the threat of it) by Wednesday this week, with the forecast not being good



Spectators sheltered from the rain when one brotherhood was caught by a shower. MARILÚ BÁEZ

for the main Easter weekend.

On Palm Sunday, the first day for the brotherhoods to carry their images through the streets of Malaga, only the image of Jesus on a donkey and the accompanying image of Our Lady went ahead as normal. Other brotherhoods in the city that day cancelled theirs as forecasters expected muddy rain at the end of the episode of Saharan dust.

There was panic, however, when

one brotherhood, El Prendimiento, ignored the warnings and went out onto the streets for a shorter procession only to be caught in a

There was panic when one brotherhood, El Prendimiento, ignored the warnings and went out onto the streets

heavy shower, with the religious images being hurriedly covered with plastic. Its leaders said they had received another weather forecast that had suggested it would be safe to go out.

Other parts of Malaga province also saw their processions severely affected during the week, including those places with big Semana Santa traditions, such as Marbella, Ronda, Antequera and Vélez-Málaga.

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Deadly blaze in Valencia sparks more interest in safety checks for Malaga apartment blocks

There has been a surge in demand for inspections and the installation or upgrading of fire protection systems in the province

CHUS HEREDIA

MALAGA. Serious incidents always trigger worries about the same thing happening again. And the latest concern in Spain comes after the deadly fire in the Campanar neighbourhood in Valencia, which spread with unprecedented force and killed 10 people.

In Malaga province, which includes the Costa del Sol, this sparked interest among residents' associations in reviewing or updating security measures. The Malaga association of property administrators and companies such as Goextin and Incontex confirmed to SUR this has been a growing concern since the Valencia blaze on 22 February.

Mario Martín of Goextin, part of the ServiHogar group, said enquiries for safety checks have multiplied. "People are worried," he said.

"The most basic thing is that there are some communities that, believe it or not, do not have fire extinguishers, because until 1996 it was not compulsory. And there is also a growing interest in fire detection systems," Martín pointed out.

Javier Fernández Arce, deputy director of Incotex, a Malaga-based company specialising in fire protection systems, said: "Since Valencia we have noticed a lot more interest. There is rarely a call with community administrators in which the subject of fire safety doesn't come up," he added.

Arce said although it may come as a surprise, there are no regulations that make it compulsory for residential complexes to have an alarm, except in garage areas: "It



An Incotex technician checks a fire fighting installation. SUR

seems like it will never happen to us and we don't really want to spend money, but when these things happen, the need is triggered," he added. However, he pointed out that some residential communities are already going beyond the legal requirement for extinguishers and are installing fire hoses, for example.

Checks

"The main request we are getting is to check the state of everything," Fernández Arce said. He reminded people the importance of regularly checking fire extinguishers. They have to have quarterly inspections, which can be carried out by the community itself with the aid of a manual, or they can be outsourced. Since 1996 it has been mandatory for all residential buildings to have one fire extinguisher per floor. "But few communities bother with quarterly inspections. More than 90% do not," he claimed. Then, there are other annual mandatory checks which must be carried out by specialised companies. However, Fernández Arce urged people to remain calm: "What happened in Valencia was out of the

ordinary."

"One measure I would welcome is the installation of smoke and detectors in all dwellings. In the UK, for example, this is already compulsory," Fernández Arce added. For more peace of mind, he said that central unit for a basic fire alarm system with a control panel for five-storey building would cost about 400 euros, plus 80 for each detector, that's about 1,000 euros for a building with five floors and five detectors, plus an annual maintenance fee of around 50 or 60 euros.

Arce also pointed out that, in conversations with fire fighting experts across Spain some have expressed concerns about tall, old buildings. They have also raised a new concern and, in their opinion, more attention should be paid to garages where electric and hybrid vehicles and their chargers increasingly parked alongside petrol and diesel fuel vehicles. "If electric scooter batteries are at risk of exploding and have been banned on some forms of public transport, imagine what could happen in the case of vehicles in garages," he said.

Dog owners alerted to 'fake police' targeting foreigners

JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ CÁMARAA

TORREMOLINOS. Foreign residents in Torremolinos have been warned to be aware of people impersonating police officers who are allegedly targeting dog owners in the municipality and attempting to issue fines for offences such as not cleaning up after their pets.

The scam came to light after one expat resident was approached by a person claiming to be a police officer. The man, who showed a fake identity badge, told her that she would have to pay a fine of 500 euros for failing to clear up after her dog. "I said, okay, if this is correct, let's go to the police station to go through

the procedures, but he then took off. I know that I did not break any law, but others might be more vulnerable. I always carry my bottle with water and detergent when I go out with my dogs," she said. When she reported the incident she was told that the individual was not a public official. The Local Police said that they are aware of the problem and on the lookout for those responsible. A spokesperson confirmed that attempting to obtain money by false pretences and impersonating a police officer are both offences.

112 REPORTS

COSTA DEL SOL

Three arrested for attempted murder

I.G. Police believe they have solved the first of four shootings reported on the Costa del Sol in the last month. Officers arrested three men during raids in Marbella and Alhaurín el Grande for their alleged roles in a shooting in Nueva Andalucía on the night of 10 February. A young Swedish man was hospitalised after being sprayed with bullets in his arm and leg. Police said it was a settling of scores following a dispute between rival gangs in Sweden.

GUADALHORCE VALLEY

Police free 29 sex workers from clubs

I.G. National Police officers have freed 29 women, mostly Latin Americans, who were allegedly sexually exploited and forced to work against their will in three 'hostess clubs' in the Guadalhorce valley area of Malaga province. Police arrested 37 people during seven raids on business premises and private homes in Alhaurín de la Torre, Alhaurín el Grande, Coín, Pizarra and Malaga city, with four of them remanded in custody.



Nerja town hall and Elena Expósito and Alberto Álvarez (inset). SUR

NERJA

Off-duty police officers save life of elderly man who suffered heart attack

E.C. Two off-duty National Police officers were enjoying free time with their families in Nerja on Palm Sunday when screaming and shouting disturbed the peace and quiet in an area near the town hall. Elena Expósito and Alberto Álvarez both rushed towards the commotion and spotted a man lying on the floor. His relatives told the officers the 75-year-old had suffered a heart attack. "He had no pulse, his

face was purple, he was not breathing," said Expósito, who started to perform CPR and in a few minutes, "which seemed to last forever", they managed to get the man's pulse back and he slowly started to breathe again. An ambulance rushed the man to hospital where he remains in a serious condition, although his life is not in danger. His family described the officers as "guardian angels".

MIJAS

Body with knife in chest found after van fire

I.G. The charred body of a person was found early last Friday morning inside a burnt out camper van in Mijas Costa. The victim, according to sources, had a knife embedded in its chest. The fire was reported at around 4.25am when a person walking in the Faro de Calaburras area alerted the 112 Andalucía emergency service control room that a vehicle was on fire. Police have opened an investigation into the circumstances of the death.



Fire crews at the scene. CPB



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The current state of the Benalroma villa, underneath the building of the same name. **SUR**

Benalmádena Roman remains to be revived after 40 years

The Benalroma site is to be part of a local archaeology tour that also includes Torremuelle and Los Molinillos

LORENA CÁDIZ

BENALMÁDENA. The mayor of Benalmádena has announced a plans to get the remains of a Roman villa in Benalmádena Costa ready to open to visitors. The archaeological remains under the Benalroma building in Avenida de las Palmeras were discovered 40 years ago and include one of the two villas known to have been in the area in the first century AD. According to the town hall, the remains reveal what

was a garden area with an elongated fountain from which water cascaded down to the beach.

This shows the social and economic importance of the owner of the villa, which would have been decorated in marble, red stucco, tiles and seashells.

Since the remains were discovered in the 1980s they have been protected by the building, but practically forgotten

According to mayor Juan Antonio Lara, Benalroma will become part of the archaeological route being mapped out for visitors in Benalmádena Costa. Other points on the tour will be the Centro de la Historia and the archaeological remains of Los Molinillos, which formed part of

the industrial area of the Benalroma villa.

The Benalroma project currently being drawn up envisages the restoration of the remains and the possible creation of viewing walkways and lighting, among other work.

This announcement follows details of work to improve the remains of the Roman villa in Torremuelle and security in the area.

Meanwhile, also this week, the town hall has said that work at the Los Molinillos site is almost complete. The project, which began in January, has a budget of 267,000 euros and includes the creation of walkways, ramps and a LED lighting system so the ruins can be viewed by the public.

This year's high season for cruises in Malaga marked by quality, not quantity

Fewer ships and passengers are due to call in at the Port of Malaga this season, but they will be carrying tourists with greater purchasing power

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MÁLAGA. The high season for cruise ships, which starts on 1 April and continues until June, will see fewer ships and fewer passengers than in 2023 at the Port of Malaga. There will be an increase, however, in the number of exclusive ships with fewer than a thousand berths, according to data from the Port of Malaga's website, carrying tourists with greater purchas-

ing power.

In the period from April to June, 99 cruise ships are expected to visit Malaga with 170,169 passengers, compared to the 108 and more than 185,000 passengers in the same period in 2023. But the statistics also show the rise of "premium" and luxury cruise ships, with 51 of these berths being small ships with fewer than 1,000 passengers, compared to 46 in 2023.

Of the 26 ships with up to 1,000 passengers that will be moored in the port during April, 15 have fewer than 250 passengers. These are high-end cruises for which Malaga has become a top destination for due to its Palmeral terminal, close to the

city centre.

April will be the busiest month of the year, with 46 cruises scheduled and 74,000 passengers, according to the Port of Malaga's website. This will be followed by May, with 37 ships and 69,578 passengers, while in June, 16 stopovers are planned with 26,500 passengers. Of these ships, half are exclusive and with under 1,000 passengers.

Two of the giants of the sea, capable of bringing more than 6,300 passengers on board, will also call in at the Port of Malaga. The Oasis of the Seas, of the Royal Caribbean shipping company, and the MSC Grandiosa, of MSC Cruises, will dock at the Port of Malaga on 2 May and 16 April respectively.

In this first part of the high season there will be no day with more than four ships docked. The busiest day will be 22 April, with three ships docking with a capacity for 12,000 people. After that, the next busiest period will be October and November.

HERE AND THERE

FUENGIROLA

Fuengirola to tap into old underground supply

L.C. Fuengirola is to recover the old unused well in Calle Isla Gomera with the intention of adding its water into the municipality's supply network. The town hall has just formalised the 559,082 euro contract with the company awarded the work. Gestagua will now have a maximum period of 90 days to proceed with the necessary work to make the water source available again. The council is also looking into the viability of recovering some other old wells.

TORREMOLINOS

Brits boost tourist numbers in record month

J.R.C. The arrival of 10,000 holidaymakers from the UK helped Torremolinos register a record number of visitors for the month of February with a total of 64,713. The number was a significant increase of almost 13,000 on the previous high for the same month in 2023: The British market was followed by the Dutch, Germans and Irish, while more visitors from Canada and the USA were counted. As a result, some 25% more hotel staff were employed this year.



Plans for the new Edificio Singular in Arroyo de la Miel. **SUR**

BENALMÁDENA

Empty Arroyo de la Miel site chosen for ground-breaking sustainable building

L. CÁDIZ. Benalmádena town hall has approved the design of a new residential complex on a site in Arroyo de la Miel that has been surrounded by controversy for 20 years. The original project for the site, known as the Edificio Singular, was the brainchild of former mayor Enrique Bolín, who, in 2003, announced plans to construct three 15-storey skyscrapers. The regional government eventually stopped the project due to the height of the towers. With the arrival of the next council, the project was modified and

the maximum height changed to seven floors, although nothing more has been done since then.

According to the town hall, the new project, for which planning permission still has to be granted, involves a sustainable construction, both in the building phase and once it is operational. The façade will be built with panels composed of micro-concrete and fibreglass while the plans include solar panels and a wastewater recycling system, which will allow water from showers and sinks to be used to flush toilets.

MARBELLA

Marbella seeks Chinese investors and tourists

MARÍA ALBARRAL. In a bid to attract more high-spending Chinese tourists and investors, the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, has visited China to present the town's new brand image. During her trip to the Asian country, the mayor met with top-end travel agencies and the media, in an event organised by CTRIP, the largest tour operator in China and with which the town hall collaborates on advertising and promotional campaigns.



Ángeles Muñoz (c). **SUR**

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Fuel sales climb in Malaga despite more hybrid and electric cars on the market

Demand has picked up since the pandemic as the average age of cars remains high, online shopping is booming and the population is growing

IGNACIO LILLO / ALBA MARTÍN

MALAGA. If more hybrid and electric cars are being sold, it would make sense that fuel consumption and sales should fall. But that is not the case in the province of Malaga; since the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, spending on fuels has been increasing steadily throughout Malaga province.

Last year's demand was the highest this decade, except for 2019, the year before the coronavirus health crisis. According to data from the latest report by CORES (Corporación de Reservas Estratégicas de Productos Petrolíferos), in the year up to March 2024, 803,496 tonnes of the two fuel products most in demand by the motor industry were sold: 95-octane unleaded petrol and diesel A. This is just 13,000 tonnes down on 2019 (816,637).

The report draws more conclusions, however. In the case of 95-octane petrol, last year broke records with 219,148 tonnes sold, surpassing the previous record set in 2005. Despite a current decline in the sale of diesel cars and vans, the average age of vehicles on the road in the province of Malaga is still high, making this the type of fuel most purchased at local service stations.

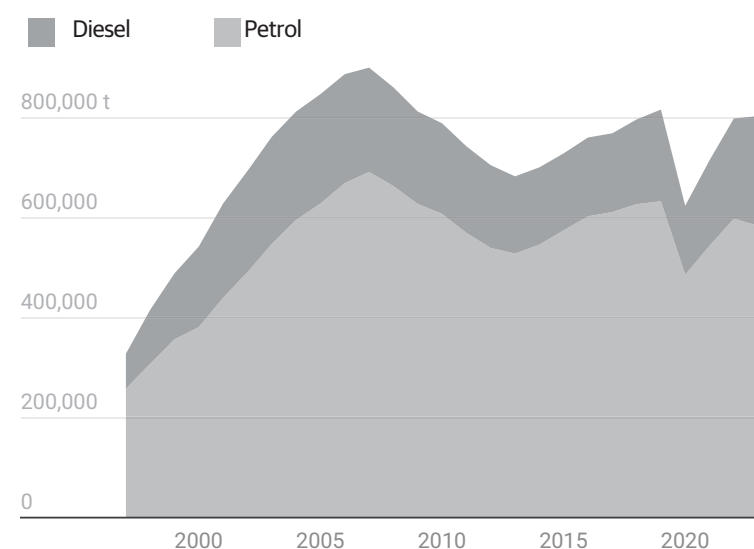
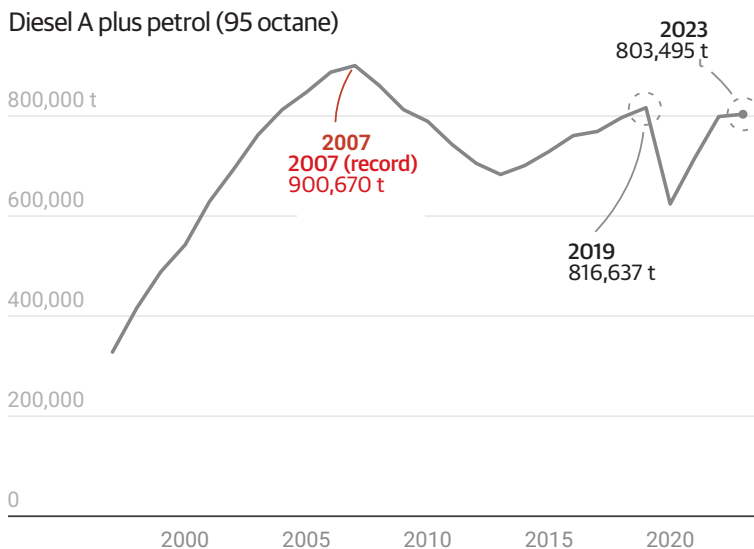
Downward trend

Data shows, however, that demand for diesel is falling, but much more slowly than expected, considering ongoing efforts to promote a low-carbon economy.

In figures, 13,877 fewer tonnes of diesel fuel were sold in 2023 than in the previous year. In addition, 2024 has started with a decrease: eight per cent less than in the same month of 2019. It is also true that the figures are much lower than in the record year, which was 2007: the province has stopped burning 97,174 tonnes in 16 years.

"Fuel consumption is at the same level as before the pandemic, although sales in local businesses are not," said Álvaro Fontes, president of Agavecar, the Andalusian association of fuel retailers. This is explained by competition from low-cost service stations, which have increased in recent years. "It

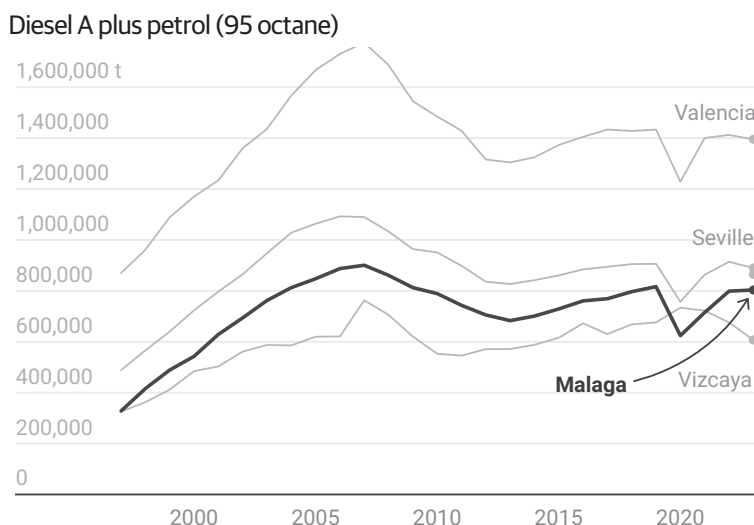
Sale of fuel in Malaga province in tonnes (t)



Fuel sales in January of each year

2024	42,454	16,450
2023	41,303	14,135
2022	42,566	13,027

Fuel sales in other provinces



Source: CORES

A.M.C.

is true that in general the market has recovered quite a lot, although not as much as before the pandemic," he pointed out.

