



## Costa property sector expresses 'unease' at end of Golden Visa

The government says the residency shortcut for foreigners is adding to pressure on home prices in Spain

The Spanish government's decision to scrap its Golden Visa, a shortcut to legal residency for non-EU citizens who invest more than 500,000 euros in property, has

caused mixed reactions among professionals, residents and authorities on the Costa del Sol. More than 7% of property purchases in Marbella involve a Golden Visa application, an advantage the government says is contributing to pushing real estate prices out of reach of local people. Professionals in the property and tourism industries have expressed concern at the move, claiming that the visa brings wealth to the area. **P2**



Ana Moncada with the Estepona flag on a local beach on Tuesday.  
**JOSELE**

## Estepona sailor gets Olympic call-up

Ana Moncada will be competing in Paris, 28 years after Theresa Zabell last brought a sailing gold home to Malaga province. **P33**

## Junta leaves decision on filling of private swimming pools in the hands of local town halls **P6**

## Mijas council has control back of its prized racecourse but neglect means an uncertain future **P12**

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# Concern on Costa del Sol at end of residency visa for wealthier foreigners spending half a million on property

The Spanish government has announced an end to the Golden Visa incentive to prevent property prices soaring further in areas such as Marbella

**J. M. CAMARERO/P. MARTÍNEZ/  
N. HESKETH**

MADRID / MALAGA. Real estate agents on the Costa del Sol selling to foreign buyers outside the EU - including to Britons - have received a setback this week with the Spanish government's decision to abolish the Golden Visa for those investing in property. Set up in 2013, the visa scheme grants residency permits to foreigners from outside the EU who invest at least 500,000 euros in real estate in Spain.

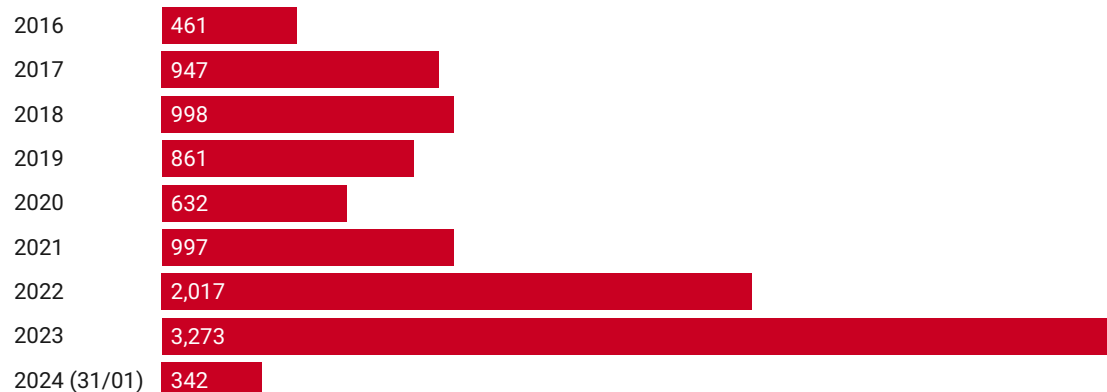
Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez justified the move with the need to guarantee affordable housing to people in Spain. The government argued that the Golden Visa had contributed to the problem of soaring house prices in recent years and that the property market in the country had become "stressed".

The EU has been calling for member countries to toughen up these fast-track visas for richer people, arguing that the source of money invested is often murky. Countries including Portugal have recently watered down their own schemes in response.

According to Spain's housing minister, Isabel Rodríguez, the

## Increase in Golden Visas issued in recent years in Spain to homebuyers

A total of 14,576 have been issued since 2013



number of these special visas granted to people buying property has shot up from 461 in 2016 to 2,017 in 2023 and 3,273 last year. In total, 14,576 Golden Visas have been given out to property buyers since 2013.

Since the special visa scheme started, it is Chinese and Russians who have benefited most. But, since Brexit, many more Britons with sufficient money unable to move to Spain under flexible EU-member rules have taken advantage of the Golden Visa route and bought a home, rather than the slower and more restrictive other routes to residency.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Isabel Rodríguez said those taking out the visas were purchasing luxury real estate investments mainly in Barcelona, Madrid, Malaga, Alicante,

the Balearic Islands and Valencia. These six provinces account for 90% of the authorisations, according to Rodríguez.

"In areas such as Marbella, Golden Visas already make up 7.1% of home purchases, in Barcelona they reach 5.3% and 10% in some municipalities in the Balearic Islands," the minister explained. "These transactions stress the market and increase the price of housing," she added. No individual should have to spend more than 30% of their income to have a "decent" place to live, said the government.

### Reactions on the Costa

The news of the imminent disappearance of the Golden Visa sparked concern among the property and residential tourism industries on the Costa del Sol, as professionals fear a negative im-

pact on foreign investment.

President of the Andalusian federation of developers and residential tourism Ricardo Arranz, who is also executive president of the Villa Padierna Hotels group, said the Golden Visa had developed quality tourism on the Costa and brought in wealth to the area.

"The unease is clear. I fear that this is another blunder," Arranz pointed out, while criticising the national government for making the decision "without consulting anyone, as a flash in the pan idea generating surprise and concern".

### Criticism

Turismo Costa del Sol boss Francisco Salado, of the conservative PP party, said residential tourism "is a huge source of income and employment for our country and for the Costa del Sol, and this [Golden Visa] measure has fa-

voured the arrival of many residents with high purchasing power".

"It is absurd to think that the Golden Visa has raised the prices of housing in the cities or for young people," Salado said. "This decision impoverishes our country, generates more unemployment and only benefits other countries and competing destinations," he added.

Ricardo Bocanegra, founder of the association of foreign residents on the Costa del Sol said the government's announcement had generated concern and pointed out the Golden Visa "does not influence or distort the housing market. It only contributes to attracting high-level foreign investment. The arguments put forward are poor and do not hold water".

Buying a property worth 500,000 euros has been one way to obtain a Golden Visa. Other routes to getting one - including investing a million euros in shares in a Spanish company or two million euros in government bonds - will still be available, said the government, although take-up of these is significantly smaller than the property route.

### Is ending the Golden Visa the right thing to do?

If you have an opinion about this or any other topic in SUR in English, we want to hear from you. We may publish your comments.

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## 'Without the Golden Visa we wouldn't have bought our home in Marbella'

Liudmila, a Russian psychology teacher, said the visa has allowed her to fulfil her dream of living in Spain

**PILAR MARTÍNEZ**

MALAGA. The idea of living in Spain began to cross their minds many years ago. So much so that Liudmila, a Russian psychology teacher from Moscow, and her husband, a doctor in the same city, started saving for the huge investment ten years ago - their daughters even studied Spanish at a Moscow school in prepa-

ration for the big move.

The Spanish Golden Visa scheme, which from 2013 until now allowed foreigners who invested more than half a million euros in a home in Spain to obtain residency, was key to making this dream a reality. "If there hadn't been this visa we wouldn't have bought this house in Marbella. Spain was our goal and having this residence permit was very important," said Liudmila, who also pointed out they have been able to start a new life with their youngest daughter "who is happy at school in Las Chapas [Marbella]". "My eldest daughter is studying at a uni-



Liudmila with her daughter and parents-in-law in Marbella. JOSELE

versity in the UK and my in-laws also live with us here," she added.

### International destination

Liudmila said that in 2013, coinciding with the year Spain launched the Golden Visa, she

and her family visited Marbella for the first time on a one-week holiday. They were delighted. In 2017 they returned on holiday and then in 2021 they selected from Moscow, through a real estate portal, the three-bedroom house which they now call home.

"We invested 510,000 euros in this house in 2021 and a year later we came to live here."

Despite the turbulent adventure of starting a new life in a country without knowing the local language, it has become clear to her that "I like to think that I have another future here". Liudmila also said learning Spanish has been key. "We have not stopped studying and I already have B1 level and my daughter is doing very well at school."

"I love the life in Marbella, its beaches and mountains, and being able to go from one place to another without big traffic jams. Here our dream has come true," she said while thinking of other families who have had their dreams of investing in Spain dashed following the government's plan to abolish the golden visa scheme.

"Many will be in the process of saving, as we did, but they will no longer have the opportunity to live here," she said.



# Malaga Airport launches new VIP service for top-end passengers

Airport operator Aena also has plans for a second executive lounge beyond passport control for non-Schengen travellers

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Malaga Airport is not only growing in passenger numbers but is also preparing to take a major leap forward in the services it offers, particularly to top-end passengers. Aena's director general for commercial and real estate María José Cuenda has announced Malaga Airport will launch a new "premium" personalised service for flyers looking to speed through the Costa del Sol facility. The service will include the offer to check-in baggage, pass through private security checkpoints and gain access to exclusive lounges while waiting for boarding.

Cuenda said passengers who book the service will be picked up at their hotel or at a meeting point of their choice to be transferred to the airport where they



Laura Rosales and María José Cuenda of Aena's commercial team. SUR

will be accompanied to the premium lounge and go through a private security check. Baggage check-in will be carried out by service staff.