For Fontes, "demand is increasing due to the growth of the economy, but in the future, due to energy diversification with electric cars, hydrogen and synthetic fuels, and with increased competition in the sector, our business will see a long, ongoing decline".

"The arrival of energy alternatives is going to be slower and more complex than what is politically intended," he added.

For this reason, the president of Agavecar downplayed the decline in sales as a result of the emergence of electric and hybrid vehicles. "We are more affected by internal competition in the sector than by alternative energy, which has more to do with media and political repercussions than with reality," Fontes said.

Agavecar manager Ignacio Fernández said: "Consumption has increased, but it is not enough to recover pre-pandemic levels; losses are at just over eight per cent. The feeling is that it will never recover due to the entry of new energies and the change in consumer habits, many people no longer use the car," he said.

Older vehicles

Despite the boom in public transport (which beat a record figure of almost 100 million passengers in the province last year) and the arrival on the market of more "ecological" alternatives, vehicles in Malaga province are among the oldest in Spain, with an average age of 15 years and seven months, according to data from the DGT (Directorate-General of Traffic). These have a much higher fuel consumption than newer cars. There are 1,407,209 vehicles registered in the province, mostly petrol (695,428) and diesel (688,303), while only three per cent are hybrids and electric vehicles.

"The first step towards reducing the carbon impact of vehicles, which we need as a society and which the EU obliges us to do, is to remove older vehicles from circulation. An average age of more than 14 years old, as is already the case in our country, is incompatible with reducing CO2 emissions," said José Ignacio Moya, director general of Faconauto, the association of official car dealerships in Spain.

This is compounded by high prices and uncertainty about the future. Hybrid engines (petrol and



Cars queue to fill up at a 'low cost' petrol

electric) are becoming more accepted as they are considered practical and their prices more reasonable. But pure electrics are not getting off the ground, because of how expensive they are, a widespread lack of confidence in their range and a scarcity of charging points.

The numbers of registrations last year in Malaga province makes this clear. By fuel type, while hybrids and electrics are growing, pure petrol and diesel still account for slightly more than half (50.7% compared to 49.3%). Last year, 9,847 petrol vehicles were registered (-5.5% fewer than in 2022); 1,787 diesel (-36.4%), and 11,309 so-called "ecological" cars (+30.4%), according to data from AMA, Malaga's automotive association.

When there is a trade-in, many are not scrapped, but change hands: the second-hand market is three times the size of the new market and vehicles that are passed on are on average 13.4 years old.

Logistics make the difference

Antonio Ruiz, an entrepreneur in the fuel industry with businesses in Malaga and Seville, focuses on an activity that is booming and highly dependent on fuel: "We can see that the business that has grown the most in Spain is logistics, due to online shopping. These vans are almost all diesel. Parcel delivery companies spend a lot on diesel because more and more people are buying online," he added.

Other factors Ruiz pointed to is a general trend towards more luxurious, SUV-type cars, which consume more, and the increase in tourism. "On the Costa del Sol there are many petrol stations and



station on the Santa Bárbara industrial estate in Malaga city. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

they are usually full: not only the ‘low-cost’ ones, they are all selling as they did 20 years ago,” he said.

An example of the situation experienced in Malaga city and along

the Costa del Sol is the Coloso group, which opened two new petrol stations last year . Its owner, Antonio Velarde, said demand remains “stable”.

“There is more movement and

a good Easter holiday is expected, but the figures are the same as always,” he said. In his opinion, the impact of hybrids and electric cars is not yet being felt: “If they account for eight per cent of the to-

THE FIGURES

219,148

tonnes of 95 octane petrol were sold in 2023, the highest figure since 2005.

13,877

fewer tonnes of diesel A were sold in 2023, showing a downward trend.

The increase in online shopping has increased fleets of delivery vans, the majority of which use diesel

The effect of the sale of eco-cars is hardly noticeable on the accounts of Malaga’s petrol stations for the moment

He said the weather has the greatest influence on fuel consumption in Malaga province. “The better the weather on the Costa del Sol, the more we move around; we depend a lot on that,” he said.

Population growth

Strong population growth in the municipalities surrounding Malaga city is another factor. In the decade from 2012 to 2022 there has been a boom, both in the Axarquía towns closest to Malaga city (mainly Rincón de la Victoria, Vélez-Málaga and Torre del Mar) and in the Guadalhorce valley.

Figures from Spain’s INE national statistics institute shows in the eastern area almost 15,000 new residents have been registered in ten years, of which Rincón has gained 9,353 (up to 50,569); and Vélez, 5,432 (83,899) - that is 11 per cent more. And the trend is set to continue. The INE’s demographic forecasts indicate Malaga will be the second fastest growing province in the country, only behind Madrid.

For these residents there are few public transport alternatives, and they depend on cars to get to and from work, almost always in Malaga city, which ends up being many kilometres a day.

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Possible changes to drought decree to be announced after Easter

MÁLAGA PROVINCE

The Junta will instruct the water companies to provide a maximum of 160 litres per person per day and assess the water levels on the Costa del Sol

CHUS HEREDIA

The rains from recent Storm Mónica combined with those throughout this Easter week may help to reconfigure the map of restrictions in Malaga province which is currently in a state of severe drought.

The city of Malaga is on the brink of exiting this level if it can maintain its reserves as it is for another month. In this ever-changing context, which nevertheless remains far from offering a positive outlook, the regional ministry of Agriculture issued an order published in the Official Gazette of the Junta de

Andalucía (BOJA) on Wednesday.

The text of the bulletin tightened measures to adjust consumption across the province to a maximum of 160 litres per person per day.

The drought committee is planning to meet again after Easter to reassess the situation using the latest rainfall figures and evaluating the accumulative effect it has had on the province's reservoirs.

However, in this newest decree, the rules regarding the filling of pools remains unaltered. In principle, the only exceptions to the ban are those swimming pools in hotels, on campsites, in sports clubs and therapy pools. Pools filled with seawater (non-saline chlorination) and are approved are also exempt from restrictions.

The text in the bulletin does not mention anything regarding water from tankers, but in principle, use of it is also prohibited for private pools.

Puppy rescued unharmed after spending three days trapped in ventilation duct

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

E. CABEZAS. A rescue story had a happy ending for a puppy in Vélez-Málaga on Saturday when firefighters successfully released it from a ventilation duct where it had become trapped three days earlier.

The dog had fallen through a hole while on the terrace of an apartment block and ended up becoming stuck in the ventilation duct. Residents alerted the emergency services after they heard the animal yelping.

The painstaking operation involved breaking the tiles in the kitchen of a first floor flat in the building to make a hole big enough to get to the puppy. The firefighters posted a video of the rescue on their social media which shows that the puppy appeared to be healthy and unharmed by its ordeal.



Rescued puppy



The new Aldi supermarket in Nerja opened last Friday. **E. CABEZAS**

Aldi reaches 100 stores in Andalucía with new opening in Axarquía town

NERJA

E. CABEZAS. German supermarket chain Aldi opened its first store in Nerja last Friday; its 100th in Andalucía and 28th in Malaga province.

The new premises on Avenida Alcalde Antonio Villascaras on the town's Castillo Alto industrial estate has a team of 13 employees. The new opening represents "an important milestone" in the company's expansion plans at national level and in Andalucía.

In 2023 the company opened nine shops across Andalucía, in Cordoba, Almeria, Seville, Malaga and Granada provinces.

In line with its commitment to local produce, Aldi says it works with 80 producers in Andalucía and offers more than 260 Andalusian products in its supermarkets in the region and the rest of the country.

The new Aldi, which is located directly opposite one of its big competitors in the food sector, Lidl, is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 9.30pm.

The supermarket has solar panels, LED lighting and has been equipped with sustainable technology. It has an underground car park with 78 parking spaces, two of which are charging points for electric vehicles.



The protest in the centre of Malaga earlier this month. **MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ**

Gardening companies ask for help from community owners

BENALMÁDENA

They have sent a letter to communities of owners urging them to join their demand for greater flexibility of the rules

LORENA CÁDIZ

The gardening and pool companies affected by the drought decree are looking for support from communities of owners who are also affected by the new rules which, among other things, include the prohibition of watering green areas and the filling of private pools (hotel pools are considered public).

The group has sent letters to the

presidents of the communities of owners explaining the affect on the green areas and community and private swimming pools if watering and filling of pools is prohibited. "This summer we could see the loss of between 50 and 80 per cent of private gardens," claims the group. It also highlighted that pools left empty can be severely damaged by the heat.

"We want home and community owners to join our cause and complain about the unfairness of the decree that allows hotels, waterparks and other businesses to use water with impunity," said Andrés Marín, owner of a gardening business in Benalmádena.

The next protest is planned in the centre of Malaga on 5 April.

Town hall gives out 'don't feed the cats' warning and issues volunteers with special permits

R. DE LA VICTORIA

SUR. Rincón de la Victoria town hall has handed out authorisation cards to six people responsible for looking after the town's 37 registered cat colonies.

Councillor Lola Ramos said that the initiative has so far provided six people with the cards who are officially "authorised to feed" the cats. Mayor of Rincón de la Victoria Francisco Salado highlighted "the important work being done to comply with animal welfare regulations".

The town hall has held a number of courses through which fifty people have been trained to manage the cat colonies and feed the cats. Those who successfully complete a questionnaire at the end of the course are issued the permit.

Ramos pointed out that only those who have town hall authorisation are allowed to feed colony cats. Anyone caught feeding them without the correct authorisation could face fines of between 75 and 500 euros.



Emilio and Remedios will renew their vows in a cave. **RAMÓN L. PÉREZ**

First couple in Spain to marry in a cave set to renew their vows in the same place, 50 years on

IZNALLOZ

PILAR GARCÍA-TREVIJANO. A couple from Granada are planning to renew their wedding vows in a cave fifty years after they got married in the same unusual wedding venue.

Speleologists Remedios Pérez and Emilio Gutiérrez were the first couple in Spain to say "I do" underground, in the Cueva del Agua in Iznalloz.

On 7 April 1974 the couple

managed to exchange rings at a depth of 150 metres. Fifty years later they are going to renew their vows and celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in the same place at 1,750 metres above sea level.

The golden wedding and renewing of the vows will take place on 7 April in the central gallery of the 180-metre cave. The last time they said "I do" was at a depth of about 180 metres. This time it will be a little higher for safety reasons.

Mayor of Iznalloz Carlos Romero and tourism councillor Javier Pulido said that the town is proud to celebrate the golden wedding. The councillor will officiate the ceremony, which he said was "an honour" adding, "We are very pleased to participate."

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Critically endangered African vulture breeds for first time in Malaga province

The chick, a result of Rüppell's and griffon vultures crossbreeding, was born in the El Chorro area and is being monitored by experts from Malaga University

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. El Chorro, the nature reserve near Ardales famous for the Caminito del Rey gorge walk, has become a site of refuge and hope for the Rüppell's vulture, an African species that is in critical danger of extinction in Europe. The species seems to have found an ideal place to live here in Malaga province and, for the first time, to also breed. In this case, however, the mating couple did not turn out to be as expected.

The first reliable evidence that the Rüppell's vulture had settled in the area of the Guadalhorce reservoirs came from Juanita, a female that was marked with a GPS tag by the team of researchers led by Antonio-Román Muñoz, ornithologist and lecturer in Biology at the University of Malaga, and Raimundo Real, professor of Zoology. Since it settled in the area it had been trying to breed every year but had been unable to do so. "Whenever it found a mate, it was always with a griffon vulture, which is a different species. We saw it copulate with a male and even build a nest, but it didn't lay eggs."

At the same time, another Rüppell's vulture arrived in Malaga, a male that the researchers christened Atlas. This one also paired up in El Chorro, but like Juanita, it looked for a mate of the other



The first male Rüppell's to breed successfully at El Chorro. SUR

species, a female griffon. But on this occasion, the pair have managed to raise a chick, which is a hybrid of both species and has not yet been given a name.

Several milestones

There are several milestones surrounding this event: "This is the first record of a Rüppell's vulture nesting in Europe, in Malaga province; and it has also done so by hybridising with a griffon vulture, making it the first time that a crossbreeding of these two species has been recorded in nature," explained Antonio-Román Muñoz.

Asked whether this could give rise to a new variety, the scientist clarified: "At the moment there is a chick with a Rüppell's father and a griffon mother, which we have fitted with a GPS transmitter. For now, the young bird looks more like its mother, although it will

change its plumage three or four times, and it is not known what it will look like as an adult.

Vultures breed between the fourth and fifth year of life. If it manages to survive in the wild it will be possible to check whether this first scientifically proven hybrid is fertile or not.

The number of Rüppell's vultures in Africa is declining and the current population is around 20 per cent of what it was 30 years ago, due to poisoning, electrocution and human persecution, as

This is the first time a Rüppell's vulture crossbreeding with a griffon vulture has been recorded in nature

their feathers are used in traditional medicine. In this context of extreme threat of extinction, some birds are arriving in southern Europe and are beginning to settle here.

Although the first theories pointed to climate change as the trigger for the species' move north, studies now point to other reasons. It is a species that occupies purely tropical areas in Africa, so its arrival on the Iberian peninsula may be conditioned by the winter migrations of the tawny owls.

"Juveniles go to Senegal, Gambia and other sub-Saharan countries to spend the winter. In this process, they mix with the Rüppell's, and when they return to Europe they bring them with them; they are two very social species," said Muñoz.

Climate change?

"What we propose in the scientific article we have published is to reflect on whether the occupation of Europe by the Rüppell's vulture is an opportunity for its conservation or a trap for the species, because they stop breeding in Africa and, once here, either do not reproduce or do so in hybrid pairs, which we have called a genetic amalgamation trap."

The latter is justified by the population imbalance: in Spain there are around 100,000 griffon vultures and "a few dozen" (20 to 40) Rüppell's, so that, when it comes to pairing up, it is much easier for crossbreeding to occur. At present, Spain has the best-preserved populations in the world. "It's a good place to be a vulture, and once they settle here they don't return to Africa," explained the expert ornithologist.

GIBRALTAR



The Castle Steps Challenge. SUR

CHARITY

School raises funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK

SUR IN ENGLISH. St Bernard's Upper Primary recently undertook a 'Castle Steps Challenge' to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK. Pupils and staff took turns throughout the day to walk as many times as possible up and down the castle steps.

CULTURE

Gibraltar has stand at London Book Fair

SUR. Gibraltar Cultural Services participated in the three-day London Book Fair held from 12 until 14 March. It is the first time that they have hosted a stand at the event. Gibraltar's Llanito voice attracted interest from translators, authors and other visitors to the fair. Seminars were presented by international industry professionals who tackled issues relating to the latest challenges and other information relevant to the literary scene with topics such as bilingualism, promoting across platforms, reading for pleasure and illustration.

CRIME

Customs intercept smuggled tobacco

SUR. Last Tuesday, a locally registered private vehicle was observed by police driving at speed along North Mole Road in Gibraltar. A Customs Marine Section patrol car followed the vehicle into Neil Pinero Road where a large group of individuals was seen to approach it. Upon seeing the customs vehicle, the group dispersed. The driver got out and ran down to the sea where he jumped into a waiting vessel that immediately left towards Spain. A search of the vehicle uncovered 420 cartons of cigarettes.

Snowy surprise in March

A blanket of snow covered the peaks of the Sierra de las Nieves, the Serranía de Ronda, El Torcal de Antequera and the Sierras de Tejeda and Almijara, among other areas, in the early hours of Tuesday morning. This came as a surprise to many, given its arrival in late March, with the onset of spring. The snowfall was the result of a combination of rainfall and the drop in temperatures due to the polar front that crossed Spain. The cold, however, did not deter many visitors from enjoying the mountains' snowcapped fir tree forests, as snow has been scarce this winter.



RAFAEL FLORES

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Exciting times ahead

MARBELLA

Jeremy Ferguson. For those of you who are retirees, you will have lived through an incredible age of change and prosperity. You will remember the days of stopping the car and going to a phone box to make a call, possibly dictating a letter for a colleague to type for you, waiting for the post each morning to see if your recent job interview had been successful. Cars with no seat belts, and only the well-off flying around the world for holidays etc. On and on I could go, but you get my point, I hope.

Most of us would have started to write emails in the mid 90's, and since then the advances in the use of the internet have increased exponentially. Mobile phones now are quite simply the most amazing multi-media tools, with what seems like the whole world obsessed with them. Maybe they aren't a good thing for society, only time will tell.

But what I do know is the fact that you can use them to navigate anywhere, watch TV, read the newspaper, write emails, pay for your car parking online, translate between languages etc. All of this just never ceases to amaze me.

Could you imagine telling someone a decade ago, this is where we would end up with mobile phones? Overall, this technology at our fingertips is incredibly useful and has changed the way we live.

The next decade is going to see an ever-increasing transformation in the use of technology, not only in our daily lives, but also in business and commerce. I am sure you have all heard of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) race that is underway at the moment.

AI technology has recently been on trial in a Scottish hospital, analysing mammogram data, and managed to spot cancer in a number of patients which had been missed (due to its tiny nature) by the consultants. This is a perfect example of how this technology can be used to improve our lives.

There are four main areas of ongoing technological advance that may be worth observing over the coming years. Companies operating in these sectors offer huge growth potential for their shareholders.

There are AI companies, such as Microsoft, Amazon and Canon; and those specialising in financial

technology (Fintech), Sage being prominent in this market, as well as Ricoh; there are robotics specialists, IBM and Adobe for example; and finally, the one we are all bored of hearing about, energy storage - many of the companies in this market are new, so there are few familiar names in there, but SAP is one name some of us may recognise.

The advances we are seeing in these areas are quite incredible, and if you think about it, the technology itself helps to further increase the speed of the new developments. Businesses who embrace these technologies to maximise their efficiency will all benefit from these advances. The knock-on effect will be far reaching and ever present in everyday life.

My clients are retirees here on the Costa Del Sol, now living off pensions and investments they have accrued over the years, and one of my responsibilities is making sure they are getting the most from those investments. With the world changing so quickly, it is essential we pay attention to the management of those funds, in particular to ensure that whoever



Jeremy Ferguson. SUR

is making the investment decisions is forward looking in their approach, and importantly understands the new world evolving around us.

Please feel free to email me if you would like to discuss your existing investments and pension funds, to see whether we can help make them work as hard for you

in retirement as you did in your working life to accrue them.

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Low-cost train operators force Renfe to slash prices

Increased competition has meant the state rail company has heavily discounted ticket prices on its AVE high-speed services since 2021

EUROPA PRESS

MADRID. Fares for high-speed train travel in Spain are up to 40% cheaper today than when state-owned company Renfe was the sole rail operator in the country, new, official data shows.

Italian private operator Iryo entered the Spanish market in 2021 and French company Ouigo followed shortly after.

The latest figures from the National Commission of Markets and Competition (CNMC) comes amid tension between new, cheaper operators Ouigo and Iryo and transport minister Óscar Puente who suggested the new

competitors' low prices as the reason behind Renfe's "bad financial results".

The routes where the drop in prices has been the most noticeable are the Madrid-Barcelona and Madrid-Valencia lines with prices 40% cheaper compared to 2019. Now a passenger can travel between Madrid and Barcelona for 37 euros on average and from the capital to Valencia for 22 euros, according to the CNMC.

The increased competition has forced down prices on Renfe's AVE trains, which were the ones that had to adjust their prices the most in the past year, by 20% on average.

Ouigo's manager in Spain, Hélène Valenzuela, said in response to Puente's accusations: "We have made the market grow."

"This is the first time we have been criticised for having low prices," she added.



Seagulls over a landfill site in Spain. SUR

Spain criticised for 'poor landfill management'

Latest data shows 12.7% of municipal waste goes directly to landfill without any treatment and the EU is not happy

ROCÍO MENDOZA

MADRID. The European Commission has launched infringement proceedings against Spain for failing to properly manage its landfill sites.

European legislation sets standards for landfills in order to prevent negative effects on human health, water, soil and air. Under the landfill directive, member states must take appropriate measures to ensure that only treated waste is landfilled.

In 2014 the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that, prior to landfilling, waste must be treated. However, recent data shows 12.7% of municipal waste collected in Spain

does not receive the required treatment before disposal in landfills.

"Furthermore, Spain has not established an integrated and adequate network of facilities for the management of mixed municipal waste covering all landfills in the country," the Commission added.

Spain has two months to reply to the Commission's formal letter and remedy the shortcomings identified. "In the absence of a satisfactory response, the Commission may decide to issue a reasoned opinion," it added.

This new step taken by Europe against the management of urban waste in Spain is in addition to the complaint to the Court of Justice of the European Union for the proliferation of illegal landfills (195 at least, the official statement said) scattered throughout the country without any authority intervening to "close, seal or restore them since 2008".

IN BRIEF

POLICE

Officers jailed for roadside strip search

S.Z. Two Guardia Civil officers have been jailed after ordering three men to strip naked at a traffic checkpoint in central Spain. The officers stopped the victims - three men and a woman - who were travelling on the AP-6 toll road in Segovia and proceeded to check them for drugs, weapons and stolen goods in a routine inspection.

TRAVEL

Airlines criticised over extra charge

R.M. Consumer rights group Facua has criticised easyJet and Transavia for asking passengers to pay a new fee if they book a ticket involving one or more connections. The fee is for a new service called Dohop, which is insurance to guarantee the connection between the different stopovers. Facua said this is an undue charge as EU law already obliges airlines to offer this cover to travellers for free.

POLICE

National ID on phone will soon be possible

E. M. The National Police has taken to Tik Tok to give more details of the mobile App which will allow Spanish nationals to carry their national identification card, known as the DNI, on their mobile phones with a QR code "electronically signed by the police". No rollout date has been set yet and it is not clear if the foreign residents' TIE card will be included.



A Ouigo train rolls into a railway station. EFE

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

Lying low



Spain's former king Juan Carlos chose Abu Dhabi, while Catalonia's ex-president Carles Puigdemont opted for Belgium. The getaway destination of choice for Luis Rubiales, the spectacularly fallen former president of the Spanish Football Federation, is currently the Dominican Republic, which shares an island with Haiti (and was a Spanish colony until the mid nineteenth century). Rubiales says he's there

for professional purposes, but it is surely no coincidence that he's chosen to pursue interests in the Caribbean while he's so unpopular back home.

In terms of the scandal that prompted his flight abroad, Rubiales has more in common with the ex-king than the rebel politician: as Juan Carlos was back in 2020, he is at the centre of a corruption probe into alleged kick-backs and money-laundering. Puigdemont, of course, was run-

ning from the wreckage of a failed secession bid, after triggering a constitutional crisis that still dominates Spanish politics. But all three men had similar motives in fleeing their home country: escaping an outraged public (insofar as that's possible in borderless cyberspace) and/or the possibility of criminal prosecution.

The escape tactic was most successful for Juan Carlos, whose reclusive existence in the United Arab Emirates eventually dulled media interest in the allegations against him. Puigdemont hasn't been quite so lucky, although he has managed to avoid extradition and continue his political career. The former president of Catalonia might also have his records wiped clean if Pedro Sánchez's am-

nesty bill becomes law, which would enable him to return to Spain - and he's promised to do so if his pro-independence party wins the Catalan elections in May.

Puigdemont would be welcomed back as a hero, at least by separatists. But no such reception awaits Rubiales, who is due to return to Spain next weekend to assist with the corruption probe.

The Rubiales case is similar to the Juan Carlos case in another crucial respect: both involve sex as well as money. In that sense they're both much 'better' scandals than the one surrounding Puigdemont. As well as being investigated for fraud, Juan Carlos was also accused by an ex-lover of harassment (he won that case in a London court last October);

and Rubiales ruined his career by giving footballer Jenni Hermoso a kiss in the 2023 World Cup medal ceremony that she says was not consensual.

Self-imposed exile, like a well-timed resignation, can work wonders for a big career. If Juan Carlos were to come home now, he would probably be welcomed by Spaniards as warmly as Puigdemont would be in his home region.

But it's different for Rubiales. Even if proven true, the fraud allegations against him don't really matter: they can't do any more damage to a reputation that was already shredded. Everyone has decided - in lieu of an actual trial - that Rubiales is a sexist monster, a vile predator. Who cares if he's also a fraudster?

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Ending the drought crisis?

Retaining the moisture on the upper mountain land for as long as possible will help prevent flash floods. These are best avoided as they wash all of the top soil away, further increasing the desert like appearance, and making it even harder to retain moisture in the soil. One way people in other arid areas have found to improve this is to adapt permaculture techniques such as trenches ('swales') and small lakes. It would be lovely to see big support across Andalucía for this at governmental level, and turn those seasonal streams into all year round ones.

IAN MOSS

Impressed by student's poem

I was very interested to read your poetry section in the last SUR in English edition and would like to send my praise and congratulations to Irma aged 14 who wrote Spilt Milk. What an insightful, amazing, brilliantly constructed poem.

I've been writing poetry for 62 years and have five books of poetry on Amazon. This young lady impressed me immensely. Well done Irma.

TRICIA GABBITAS

Anti-tourist graffiti not just in Spain

This [anti-tourist graffiti] isn't just happening in Malaga province or even just in Spain. We first witnessed quite aggressive anti-tourist graffiti in San Sebastián six or seven years ago but subsequently we've seen and heard about similar across a wide range of countries and regions: Cornwall etc.

These sentiments are coming from locals and whilst not rare, it's still a minority.

STEPHEN COSGROVE

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Smarty pants

Generally speaking, the purchase of anything with the prefix 'smart' attached to it is a fool's errand, unless it's followed by 'suit', or, even better, 'ies'.

Electronic gadgets claiming to be smart are, almost unfailingly, quite the opposite. Smart watches are a case in point. We have a few customers at the pub who wear such things and who, when using them to pay, find themselves involved in bodily contortions that members of the Cirque Du Soleil would be proud of.

I'm convinced one chap came close to dislocating his shoulder on one occasion, such was his body shape and the accompanying grimace. These gadgets spend their time monitoring your calorie-burning levels, heart rate and the number of steps you've taken during the day among other intrusions. What's more, unlike a nagging spouse, they never rest- they'll even spy

on you while you're asleep, which is just creepy. My advice would be get one of those little square alarm clocks from the nearest Chinese shop instead. Oh, and to pay in cash.

Similarly, smart electric meters are anything but. Apparently, there are about three million faulty ones in the UK, causing innocent customers to be charged astronomical amounts for electricity they haven't used. It's like we're unable to speak the truth: that the latest technology isn't always the best technology.

We received a new card payment machine at the pub the other day and, as he walked in, the technical bloke who came to set it up spotted the old one lying forlorn and rejected on the bar like an ex-lover.

"Is that the machine you've been using until now?"

"Er, yes. It's a bit old and tatty isn't it?"

"A bit but it's much better than

this thing. This one's nowhere near as reliable."

He waved the offending gadget about at arm's length above his head with an air of disdain usually reserved for used nappies by first-time parents. We've kept both machines on his advice.

Smart speakers are really weird as well. Talking to an inanimate object in any context is a bit spooky, even if it's your mate Dave who's had one over the eight. It seems especially odd, though, if you're on your own in your house, addressing a piece of furniture.

"Sirilexa, play some jazz - you choose because, frankly, I don't know the names of any musicians anymore. In fact I don't know anything anymore. I'm all woozy lately, and my mind feels like it's made of strawberry blancmange. Crikey - you do realise, don't you, that when I asked you to dim the lights a few weeks ago, I didn't mean mine?"

IDÍGORAS

Do you think
it's true that
Saint Peter
denied Jesus
three times?

SUR **in English**Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.
Director General: ANTONIO GONZÁLEZEditor-in-Chief
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Still special

Every year when Semana Santa comes around it brings a mixture of sensations. There's the general feeling of anticipation at the prospect of a week that's different, albeit still involving going to work. Then there's a sense of curiosity and admiration as you look on from the outside as towns and cities prepare themselves for their processions: overhead traffic lights get tilted out of the way; trains and buses gain special timetables and routes; and even those rubber markers that separate the cycle lane

from the traffic are removed where these are on a procession route. And there's even some envy in there, as people throw themselves into an annual event with so much emotion and a sense of belonging.

While I am, these days, firmly in the camp of those who keep out of the way, rather than those who head off into town, knowing full well it's going to be painfully crowded, I admit to switching on the TV or the link to the local channel online to see how the processions are going.

And when you come across someone

who doesn't know the area and its customs, you find yourself enthusiastically describing all there is to see and encouraging them to go, even though it's years since you've been.

Whether or not you're very devout or religious - which almost seems irrelevant this week - Semana Santa in Malaga and other towns and cities in southern Spain is a big deal.

It's hard to find someone with no connection with a 'cofradía' (the religious brotherhoods that organise the processions) or who isn't close to someone who is. All ages, all walks of life, all social classes and even all political ideologies can be found in a Semana Santa brotherhood (although the one that got its old standard out embroidered with Franco's name and fascist symbols may well have lost some support this year).

Even if you are an adopted resident,

who has come from another culture, you can't help feeling that Semana Santa is partly your own - and proud that your visitors have been suitably impressed.

So this week when the rain that everyone, religious or otherwise, has been praying for months shows its face precisely in the week that it's not really that welcome, you can't help sharing concerns, and looking at the clouds with disappointment.

Next week, when inevitably the sun will shine again, towns and cities will get back to normal, cleaning the wax from the road and putting the traffic lights back in place.

And in the case of Malaga, the hundreds of thousands of locals who filled the streets this week to watch or take part in the processions will go back to their neighbourhoods, and let the tourists have the city centre back again.



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IN THE FRAME

Breathing creative life into an old kiosk in the Axarquía

Art. Mollie Kash was a welder and sculptor in Buffalo, NY, before moving to Cútar with her husband where they create and sell their artwork

JENNIE RHODES



Artist and welder Mollie Kash and her husband Ken have recently opened a small kiosk in their adopted village of Cútar in the Axarquía in what used to be a little bar. As well as selling drinks and snacks to the many cyclists and tourists who pass through the village, they also sell their art and work by other local artists.

The idea came to Mollie as she thought it would be “a nice place” to put her work “and to invite other local artists and artisans to sell their things too”. She goes on to say, “Our neighbours have a lot of stories and pictures. It has a lot of local nostalgia, so it seemed like a natural thing to do.”

Mollie, 59, is a welder by trade, as is Ken. The couple are originally from Buffalo in New York state, where they lived until 2017. She jokes about the job, “We made furniture, railings and gates to support our art habit.”

As the “first obvious female welder in Buffalo” in the 1980s, Mollie says she was “pretty visible”. People knew who she was and she says that it was an “interesting and fun” time.

While she was conscious that

at the time she was a ‘woman in a man’s world’ she says that the experience was positive and being a woman was more of a help than a hindrance in terms of getting work.

“People were surprised, but if anything I was more of a unique thing. I didn’t feel I was in a situation where people were dismissive. The experience was positive rather than negative. I think it helped to get work because people knew who I was,” Mollie reflects.

She says she was “really encouraged” by the people around her and that “it wasn’t challenging”. In her view Buffalo “is a great place for young artists and a very supportive community. It’s a young, college town”.

Metal handbags

Another of the creations that Mollie made with Ken was a series of handbags made out of metal. They have mainly been shown in exhibitions although Mollie says that some of the smaller shoulder bags they made that were just big enough to fit a mobile phone were popular and sold well.

“We would love to continue to create them here and find the right market for them,” she



Mollie Kash modelling one of her handbags outside the kiosk. **sur**

adds.

In 2017 Mollie and Ken were looking for a change. It was “time to strike out on our own,” Mollie says, as their children had grown up and left home. They considered living “a kind of nomad life” travelling around the USA, but ended up coming to the south of Spain and falling in love with Cútar.

Mollie had previously spent time in Europe - she studied in

Sienna, Italy, for a semester during her college years and travelled around then. She was familiar with Catalonia, but had never been to the south of Spain before.

The couple found a small B&B in Cútar and stayed there for a while with a view to exploring the local area, but then they found a property that they liked: “It was fairly quick,” laughs Mollie.

“People were surprised to find a female welder, but if anything I was a unique thing. The experience was positive rather than negative”

They have been there ever since. “We really love Cútar. It’s definitely a nice place up in the mountains, off the beaten path,” says Mollie.

Marionettes

Now the artist is doing things that she has “always found interesting but never had time for” such as painting and printmaking. In fact she used to hold printmaking workshops and says that she is hoping to set up some workshops in spring.

Something else that Mollie has started to make is marionettes. She explains that during lockdown, when “everyone had more time on their hands and we all thought about things we hadn’t thought about in a long time” Mollie remembered a marionette she had had as a child, so she did some research and started to make one.

She now has around 20 and they have “started to get a real following” on Instagram. They do all sorts of things from playing the piano to moving their own mini marionettes. “I’m not sure where they’ll go from here, but I really love making them,” she admits.

Now the focus is on getting the kiosk going and continuing to create art to add to the snacks and drinks so that it becomes not just nostalgia, but a living, breathing place that the locals can enjoy again.

i To find the marionettes and more of Mollie’s work: Instagram: stringcraftfolk; Facebook: Mollie Kash Artist Page

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The German who swapped tourists in Marbella for lions in Africa

MARBELLA

In his youth Thomas Dressler worked as a tourist guide on the Costa del Sol but a trip to Kenya led him to make a living from photography

DAVID LERMA

Photographer and naturalist Thomas Dressler (67) was born in a small town south of Frankfurt but four decades ago he came to live in Marbella. It was a move closer to the African continent he has constantly explored with a camera on his shoulder and his images have been published by such reputable media outlets as National Geographic, Geo or BBC Wildlife. Although he is considered an agency photographer, Thomas has published several books on photography, among them one dedicated to the white villages of Andalucía.

As a young man he worked as a tourist guide in different countries, including Spain, but soon wanted to quit. During a holiday to Kenya that lasted almost three months, he discovered what he wanted to do: be in Africa.

"I was going round the continent and looking for a way to earn a living. Photography then seemed to me the most accessible option. I'm totally self-taught. I was lucky to have friends in Germany, amateur photographers, who had contacts in some agencies, and that was how I took this path," he explains. "It turned out well for me, and here I am," he adds.

Landscapes

"I rented a car, a Suzuki. I didn't have much money and I dedicated myself to travelling solo with my camera through Kenya and Tanzania for the first few years. I would only photograph animals. I needed to create a big archive to be able to earn money. Years later I would go to the south of Africa, to Namibia, with its incredible landscapes, its desert and its people, as well as its urban areas. There I realised that I couldn't only live off giraffes and elephants," he points out, sitting on a terrace in the centre of Marbella, where he lives between his travels.