In the premium lounge, a catering service can also be requested. "This is a new alternative that fits well with the profile of travellers who do not want to be noticed such as artists, sing-

ers or football teams, but it is also intended for passengers with high purchasing power who want a more comfortable and exclusive experience at the airport," Cuenda said. She added that there was increasing demand for personalised services. Both departing and arriving passengers will be looked after.

Passengers will have a private

boarding lane, transfer to the premium lounge and accompaniment to the aircraft, (which will be optional and only for passengers on Schengen zone flights who do not need to pass passport control).

For passengers arriving at the airport, they will be accompanied and transferred from the aircraft to the terminal for a stay in the premium lounge and baggage handling and collection. As an additional service, the passenger is accompanied on departure to the tax free shopping zone. Cuenda said prices of the premium service for select passengers range from 200 to 600 euros.

## Second VIP lounge

As part of the service, Cuenda said a second VIP lounge is already being planned at Malaga Airport following a 30 per cent increase in demand for the current one over the past year. Cuenda said, "This is a medium-term project in view of the high growth of the service. We are confident that it will be operational in a couple of years."

The new lounge is planned for the non-Schengen area, including for flights to the UK, after passport control in departures. "It will allow us to better segment customers and tailor the offer of each lounge to the needs and tastes of passengers," Cuenda explained.

## EasyJet ramps up its operations on the Costa del Sol again for high season

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. British airline easyJet has reopened its seasonal Malaga Airport base and this year is offering more seats. The budget carrier has added 1.9 million (7.6% more) to fly to and from the Costa del Sol for high season.

"The airline continues with its strategy of sustained growth in Malaga, which is also reflected in the expansion of its route network. Easyjet is expanding its range of destinations from the Andalusian city from 15 to 19," the company said. New destinations this season are Nantes, Nice, Athens and Birmingham.

Javier Gándara, easyJet's managing director for southern Europe, said: "Malaga has always been a major focus for the company in Spain and we are very proud to have reached 40m passengers in our 25th year operating in the region." This is the fourth year easyJet has had planes actually based at Malaga.



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The fire destroyed the Playa Carolina business in La Carihuella. **SUR**

## Fire causes some 24,000 euros of damage to sunbeds on La Carihuella beach

### TORREMOLINOS

**JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ CÁMARA.** A beach sunbed rental business in Torremolinos was destroyed by fire in the early hours of last Sunday.

Carolina Sánchez Carmona, who runs Playa Carolina in La Carihuella, said she could not understand why someone would want to set fire to the sunbeds, mattresses, chairs and tables she kept piled up on the sand. The sunbed business is located

opposite the shopping area on the promenade, in a very busy spot even outside regular business hours. She said, “There was an eyewitness out on his bike who saw it happen; at about 6.30am somebody arrived and set about burning everything, and then left.”

The business owner estimated the damage at about 24,000 euros. “I will have to replace it all myself, as the insurance does not cover anything left out in the open,” she added.

## Tourist’s death in Malaga holiday apartment investigated as gender violence

### MALAGA

**JUAN CANO.** A 43-year-old American woman found dead in a tourist flat in the centre of Malaga city may have died after extreme sexual practices, police said this week. Investigators found clues she may have died during or after sex and arrested her husband, however, the judge has decided to investigate it as a possible case of gender-based violence.

The husband first raised the alarm at about 5.30am last Saturday reporting his wife was unresponsive in the holiday apartment they were staying at in the Plaza de Camas area. Paramedics rushed to the scene but the woman was already dead. Doctors then initiated judicial proceedings as they were unable to certify the cause of death.

According to sources, evidence found inside the flat suggested they had been playing sex games using narcotic substances.

### 112 REPORTS



The victim's damaged car. **CNP**

### MARBELLA

## Marbella hitman murder retrial ordered

**IRENE QUIRANTE.** Andalucía’s top court has ordered a retrial in the case of one of two hitmen who were accused of shooting a Marbella businessman to death. The news comes after the public prosecutor’s office and private prosecution lodged an appeal after a jury previously deemed there was not enough evidence to convict him. The victim was sprayed with bullets when he returned to his home in San Pedro Alcántara on 21 January 2019.

### FUENGIROLA

## Driver dies in AP-7 motorway crash

**ROSSEL APARICIO.** A 50-year-old motorist died following an accident on the AP-7 motorway near Fuengirola in the early hours of last Saturday morning, according to 112 Andalucía. The driver’s vehicle apparently collided with the central reservation at 3.40am and went off the road, eyewitnesses told the emergency services. Paramedics said the driver died as a result of the collision and they could do nothing to save him.

### MALAGA

## Trial over forced sex work voodoo threats

**I.Q.** Six people are facing between nine months and 67 years in prison for allegedly performing voodoo on a group of young Nigerian women and forcing them to work for an illegal prostitution ring operating brothels in Malaga province. According to the prosecution, the accused - three men and three women - were part of an organisation which, together with others in Nigeria, were in charge of recruiting victims in the African nation to bring them to Spain.

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# Junta avoids making ruling on controversial filling of private swimming pools

Drought committee relaxes daily water use restriction by 25% until October across the whole of Malaga province

CHUS HEREDIA

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía's drought committee for Malaga province, which includes the Costa del Sol, is holding back on making an official announcement about whether residential communities will be allowed to fill their swimming pools this summer.

Following the declarations of the regional minister of Agriculture Carmen Crespo last week, the drought committee - despite previously making an exception for public swimming pools in

hotels, sport and health centres and campsites - said it is not its decision to make an official ruling on filling or refilling swimming pools.

During a meeting on Tuesday this week, the effects of the latest rains were analysed. The result was that water restrictions would be relaxed until October: the limit of consumption per inhabitant in a municipality was increased by 25% and goes from 160 litres per person per day to 200. It will be up to each respective town hall to ensure these restrictions are being followed.

This, for now, seems to be the approach the Junta is taking: its drought committee sets limits to reach water savings, with how this is actually achieved a matter for each local mayor. The same applies to the use of beach



More water now: the Turón river inland this week. MADRAZO

showers, foot baths and fountains.

Secretary general for water Ramiro Angulo chaired the

drought-committee meeting in Malaga and said, "Although the rains have helped to improve the situation, we cannot think

It will be up to each respective town hall in Malaga province to ensure these restrictions are being followed

the drought is over, so we must keep saving measures that help to ensure the most efficient use of resources."

In terms of irrigation of farmland, the drought committee agreed to apply an increase of up to six cubic hectometres of water to the Guadalhorce region of Malaga province.

In the Axarquía area, there will be an increase in recycled water farmers can use to irrigate their crops due to the increase in supply. On the other hand, no general, widespread irrigation by farmers and fruit growers in the Axarquía can start until further notice. Water transfers from Malaga city to the Axarquía have been suspended from Thursday this week.



Demonstrators on Malaga's Calle Larios last Friday. MARILÚ BÁEZ

## Costa business owners: 'If there are no pools people will change their holiday destination'

Gardening and pool maintenance firms among others want to make the irrigation and private pool regulations more flexible

CHUS HEREDIA

MALAGA. "Without gardens and swimming pools, we are going to be ruined," was the main slogan

when gardeners, pool lifeguards and other owners of businesses affected by the Junta de Andalucía's drought regulations took to the streets to protest in Malaga city last week.

The movement started by the companies affected by restrictions included in the drought decree of the regional government is back with its protests, this time with the support of the Comisiones Obreras (CC OO) trade union and the

Andalusian PSOE party.

Some 100 people marched, blowing whistles and chanting slogans with the same concern: to maintain employment in sectors such as swimming pools, gardening, lifeguarding, fitness training and tourist flats this summer.

Last week's rally started from the Plaza de la Marina in Malaga city and was called following the Junta's latest announcement to allow the opening of swimming

pools in public sports and health centres, hotels and campsites.

The protesters want the Andalusian government to make those measures, as well as the ones related to the watering of gardens and parks, more flexible. The protest was attended by Socialists Víctor Navas, ex-mayor of Benalmádena, and Begoña Medina, deputy party spokesperson in Malaga city. Spain's main workers' union CCOO was represented by its Malaga head Fernando Cubillo.

Andrés Marín, from a gardening company, expressed his concern at the discrimination they claimed they suffer compared to hotels and tourist accommodation: "Since November we have not been able to fill swimming pools and water the gardens. We want a bit of equality and flexibility so that we can all work. There are already quite a few companies that are laying off their employees. Theoretically at Easter we start our work but with the cutbacks we can't hire."

Asked about the possibility of irrigating with water from wells, he said it was very difficult to cover all the needs and that this would only benefit those who have more purchasing power.

Miriam Jiménez, owner of a swimming pool maintenance company, said the deterioration of partially filled pools is an issue as they end up with cracks and water leaks. "In addition, with evaporation they become empty and there is a danger of someone falling in. It is also a source of infection, it can be full of mosquitoes.... This water has to be treated and filtered so that it is in good condition. We are worried about the company and staff. We don't know what to do about buying chemicals, and now is the time to buy them," she said.

## Andalusian president: 'Maybe shared pools but not single homes'

C. H. / E. C.

MALAGA. The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, has added his comments on what the next stage should be in terms of water restrictions in the region. Speaking at a SER radio/El País forum he explained the latest rule changes on water use announced this week.