Zambia, Botswana or South Africa, but also Morocco, the south of the US or Cuba, are already part of his meticulous and admiring work towards nature.

"I love animals. It's what I like most. You have to have patience, knowledge of species' habits,



Self-portrait of Thomas Dressler in the Kalahari desert, in 2020. **SUR**

During a trip to Kenya in his youth, he discovered what he really wanted to do: be in Africa and take photographs

"Many times I've woken up and I've seen lion tracks next to my tent," he says about his experience in Africa

"In 2005, I went digital. I was one of the last to do so. When there are big changes, I usually wait. But it was inevitable," says Dressler

and a bit of luck as well." Dressler doesn't always work with telephoto lenses, but likes to capture the scene, getting as close as possible and take a wide-angled, clichéd shot to highlight the surrounding landscape, which is always in colour.

"That was what the agencies needed, and in order to not get sidetracked, I developed my own slides. That took me a lot of time," he acknowledges. "I like

deserts, but not the jungle. I like the solitude I find in Africa when I look at its open spaces. It's like the beauty of Extremadura," a region that fascinates him, or the mines of Riotinto, which he will visit again in April, given the artistic possibilities they offer him.

Exposed to danger

He acknowledges that he has been exposed to "potential danger in Africa" due to his curiosity and close proximity to wildlife. "Many times I've woken up in the morning and seen lion tracks next to my tent. On one occasion I woke up with a sense of imminent threat. There was a pride on the other side of the fabric. They don't recognise the material, and so they don't usually enter. A wild lion won't hesitate to attack you if you get out of the car," he explains. "I've also had problems with elephants, but fortunately everything turned out all right," he laughs.

He admits that photography has changed a lot. "In 2005, I went digital. I was one of the last to do so. When there are big changes, I usually wait. But it was inevitable."

He accepts the advantages of working without photo development and the low cost of making a photograph nowadays. For the past three years, moreover, he has photographed Andalucía with his drone.

"I've always searched for air,

heights, and the drone simplifies things a lot. I've taken photos in a small plane, helicopter, hot-air balloon... Now it's a lot more attainable," he points out while showing images of the greenhouses in El Ejido or the coastal wetlands, a project that is yet to be finished.

Marbella was his last destination before leaving his job as a tourist guide. "There I met my wife, who is Italian, who also worked as a tourist guide. I didn't want to go back to Germany, nor she to Italy, so here we are. I liked Marbella more before. It's true that it's become very big, but it doesn't have the elements of a big city. I like the type of people who come less and less. The style has changed. I prefer to go to Tarifa, to the coast of Cadiz, to relax."

He acknowledges that he has few photos of himself. The one which accompanies this text, he took in the Kalahari desert.

"I was near a bored lion and then I saw myself in the mirror and said: 'Wow, I'm handsome'," he says sarcastically.

"What do I think of Andalusians? You're the best," he says, without hesitation and with great admiration.

"I feel more Andalusian than German," he acknowledges, fully integrated, unlike many of his compatriots. "This is my home," the photographer concludes.

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DENISE BUSH

READERS' PHOTOS



ADRIAN VAN VLIET

Red false agave

Beschorneria yuccoides, or red false agave, is an alternative to a true agave if you don't want to get stabbed when walking past, watch it die after flowering or see it rot in wet winters. It is very hardy and just needs plenty of sun and space to spread. It may take a couple of years to get established and flower as Adrian van Vliet, who sent in this photo, can attest.

Blooming roses

SUR in English reader Rosalind Caplan has sent in this photo of her roses and says, "I've never known this rose to bloom so well, it's my favourite." It seems the warm, dry conditions followed by quite heavy rain in some areas has suited them very well and encouraged prolific flowering.



ROSALIND CAPLAN

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es with a caption and a few words of explanation and you may get your photos published on this page. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook (surenglish) or X (Twitter) @SUR_English.



ACE founder and president Fabienne Paques (l) at the fundraiser. SUR

GARDENING

Spring begins with wisteria

To see a truly beautiful spectacle you only have to visit the Jardín Botánico La Concepción in Malaga at this time of year. The outside dining room is covered by a wrought iron pergola which is itself covered by twelve Wisteria sinensis, planted in 1857 by the Loring-Heredia family.

The hanging racemes of graceful, purple blooms look (and smell) beautiful but if you

look closely you will see the strong, twisting stems have practically destroyed the ornate iron framework. This is one of the downsides of owning a Wisteria, they are extremely vigorous growers and will destroy built supports. However, growing up a living plant, such as a tree or other climber, they

do not tighten their grip and will happily co-exist.

Wisteria is a member of the legume family (Fabaceae) and can reproduce from seed or layering. Grown from seed it may be up to seven years before this woody vine flowers. The two most common species are W. floribunda and W. sinensis. The latter, native to China, is the most aggressive grower. It also grows taller, has thicker stems and longer leaves.

The racemes of scented flowers are densely packed, more rounded and can be up to 30cm long.

W. floribunda is native to Japan and has long pendulous racemes of white or blue, strongly scented flowers up to 60cm long. It may be slow to become established but once mature it will grow aggressively and is very long lived. Apparently, the way to tell the two apart is W. sinensis twines anti-clockwise while W. floribunda twists clockwise.

Less common

There are other, less common species such as W. frutescens which is native to south-eastern US and which has thinner stems and shorter racemes of flowers. It is on the whole less vigorous and therefore suitable for smaller spaces. W. brachybotrys is native to Japan and has distinctive silky seed pods, it is also less aggressive. Finally there is W. macrostachya, native to south-eastern US, especially Kentucky. This species is harder than the others but not common.



Wisteria sinensis and close-up of raceme (inset). DENISE BUSH

SOCIETY SCENE

MIJAS

La Cala de Mijas Lions search for treasure

T. BRYANT. More than 20 people turned out for the La Cala de Mijas Lions first car treasure hunt last weekend. The winners of the event, which raised 410.00 euros, were presented with a trophy and certificates, while the losers received a wooden spoon.

Lions President, Brenda Meredith thanked everyone who participated in the event, adding, "we are really looking forward to the next one"

Organiser, Graham Rutland, said, "It was a very successful and enjoyable event and the money raised will help the club continue its work in the area".

For information about future Lions events, see www.lacalalions.org

MIJAS

Successful fundraiser for Mijas animal shelter

T. BRYANT. More than 80 animal lovers attended the spring fundraiser for the ACE shelter at El Olivo restaurant in La Cala de Mijas last weekend. The evening, which featured a three-course dinner, a raffle and live entertainment, raised more than 1,800 euros to help the charity feed and look after the 500 dogs and more than 200 cats currently in its care.

THE STORY BEHIND A PLACE NAME

Sanlúcar de Barrameda
Sanctuary to Venus

Theories abound as to the origins of the name, including the Latin 'sanctus locus' (holy place) or that it refers to a Franciscan bishop

Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cadiz), a town located at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River and close to Doñana National Park, and although several theories abound, none is backed with factual evidence. What can be proven is that Barrameda was once a settlement that was separate from the urban centre of Sanlúcar, and that the two districts were connected by what was called the Barrameda road.

The port of Sanlúcar is also known as El Puerto de Lucero, based on the theories of some specialists who suggest it could be the place that Greek geographer Strabo referred to as 'luciferi fanum'.

Other historians claim that



Aerial view of Sanlúcar de Barrameda and its coastline. **SUR**



TONY BRYANT

There is no consensus among historians concerning the name

Sanlúcar derives from the Arabic 'shaluga', a name for the sirocco wind that arrives from the Sahara Desert, although many academics believe this is the least feasible. It is also claimed that Barrameda derives from 'bar-am-ma'ida', an Arabic phrase for 'well of the plateau' - again, without verification.

Another possibility is that the name comes from the Latin 'sub lucare', which means 'behind a

forest'; while other academics believe the most probable hypothesis would be that the name Sanlúcar comes from 'sanctus locus', Latin for 'holy place'. This theory is based on the archaeological discovery in 1980s of El Tesorillo de la Algaida, the ruins of an ancient sanctuary dedicated to Roman goddess Venus.

Finally, some believe that the place name relates to a 15th-century Franciscan bishop called

Alfonso de Sanlúcar de Barrameda, who was the bishop of the diocese of Rubicón, the first to be founded on the Canary Islands. The lack of biographical data concerning the bishop has made this theory impossible to prove, as it cannot be confirmed if the town was actually named after him, or if his name signifies, as is common in Spain, that he was simply from Sanlúcar de Barrameda.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Santuario	Sanctuary
Obispo	Bishop
Distrito	District
Carretera	Road
Conectar	To connect
Especialista	Specialist
Viento	Wind
Desierto	Desert
Factible	Feasible
Pozo	Well
Meseta	Plateau
Bosque	Forest
Posibilidad	Possibility
Santo	Saint
Diosa	Goddess
Teoría	Theory
Estuario	Estuary

Bilingual crossword inside back page



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Pouring cider the traditional way in Oviedo. SUR



Traditional sausages in the local market.



Fabada asturiana (Asturian bean stew).

A stroll through the most appetising city in Spain this year

Gastronomy. Oviedo holds the title of Spanish Capital of Gastronomy 2024, making this the perfect time for a visit to the capital of Asturias. This route takes in some of the city's best cuisine

KINO VERDÚ

We have to start somewhere, so we will head towards El Fontán market, the centre of Oviedo's fresh produce: fruit, fish, vegetables, meat, pickles, bread, cold meats, cheeses, and pulses, among others. The market, with up to 30 stalls, is set up on Plaza 19 de Octubre. Its structure was designed by architect Javier Aguirre in 1882 and construction was completed three years later. It acts as the heart of Oviedo's gastronomy scene, especially on a Saturday morning, when, after filling your shopping bags to the brim, you crave an appetiser in one of the busy bars or terraces nearby; try a few velvet crabs marinated in cider (nécoras regadas en sidra), for example. Of course, if you wish to try more of this fermented apple drink made that is so typical of Asturias, your destination is Calle Gascona, commonly known as El Bulevar de la Sidra (Cider Boulevard).

Around 12 cider bars (La Pumarada, Tierra Astur, El Ferroviario, La Cabana, Villaviciosa and El Pigüena, among others) fill this bustling street, one of the region's busiest, a benchmark and pilgrimage site for lovers of the most international drink of Asturias. Cider's big day comes with the traditional 'Preba de la Sidra' ('Cider Tasting') in June, when a public vote elects the best-presented ciders by the 'llagareros' (cider makers).'

Small bites

But there is no need to wait for a special occasion; Oviedo is a place you must go and explore regardless.

The city has a huge tapas scene; it is a bustling area where the region's best products come together, which explains the infinite taverns, bars and 'chigres' - Asturian bars that primarily serve cider. However, there does exist an 'official' route along which

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Desarme (chickpeas with cod and spinach, tripe and rice pudding).



Moscovitas (Asturian cookies, made with chocolate and almond).

you can delight in these appetising activities: La Ruta de los Vinos (Wine Route). Characterised by a series of narrow streets which surround Calle Campoamor and Calle Manuel Pedregal (parallel to each other), the route finishes on Calle Uría, bubbling with wine bars, cider bars, restaurants, cocktail bars and pubs, where the partying continues into the night. A tour through the 2024 Spanish Capital of Gastronomy cannot leave out its historical centre, a must-see that combines the cultural with the culinary. You can take a stroll and grab a bite to eat to the sound of the San Salvador cathedral bells at Plaza de Alfonso

II el Casto, and then wander along Calle San Francisco, Plaza de Porlier, the University of Oviedo, Calle del Peso, Plaza de la Constitución (where the city hall is located) and the impressive Calle Cimadevilla, which used to be the commercial heart of the city and has now been converted into a stream of bars and restaurants. In recent years, Oviedo's gourmet district has grown in popularity, near Plaza América, Avenida de Galicia and Calle Valentín Masip; it is known as the cradle of the city's high class delicatessens and restaurants, where innovative and creative designs are combined with classic eateries that never go out of fashion and

which offer the most traditional Asturian recipes. The penultimate stop on this gastro-tour is Bulevar El Vasco, a complex measuring around 120,000 square metres which opened up in 2022, with the aim of becoming the driving force behind Oviedo's leisure scene. Gastronomy is one of its focal points. There are around seven hotels in this mini city, towering above the 2,000-square-metre cider bar Tierra Astur (you will come across several bars of this group throughout Oviedo, an example of the region's most traditional cuisine), or N'Astura, of a similar size, a project that was led by chef Nacho Manzano, who received a Michelin star for his restaurant NM; this indeed gives us an opportunity to sample some fine dining.

Big bites
Nacho Manzano is one of the most renowned chefs of Asturian cuisine and has revolutionised the region's gastronomy, first with his restaurant Casa Marcial in Arriandas, which has received two Michelin stars, as well as NM and Gloria, which are situated in Oviedo. The latter is his most casual offer: a wine bar which he runs with his sister Esther, who he is very close to. As Manzano himself says, "Oviedo, as well as being the city I live in, was one of the first places where we decided that we wanted to have a catering business outside of Casa Marcial. And we were sure at the time that it would be a restaurant, because Oviedo is known for its stews and soups. And today we continue supporting the city's new gastronomic spaces... Oviedo has evolved a lot and has attracted many tourists in recent years. And the arrival of

the AVE [high speed train] will reinforce this even more. For this reason and many others, it deserves to be the 2024 gastronomic capital." Since last November, passengers have been able to travel from Madrid to Oviedo in just three hours, thanks to this new train service, which makes it easier (and faster) to enjoy the culinary treats of this Asturian city. As well as NM, Gloria, and Casa Fermín, other restaurants include Ca'Suso, Cocina Cabal, Mestura, La Vieira and Casa Conrado & Suárez. The essence of Oviedo's gastronomy runs through these restaurants, from the most daring formulas to the most traditional dishes.

So, what do I eat?
To truly make the most of the 2024 Capital of Gastronomy involves an intensive tasting of the region's most iconic foods. Fabada (Asturian bean stew) is extremely popular; the main ingredient is the white bean, the region's most prized pulse, which is also essential in 'pote asturiano' (regional stew with beans, potatoes, greens and meat). You also have chorizo, blood sausage and bacon mixed in. As for the cheeses (which no foodie should miss out on), four of them have a Protected Designation of Origin: Cabrales, Gamoneu, Afuega'l Pitu and Casín. We recommend that you do not only try these, but also have a look at (and a bite of) the other 40 types of cheese that are made in the region's valleys and mountains. Bite into some Chosco de Tineo (cured and smoked sausage) and some Ternera Asturiana (regional beef steak), which forms the base of 'cachopo', a dish very characteristic of the region, and which has the seal of Protected Geographical Indication (PGI). As for cider, the product of the total or partial alcoholic fermentation of fresh apples or apple juice, it has been designated an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC) since 2014, and is currently fighting to be included on Unesco's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Between glasses of cider, switch to wine with some DO Vino de Cangas. More things to taste include: Pitu Caleya (regional free-range chicken cooked with potatoes or rice); 'tortos' (a combination of corn flour, ground pork seasoned with paprika, and eggs); 'pastel de cabracho' (scorpion fish cake); 'pixín a la sidra' (anglerfish marinated in cider); stuffed onions; or, 'bollu preñau' (bread roll stuffed with chorizo). And we cannot possibly finish this succulent tour without a delicious sweet treat. Oviedo is a confectionery capital. As well as the supremely popular Spanish rice pudding, you must try 'carbayones', a dessert made from puff pastry, almond cream and a yolk topping, created in 1924 by José de Blas in his patisserie Camilo de Blas, among the oldest in the region (Calle Jovellanos); 'moscovitas' from Confitería Rialto (Calle San Francisco); and, chocolates from Peñalba (Calle Milicias).

The arrival of the high speed train service makes it easier (and faster) to enjoy the culinary treats of this Asturian city



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Your eyes will play tricks on you at the new exhibition by Carlos Cruz-Diez at the Pompidou

The Venezuelan artist explores chromatic phenomena: colours that are seen but aren't there; others that seem to move; and paintings that change as you move

REGINA SOTORRÍO



MALAGA. This is not your typical art exhibition because, to begin with, what you think you see is not what is really there. It may seem to you that one of these works of art is painted yellow, but no - step in closer and you will not find that colour present at all. You will believe that the colours are moving in another painting, but the lines actually remain static. And the first piece you see when entering the gallery, a monochrome work in blue, is not really like that: as you move around it, circular shapes will suddenly appear. The Pompidou Centre Malaga is playing around with optics in its new temporary exhibition, running until 29 September, to beguile visitors, an exhibition that pays homage to optical art as explored so intensively by the Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz-Diez (1923-2019).

"All his life he tried to demonstrate that colour is autonomous, that it does not need any form to exist. We always say red apple, blue sky, green leaf..., but that's not the case," states his son Carlos Cruz Delgado as he stands before almost forty works by his father made from straight lines.

He was his father's right-hand man for 50 years of studies, since 1959, and his technical support for his "inventions". All Cruz-Diez's work is based mainly on two optical effects. Firstly, chromatic induction, the changes in shade, colour and clarity that the eye experiences when it sees different colours simultaneously. The other is the after-image, the image and colours that appear in our eyes after a period of exposure to the original image or colour.

Optical art

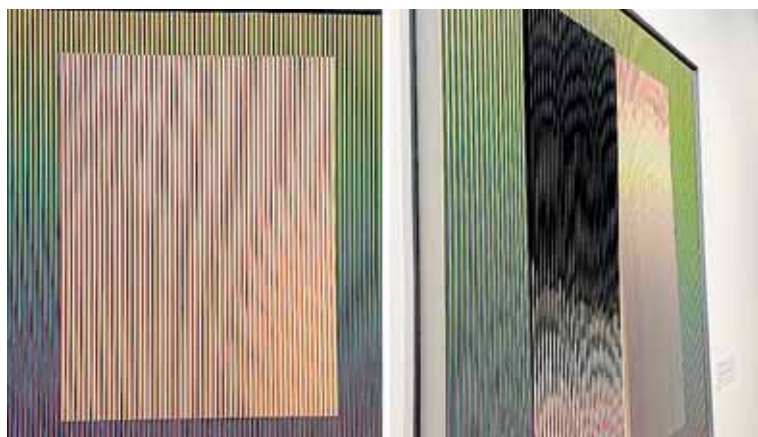
On that basis, Cruz-Diez explored different colour-related phenomena in several series of works that demand more than the usual viewing by gallery visitors: they must move around the work, go in close then zoom back out several times, looking at it from different perspectives. In short, they must "socialise" with it, "making optical art the most people-cen-



Paintings from the 'Color aditivo' series, where a virtual vertical line is created at the convergence of different colours. **MARILÚ BÁEZ**



Carlos Cruz Delgado, son of the artist. **MARILÚ BÁEZ**



The artworks change as the viewer moves in front of them. **TENLLADO**

tric of the arts", argues curator Michel Gauthier.

"Here, you choose from which viewpoint you contemplate the artwork, and that varies the painting. There won't be two spectators with the same experience. "There's a whole infinity of paintings within each painting," explains Gauthier in front of one of the many 'Physichromies' that occupy the room. Thanks to thin vertical strips of plastic arranged perpendicular to the plane of the painting, the shapes and colours of the paintings change as the person observing them moves in front of them. Those strips conceal some colours and reveal others with the movement of the viewer.

In movement

The effect achieved in 'Cromointerferencia Mecánica' is fascinating: the colours come to life and move. However, it's not real. The viewer experiences a visual interference, a 'moiré' effect, which destabilises vision with chromatic waves that seem to oscillate. Cruz-Diez discovered that by moving a transparent sheet with lines over another support also with lines of colours arranged in a similar way, chromatic interferences appeared and the colours changed. In another piece, the artist manages to replicate that phenomenon without any mechanical component, only with the viewer moving around the artwork.

In the 'Color aditivo' series, the artist ingeniously confuses the human eye once again. From afar, you'll see a painting with vibrant colours, with vertical lines of an intense hue. However, if you approach the artwork, you'll see that

there are only horizontal lines. These pieces are based on the dual phenomenon of optical mixing and colour irradiation. When two planes of colour come into contact, a third colour appears in the area where they converge. Sometimes, that virtual colour spreads uniformly across the entire surface where they meet. In other instances, it produces a halo.

In another section of the exhibition, two works with a yellowish tone hang. You see it, but it doesn't actually exist either. This is what's called chromatic induction, related to the phenomenon of retinal persistence: when the eye contemplates a blue plane and then moves away from it, it will see yellow, its complementary colour. Naturally, this occurs in two phases, but Cruz-Diez managed to compress it into one by measuring the relativity of colour perception. In the paintings at the Pompidou, only white, black, and blue are actually painted; yellow is a virtual colour.

Cruz-Diez was a pioneer in creating sensory environments. He designed three cabins with the colours red, blue and green to offer a two-step experience. First comes the 'chromatic bath': participants have their usual viewing colour palette drastically reduced as their retinas become saturated by the single colour surrounding them in the chosen cabin. This is chromosaturation. For the second part, after spending some time in the cabins (it depends on each individual), the eye will perceive the space that surrounds it with the complementary colour of the one in which it has been immersed: yellow for blue, red for green. and green for red. This is known as retinal persistence.

EXHIBITIONS

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

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



María Blanchard, Museo Picasso

Fashion Art, Manuel Fernández - which features works by 25 artists use their art to denounce the effects of climate change on the world's oceans. Free entry.

Daniela Mauri and Manuela Bernardo
MIJAS COSTA. *Until 15 April. Centro Cultural la Cala.* A joint exhibition by Daniela Mauri and Manuela Bernardo.

Nuevo Enfoque
MIJAS COSTA. *Until 31 March. Urb El Coto, Los Olivos.* A selection of photographs by the Nuevo Enfoque club.

Sensualidad
LAS LAGUNAS. *Until 8 April. Casa de la Cultura.* A collective exhibition of works by

Galería Studio 33, an art centre which promotes multidisciplinary skills and diverse activities.

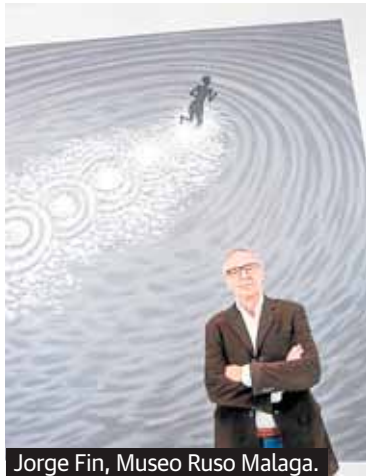
Fantasia
MIJAS PUEBLO. *Until 31 March. Tourist Office.* Artist Elena Shcherbakova will be exhibiting some of her art in this exhibition entitled Fantasia.

Juan Miguel Alba
MALAGA. *Until 31 March. La Concepción Botanical Gardens.* The exhibition Etiopia y las Etnias del Sur is a collection of 24 photos which captures the hard lives of the remaining Ethiopian tribes. The moving pictures were taken by the late Malaga photographer Juan Miguel Alba.

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. **María Blanchard.** *From 30 April until 29 September.* This new exhibition presents a chronological record of the different creative stages of the life of Spanish artist María Blanchard christened the 'dame of Cubism'. **Pablo Picasso: Estructuras de la Invención. La Unidad de una Obra.** *Until spring 2027.* The new permanent exhibition at the MPM is a remodelling of the 140 works in the collection.

www.museopicassomalaga.org.

Museo Picasso Casa Natal
MALAGA. *Plaza de la Merced.* **La Imagen de Picasso.** *Until 28 April.* To mark the fiftieth anniversary of Picasso's death, the Casa Natal is holding an exhibition which marks the various stages in his life. It includes paintings, drawings, ceramics and sculpture as well as photography.



Jorge Fin, Museo Ruso Malaga.

Todo Por Tu Amor 1923-2023
MALAGA. *Until 31 March. Salas Minigorance 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.* **Más Allá de su Tiempo.** *Permanent exhibition.* An international collection featuring the best of Russian art, along with historical documents and photographs. From Kandinsky to Kiefer, and including works by Diego Rivera. **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. **Naomi Lautier.** *Until 30 June.* An exhibition by twelve-year-old Naomi Lautier who suffers with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). She accidentally discovered that oil painting allowed her to explore her sensory and creative abilities, capturing moods and emotions in the world around her.

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.** *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. **Theresa Chromati.** *Until 2 June.* The works of this American artist explore the traditional boundaries of painting through fragmented forms and abstract figuration 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.



Theresa Chromati, CAC Malaga.

From Africa to Paris, new mini exhibitions of Picasso's works

The art gallery opens five mini exhibitions focusing on little-known aspects of the work of this Malaga-born artist

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. One of the more novel aspects of the new semi-permanent collection at the Picasso Museum Malaga is the series of five, mini, 'Focus' exhibitions, curated by a team of researchers working under Prof Michael Fitzgerald from the Almine & Bernard Ruiz-Picasso Foundation (FABA) who were funded to carry out an in-depth study of specific aspects of the work of this Malaga artist. As such, gallery visitors can step through each focal point, learning more about the artist's special relationship with African sculpture, his pieces done with wood and plaster, the impact of World War II on his work and the mural that he painted for Unesco in Paris. The first Focus exhibition shows off three African pieces from Picasso's collection and



African sculptures, part of Picasso's private art collection. NITO SALAS

the influence of black art on his painting The Young Ladies of Avignon. In Room 4, art specialist Meta Maria Valiusaityte puts the spotlight on his paintings on wood, some of which are small in format, yet appear monumental thanks to the artist's toying with proportions. Moving up to the second floor, we see how Picasso experimented with creating plaster sculptures in the 1930s with several pieces selected by Rocío Robles Tardío. Room 7 illustrates something of the joy

shared by many when Paris was liberated at the end of World War II. Blair Hartzell points out that these works by Picasso "do not directly show much of the war, but the war was present in his paintings". The final exhibit is about the enormous mural that he painted in 1957-58 for Unesco's Paris headquarters, for which Giovanni Casini has selected Picasso's preliminary drawings that give us some insight into the creative process of the artist and his dialogue with the drawing and sculptural elements of this great work.

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EXHIBITIONS

CAC La Coracha

MÁLAGA. 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.

Museo de Málaga

MÁLAGA. Palacio de la Aduana. The museum houses a huge collection of archeological artifacts as well as the city's collection of religious and pictorial art from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The new



Antonio Abad, Malaga

exhibition La Presencia de Picasso, which is running until December, marks the year of the fiftieth anniversary of Picasso's death and includes two works done as a child as well as many completed throughout his lifetime.

Antonio Abad

MÁLAGA. Until 19 April. Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País de Málaga, Plaza de la Constitución. Melilla art critic, composer, poet and artist Antonio Abad, is exhibiting 30 oil paintings based on the theme Escribir Pintando (writing painting). The surreal paintings demonstrate the sensual, imaginative, literary, and magical world in the mind of the artist.

Historical Documents

MÁLAGA. Catedral de Málaga. Malaga cathedral is exhibiting some of its huge collection of ancient documents. The papers chosen for the exhibition 'Documentos para la Historia: Música y Ceremonial en Málaga Durante el Reinado de Fernando VII (1808-1833)' include some unique items, including books of ceremonial music.

Revello de Toro y Sus Maestros

MÁLAGA. 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,



Book of music, Malaga Cathedral

Fernando Labrada, Enrique Martínez-Cubells, José Nogales Sevilla and Julio Moisés. www.museorevellodetoro.malaga.eu

La Térmica

MÁLAGA. La Térmica. Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 8.30pm. **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 Almine Rech Gallery

Museo del Patrimonio Municipal

MÁLAGA. 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. Info.mupam@malaga.eu

Vino. Arte y Símbolo

MÁLAGA. 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.

OXO Video game museum

MÁLAGA. Plaza del Siglo. The museum features original models of videogames and consoles. **Final Fantasy exhibition.** Until 31 March 2024. Unique in Spain and Europe, this interactive exhibition focuses on video game Final Fantasy, of which 180 million copies have been sold since it was created in the 1990s. Tickets: www.oxomuseo.com/entradas

Museo Carmen Thyssen

MÁLAGA. 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 is structured around 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.** 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

The Black Dress

MÁLAGA. Until summer. Museo del Automóvil y la Moda de Málaga. The new spring exhibition at the Automobile and Fashion Museum is 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.

Víctor Carrasco

MÁLAGA. Until 12 April. Galería Ignacio del Rí, Soho. Iterum is the title of the latest exhibition by artist Víctor Carrasco. In it he exhibits a collection of sculptures created from recycled wood.

Ateneo

MÁLAGA. 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 Velásquez which Montiel has seated riding an inflatable T-Rex dinosaur.

Casa Gerald Brenan

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

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, many of which are in danger of extinction. Ferrete made these photographs using 19th-century techniques in order to raise awareness about the protection of biodiversity

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. **El Pensamiento Pintado.** Until 7 April. A selection of 79 art works by 34 artists from the CAC Málaga collection.

MUSIC AND DANCE

La Cochera Cabaret

MÁLAGA. Avda de los Guindos. **31 March, 7pm.** Sergio Gómez On My Mind tour. **5 April, 10pm.** Mucho Pelo. **6 April, 10pm.** Tribute to Bon Jovi with Bad Name. **6 April, 12.30pm.** Viaje al Gineceo. **7 April, 7pm.** Julio Benavente. Tickets: www.lacocheraentra-das.com/

Clarence Jazz Club

TORREMOLINOS. C/Danza Invisible. **29 March, 10pm.** Alba Armengou Trío. **30 March, 10pm.** Sebastián Chames Quartet. Featuring Steve Nelson. **3 April, 10pm.** Blues jam session. **4 April, 10pm.** Jazz jam session. **5 April, 10pm.** Jazz Antti Sarpillo Trío. Jazz and swing. **6 April, 10pm.** Richie Goods & Chien Lu Connected.



Sala Paris 15

MÁLAGA. C/ de la Orotava. **5 April, 9pm.** Volver a Jarabe de Palo - Tributo a Pau Donés. **6 April, 7.30pm.** Söber, Savi and Ski-zoo. **6 April, 11.59pm.** Oguz. **11 April, 8.30pm.** Diego 900. <https://paris15.es/>

La Trinchera

MÁLAGA. C/ Parauta, 25. **12 April, 9pm.** Pol Granch. <https://salatrinchera.com/>

Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

NERJA. C/ Granada, 3. **5 April, 8pm.** Inoidel González Trío. Call 690073871 or email: ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com Web: www.ventana-abierta.es

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MÁLAGA. Teatro Cervantes. **3, 4 April, 8pm.** Mahler's Symphony nº6 in A minor.

Festival Bach-Marbella



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MARBELLA. Iglesia de Ntra. Sra de la Encarnación, Pl. de la Iglesia.

26 April. Christian Bischof - Organist at the Parish Church of St Margaret in Munich (Germany).

19 May. Marco D'Avola. International pianist (Italy).

16 June. Javier Villero - Organist and Constanza Ávola (Mezzo soprano). All concerts begin at 5pm.

Sala María Cristina

MALAGA. Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina.

20 April, 7pm. The Joven Orquesta Promúsica, Orquesta Escuela Promúsica and the Coral Promúsica (choir). Music from films and TV with some scenes from the films shown on a screen.
<https://www.fundacionunicaja.com>

Molina de Cajiz

CAJIZ. C/Barreña, 7.

30 March 7pm. Finally Frank. Tribute to Frank Sinatra with David Beatty (vocals) and José Luis Lopretti (piano).

21 April 7pm. Students of the Conservatorio Superior de Sevilla will be performing chamber music by composers Dvorak and Debussy. Reservations: elmolinodecajiz@gmail.com

Rob Sas Band

ESTEPONA. 30 March, 11.30pm. Bar Louie Louie, Estepona port. Rob Sas is a veteran musician of British Rock of the 80s and has

Torremolinos botanical gardens to offer classical music night cycle

The free concerts throughout April will be divided into different musical styles: baroque, classical, romantic and contemporary

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos will host the I Chamber Music Cycle at the Molino de Inca botanical gardens each Friday at 7pm throughout April. This series of classical music nights will consist of four free concerts that will be divided into different musical styles: baroque, classical, romantic and contemporary.

The first concert will take place this evening (Friday) and will present the string quartet Spinto, who will offer a two-part concert consisting of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, followed by Piazzola's Works.

The second concert (12 April) will be performed by the woodwind quintet Amalgama, whose repertoire will include the music of Haydn,



Brassarquia will perform in Torremolinos classical cycle in April . SUR.

Ibert and Rossini, Bizet, Debussy, Ravel and Albéniz, among others.

The brass quintet Brassarquia will take the stage for the third instalment (19 April), offering a programme composed of the pieces, Sea Sketches by Ian Mc Donald, Westside Story by Leonard Bernstein, Killer Tango by Sonny Kompanek and Suite Americana by Enrique Crespo.

The cycle will finish on Friday 26 April with a recital by the chamber orchestra Ensemble Vartanian, who will offer renditions of music by Bach, Albioni, Mozart and Manuel de Falla.

The initiative is organised by the town hall, who claimed that this will be "a unique experience to all audiences in a pedagogical way, so that it is easy to understand and enjoy".



Rob Sas, Estepona.

played alongside the John Coghlan Band (ex Status Quo); Nick Simper (Deep Purple) and Lindsay Bridgewater (Ozzy Osbourne) among others.

Salon Varietés concerts

FUENGIROLA. 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, C/Emancipación
From 5 until 7 April. The Musical World of Michael Sterling.
From 11 until 12 April. Viva Las Vegas with Johnny G.
www.salonvarietestheatre.com/ or call: 952 47 45 42

Da Bruno

MARBELLA. Da Bruno Sul Mare. Paseo Marítimo.
Friday and Saturday entertainment provided by Garalpine, Pilar and Carlos, Valeriano, Fred and Thierry Luce.
3 April, 8.30pm. Flamenco Night. To book a table call 95290 3318 or make a reservation online: www.dabruno.com/es-sul-mare

Dance in the Thyssen

MALAGA. 10, 17 April, 9pm. Man Ray exhibition room. Poliana Lima will interpret the Man

Ray exhibition through dance on 10 April followed by María M. Cabeza de Vaca on 17 April. Tickets:Thyssen museum box office.

The Gangberries

ALMUÑÉCAR. 5 April, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.
The Gangberries are in concert. Tickets from the box office or Viajes eroski or Librería Contreras.

Iris Oboe

ALMUÑÉCAR. 12 April, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.
Iris Oboe is in concert. Tickets from the box office or Viajes eroski or Librería Contreras:

Sun & Snow Festival

GRANADA. From 5 until 7 April. Sierra Nevada.
The activity filled weekend focuses on the European Club scene with performances by DJ Holographic(Detroit), Hunee (Germany, Jimi Jules B2B Trikk (German/Portuguese), John Talabot, Keope Live, Leafar Legov, Orla and others. More info: www.sunandsnowweek-end.com



Mario Biondi and The Band

MALAGA. 7 April, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.
Italian baritone Mario Biondi presents his show filled with jazz, soul and R&B.www.teatrocervantes.com/

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FLAMENCO

María Toledo

MÁLAGA. 6 April, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.
Flamenco singer and pianist María Toledo presents her 7th recording, Vicente. www.teatrocervantes.es

El Pele

MÁLAGA. 10 April, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.
Concert with flamenco singer El Pele, guitarists El Niño Seve, violinist Igmar Alderete accompanied by Edu Gómez and José de Mode clapping.