"In Malaga province we have increased the consumption [allowance] per person; it is foreseeable that community pools will be allowed to be filled but it is hard to see right now that private pools can be filled, although it will have to be the local councils that decide."

The president called for common sense and responsibility, announcing that the Junta de Andalucía will continue with its planned work to improve water supply, including adapting ports to take ships carrying water. "We won't need them this summer, but we don't know when we will need them," he said.

The Junta's representative for Malaga province, Patricia Navarro, also repeated the message on a visit on Wednesday this week to Torrox (Axarquía), explaining that only public and hotel pools would fill up and that it was up to town halls to decide if shared residential pools and private pools could do so.





The walkway takes visitors to the base of Ronda's iconic New Bridge. **ANTONIO CONTRERAS**

## Ronda opens first phase of gorge walk tourist attraction

From Saturday visitors will be able to look up at the iconic bridge from a new perspective thanks to the path along the edge of the gorge

**VANESSA MELGAR / MATÍAS STUBER**

**RONDA.** The first phase of the Camino del Desfiladero del Tajo, the walk around the edge of Ronda's famous gorge, opens to the public this Saturday.

First to try the path, however, was the regional tourism minister Arturo Bernal, who opened the stretch on Thursday, along with other authorities. In a small ceremony with around 30 guests, Bernal said that the Desfiladero del Tajo "is going to be one of the

**Some 600 tickets for the new walk were booked online in the first 24 hours said the mayor**

town's great attractions". The walk will be just one more reason to visit Ronda and the province of Malaga, he added.

The president of the Malaga Diputación provincial authority, Francisco Salado, added that he had "fallen in love with Ronda all over again" after looking up at the famous bridge from the new angle provided by the walkway.

The path, which already existed but has been massively upgraded, goes down to the base of the famous Puente Nuevo (New Bridge), along the edge of the gorge. The second stage of work, which will consist of the installation of a new walkway at the bottom of the gorge, alongside the Guadalevín river, will be completed soon.

Work for the creation of the attraction, designed by Luis Machuca, the architect of Malaga province's famous Caminito del Rey suspended walkway along the El Chorro gorge, will cost around 1.6 million euros - half of it will be financed by Ronda town hall and the other half by the Di-

putación, Malaga's provincial authority. The first phase which opened this week has cost 500,000 euros.

Mayor María de la Paz Fernández announced this week that admission to the first stage of the Camino will cost five euros and for residents registered in Ronda the visit will be free of charge, however they will be asked to present an ID card.

A website has been set up for pre-bookings ([www.desfiladerodeltajo.info](http://www.desfiladerodeltajo.info)), with some 600 tickets booked in the first 24 hours, said the mayor. The site is available in seven languages and an application can be downloaded using a QR code to find out more about the gorge.

The mayor described the new tourist attraction as "our most unique and iconic monument".

The refurbished path starts at the Plaza María Auxiliadora, in the town centre, and is about 400 metres long. The work has been financed by the Junta de Andalucía, with around 500,000 euros. It goes down to the base of the bridge and offers impressive views, also from several viewpoints.

The maximum capacity will be 30 people per hour. When the second stage is completed, the gorge will be crossed from the base of the bridge and the ending point will be at the old San Miguel Hermitage, next to the Arab Baths, in the Padre Jesús neighbourhood.

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Andalusian president Juanma Moreno (c) with officials and private partners in Antequera last Friday. A. J. G.

## Megahub aims to be 'the great logistics centre for southern Europe'

Officials opened the first phase of the new Puerto Seco distribution park in Antequera where the infrastructure is now ready for businesses

IGNACIO LILLO

ANTEQUERA. The opening of the first phase of the Megahub Andalucía, a major industrial and logistics park in inland Antequera, took place on Friday last week. "We want this to be the great logistics area for southern

Europe, for firms to see us as the best goods distribution centre, with our ports, airport and rail network," said the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno. Along with regional ministers, representatives of the provincial and local authorities and the private partners in the project, Moreno walked across the new bridge over the railway line, the most visible structure built on the site so far. The park is expected to create 8,000 direct jobs and provide work for another 16,000 in-

directly. Another 1,150 workers will be required to complete the construction, with at least another two phases planned to triple the current area covered. Following a public-private investment of 50 million euros and with the road layout and urbanisation now complete, this initial phase is ready for the first firms to set up their distribution centres on the site. "We want this to be the best link in the supply line between the EU and Africa, America and Asia, with its strategic location in the south," said Moreno.



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## Businesses call for people who buy goods from illegal street vendors to be fined

LORENA CÁDIZ

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena traders and business owners are calling on the town hall to fine people who purchase goods from illegal street vendors this summer. It comes as the Association of Traders and Businessmen of Benalmádena (ACEB) estimated the losses illegal street vending generates among their businesses, mainly in the coastal and Puerto Marina areas, to be between 20-30%. They're calling for "control" measures that go beyond "the spectacle of the police running along the promenade after them", said ACEB president Rosa María González. One of these measures could be to impose fines on those who buy from illegal street vendors "and are contributing to crime".

### HERE AND THERE

TORREMOLINOS

#### Town installs CCTV as part of crackdown

J. R. C. Torremolinos has installed 21 CCTV cameras as part of a town-wide security crackdown announced by the council in December. Town mayor Margarita del Cid said the aim is to improve security and provide data management tools to analyse the levels of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The first phase cost 242,469 euros, however the aim is to reach 45 cameras and plans for a new control room are also in the pipeline.

MARBELLA

#### Marbella opens biggest free skate park in region

M. A. Designed by experts in the field and at a cost of 1.6 million euros, the largest free-to-use skate park in Andalucía opened its doors to the public in Marbella this week. The facility is located in the La Florida area, north of the A-7 motorway next to the Avenida Trapiche road into the town and the bus station. The venue covers 6,600 square metres and is divided into three areas for sport and a fourth for leisure.



Eastern section of Avenida de España, near Avenida de Andalucía. SUR

ESTEPONA

#### Estepona officially opens last section of 'one of longest promenades in Spain'

DAVID LERMA. Estepona has officially opened the latest section of what claims to be one of the longest promenades in the whole of Spain after works to create a new-look seafront esplanade were recently completed. The project has involved the remodelling of the town's former main road, the N-340, which was closed to traffic two years ago, and now allows for the full opening of the town cen-

tre to the Mediterranean. The work, carried out in several phases, transformed an area of 37,435 square metres that is 1,565 metres in length. The remodelled area is between Avenida de Andalucía and Calle Teraza and from there to Avenida Juan Carlos I, where the new council headquarters are also located, before reaching the lighthouse and the Cofradía de Pescadores building.

BENALMÁDENA

#### Historic watchtower to become symbol of port

L. CÁDIZ. Benalmádena has announced its plans to renovate the historic watchtower located at the pedestrian entrance to Puerto Marina. One of the three towers located in the town, all of which are declared BIC assets of cultural interest by the Junta de Andalucía, the Torre Bermeja has been in a state of decay for many years. The idea is that it will become a symbol of the port once the 56,000-euro refurb is complete.



Torre Bermeja. L.C.





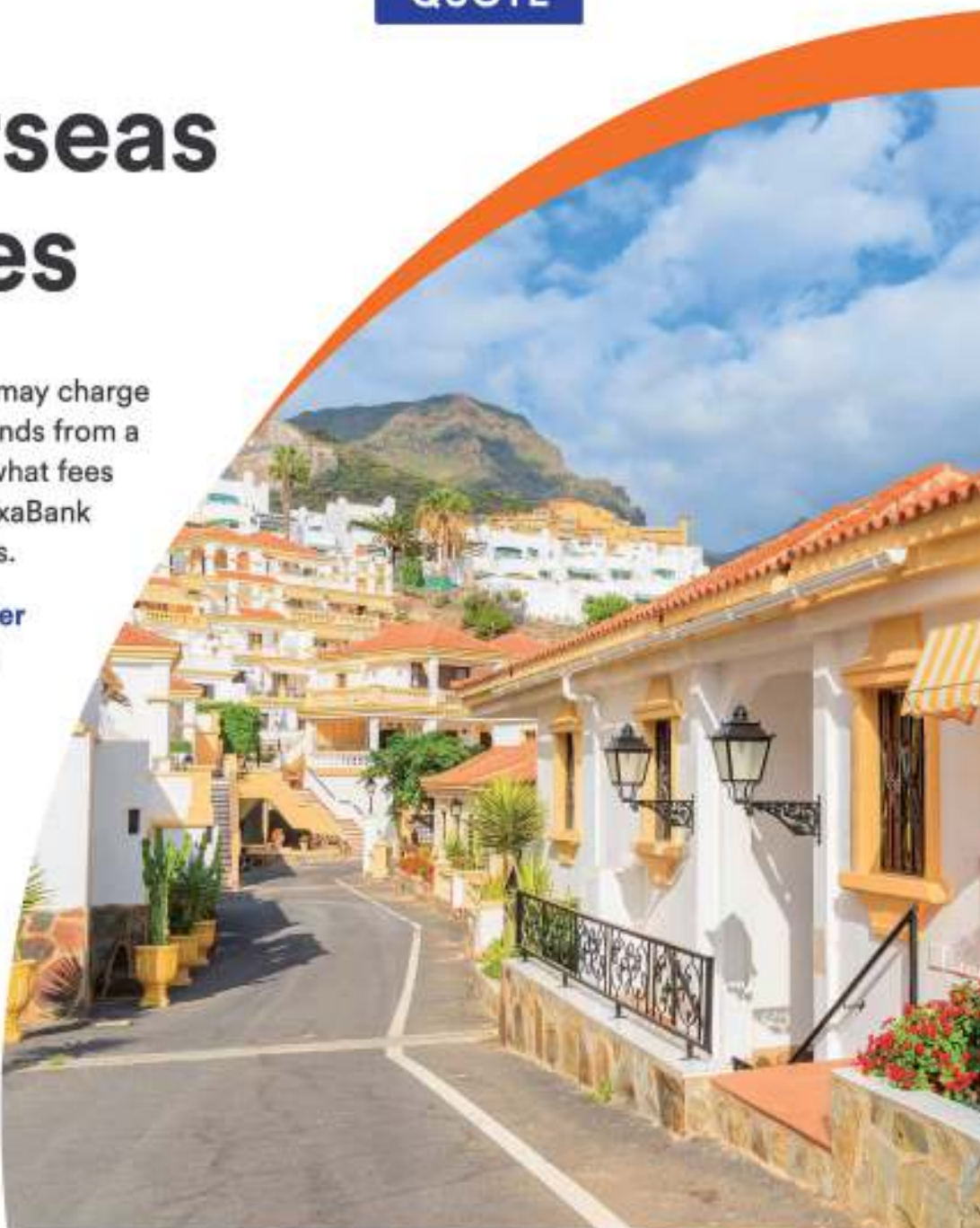
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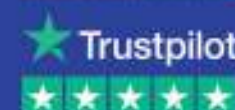
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Miguel Sánchez with his Newfoundland, Queen, in Torre del Mar. **SUR**

## Vélez-Málaga set to have Andalucía's first lifeguard dog service this summer

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**  
**EUGENIO CABEZAS**

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** This summer Vélez-Málaga's lifeguards will be accompanied by dogs; the first municipality in Malaga and indeed Andalucía to do so.

There will be a total of five dogs, three Newfoundlands and two Labradors who will provide a service along the 22 kilometres of Vélez-Málaga's coastline from Chilches to Lagos.

The animals have been provided by Manuel Durán, an employee of Emvipsa, who has created the first Emergency Canine Unit (UCE), called MrsQ, together with fellow trainer Miguel Sánchez from Hellín in Albacete (Castilla-La Mancha).

"We will be the first municipality in Malaga that will have a ca-

nine rescue unit on the beaches, and one of the first in Andalucía. Last year there was a Labrador in Chiclana, Cadiz, but it was a puppy and was going to start training," said Durán.

He added that in communities such as Valencia such units are more common. In his opinion, "people have to get used to the fact that these working dogs are on the beaches".

The pioneering service will be coordinated jointly with Servicial, an Almeria-based company that provides the lifeguard and sea rescue service in Vélez-Málaga.

"Luckily, Torre del Mar's mayor's office and the beaches department have been totally supportive from the beginning and have seen the usefulness of these water rescue dogs," highlighted Durán.

## Ownership of tourist complex closed for 21 years handed to Axarquía town

**PERIANA**

Periana town hall will now try to reopen the Villa Turística by leasing it out, although it could be put up for auction

**E. CABEZAS**

**PERIANA.** Periana's Villa Turística tourist accommodation complex now belongs to the town hall, after the Junta de Andalucía officially handed it over free of charge last week.

The complex has been closed for 21 years, during which time Periana town hall has been asking the regional government to hand over ownership.

Mayor of Periana Rafael Torrubia signed an agreement with the Junta de Andalucía on

Wednesday 3 April. Torrubia explained to SUR that the town hall's objective now is for the Villa Turística "to reopen as soon as possible". However, there is no clear plan as to how and when this will happen.

One option would be to lease out the complex and another is to sell the place through an auction the Junta de Andalucía plans to carry out for four other tourist villas that it still owns across the region and which have also been closed for several years.

"We are going to hold a special council meeting to establish our position. If it is auctioned, we want it to be bought by a business group that will reopen it immediately," Torrubia said. "The town hall is not in a position to take over the management directly," the mayor added.

Periana's Villa Turística has been closed for over 20 years. **E. CABEZAS**

## HERE AND THERE

**LA CALA DEL MORAL**

### Rowing club open day for breast cancer

**E. C.** La Cala del Moral Rowing Club in Rincón de la Victoria is holding an open day for women who have had breast cancer this Sunday, 14 April. The club has long been encouraging different generations to unite to fight against the disease. In 2021 it created the Vikings Rosas (Pink Vikings) team, a group made up of women breast cancer patients who participate in rowing competitions and carry out outreach activities throughout Andalucía. For more details visit Facebook: Club de Remo de La Cala del Moral.

Inspecting progress. **JOSELE**

**MARBELLA**

### San Pedro sports centre work enters final leg

**M.A.** Construction work on the new sports centre in San Pedro Alcántara has entered into the final stages with the facility expected to open to the public after summer. Marbella mayor Ángeles Muñoz, deputy mayor Javier García and councillor for sports Lisandro Vieytes visited the site this week which they said is 90% complete and on schedule to open in September.

**NERJA**

### Man says partner died in extreme sex accident

**I. G.** During a court appearance in Malaga a 56-year-old man changed his version of the events that took place on 2 August 2021 for which he is accused of strangling his partner. Oxana, a 37-year-old Russian national, died in the home they shared in Rincón de la Victoria before her burnt body was found in Maro. The defendant changed his story and according to the new version he told the court the victim's death happened accidentally while they were having extreme sex using a rope. He said he loved the woman and never meant to end her life.

Mayor Margarita del Cid at the launch of the three-day event. **SUR**

## Torremolinos to celebrate multicultural population with three-day international event

**TONY BRYANT**

**TORREMOLINOS.** Over the next three days Torremolinos will be celebrating its diverse international population with its Residents' Days. Held in Plaza del Remo in La Carihuella, the event, organised in collaboration with different foreigners' associa-

tions, will showcase their culture, customs and cuisine, along with a craft fair, traditional performances and live music.

The event will include the participation of organisations like Cudeca, the Hindu Association of Spain, Torremolinos Cubans United, the Ecuadorian Association, Latin American Associa-

tion Mano Amiga, Association and Friends of Germany and the Cultural Association of Chile, among others.

Along with sampling world cuisine, visitors will enjoy more than 30 live performances over the weekend, including flamenco, Argentinian tango, Indian folk, jazz, pop and reggae.

The festivities commence at midday today, 12 April, and continue until 11pm; Saturday's opening hours are 11am to 11pm while on Sunday the fun will begin at 11am and finish at 5pm.

The objective of this event is to strengthen ties and promote coexistence between people of different nationalities living in Torremolinos.

The event was launched this week by the town's mayor, Margarita del Cid, who pointed out that Torremolinos is home to almost 125 different nationalities.

"This enormous cultural diversity has shaped the character of Torremolinos for many years, and I am convinced that it is decisive for the future. Torremolinos welcomes everyone with open arms," the mayor said.

## Green light for new football stadium that aspires to be World Cup 2030 sub-host venue

**MARBELLA**

**MARÍA ALBARRAL.** Marbella town hall has announced a huge investment of between 115 and 130 million euros which will go towards building a new stadium that could be a sub-host venue at the 2030 FIFA World Cup. With Spain, Portugal, and Morocco joining forces to host the huge footballing event, the Costa del Sol town is aiming to be involved, with mayor Ángeles Muñoz and head of the Marbella FC foundation Esteban Granero announcing the news. Work will start this year on the site of the old Antonio Lorenzo Cuevas stadium with the 10,000 capacity facility set to be ready by 2026. It will also include accommodation and shops.



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# Mijas racecourse, from jewel in the crown of sports tourism to looking like a 'war zone'

## MIJAS

After a decade with hardly any activity, the town hall regained ownership of the Hipódromo last year and faces investing millions of euros after damage by vandals and looters

LORENA  
CÁDIZ



The Mijas Hipódromo, the racecourse inaugurated in 1999, was intended to become the jewel in the crown of sports tourism in the area. This was a dream, however, that very quickly diminished after continuous problems at the 350,000-square-metre facility. Following years of uncertainty about the racecourse's future, the town hall has still not decided what to do with it, as it claims it would need a financial investment of 3.5 million euros to restore it to its former use.

The race nights had attracted up to 7,000 people and the course included numerous facilities for jockeys, trainers and veterinary treatment, along with bars and restaurants, however the company that originally managed the concession eventually went into bankruptcy.

When these municipally owned facilities were launched, the council decided to create a company called Recursos Turísticos de Mijas to manage it. However, the problems arose when the Real Federación Hípica de Madrid stopped organising the races, a move which prompted the owners of horses to go to other racetracks where more substantial prizes were offered.

Attempts were made to reorient the facilities towards show jumping, but the company that took over the concession even-



Aerial view of the troubled Mijas Hipódromo racecourse. SUR



The facilities have been vandalised and looted. SUR

tually left, and it remains embroiled in a legal dispute with the council.