Maribel Quiñones

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 5 April, 8pm. Centro de Exilio.
La Mujer y La Copla, conference in Spanish with singing by Martirio (Maribel Quiñones).

THEATRE, BALLET AND OPERA

Salon Varietés

FUENGIROLA. Until 31 March. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipation.
The Rock'n'Roll musical Grease with a cameo appearance by Johnny G.

National Ballet of Cuba

MÁLAGA. 20 April, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.
The Cuban ballet company present an adaptation of Don Quijote. www.balletcuba.cult.cu

The Passion of Christ

ESTEPONA. 30 March, from 6pm. The old quarter of the town.
Over 100 residents of Estepona are taking part in The Passion of Christ, a re-enactment of the last days of the life of Jesus Christ. It will take place in the streets of the old quarter, starting in Plaza San Francisco with the Last Supper and will end with the crucifixion in the Parque Botánico-Orquidario.



LECTURES

John Mackintosh Hall anniversary talk

GIBRALTAR. 17 April from 5pm. Charles Hunt Room, John Mackintosh Hall. Free.
The talk, by Richard Garcia, will focus on the events that led up to the siting of the John Mackintosh Hall in its present location and its importance as a cultural hub. Reservations necessary: www.buytickets.gi

The Arts Society

COSTA DEL SOL. 8 April, 4.30pm.

Ronda Guitar House hosts world music concert series



TONY BRYANT

RONDA. Fans of classical and flamenco guitar will enjoy the 2024 season of solo guitar concerts taking place daily until the end of June at the Ronda Guitar House, an English-run initiative founded in Ronda in 2015 that promotes traditional guitar music. Part of its Guitars and Music of the World concert series, as well as nightly concerts, visitors will also enjoy the unique collection of guitars from around the world on permanent display at the venue, along with tastings of wines from the Ronda region.

Opened as a multi-cultural space with the mission of offering quality music in

Ronda, each night offers a unique concert dedicated to baroque, romantic, Spanish, Andalusian and flamenco music.

The concerts are preceded with an introduction in English to the history of the Spanish guitar, its importance and its construction.

Tickets for the concerts, which start at 7pm, cost 18 euros and are available from www.rondaguitarmusic.com or at the door from 6pm daily.

The Ronda Guitar House, located in Calle Virgen de los Remedios, 23, also presents workshops, book presentations and talks about the guitar, along with other concerts in iconic outdoor locations in the town.

Salon Varietés, Fuengirola. www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org/
Cindy Polemis, art historian and guide at London's Tate and Tate Modern art galleries, explores 'Paris & the Belle Epoque' – an era pulsating with artistic energy, technological innovation and risqué entertainment. Members free, visitors: 10€ Members of other Arts Societies: 8€.
NERJA. 9 April, 4pm. The Cultural Centre, C/Granada. www.theartsocietynerja.com
Cindy Polemis continues her illustrated lecture tour by examining 'The Disruptive Power of Art', including street-artist Banksy's beautiful but subversive graffiti and the dramatic, politically challenging works of Wei Wei. Members free, visitors 10€. Members of other Arts Societies and students 5€.

CHARITY

AECC Gala

MÁLAGA. 15 April, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.
The Gala Todos Juntos Contra el Cáncer will include performances by Miguel Poveda, Diana Navarro, Marina Heredia, Alba Carmona, Toni Rodríguez, Miguel Ángel Martín and El Morta. Proceeds from the event

will go to the Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer which supports cancer sufferers and their families. Tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com

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 going to charities. Book by Whatsapp: 610 522 605

FIESTAS AND FAIRS

El Pipeo

CASARABONELA. 13 April, from 12pm. Plaza de Casarabonela.
El pipeo is a typical dish of Casarabonela. There will be free tastings as well as of other traditional foods and a free coffee sponsored by the Santa Cristina company. Live music during the day and a concert at 5pm.

St George's Day

NERJA. 20 April, from 2pm. Marazul Hostel, Avda Mediterránea.
Games, food and drinks, tombola etc. Proceeds to the Poppy Appeal. More info: 643212944/951834488

MORE IDEAS

Vélez-Mágica

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 13 April, 8.30pm. Teatro del Carmen.
A family magic show. Tickets: www.giglon.com

Lux Mundi (Fuengirola)

FUENGIROLA. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Calle Nueva No 3. Email: lux-mundif@gmail.com

Trip to The Petra of Andalucía. 12 April. A trip to Coto de las Canteras, a quarry in Osuna, Seville, where stone ashlar have been extracted for over a thousand years.

Praying for unity. 11 April, 6pm. Swedish Church, Fuengirola.

Taize Prayer. 25 April, 6pm. San José parish church.
More details and booking: 606568145

Lux Mundi

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

Coach trip to Cabra. 18 April. Visit the Rio fountain, the castle, the baroque church and the Puerta del Sol gate.

Rare and exotic plant fair

BENALMÁDENA. From 29 until 31st March. Parque La Paloma.
The Feria de Plantas de Colección focuses on succulants but there will be over fifty local and national horticulturists exhibiting and selling all kinds of plants including rare and exotic species. The fair starts at 5pm on Good Friday.

Easter church services

COSTA DEL SOL. www.st-andrews-cofe-spain.org/
Good Friday, 29 March.
Los Boliches, Fuengirola 2pm Holy Communion.
Cemetery Chapel, Alhaurín el Grande 2pm An hour at the cross.
30 March.
Los Boliches Fuengirola 6pm. Service of the Word.
Easter Sunday, 31 March.
San Miguel, Calahonda 9.30am. Holy Communion.
Los Boliches, Fuengirola 11.30am. Holy Communion.
Cemetery Chapel, Alhaurín el Grande, 11.30am. Holy Communion.

O. V. FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.
Dune Part 2: 13.15 (Fri, Sun).
Kung Fu Panda 4: 15.10 (Fri, Sun).
Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire: 17.30, 21.00 (Mon-Thurs); 18.30 (Tues); 19.10 (Fri-Sun); 20.45, 23.05 (Sat).
Ghostbusters Frozen Empire: 14.30 (Fri, Sun).
One Life: 19.55 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
One Life: 19.45 (Tues).

Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire: 20.00 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
Ghostbusters The Frozen Empire: 14.30 (Sun).
Dune Part 2: 13.00 (Sun); 20.30 (every day).
Kung Fu Panda 4: 14.00 (Sun).
Oppenheimer: 12.40 (Sun).
The Iron Claw: 16.50 (Tues).
Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire: 15.00 (Sun); 21.40 (Fri-Sun).
One Life: 12.35 (Sun), 19.35 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.
Dune 2: 18.50, 20.50 (Fri-Sun); 21.35 (Mon, Tues); 19.40 (Wed), 21.35 (Wed, Thurs).
One Life: 12.00; 15.45 (Fri-Sun); 17.15 (Mon-Thurs).
Kung Fu Panda 4: 11.45, 16.30 (Fri-Sun); 17.15 (Mon-Thurs).
Ghostbusters Frozen Empire: 16.00, 18.30 (Fri-Sun); 17.15, 19.15 (Mon-Thurs).
Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire: 11.45, 16.00 (Fri-Sun); 18.30, 21.00 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 17.15, 19.40, 22.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
The Lady from Shanghai: 20.00 (Tues).
Full Metal Jacket: 20.00 (Thurs).

Cinesur Ingenio

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.
One Life: 12.25, 15.50 (Fri-Thurs).
Ghosthunters Frozen Empire: 11.55 (Fri-Thurs).
Godzilla x King: The New Empire: 12.15, 17.30 (Fri-Thurs).
Dune 2: 11.50, 16.30 (Fri-Thurs).
Kung Fu Panda 4: 16.00 (Fri-Tues).
The Lady from Shanghai: 20.00 (Tues).
Full Metal Jacket: 20.00 (Thurs).

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
One Life: 18.00, 20.10 (every day).
Zone of Interest: 22.00 (every day).

Kinepolis La Cañada

MARBELLA. Crta Ojén. La Cañada Centro Comercial.
Dune: Part 2: 12.00, 22.00 (Fri); 12.05 (Sun); 20.30 (Mon-Thurs); 22.10 Sat.
Ghostbusters Frozen Empire: 16.50 (Mon-Thurs).
Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire: 12.00 (Fri, Sun); 17.00 (Fri, Sat); 19.15 (Mon-Thurs); 22.00 (Sun)
Crew: Eng Subtitles 21.30 (Mon-Thurs); 21.35 (Fri, Sat); 22.05 (Sun)



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Spain's biggest Chinese hot pot restaurant opens on the Costa

ShooLoongKan, one of the most renowned chains in the Asian country, has set up in Malaga

JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Hot pot is one of the most traditional dishes in China and consists of cooking different ingredients in a pot with a broth. Meat, leafy vegetables, mushrooms, wontons, egg dumplings and various seafood, among other ingredients, can be prepared in the pot in the centre of the table. The cooked food is then usually dipped in a variety of sauces.

Now lovers of Chinese food can try it for themselves at the new ShooLoongKan restaurant that has opened at Avenida de Velázquez, 122.

ShooLoongKan is part of a renowned Asian chain and this restaurant is the largest of the group in Spain.

The restaurant will also have other typical Chinese specialities on offer such as slices of



The new Chinese hot pot restaurant in Malaga. SALVADOR SALAS

beef, beef steaks, chicken feet or glutinous rice paste with brown sugar. The average cost per diner will be between 25 and 30 euros.

The new premises are deco-

rated in traditional Chinese style, with red lanterns, grey bricks, wooden tables and chairs. The company pointed out the colour red is a popular Chinese colour, and also represents spicy food.

The key to happiness

ANDREW J. LINN



It may have something to do with social class or even an over-reaction to wine snobbery, but Italian scientists have proved that drinking good wine makes people happier. Note: good wine. They set up an experiment at the Internet Festival in Pisa, where participants tasted various wines while wearing body sensors to gauge their emotions. The results showed that high-quality wines not only pleased the taste buds but also triggered a cascade of positive emotions. Even those with little wine expertise could tell the difference between good and less than good wines. It is more than probable that lovers of good wine do not need telling that the same wine tastes better in agreeable company than when taken on our own. A side issue of course is the nationality of the participants in the research. Would they have been the same in a northern European country?

The study's author, Dr Lucia Billeci, noted that quality wines induce a range of positive physi-

cal emotions that can be accurately measured, even more so when paired with background music. A real symphony for the senses. The research concluded that good quality wines have an advantage over their inferior counterparts, creating an agreeable mood even for novice consumers. And let's not forget that the combination of good music and beautiful surroundings are essential factors. Who needs therapy when we've a bottle of top-notch wine and some smooth jazz? So, according to science, the key to happiness is tucked away in a beautiful bottle that we cannot wait to get home and open. Time to conduct some extensive research - for science, of course!

WINE OF THE WEEK

Fontedei Prado Negro Crianza
In the developing wine regions, producers often try out new grape varieties and blends. This red from Granada is a coupage of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, tempranillo and garnacha and is matured 14 months in oak. Very individual taste and deeply fruity. Around 17 euros.



TIPI TAPA RESTAURANT



The best meats in a unique setting, Tipi Tapa's distinctive feature

This restaurant in Fuengirola has a menu designed for fans of good food, and shows to entertain you during your meal

MÁLAGA

SUR. Specialists in grilled meats, Tipi Tapa Restaurant have been working with the best national and international cuts for more than 20 years to satisfy the tastes of the most discerning customers.



Their national meats include Galician IPG, Cádiz Retinta and Galician Ox, and their international meats include Sashi from Finland and Simmental from the Swiss Alps. "All of our pieces selected from the international market come with their identity card," explains Juan García, the restaurant's manager. Traceability always guarantees the best flavour and maximum quality.

There are also other dishes perfect for sharing during a chat and a laugh, such as Burgos black pudding with red wine reduction, cod in crispy black tempura, assorted croquettes or grilled vegetables from the Guadalhorce gardens, among many other options.

Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy desserts such as carame-

lised goat's cheese and almond crocanti, Tipi Tapa flan with caramel topping or brownie with vanilla ice cream.

All this in a pleasant setting and also with the chance to enjoy authentic flamenco shows on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7.30 pm. The shows are performed by five top artists, with guitar, singing and dancing by Manuel Alcaide and his company, one of the most renowned on the Costa del Sol.

As García assures us, the most important thing for Tipi Tapa is to enjoy the trust and loyalty shown year after year by their customers, as, according to the manager, "this is the most valuable reward for a restaurant whose goal is the pursuit of excellence."

A spice to replace omeprazole

Turmeric. Trials have shown that this spice is a safe and effective alternative to drugs used to combat stomach ailments

MARTA FERNÁNDEZ VALLEJO



Turmeric has often been accredited with health benefits, but these 'super powers' had no scientific support - until now. For the first time a research study has revealed that it does help treat some stomach problems. This effect is due to the yellow compound called curcumin, which manages to reduce excess stomach acid as effectively as omepra-

zole, the most popular drug currently used to combat this common ailment.

The researchers studied 206 patients aged from 18 to 70 years old who were all suffering similar stomach issues such as gastroenteritis or acid reflux.

"They divided them into three groups. One took turmeric; one omeprazole (20mg capsule per

day); and one turmeric plus omeprazole," explains Vicente Clemente, professor of Nutrition at the European University Institute. After 28 days of treatment, they assessed the condition of these patients and found that all three groups had improved similarly.

The results of the trial published in the British Journal of Medicine also revealed that cur-

cumin taken orally was safe and well tolerated by patients. These findings "open the door to developing alternatives to omeprazole with fewer side effects".

Omeprazole is one of the most used drugs in Spain for heartburn, acid reflux and as a stomach protector when taking meds that can damage the digestive tract, such as some anti-inflammatories. How-

ever, its prolonged use "can cause health problems," says Prof Clemente. In fact, many studies link its regular consumption to the increased risks of bone fractures (as it hinders the absorption of calcium), of contracting infections and of kidney problems.

How does it work?

The effect that curcumin

ILLUSTRATION: NIKEL CASAL



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has on the body is that “it speeds up the separation of gastric juices that aid digestion,” explains the nutritionist. Thanks to this ability, “the food spends less time in the stomach and digestion is faster,” he continues. “If taken in pill format, as was done in the study, it is possible to take more curcumin and control its intake, so the benefits are greater”.

Regardless of how you take it, adding turmeric to food will certainly “aid digestion”. The proper way is to add it to dishes along with black pepper, as the pepper “enhances” curcumin’s stomach-protecting effects. Pure turmeric powder has the highest concentration of curcumin, about 3.14% by weight. As for fresh turmeric, there is around 150mg of curcumin per 100g – a teaspoon of grated or chopped fresh turmeric is about five grammes.

Antioxidant

Turmeric is a plant whose roots are rhizomes. The plant stem can grow in earth or shallow water, putting out several buds that grow horizontally, emitting roots and shoots from its nodes. It looks very similar to root gin-

HOW TO USE IT

In meals

Turmeric can be used in stir-fries with pulses, vegetables or pasta, in sauces like tomato, mayonnaise, or directly in salads, pureed foods and broths. It can also be sprinkled on meats (white or red) to season before cooking. It is a good substitute for saffron and combines very well with pepper and cumin.

In drinks

Infusions where one of its listed ingredients is turmeric. Natural yoghurt with a teaspoon of turmeric, a pinch of black pepper and a drizzle of olive oil or coconut oil is also fashionable. Another drink option instead of coffee would be to mix a non-dairy milk with turmeric, a touch of cinnamon and even a pinch of black pepper.



Fresh turmeric and powder. SUR

ger, but the colour of the rhizomes is orange.

“Although native to south-west India, it is grown in a lot of places, anywhere with a pretty warm and humid climate. It is also grown in Spain. In fact, in Castellón there are agricultural cooperatives that have planted turmeric and it grows very well in that area,” says nutritionist and author Aitor Sánchez.

He points out that there is currently research underway to verify the “antioxidant” potential of curcumin and that, “to date, the few studies that exist suggest that it may be so”. Anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties are also attributed to this spice that has a very peculiar flavour, which is not to everyone’s taste.

E100 food colouring

Many consumers are strangers to this spice, and yet turmeric features often in the food industry. It is a natural food colouring of plant origin and is used in food processing (in cheese, butter and mustard products, to name but a few), although always in small quantities so that its bitter flavour is barely noticeable. It is the ingredient marked as E100 on the label.

A ‘superfood’ grown on the Costa del Sol

A couple from the Axarquía harvest two thousand square metres of turmeric a year, of which 90 per cent is exported to other European countries

EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORROX. David Ruiz and his partner Guadalupe Martín are truly passionate about the countryside. They both work for a subtropical fruit company in the Axarquía, on the eastern stretch of the Costa del Sol, but they also spend their free time in the fields as they own avocado and mango plantations in Torrox.

However, for the last decade, Ruiz and Martín have also been cultivating turmeric. The ‘superfood’ has an intense yellow colour and unmistakable smell. The spice comes from the orange root of a herbaceous plant and like ginger, it belongs to the Zingiberaceae family which is native to India and Indonesia.

Its botanical name is *Curcuma longa* and it has a long history of cultivation. There is evidence that its first use dates back to between 610 BC and 320 BC, when it was used as a dye for wool. Subsequently, it started to be used to add colour and flavour to Indian cuisine

Medicinal properties

Thanks to its compounds known as curcuminoids, which include curcumin, demethoxycurcumin and bisdemethoxycurcumin, it is considered to have excellent medicinal properties. Volatile oils, proteins, resins and sugars also contribute to its healing and in addition it contains dietary fibre, vitamins C, E and K, niacin, sodium, calcium, potassium, copper, magnesium, iron and zinc.

Turmeric’s beneficial properties include relieving stomach upsets, treating liver disorders and being a potent anti-inflammatory. In traditional Chinese medicine, turmeric is used to treat depression. Turmeric extract, or turmeric powder, stimu-

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lates the nervous system, activates the immune system and boosts mood. It is ideal for reducing stress levels, as it produces an increase in serotonin. For this reason, it is widely used by people with depression, as well as other related disorders.

"I discovered it on the internet, when I saw how harmful the chemical food colouring is that is still sold in Spain, but is banned in most countries," said Ruiz, who then bought his first turmeric rhizomes and started with a crop "that is not very profitable if you count the hours of work involved, because you have to prepare the land very well and then when harvesting, it takes a lot of hard work to clean the roots", explains Ruiz.

Despite the hard work, Ruiz and Martín have a loyal client base around Europe. The crop is planted in February or March and

harvested between December and January. They have a distributor who buys most of the produce, around a tonne a year, from them once it has been cleaned and it is sold on in European countries including France, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland. The remaining 10 per cent is sold in local shops and health food shops, and is certified as organic.

The turmeric sells at between five and six euros per kilo via the couple's website, Cúrcuma de Málaga.


"The turmeric that comes from abroad is much cheaper, but it doesn't compare to the freshness, flavour and smell of ours", Ruiz pointed out. He points out that it is not an ideal crop to cultivate in this area "because it requires a lot of work and water. Not as much as avocados, but more than mangos", he admitted.



Guadalupe Martín and David Ruiz. **SUR**

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Top scorer Roberto felt he should have had a penalty in the second half. AGENCIA LOF

Another draw sees Malaga lose ground in the title chase

A goalless stalemate in Algeciras was Sergio Pellicer's side's second in three games, leaving them seven points off leaders Castellón

ALGECIRAS 0
MALAGA 0

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Malaga lost ground in the title race yet again on Saturday evening as they were held to a goalless draw away in Algeciras.

The match, played at a near-full Nuevo Mirador in front of more than a thousand travelling fans, saw the visitors struggle to break down their opponents once more, marking their second consecutive 0-0 draw on the road.

Despite putting up a solid defensive display, with keeper Alfonso Herrero setting a new record after going 611 minutes without conceding a goal, Malaga, clad in

PRIMERA RFEF GROUP 2

Results		Next game
Córdoba - San Fernando	1-0	Ceuta - Algeciras
Sanluqueño - Murcia	0-1	Castellón - Recreativo
RM Castilla - Castellón	0-2	Antequera - Alcoyano
Algeciras - Malaga	0-0	Mérida - Córdoba
Alcoyano - Baleares	1-1	Atlético B - Intercity
Recreativo - Mérida	3-0	Baleares - RM Castilla
Linares - Melilla	0-0	Melilla - Sanluqueño
Granada B - Atlético B	1-0	San Fernando - Ibiza
Intercity - Antequera	2-1	Malaga - Linares
Ibiza - Ceuta	1-2	Murcia - Granada B

SEGUNDA RFEF GROUP 4

Results		Next game
Sevilla Atlético - Linense	2-1	Mar Menor - Sevilla At
El Palo - Manchego	0-0	Marbella - Lepe
Antoniano - Betis B	2-1	Manchego - Orihuela
Orihuela - Águilas	2-1	Betis B - Pinatar
Pinatar - Marbella	1-0	Cádiz B - UCAM
Lepe - Mar Menor	2-1	Estepona - El Palo
Vélez - Cádiz B	0-3	B. Linense - Vélez
UCAM - Estepona	1-0	Yeclano - Antoniano
Cartagena B - Yeclano	1-2	Águilas - Cartagena B

TERCERA RFEF GROUP 3

Results		Next game
At Melilla - Torreferrugil	0-1	Huétor Tájar - Almería
Málaga City - Jaén	2-3	Jaén - Atlético Melilla
Mancha Real - Motril	4-2	Malagueño - Málaga City
Torre del Mar - Maracena	2-1	Torreferrugil - Mancha Real
Torre del Mar - Huétor Vega	1-0	Motril - Torre del Mar
Almería B - Huétor Tájar	3-1	Huétor Vega - Almería B
Almería - Arenas Armilla	0-0	Arenas - Torredonjimeno
El Ejido - At. Malagueño	-	Rincón - Torreferrugil
Torredonjimeno - Rincón	2-1	Maracena - El Ejido

their alternate green and yellow strip, lacked a cutting edge in attack, failing to capitalise on the few chances they created.

In fact, neither side were able to create clear-cut opportunities in the first half, with Zequi, who was denied in the one-on-one by Herrero, coming closest for Algeciras.

Despite dominating possession in spells, the visitors couldn't convert their superiority into goals, leaving the match finely balanced going into the second half, too.

Coach Sergio Pellicer made a number of substitutions in a bid to inject fresh impetus into the team, but besides some shots from long range and a penalty shout from Roberto, neither side ever looked likely to find the breakthrough goal. Inevitably, the game ended in a stalemate.

Now, having dropped four points from their last two away games, Malaga face an uphill battle to keep pace with the frontrunners in the title race. In fact, after this match day, they sit seven points off leaders Castellón.

Club voices concerns over potential disruption caused by World Cup bid

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. If successful in its bid to be a host city during the 2030 FIFA World Cup, La Rosaleda stadium in Malaga is set to undergo substantial upgrades - and this is a source of concern within Malaga CF.

The joint project, spearheaded by the city hall, the provincial authority and the regional gov-

ernment, would see both the stadium capacity increased and significant improvements made to the surrounding areas.

However, the club, which enjoys use of the facilities, has now shared its concerns about the potential impact of at least three years of disruption.

One significant consequence will be a notable reduction in seating capacity during upgrades

which will require sections to be closed. This could potentially impact club revenue.

Additionally, despite the club's impending move to the new sports complex in Arraijanal, the loss of the adjacent training field, plus the demolition of recently opened office spaces, will affect the first team's day-to-day operations.

Despite this, assurances have been made that La Rosaleda will remain operational throughout the entire regeneration process, expected to be complete by the end of 2028, though temporary section closures may occur.

A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, ESPN

Watching the pennies

Spanish clubs, in the face of scrutiny of their accounts, are proving more resolute, unlike the English clubs that are falling like skittles



Who would have thought that La Liga would emerge as a shining beacon when the world went into lockdown four years ago?

Businesses around the globe had to look how they operated, streamline expenditure and make plans for a major loss of income. Football clubs, who depend on fans walking through turnstiles, feared the very worst.

With credit to the administrators of Spanish football, they used it as a watershed moment to modernise the game. They started to subscribe to the mysterious laws of Financial Fair Play. Budgets and wage limits were set. No club, no matter how important, would be excused the scrutiny.

It has been a tough four years, but as English clubs start to fall like skittles, Spanish clubs are proving more resolute. The Premier League teams used the pandemic as an excuse to spend beyond their income. It's only now that their finances are coming under scrutiny and punishments are being handed out.

Here in Spain, clubs have needed to accept the tough legislation. FC Barcelona is the biggest hit. It was discovered that they were 1 billion euros in debt. They pleaded - but the authorities told them to start acting. Levers were pulled, costs were cut, sacrifices made. When the sums were done, they realised they couldn't afford to re-engage Lionel Messi. That was rock bottom; now, they are re-building responsibly.

Barcelona set an example to the rest of Europe when it comes to the importance of a strong academy. They've needed the youth system to make up a squad - exorbitant fees mean they can no longer compete in the transfer market.

Even Real Madrid have restricted their spending - they now just cherry-pick a superstar each season. Last season, it was Jude Bellingham; next summer, they intend to bring in Kylian Mbappé.

Real and Barça will benefit from modern new stadia. The reconstructed Bernabéu is



Kylian Mbappé. SUR

almost fully finished. With a retractable roof and detachable pitch, it matches the status of the team. The Camp Nou renovation is expected to be completed sometime in 2025. The tired old stadium will be brought into the 21st century.

It's not just the Big Two who have improved the infrastructure - it's right across the board. Since 2021, clubs have been able to apply for funds from a deal with the investment company CVC. A \$2 billion deal was struck in exchange for 8.2% of income as well as broadcasting and sponsorship rights for the next 50 years.

Real, Barça and Athletic Bilbao were the only clubs to oppose the partnership. The rest of the clubs in the top two tiers agreed and are beginning to prosper.

Villarreal's ground is no longer a ramshackle shoebox of a stadium. Real Sociedad have created a proper five-star-rated football stadium from what was originally an all-purpose multi-sport stadium. Both Real Betis and Sevilla will take in turns to lodge at Estadio La Cartuja whilst their homes get a complete modernisation.

Fans initially balked at a deal where only 15% of the CVC monies could be invested in players - but now they are benefitting from seeing more home-grown talent, in state-of-the-art stadia.

The pandemic truly turned out to be a wake-up call for Spanish football.

Stepping into the home of the Fuengirola Lions feels like entering a different world altogether. This quaint pavilion, nestled next to the Antonio Basilio municipal stadium in Los Boliches, boasts terrazzo floors and is adorned with over a dozen flags representing its 140 members. It's not just a sports venue; it's a cultural hub where multiple languages are spoken, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of its players.

Leading the charge is president Jari Nyman, a Finn who arrived on the Costa del Sol as a boy in the 1980s. Fluent in Spanish with hints of an Andalusian accent, Nyman explains that handling sticks and skates comes naturally to Nordic kids, akin to riding a bike in Spain.

Standout recruits

This year, the club has two standout members: Swedes Jonas Frögren and Carl Söderberg. Beyond their roles as players, they also serve as mentors and parental figures within the tight-knit community. Despite their low-key demeanour, they're internationally renowned ice hockey stars, adding a touch of stardom to the team.

The former, now 43, played 41 NHL games with the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 2008-09 season, while the latter, 38, has a consistent track record across four franchises (Boston, Colorado, Arizona and Chicago) from 2013 to 2021, totalling 597 games.

After their respective stints at the highest level, they returned to their native Sweden for their final years as professionals. Now, they've settled on the Costa del Sol to embark on a new chapter.

"Spain's culture is distinctively relaxing. It's a haven for my daughter, who's grown up here," says Frögren, who has called Malaga home for three years.

Frögren hails from Ludvika, a small Swedish town where he spent his formative years. At 15, he relocated to pursue his hockey ambitions, eventually amassing six gold medals in Sweden and making a mark in the



Jonas Frögren (left) and Carl Söderberg (right) spoke to SUR at the Fuengirola Lions Hockey Arena. NACHO CARMONA

Frögren played 41 games in the NHL with the Toronto Maple Leafs, while Söderberg played 597 with Boston, Arizona, Colorado and Chicago

He also wanted to explore inline hockey, a sport closely related to ice hockey, which he's always been passionate about. The only difference lies in the surface and the skates; instead of blades, there are wheels. "Both are very fast. I like it."

His children, a boy and two girls, also play on the team. "I would love for them to follow in my footsteps," he says with a smile.

The Fuengirola Lions operate with a different structure than most other sports clubs. "We have a team, the Lions, for the National League, dressed in blue," says Nyman.

"Then, in the Andalusian League, we have Barona in black, the Vikings in yellow, and the Latin Team in red."

The best players from these three teams make up the Lions' squad, the flagship team of the club. Interestingly, only the top team has its own dressing room. Each player's name is written on their respective bench, with one notable detail: there are only two Spaniards.

A community club with a sprinkle of stardust

Inline hockey. Having played in the best league in the world, Swedes Jonas Frögren and Carl Söderberg have traded the ice of the NHL for the sun of the Costa del Sol and are key members of the Fuengirola Lions

NACHO CARMONA



▲ Frögren, during his time in Toronto, and Söderberg in Arizona. SUR

NHL and KHL before returning to his roots.

Interestingly, despite their parallel careers, he and his current teammate never crossed paths in the US but did compete against each other in Sweden and even shared a room during national team tournaments. "It's amusing how fate has brought us together here," he reflects.

With his commanding presence on the ice, Frögren was known for his defensive prowess, though he humbly downplays his goal-scoring abilities. "He scores plenty," interjects the team president with a smile from the

stands, watching the youngsters train.

Total immersion

Meanwhile, his fellow countryman, Söderberg, started his hockey journey at the tender age of seven in Malmö, his hometown.

One standout achievement in his illustrious career is the gold medal he clinched with his national team at the 2017 World Championships.

Having played in four different parts of the United States, he gained exposure to diverse climates and ways of life. "I enjoy immersing myself," he says.

Though he acknowledges the similarity between Arizona's climate and that of Spain, he values the distinct charm of each location, including the colder ones.

He currently resides in Marbella, just half an hour away from Fuengirola, and says he chose to move here because of the culture, the mountains, the people and the food.

A unique club

Söderberg stumbled upon the Lions through a friend and, like Frögren, joined to satisfy his itch to keep playing.



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The Hornchurch players celebrate with the European Cricket League trophy following their victory in the final at the Cártama Cricket Oval last Friday evening. **sUR**

Hornchurch crowned European Cricket League champions for the first time

The beaten 2023 finalists saw off Jersey champions Old Victorians in the final at the Cártama Cricket Oval

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. After more than a month of action at the Cártama Cricket Oval, the European Cricket League came to an end with English side Hornchurch delivering a masterful performance to claim their first-ever title.

The London side overpowered Jersey champions Old Victorians, who reached the final by beating Italian side Jinnah Brescia in the second qualifier, by a resounding seven-wicket margin in the final on Friday evening.

With a disciplined bowling effort, Hornchurch restricted Old Victorians to a modest total of 93-5 in their allotted 10 overs, with Scott Simpson's impressive 33-run contribution being the highlight of the innings.

However, Hornchurch's brilliance shone through in their confident chase. Openers George



The team from London were well supported. **sUR**

Hankins and Jalpesh Vijay laid a solid foundation, putting together a crucial 50-run partnership to set the stage for victory.

Hankins played a pivotal role in the victory, smashing an unbeaten 48 off just 22 balls, steering his team to glory with a flurry

of powerful strokes.

Redemption

The triumph in the final marked a remarkable turnaround for Hornchurch, who had previously faltered in the 2023 edition of the tournament, losing in the final to

Three major events will take place every year in Cártama until 2028, including the Euro Championship

French team Dreux.

Undeterred by past setbacks, they stormed through the competition, winning all their games in the final round to clinch the coveted title in what was the biggest ECL competition to date.

Continual growth

This year's T10 Tournament, dubbed the 'Champions League' of cricket, brought together 35 elite European clubs from 33 nations, uniting domestic champions from across the continent and delivering the pinnacle of competition in European club cricket.

The tournament comprised initial group matches spanning the first three weeks, culminating in the championship week. Throughout this nearly month-long spectacle, Cártama hosted approximately five 90-minute matches each day, with each side

limited to ten overs.

Established in 2019, the European Cricket Network (ECN), the organiser of the event, has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, with a surge in teams, viewership, and fan engagement. Currently, there are 30 contracted national federations in European cricket, collectively offering over 300 days of live cricket action to more than 20 million European enthusiasts and over one billion worldwide.

More to come in Spain

For Spain, this marked the fourth consecutive year hosting the European Championship, with Murcia inaugurating the series before Cártama's now three-year tenure.

Jay Wild, President of the Costa del Sol Cricket Club, revealed to SUR in English, "We have recently secured a new agreement to host three major cricket events annually until 2028. These include the Champions League in February and March, the Euro Championship in September and October, and an extended women's event in December, spanning two weeks this year and expanding to three weeks next year."



González celebrates his victory as he crosses the line in Hong Kong. **WORLD TRIATHLON**

Malaga triathlete makes history with victory in Hong Kong

Alberto González became the first athlete from the region to claim victory in a World Triathlon Cup event

NACHO CARMONA

MALAGA. Malaga-born Alberto González's remarkable start to his season continued in the early hours of Palm Sunday, becoming the first athlete from the region to claim victory in a World Triathlon Cup event.

Just a month after gracing the podium in the individual event in Napier (New Zealand), González achieved his best performance

yet in a World Cup event, clinching victory in Hong Kong.

González, who has his sights set on the Paris Olympics, showcased dominance across all three sections of the race. Excelling in the 750-metre swim, he maintained a prominent position in the leading pack during the 20-kilometre cycling leg, actively contributing to breakaways. He then surged ahead in the final five-kilometre run, outpacing his closest competitors, Spanish athlete Antonio Serrat and Japanese contender Kenji Nener, to cross the finish line first with a powerful sprint just 400 metres from the end.

González's victory carries sig-

nificant weight for Spain, propelling the Spanish Triathlon Federation (FETRI) to a provisional third place in the Olympic rankings. With González's impressive performance adding 375 points to the tally (moving him to 27th place), Spain now boasts three triathletes in the top 30.

Looking ahead, González will be hoping to be called up to compete in the remaining two World Series events before the Olympic ranking deadline. The upcoming Yokohama event in Japan on 11 May and the Cagliari event in Italy on 25 May will be crucial in determining who will be heading to Paris this summer.

Benavista Bowls Club crowns new champions

Simone Morgan and Pat Fisher (pictured with the trophy) are the winners of the Benavista Open Classic Pairs Competition held recently at the Benavista Bowls Club in Estepona. The competition, held over four days, saw thrilling matches culminating in a tense final. Awaiting the winning pair in the final showdown were Rob Godfrey and Morah Horner - and the clash kept spectators on the edge of their seats. After a neck-and-neck battle, Pat and Simone emerged victorious with a nail-biting finish, winning 17-16.