This resulted in a decline of people visiting the facility, followed by the closure of many of the businesses, and by 2014, it was virtually nonfunctional. Over the last ten years, the racecourse has been immersed in a bureaucratic and legal quagmire.

It all stems from when these facilities, owned by the town hall, were set up, and the town council decided to create a company, known as Mijas Recursos Turís-

ticos to manage them. There was no issue with this arrangement until the decision was made to liquidate the company and return the land to the council, which is when the legal hurdles began. In 2018, Mijas Recursos Turísticos entered into bankruptcy, owing nearly four million euros to private and public entities including the town hall. Consequently, the hippodrome came under the control of the insolvency administrator.

Last year, the council announced that it had finally recov-



The abandoned sports residence at the racecourse. SUR

**The council said it is still not clear if it will continue to be a racecourse or whether it will be transformed into another type of sports facility**

ered 100 per cent ownership of the land and that the bankruptcy proceedings had come to an end, paving the way for the settlement of all recognised debts.

Although the bureaucratic problems have come to an end, it has still not been decided what to do with the space. During the last municipal elections, all parties announced different projects to relaunch it in line with maintaining it as a sports facility, since this is the use that the land must be used for in accordance with the general urban plan for the municipality (PGOU).

In the budgets that the current council (PP, Vox and Por mi Pueblo) has just approved, there were no amounts set aside for the racecourse, something that was the subject of much criticism in the last full council meeting. According to estimates from the current administration, 3.5 million euros is needed, which is the cost of the damage suffered over the years at the facilities. "The hipodrome has been ransacked. For many years, there has been no surveillance and thieves have entered and taken everything they could, including windows, cable conduits, floors..." stated the councillor for finance, Mario Bravo.

## Uncertain future

Bravo explained that the council wants to recover this space, but it is still not clear whether it will continue to be a racecourse or whether it will be transformed into another type of sports facility, although he said it is still in the process of finalising some legal issues.

For now, the town hall is still involved in resolving some remaining legal issues related to this space.

"Three premises were sold to three private individuals, who have them registered in their names, and to reclaim them, we have to resort to the expropriation process," detailed the councillor.

Once progress is made on that front, he even mentioned the possibility of launching a competition for ideas to decide the best future for this space, "as long as the sports use is respected at 50%, as stipulated by the PGOU."

Gyms, swimming pools, a velodrome, athlete residences or a new hippodrome... all of these options are on the table, but the timeline for them coming to life is still uncertain.

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## High profile public inquiry starts into sudden departure of Gibraltar's Police Commissioner

Ian McGrail's early retirement during a major investigation in 2020 came as a surprise to many as he was only in the post two years

### SUR IN ENGLISH

GIBRALTAR. On Monday this week the public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Ian McGrail as Gibraltar's Commissioner of Police in June 2020 began. The inquiry and the intrigue behind it has drawn widespread media interest beyond the Rock.

The inquiry into the reasons that led to McGrail stepping down to take early retirement after only two years in the post is chaired by retired English High Court judge Sir Peter Openshaw and, after several delays, is scheduled to last five weeks.

McGrail maintains he was pressured to leave early because his officers wanted to search the offices and home of a friend of Chief Minister Fabian Picardo. The suggestion is that somebody

in Gibraltar's government was attempting to cover something up.

Gibraltar has denied this but last week its government issued a restraint notice under new powers so that some of the evidence from the inquiry would not be made public.

It said that only a small number of documents would be affected that could damage vital public interests, both security and of a wider nature, including Gibraltar's economic interests.

### Lost confidence

In April last year McGrail was held but acquitted over a suspected sexual assault after an investigation into an alleged attack on a female police officer in 2018. He was previously arrested in March 2023 in connection with a public inquiry regarding a data breach but also released.

The Gibraltar government has always maintained that McGrail retired early from his top police job because the Chief Minister and Governor had lost confidence in him.



The damaged landing lights. SUR IN ENGLISH

## Spanish police boat smashes into runway approach lights

SUR IN ENGLISH. Royal Gibraltar Police are investigating an incident following an alleged sea pursuit of several rigid hull inflatable boats by Spain's Guardia Civil. It came to an end off the coast of the Rock on Wednesday night, when the Spanish vessel apparently struck an airport runway approach light fixture and reportedly began to sink. Several members of the public dialled 999 just after 10pm to report seeing the police boat hit one of the aircraft navigation aids in the sea.

Callers suggested the collision happened as the Spanish vessel was pursuing a number of rigid

hull inflatable boats in the area, which fled the scene. Their reports also suggested that prior to the collision, sounds resembling gun shots had also been heard.

Gibraltar maritime officers went to the scene, but the inflatable vessels involved in the incident had already left the area heading towards Spain.

Gibraltar's Captain of the Port and Commissioner of Police contacted their respective Spanish counterparts in relation to the incident.

No injuries were reported by the authorities in Spain.

### IN BRIEF

#### GOVERNMENT

### Top level treaty meeting in Brussels

SUR. Chief Minister Fabian Picardo is attending a top-level political meeting in Brussels today to discuss the continuing negotiations to secure Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union and with Spain. There have been 18 formal negotiating rounds so far but this is the highest level, multilateral negotiation ever attended by any Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

#### CULTURE

### Prehistoric Gibraltar features on Netflix

SUR. A new documentary made by the BBC entitled Secrets of the Neanderthals features the work of Gibraltar National Museum scientists and includes the discovery of the first example of a rock engraving made by Neanderthals and which has become popularly known worldwide as "the hashtag". The documentary is due to be aired on Netflix next month.

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# First stage passed of people's bill to make 500,000 migrants legal

A campaigner for migrant rights who came from Senegal over 20 years ago is celebrating after gathering 700,000 signatures

SUR

MADRID / GRANADA. A migrant who settled in Granada over 20 years ago is celebrating after leading the campaign to get parliament to debate and vote to process his people's bill to make some 500,000 migrants without residency documentation legal.

After initial doubts, Spain's two biggest parties, the Socialist PSOE and the conservative Popular Party (PP), have finally given in to pressure from more than 700,000 people who, with their signatures, supported the so-called people's bill calling for 500,000 illegal, undocumented migrants to get official residency status. The Roman Catholic Church in Spain has also heavily backed the proposal from the outset, along with some 800 non-profit groups. The move will affect those living in Spain before November 2021.

"Nobody thought we would be able to do it, as you need to get half a million signatures minimum," said Agustín Ndour after the MPs' vote. Ndour, originally from Senegal, is a long-term campaigner for migrant rights and once stood for parliament. "The amazing thing is that the PP and [left-wing] Sumar have both voted the same way in favour of regularising paperwork," he added.

On Tuesday morning, the Socialist PSOE announced its support after initial reluctance, con-



Agustín Ndour celebrates the vote in the public gallery on Tuesday. EP

**After initial doubts, Spain's two biggest parties, PSOE and PP, have finally given in to pressure**

cerned that it could go against EU legislation. In 2004, the PSOE's José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero had just become prime minister and an identical decision was adopted that benefited 700,000 people, but which earned the Socialist government criticism from its EU partners, especially from France.

The PP also agreed to the proposal. Its leader, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, said that immigrants in an irregular situation "need not worry because the PP is sensitive to them and will seek solutions for correct and legal social inclusion".

Sofía Acedo, a PP member of parliament later explained in Congreso, "We are taking the initia-

tive into consideration because Cáritas has asked us to do so and employers need labour."

Spanish bishops had been putting pressure on the parties for days to vote in favour of the proposal. One of the main charities that launched the proposal was Cáritas, which depends on the Catholic Church. "MPs have to reach agreements on central issues of human dignity and coexistence. Immigration is one of them," said Luis Argüello, Archbishop of Valladolid.

The support of the PP and PSOE left Junts, the right-leaning Catalan separatist party of Carles Puigdemont, as the only one still to show its hand on the proposed law. But in the end its seven MPs voted in favour of the proposal as well. The only party not to support the idea was hard-right Vox.

This popular initiative will now pass into the hands of a parliamentary committee and still has a way to go through Congreso before finally becoming law.

## Puigdemont says he will quit if he is not Catalan president

The leader of Junts expects to be granted an amnesty to return to Spain but could still destabilise government if things do not go his way

SUR

BARCELONA. The self-exiled Catalan separatist leader, Carles Puigdemont, head of the Junts party, has said he will leave active politics if he does not become president of Catalonia again after May's regional election there.

Puigdemont is waiting to be one of the main beneficiaries of the amnesty law that is expected to be passed in the Spanish parliament, which will allow him to return to Spain in the summer without charges for his illegal independence activities.



Puigdemont this week. EFE

His threat to retire from politics if he does not win also came accompanied by a threat to end his party's vital support for the Socialist-PSOE government in Madrid should that party take power from separatists in the Catalan region after the vote.

## Court investigates possible negligence in the prescription and sale of Nolotil painkillers

MATEO BALÍN

MADRID. Spain's high court has launched an investigation into Nolotil - which has been banned in several other key countries - following dozens of deaths allegedly linked to the popular painkiller.

It comes after a complaint filed by the Asociación Defensor del Paciente patient defence association which called for the commonly prescribed drug to be

banned due to its claimed adverse health effects.