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Tourist Office	952467625
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Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760

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Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
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Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

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Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

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Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
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GIBRALTAR

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MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Armonia	31/03	Funchal	Barcelona	12.00	22.00
Seabourn Venture	02/04	Melilla	Leixoes	07.00	17.00
Sky Princess	02/04	Civitavecchio	Alghero	08.00	18.00
Aidastella	03/04	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	17.00
Viking Jupiter	04/04	Casablanca	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Silver Dawn	04/04	Lisbon	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Mein Schiff 4	05/04	Ponta Delgada	Palma	08.00	19.00
Costa Pacifica	05/04	Savona	Funchal	14.00	19.30



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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
As Venus enters your section of communication you'll have a way with words, so whatever needs to be said will be done with tact and subtlety.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Mercury's retro phase can snarl up financial affairs so be on your guard when signing anything that involves a lot of money or is a big commitment.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Venus's move into your sign can boost your mood, give you the attractor factor and inspire you to socialise more. Over the weekend, one conversation could be intensely passionate.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
The past could catch up with you and encourage you to deal with something that you'd prefer to sweep under the carpet.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Mercury your personal planet goes into reverse, which may coincide with some interesting encounters and reunions. A friendship or relationship could be reignited too.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
There's plenty of time to shine as the Sun continues in a high-flying zone, so use the coming weeks to make your mark. Some ideas and plans may take longer to come to fruition.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
While you may be busy with finance, and other key issues, you'll also be ready for a vacation. You need a chance to get away from tasks that might be crucial but hard work to deal with.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Venus enters Aries, so the passion in a relationship could intensify. Your desire for something might inspire you to move heaven and earth to get it.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Misunderstandings and mixed messages could be an issue as Mercury starts its backward dance in Aries. Don't presume others have understood, as they may not have.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Crucial projects can flounder if you leave things until the last minute, so try not to. Venus can help smooth things over if there are difficulties. Her sweet-talking qualities will assist you.

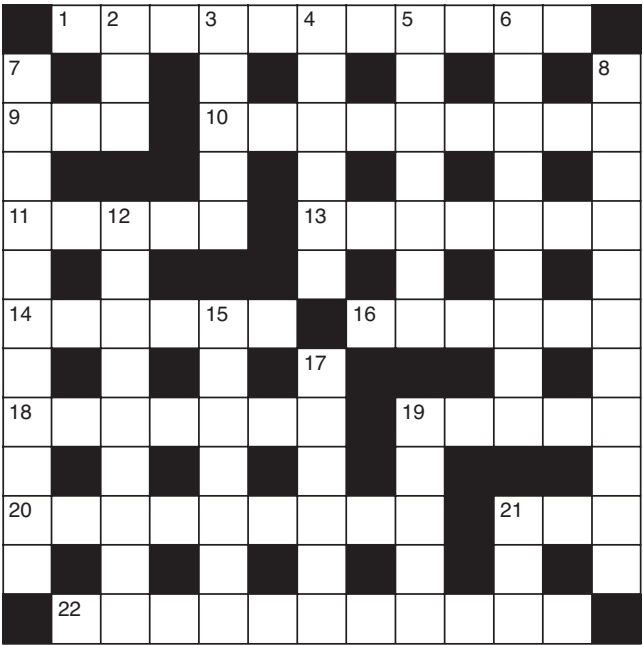


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Reunions are possible, and you might genuinely enjoy connecting with someone again after a long time apart. Love is in the air too..



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Keep your options open and attend to details to avoid any issues. Keen to enhance your home? Venus's presence in Aries could inspire you to give it a sunny makeover.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11615



Across

- 1. Great madness? (11)
- 9. Revolutionary use of colour (3)
- 10. The best astronomy student? (4,5)
- 11. Weight of one in a vehicle (5)
- 13. Oaf without help when knocked down (4,3)
- 14. Cockney fish going wrong (6)
- 16. Principal fastener (6)
- 18. Cuts in two like wine in parts (7)
- 19. One involved in rows (5)
- 20. Not altogether how an undergraduate works (2,1,6)
- 21. A number from 'EastEnders' (3)
- 22. They compete with 7 down (6,5)

Down

- 2. Close result (3)
- 3. Tessa's comeback is no liability (5)
- 4. There's nothing to recover, expressed in words (6)
- 5. Furnish with a soft tip (7)
- 6. I am punctual when taking a turn at being spontaneous (9)
- 7. Mad about sport or sports equipment (7,4)
- 8. The rag trade or on which its products are displayed (7,4)
- 12. Unusual show of temper making Penny black? (4,5)
- 15. Atomic rule can be broken (7)
- 17. Takes over to spur us in some way (6)
- 19. Waves grow in size (5)
- 21. It may float, but it over-turns (3)

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

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

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

- Can you identify the units of time described below?
- 1. 3,600 seconds
 - 2. 1/120th of a decade
 - 3. One-tenth of a century
 - 4. 168 hours
 - 5. 1/86,400th of a day
 - 6. 100 decades
 - 7. 5,200 weeks
 - 8. 1,440 minutes
 - 9. 365.25 days
 - 10. 1/10,080th of a week

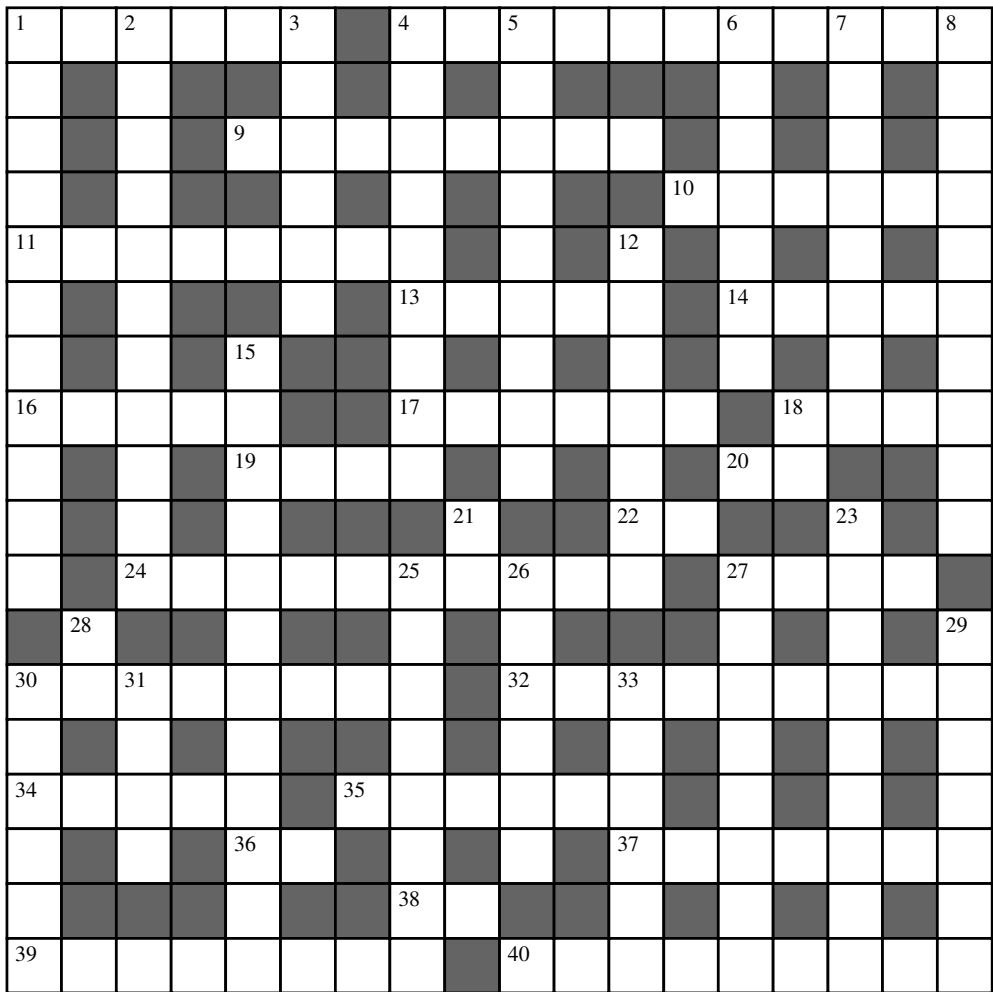
CODEWORD

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

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
- Down
- 1) Wind (6)

4) Possibility (11)

9) Consensus (8)

10) Inside (6)

11) To connect (8)

13) He evades (5)

14) I demanded (5)

16) Everyone (5)

17) Bishop (6)

18) Fashion (4)

19) Country (4)

20) If (2)

22) It is (2)

24) Mayors (f) (10)

27) Fame (4)

30) Erased (m.pl) (8)

32) He reacts (9)

34) I served (5)

35) Plateau (6)

36) Its (2)

37) Drinkable (7)

38) Tea (2)

39) Estuary (8)

40) Road (9)
- 1) Vine-growing (11)

2) Charming (f) (11)

3) Port wine (6)

4) We'll pass (9)

5) Sanctuary (9)

6) Leaders (7)

7) District (8)

8) Named (m) (10)

12) After (7)

15) Specialist (12)

18) My (2)

21) Faith (2)

23) Impossible (9)

25) Desert (8)

26) Frying pan (6)

27) Feasible (8)

28) I (2)

29) Race (7)

30) Forest (6)

31) Strange (f) (4)

33) To finish (6)

QUIZ

Which bird lays the smallest egg??

1. robin 2. hummingbird
3. finch 4. budgerigar



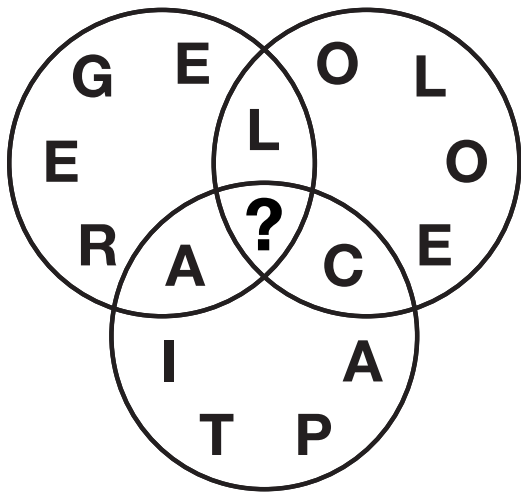
What term is applied to creatures that produce eggs?

1. oviparous 2. oviform
3. viviparous 4. oviviparous

Which electronic plaything takes its name from the Japanese for 'loveable egg'?

1. Pikachu 2. Pokémon
3. Tamagochi 4. Otamatone

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

How was Holy Week for you?

The most important week of the calendar for many local residents is turning into a washout with many processions cancelled due to the wet weather. Even an emotional Antonio Banderas was seen consoling other brotherhood members after their Palm Sunday procession was called off. However, some persevered and on Tuesday the forecast changed slightly from wet and cold to just cold - giving hope that the rest of the processions might go ahead as planned - only for more can-

cellations on Wednesday and a shower-dodging forecast for the remaining peak days of Easter. The upside of the rain is reports saying that reservoirs are starting to fill back up, albeit very slowly so we are not out of the woods yet. Let us know your thoughts on Semana Santa processions this year, how your Easter plans are going or any subject that might interest readers. Contact us by email at surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es, or via X (Twitter) @SUR_English And don't forget that this weekend the clocks go forward for the start of European Summer Time.

ANSWERS

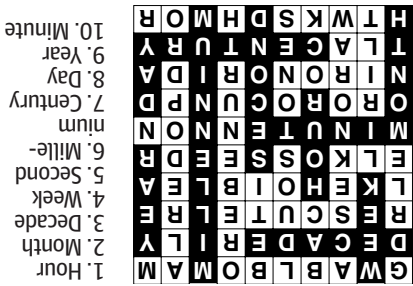
Quiz answers

meaning 'loveable' or 'friend', which means 'egg', and 'chi' two Japanese words 'tamago', portmanteau combining the some sources, the name is a
Of interest: According to Answer: Tamagochi
their bodies until they hatch. animals retain the eggs inside young and ovoviviparous animals give birth to live outside the body. Viviparous animals, the eggs are fertilised
Of interest: In oviparous Answer: Oviporous across.
smallest nest, just 25mm of a coffee bean. It also has the mere 12.5 x 8.5 mm, the size eggs in the world, measuring a Hummingbird has the smallest
Of interest: The Bee Answer: Hummingbird

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Megalomania; 9 Red; 10 Star pupil; 11 Carat; 13 Laid out; 14 Erring; 16 Staple; 18 Biscuits; 19 Scull; 20 To a degree; 21 Ten; 22 Sports clubs. Down: 2 End; 3 Asset; 4 Orally; 5 Appoint; 6 Impromptu; 7 Cricket bats; 8 Clothes line; 12 Rare stamp; 15 Nuclear; 17 Usurp; 19 Swell; 21 Tub.

Wordpuzzler solution



Codeword

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

Language Crossword



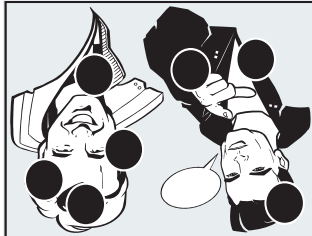
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is N. General, Colonel, Captain, all army ranks.

The seven differences





Extreme sport.
David Tejeiro doing a base jump
in a wingsuit. @DAVID_TEJEIRO

Life on the edge for a world- renowned Malaga pilot

David Tejeiro. Content creator for Red Bull and a certified acrobatic paragliding pilot, he practises base jumping and pilots helicopters.

MARINA RIVAS



David Tejeiro
Posing for SUR in
Torre del Mar. M. RIVAS



Paramotor acrobatics. He set the world record for 202 paramotor loops in 5 minutes and 10 seconds.
@DAVID_TEJEIRO

Few will understand why you might risk your life to experience an adrenaline rush, but this addiction is extremely difficult to stop. Only those who share a passion for it understand its madness. Without even wanting it, driven by a thrill-seeking father, he learned to fly at just eight years old, and at 10, he paraglided alone for the first time. By then he had already felt the emotion that would lead him to dedicate a lifetime to it - to living on the edge, valuing the present moment and not what might happen tomorrow.

David Tejeiro, 30, is originally from Cómputa and was raised, alongside his two older brothers, among car engines. As soon as school finished, he would go to his dad's garage, Tejauto, which still exists today. Their father instilled in them a certain philosophy: he always told them to keep up with their schoolwork, but that if a life of action was what they wanted, they should launch into adventure as soon as they could. And that is what happened: the three men are currently paraglider pilots, two of them in Doha, Qatar, but the third, the only one who stayed in Malaga, was more non conformist.

A several-times Spanish cham-

pion of acrobatic paragliding, David went further, exploring many extreme sports, always tied to the air, where he was in his element. Today, he is an expert in paragliding, skydiving, base jumping with parachutes and wingsuits, and he is even a helicopter pilot.

World record

But not only this - in 2012 he set the world record for having executed 202 consecutive paramotor loops in 5 minutes and 10 seconds. He was left with a desire to make history once more, which he achieved eight years later (2020), when he became the first person in the world to combine acrobatics with paragliding and the wingsuit, catapulting from a plane at over 200 km/h.

He has undertaken extreme challenges that have led him to travel around the world, hired to put on dangerous shows, especially in the US and China. In fact, this Malaga pilot is one of the few in the world who can be considered an expert in all these extreme disciplines. "In acrobatic paragliding alone, there are about 50 of us in the whole world, and two of those are in Spain. Both my brothers and I are known worldwide for being pioneers in the field of paramotor

acrobatics," he says.

These are expensive disciplines which he has always financed himself - as well as owning a paragliding company in Nerja, he has never stopped working in his family's garage. "Everything that we've bought has been through work; no one's ever gifted me anything. If I had to spend twice as many hours there to buy materials or to travel to learn, I did it," he explains. And he continues to do it, although his worldwide fame has already meant that he has huge sponsors behind him, such as Mercedes Benz or Red Bull, for which he works as an extreme sports content creator.

And no, it has not all been easy. Tejeiro has cheated death on more than one occasion, but even

so, fear does not get the better of him; he is made of sterner stuff. "I've had a few big scares. For one of them, I got a little distracted during the jump and got within five metres of a house. It didn't give me time to open the parachute well enough and I ended up falling into a tree. For another, my brother and I wanted to do an extreme stunt with a tandem paraglider at 1,500 metres, and all the ropes snapped. We had to take out the emergency parachute and fell about 20 metres from a high-voltage power line," he recalls.

But he has never considered taking a step back to live a calmer life. "It can be scary, but I enjoy living and learning so much that nothing can stop me. That's the beautiful thing about life." In fact, his ambition and willingness to

take risks were reinforced five years ago when he had to confront the worst moment of his life: the death of his father, who was 58, caused by a heart issue related to cholesterol.

Impact of father's death

"My father was doing well and from one day to the next, he died. When that happened I started to see that the number of people dying from heart issues in Spain was increasing, so it changed my perspective on things. I carried on doing extreme sports, and I'm aware that if I had an accident here, I would be asking for it, but regarding health, I started looking after myself as much as possible," he says.

He was his greatest role model, his best friend, the one who opened up doors to a world once unknown to him and which ended up becoming his passion; he was his pillar in each of his aerial adventures. His father's death marked his way of understanding life: "We don't stop to think about health; tomorrow we have an illness and it's the end of everything. That's when we regret the things we don't get round to doing. I don't want to get to that point; I want to learn from everything and live life to the fullest each day."



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