The public prosecutor's office will now request the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products (AEMPS) submit a report on the sale of Nolotil. Details included in the report will relate to the drug's manufacturing, marketing and distribution points in Spain, authorisations granted, adverse reaction reports, as well information on why the drug has been banned in other countries and not in Spain.

In November 2018, the medicines agency of the ministry of Health recommended not to give medicines to tourists containing metamizole, such as Nolotil or Buscapina Compositum, and in the case of those who could be monitored, to provide it only in minimal doses.

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## Struggling for recognition



Only now, over four months since stepping down from its half-year stint as president of the Council of the European Union, is Spain shaping European policy on a major international issue. The Guardian reported last week that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's relentless criticism of the Israeli counter-offensive and his pledge to recognise a Palestinian state are emboldening

other EU countries to adopt unambiguous stances on the conflict.

Now Sánchez is going on tour, starting this weekend in Norway and Ireland, to lobby other European nations for the two-state solution. He will also meet with the governments of Portugal, Slovenia and Belgium, all of which have signalled readiness to recognise a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Spain thus hopes to lead the EU to official recognition of Palestine, something for which the bloc's parliament first called in 2014.

If Spain were to recognise a Palestinian state by the summer, as Sánchez has promised, it would become only the second country to do so as a member of the EU. Currently, only nine of the bloc's 27 members regard Palestine as a state, eight of which did so prior to joining the bloc: Bulgaria, Malta, Cyprus, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia and Hungary (the last is also one of Israel's staunchest allies).

Sweden became the first EU-affiliated country to extend official recognition to Palestine in 2014, the same

year that the EU parliament voted to do so 'in principle'.

But is this the right time for the EU to recognise Palestine as a state?

One enormous problem is how to ensure that such recognition is anything other than symbolic at the same time as maintaining the bloc's historically strong relations with Israel. Obviously, this cannot be achieved when there is not even consensus between different factions within the Palestinian leadership, let alone between Israel and Palestine, on where the borders should be drawn.

An even bigger problem is presented by Hamas, which wants all the land between the Jordan and the Mediterranean - i.e. a 'solution' in which there

are no borders.

Hamas doesn't want to exist alongside Israel. Its founding charter, written in the late 1980s, committed it to a war against all Jews in the region - in other words, to the obliteration of Israel.

The document was revised in 2017, partly to redefine the terrorist cell's quarrel as being with Zionist 'occupiers', not Jews as a whole - a semantic tweak that was shown to be utterly meaningless by the October 7th surprise attacks.

Pedro Sánchez is trying to garner support for a plan that won't even be fit for negotiation until Palestinians are represented by a political organisation committed to dialogue and coexistence with the state of Israel.





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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Why are pools a priority?

I can't understand for the life of me why it's a "big issue" whether swimming pools - in private residences or shared developments - will be able to be refilled. Can't people understand that we're in a drought? Yes, the rain over Easter was a good thing, but it's still not enough - the reservoirs are at 25% of their full capacity. We need water in our homes, to drink, shower, clean our dishes. There's already been a drastic drop in pressure pumped to homes in some parts of the province, to save supply. We also need it for industry and commerce, agriculture, thermoelectricity and energy. And we certainly don't need to be wasting - yes, I said wasting - hundreds and hundreds of litres of water to fill up our swimming pools, for leisure purposes. I mean, with this heat, just go to the beach and dip into the sea. It's hot enough already, the sun's out. Yes, it may take you a few minutes to warm up, but after a while it will feel great. Like I've said, yes, the rain has alleviated the urgency of the drought. But remember that just a moment ago they were talking about water being shipped to Malaga from Murcia!

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Lucky them! So they will bypass the thorough - and embarrassing - physical search always given to me by the stone-faced woman on security. This is despite me being a 73-year-old woman and telling her every time that the beeping comes from my knee replacement.

CHRISTINE MAYLOR GREGG

## Dog poo everywhere

I wish I could afford to take my 20 minute stroll to work every morning in peace, gazing at the surrounding nature and beautiful blue sky. But I can't. Why, you might ask? For fear that, should I look away from the ground, I'll arrive at work with a foul brown mess on the bottom of my shoe, revolting and reeking.

FRANCESCA ROY

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THE MUSIC MAKER  
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## The prince of whales

At the time of writing, there's a humpback whale swimming about somewhere off the south-east coast of Alaska being roundly laughed at by his chums as he regales them of tales about the time six human scientists who engaged him in a somewhat fraught conversation.

"No, no really, lads - they played this recording at me through some speakers on the bottom of the boat. It sounded like they'd captured the sound of that young whale from North Alaska singing his reggaeton music so I told them to put a sock in it, obviously, but that just seemed to get them even more excited and they repeated it twenty six times over the next half hour despite my pleas for mercy. That was back in 2021 and I'm still nauseous to this day."

"Yeah, yeah, whatever, Wally."

"My name's not Wally any more - it's Twain. That's what the scientists christened me. I rather think it rather suits me, don't y... Lads? Lads? Wait for me."

Poor Twain. Nobody believes him. All of this really did happen though and now scientists are analysing the humpback chat to see if they can glean any more information as to what it is that concerns these magnificent creatures as they shoot the whale song breeze across entire ocean basins using a varied combination of 'whup' and 'thorp' sounds.

I do hope this research one day bears fruit although the team involved has expressed a hope that their work might also one day help us to understand aliens from outer space which, let's be honest, is a bit of a worry.

It would be such a thrill,

though, if studying whale song brought us to a deeper understanding of mother nature in general and the oceans in particular.

Some of these pining calls are so intrinsically beautiful that every fibre of your being wants to believe that they have some deep, spiritual element to them rather than being merely an overly complex range of ways of saying, 'Come on, there's more fish over here, boys'.

So, good luck to the Seti team who are leading the investigations. If they were to proceed to the next level of discovery, I think the first thing they should do is take a trip to south-east Alaska, find Twain and give him an in-depth interview about his opinions on everything from geo-politics to the Beckhams.

Man, I'd love to see the look on his whale friends' faces.

IDÍGORAS

Welcome to the  
appointment line for  
your health centre

There are no  
appointments at  
the moment, but,  
just in case, try  
taking a  
paracetamol

SUR **in English**Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.  
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UWE SCHEELÉ

## Golden visas

At the peak of the Euro crisis Spain's conservative prime minister Mariano Rajoy introduced the Golden Visa programme. Non-EU citizens could acquire Spanish residency by making substantial investments in real estate, businesses or government bonds. The left-wing government led by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez now aims

to end this.

There's initially nothing objectionable about this, as residency should not be purchasable. Especially when considering how many migrants still struggle for residency years after their arrival simply because they lack sufficient funds.

Against the backdrop of housing shortages, the government argues for curb-

ing speculation in housing. Indeed, Golden Visas have soared in the past two years, especially in the Balearic Islands and the province of Malaga: 5,290 compared to around 5,000 total in previous years.

However, in Spain alone, 590,000 properties were sold last year, so the influence of Golden Visas on property prices is likely to be minimal.

The fact that many of these properties are increasingly being sold as vacation homes to foreign buyers is indeed a problem for the local population.

In that respect, it is commendable that Sánchez is advocating for affordable housing for locals. However, the acquisition of luxury properties by EU foreign-

ers cannot be restricted due to EU law. Therefore, the outcry from the tourism and real estate sectors over the abolition of Golden Visas is completely unjustified.

A sober analysis suggests that the programme has only brought negligible additional income to both sectors over the past eleven years.

Its abolition is therefore unlikely to have a particularly negative impact on these industries. On the other hand, inadequate water and transportation infrastructure are met with incomprehension by foreign buyers and visitors. And that has nothing to do with Golden Visas; the homework must be done by the responsible authorities on the ground.





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▲ **Heading south.** The actor waves from the sleeper train as it leaves Madrid for Malaga.

ARCHIVO AGUIRRE FIESTAS

► **On camera.** For 67 years, Blanca Fiestas has kept this photograph taken at La Verdad in her family album.

ARCHIVO AGUIRRE FIESTAS

## Brando on the Costa del Sol, the photo few have seen



► **La Verdad.** The Fiestas family's estate that hosted Brando was where the Sunset Beach Hotel now stands.

ARCHIVO AGUIRRE FIESTAS

**Centenary.** The man dubbed the greatest actor in the history of film came to Malaga in 1957 on a flying visit about which little was known until now. Now SUR has tracked down the family who hosted him in Benalmádena, and published the first (and only) photo taken during his break on the beach

FRANCISCO  
GRIÑÁN



It all started with a phone call in January, although the story took place almost 67 years ago, when a Hollywood star with bleached blond hair came down the steps of a plane in Spain. It was 1957 and the country was opening up to modernity and tourism as a way of softening the image of the regime. Marlon Brando (1924-2004), the greatest actor in film history whose centenary was marked last week, first landed in Madrid, but soon headed for the station in search of a 'streetcar named desire'. When he looked at the ticket he saw that it said 'expreso coche-cama Costa del Sol', the sleeper train to the south coast. According to the press, the actor was a regular in the fashionable holiday paradise of the time, Torremolinos. But the truth is that not only was the actor never seen again on the Costa, but his first and only visit went unrecorded. Not a sin-

gle photo of him on the beach, nor an interview. That was the mystery behind the call playwright and researcher Carlos Zamarriego made to SUR, putting the first questions on the table for this report. The answers were to be found in Finca La Verdad, the actor's destination in Benalmádena.

Zamarriego had linked the visit with Malaga-born Jorge Fiestas (1928-1986), one of the great film journalists of Spain in the 60s and 70s, and co-owner of the legendary Sala Oliver, a meeting place for Madrid's show business world for decades. His parents were the owners of La Verdad, a luxurious seaside property with direct and exclusive access to the beach, where today the Sunset Beach Hotel stands. Back then, though, that corner of the Costa del Sol was almost virgin territory, impossible to identify with its current appearance.

We know the reason for the visit of the actor, who by then had won an Oscar for *On the Waterfront* (1955), to Spain. The star was in France, shooting the film *The Young Lions*, in which he played a German officer, when he took advantage of a rainy spell to take a few days off to travel to Spain. He flew to Madrid and then headed south, although apparently with no fixed destination, as he told the waiting press when he disembarked from the Paris-Barajas flight.

"I'm going to Malaga or Seville for a rest. I'll think about my itinerary later. For the moment, I think I should find a good beach," Brando announced, either out of indecision or in order not to give too many clues as to his intentions. But yes, he did end up at the seaside, in Benalmádena. Although before that he went out on the town in Madrid and, the following day, a Friday, he left for Malaga on a train. There was no sign of his reputation for being sullen and allergic to popularity as he posed and signed autographs at the Madrid station. But from then on, the elusive megastar's trail was completely lost.

Compared to the dozens of photos of him in Madrid in little more than 24 hours, there is not a single image of Brando in Malaga, just undocumented hearsay of a trip to Torremolinos.

In a search for answers, Zamarriego and this newspaper finally tracked down Bernabé Fiestas Bonitz, brother of journalist Jorge and eyewitness of Marlon Brando's visit to La Verdad.

A resident of San Pedro de

Alcántara for decades, Bernabé, 87, calculates that in that summer of 1957 he was 20 years old. He remembers the actor, although more for his fame and magnetism than for his presence. "When I stood next to him, I was surprised to be looking down on him and I said to myself, 'wow, on the screen he looks much taller', although he was a strong guy. I haven't forgotten that," says Bernabé.

He explains how his parents had built bungalows on the family estate that they rented out to VIP guests and that is where Brando stayed between 13 and probably 15 July. Bernabé recalls that they saw little of the Hollywood star as he came looking for privacy and the beach, something he found right outside his bungalow.

Bernabé reveals that Brando agreed to pose for a photograph in La Verdad with his sister, Blanca Fiestas, probably the only image of the future star of *The Godfather* on the Costa del Sol. She still keeps the snapshot in her house in Malaga: our next stop.

Blanca was 22 at the time and remembers "perfectly" the day she met her idol. "He arrived with dyed blond hair because he was making a film in France - *The Young*

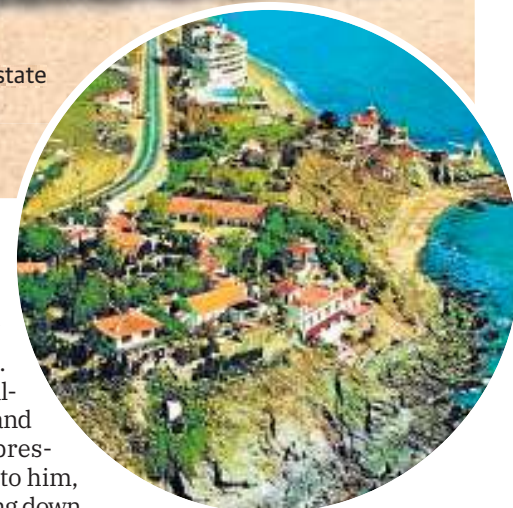
**The Hollywood star had access to a private beach from his bungalow in Benalmádena**

*Lions* - in which he played a Nazi soldier," she explains during our visit.

"We were all sitting in the garden when Marlon came over to say hello," recalls Blanca, who doesn't remember the rest of the conversation or who asked him to take a photo with her.

"He didn't like it, but he said yes," says the triumphant co-star of this unpublished snapshot taken by her then boyfriend and later husband, Fernando Aguirre. Blanca agrees to release the image to be published for the first time by SUR. In it, a smiling, summery Blanca poses next to a Marlon Brando with a cordial expression, wearing a tennis cardigan unzipped to mid-chest, with long sleeves, totally unsuitable for July in Malaga.

It is not known how the actor travelled back from Malaga to Madrid, but on Tuesday 16 July he flew out of Madrid Airport to continue filming in France. The actor appeared in the headlines some days later for a less fortunate incident: "Brando suffers burns and is admitted to hospital for treatment." The actor had had an accident making tea. We can be certain that, in his hospital bed, he was thinking about his break in Benalmádena.





DECOTTA LAWYERS



## Relocation of a child: a complex and vital decision

The choice of the place of residence must be decided by mutual agreement between the two parties

**MÁLAGA**

**SUR.** When a couple with children together break up, there are many areas in which the parents need to reach an agreement in relation to the minor children.

One of the decisions that often causes the most confrontation due to its importance, is the change of the children's place of residence. The choice of the place of residence of the minor

children falls within the scope of parental responsibility and must therefore be decided by mutual agreement between the two parties, regardless of who has custody. It is a very common mistake to consider that the custodial parent can freely decide the place of residence of the child, and this has given rise to quite a few court decisions.

When a parent wishes to move the child's place of residence, either to another city or to another country, this will affect the relationship that the child has been maintaining with the other parent (either as a visiting arrangement or as joint custody).

This is even more serious when one of the parents intends to move the child's residence to another country. Without the permission of the other parent or the relevant judicial authorisation, he or she would be committing an illicit transfer of the child/children, which is classed as a criminal offence under the Spanish Criminal Code.

What can I do if I want to move abroad with my minor child and the other parent objects? In this case it is necessary to make an application to the Court to change the child's address, either by issuing a new custody proceeding if necessary or requesting a modification of an existing custody Order.

If the parents cannot reach agreement the Court will take various aspects into consideration. Bearing in mind that the preference will normally be for the child to have the maximum relationship possible with both parents, and in view of the fact that the relationship with the non-custodial parent will be drastically affected. The Court will need very clear evidence that the child's situation in the new country will be better than the current one, and that such a change is for the better and "compensates" for the fact that the relationship with the other parent will be diminished.

Among the main aspects that the Courts take into account when assessing the suitability of the transfer of the child, there are the purely material and economic aspects such as the economic and professional situation of the transferring parent, government aid and the home in which the child will reside and their schooling. Other factors are the family support or social circle in the new country, the relationship that is proposed to be maintained with the non-custodial parent, the possibility of the latter being involved in the child's education in another country, medical assistance, etc.

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# 'My editor compared my book to the feeling of reading Harry Potter for the first time'

**Katie Lewis** Teacher and author of young adult fantasy novels

Katie Lewis first started writing as a child and has already published two books in the Cursed Series saga, with two more in the pipeline

JENNIE RHODES

**BENAMARGOSA.** At just 22, Katie Lewis is already a published author of two books. She lives in Benamargosa with her family who moved there from Cardiff, Wales when Katie was a baby. Her inspiration to write comes from a love of reading books by authors including J. K. Rowling. She writes as a hobby when not giving after-school English, Science, Maths and Spanish classes to both primary and secondary pupils. Katie writes in English and in Spanish and her books are in libraries in schools in the Axarquía and Wales.

**-How long have you been in Spain?**

-My parents moved the whole family out to Spain just after I turned one, so I've been here for almost 22 years.

**-Why did you come to Spain?**

-Well, my parents wanted to raise us somewhere where we'd be given

better opportunities as well as better futures, so here we are!

**-When did you start writing?**

-I started writing properly when I was about 10. I'd written short stories as a child, but 10 was when I started to actually create my own stories and feel genuinely excited about the prospect of doing it as a hobby.

**-When did you discover you had a talent?**

-I still don't like to call it a talent, I just think I'm very passionate about writing and therefore found the confidence to take a leap of faith and put my story out into the world. I think what sparked said confidence was when my editor first read the prologue of A Curse of Love and Law and told me she was hooked pretty quickly. She compared it to the feeling of reading the first Harry Potter book, which is one of my all-time favourites.

**-Who helped you?**

-One of the first people to sort of guide me onto the path was my Spanish language teacher in school. I used to write short stories for her classes and she was the first one to tell me that I had a gift for writing. Little did I know that she had kept all of my stories and, years later when I went back to the school



Katie Lewis signs books at her old primary school in Benamargosa. SUR

to do a presentation about my very own published book, she gave them all back to me as a gift and told me she had always believed in me. Another person who really helped me was Alice, my editor. She made me believe that A Curse of Love and Law was good enough, and without her I don't know if I ever would have taken that huge step. Having

people who believe in you is so important and it boosts your confidence in ways I wasn't even aware of. Surrounding yourself with people like that makes achieving your goals a reality and that makes a huge difference, coming from someone who struggled with self-confidence for a long time.

**-What advice have you been given?**

-Since I self-published I haven't actually been given much advice about writing. I've learnt plenty along the way, but most of it has been through my own trial and error. If anything, believing in myself is the most important piece of advice I've been given and that applies in any field, not just writing.

**-So what are your books about?**

-I write young adult fantasy which is mostly aimed at teens and adults. The best way I can describe it is fiction, fantasy, drama and romance all bundled up into one genre. My inspiration comes from every fantasy book I've ever read, from my favourite authors such as Sarah J. Maas, Cassandra Clare and J.K. Rowling. Their characters, worlds and stories just made me want to create my own.

**-How many books have you written so far?**

-So far I've written two and I am currently writing book number three out of four in the Cursed Series.

**-And your books are already in school libraries?**

-I visited my old school here in Benamargosa last year and another school in Cardiff later where copies of A Curse of Love and Law were purchased to keep in the libraries.

**-Do you write in Spanish or English first?**

-I always start off in English. I write the entire book and then once it has been edited and proofread I write it in Spanish. I'm unsure as to why that is, seeing as I speak in Spanish just as often, if not more, but there's something about speaking in English that I find much more comfortable.

**-What does the future hold?**

-Hopefully my future is filled with plenty more books. I love writing and having it as a hobby and not a full-time job is what keeps it so fun for me. I write how and when I want and therefore don't feel the pressure of deadlines or supervisors. If I have writer's block, I take a break and come back when I'm ready. It could be an hour, a day, or a week. I don't rush my characters or their stories and I love being able to do things at my own pace.

**-What advice would you give to other budding young authors?**

-Believe in your words. Have the confidence to write what you truly wish to write, and most importantly, do it for yourself. Have fun, create stories and characters you absolutely adore, and just see where it takes you.

## THE STORY BEHIND A PLACE NAME

# Triana Beyond the three-branched river

Mythology claims the goddess Astarte founded Triana after settling on the western banks of the river after fleeing the persecution of Hercules

TONY BRYANT



Although a district of Seville city, the locals of Triana, known as 'trianero/as', will fiercely disassociate themselves from their neighbours (sevillano/as) on the opposite side of the river, for most see themselves as autonomous from Seville. Located on the west bank of the Guadalquivir, Triana, which is historically linked to the river, accommodated more Gypsies than any other town in Spain during the 19th century, although they were not the first to settle there.

According to mythology, the goddess Astarte founded Triana when she settled on the west-



A view of Triana from the Puente de Isabel II (Triana bridge). SUR

ern banks of the river after fleeing the persecution of Hercules, the mythological founder of Seville.

The true origins of the name have baffled researchers for many years, resulting in several theories, including that it was part of a Roman colony founded by Trajan, the emperor born in the Roman city of Italica in 53BC. This theory claims the name Triana derived from the original denomination of Trajana. Although the

first settlements in this area appear to be from the Roman era, historians believe that Trajana referred to a villa or small estate located between the Guadalquivir and Guadiana rivers.

According to other historians, the name derives from a mixture of the Roman 'tri' (three) and the Celtic, 'ana' (river), because the river split into three branches in this area at that time. This theory is backed by historian Justino Matute y Gaviria, who cites this

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Río	River
Distrito	District
Mitología	Mythology
Orilla	Bank (river)
Aunque	Although
Gitanos	Gypsies
Fundador/a	Founder
Colonia	Colony
Ramal	Branch
Parroquia	Parish church
Investigador/a	Researcher
Persecución	Persecution
Publicado	Published

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

version in his book Triana y su Iglesia Parroquial (Triana and its Parish Church), published in the early 19th century.

Others claim the name derives from the Latin, 'trans amnem', meaning 'what is beyond the river'. This theory has gained momentum among other academics, who claim Triana's Arabic name was Ma Wara An-Nahr, 'beyond the river'. However, the Arabs knew the area more commonly as Atrayana, or Athriana.



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DENISE BUSH



## GARDENING

# Veltheimia bracteata

The forest lily or winter red- hot poker, botanical name *Veltheimia bracteata*, is native to the Eastern Cape of South Africa. It is a deciduous perennial bulb which produces a rosette of fleshy, glossy strap-like leaves with wavy margins and tall flower spikes, up to 60cm high, of tubular flowers. The blooms are clustered together at the tops of the stems and can be various shades of pink or green-

ish yellow. Some may have greenish spots on the tips of the petals.

This plant is drought tolerant once established and can withstand light frosts. It is dormant during the hottest months of the year and flowers during winter and early spring, each flower

spike lasting about a month.

An ideal location, whether it be in a flower bed or a container, would be where it receives partial or full shade.

After flowering, inflated seed capsules containing pear-shaped, black seeds around 6mm long appear. The forest lily grows easily from seed which needs to be har-

vested as soon as the pods are dry and papery. It can also be propagated from bulblets and from the leaves. A healthy leaf removed from the base of the rosette and planted in a sandy loam will form small bulblets at the base. They should flower after just one season.

The bulbs, once planted, are best left undisturbed and will benefit from the application of a slow release fertiliser during the growing season. They should not be watered or fed during the dormant period (summer, when the leaves have died right back) as the bulb may rot.

*Veltheimia bracteata* is named after the patron of German botany, Ferdinand Graf von Veltheim (1741-1801). The specific epithet is from the Latin 'bractea' meaning 'with bracts'.

The genus has only two species, *V. bracteata* and *V. capensis* although there are several synonyms.



Veltheimia bracteata and the cultivar 'Yellow Flame' (inset). WIKIMEDIA

## READERS' PHOTOS



PETER BAILIE ERVINE

## Amazing Amaryllis

Every year, around Easter, reader Peter Bailie Ervine sends SUR in English photos of his stunning Amaryllis flowers. They are just too good not to publish. Amaryllis grow from a large bulb which, after a couple of years, will need feeding once a month during the growing season to ensure lots of blooms the following year.

## Healing Aloe vera

SUR in English reader Caroline Sellers sent in this photo of Aloe vera sp and says: "This Aloe vera's bright yellow flowers are almost a slightly translucent gold, bringing colour to our gardens. Not to forget that the plant gel can heal burns and wounds."



CAROLINE SELLERS

## PHOTOS

### Calling all gardeners

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

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

# Theresa Chromati plants her scrotum flowers in CAC Malaga

The US artist uses colour and glitter in her works to emphasise freedom and the empowerment of women

FRANCISCO GRIÑAN

MALAGA. As soon as you enter, a sculpture of a flower on a stem shaped like male genitalia assaults your eyes, much like the giant plant from the 1986 film, Little Shop of Horrors. This 'scrotum' flower is the recurring motif in the iconog-

raphy of Theresa Chromati's work to date and the theme dominates her exhibition - Rehearsal for Joy - at Malaga's Contemporary Art Centre (CAC). This US artist with Guyanese origins uses colour and glitter in her pieces to contrast with her powerful, social message of empowerment and freedom of women. They have been created specifically for the CAC, her first European exhibition in a major gallery.

The aim is to invite the viewer to reflect on diversity, identity and the role of women in today's



Artist Theresa Chromati beside one of her works. MARILÚ BÁEZ

society, particularly African-American women. "This journey is not linear but circular and inward-looking to show a woman fighting and supported by this metal structure that af-

fords her shelter and protects her," explained Chromati.

Glitter is present in all her compositions but the artist gives it a different, deeper meaning. "Glitter is important to show the

different layers of femininity since, depending on how you move around it, the work also appears different," she explained. Chromati also uses fabric, rolling it up and twisting it to represent nipples "projecting the female form while also showing that they can also be a phallic motif". The interplay of genders is particularly visible in her scrotum flowers. "I look for a balance between the masculine and the feminine for momentum to move forward," said the artist.

"I do not believe in showing the woman's body in one, single way, but rather that the movement in her expresses the search for freedom". All in all, this very colourful, unique exhibition shows off until 2 June the artist's planting of a highly personal, almost private, circular garden.



# Marking a decade of recreating the iconic anthems of Deep Purple

Founded on the coast in 2014, Deeper Purple are embarking on a lengthy tour of the UK, along with dates in Malaga, Granada and Madrid

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. In order to mark their tenth anniversary, Deeper Purple, the most authentic tribute to one of the greatest British rock bands of all time, will embark on a lengthy tour of the UK next week, before heading to Spain to perform in Madrid, Granada and Malaga. The band, which was founded by Rob Sas on the Costa del Sol in May 2014, consists of a group of established professional musicians from Spain, Germany, the UK and Greece. Their two-hour show has been praised by celebrated musicians and critics alike, including Paul Morris (Rainbow) and Steve Morse (Deep Purple).

“While Deep Purple themselves don’t actually endorse us; they are very well aware of what we do,” Sas told SUR in English.

Sas first saw Deep Purple in the early 1970s. He began playing guitar when he was 18, after purchasing his first Fender Stratocaster (which he still has) in the legendary Manny’s Music, in New York.

Over the last decade, his band have performed regularly in Spain, and especially in the UK, where they have toured annually since 2016. Last year, they performed at the Tollwood Winter festival in Munich, which Sas described as “probably one of the highlights for us”.

The 67-year-old said, “I am very proud of the band, because we have come a very long way from our first gigs back in 2014.”

## UK gigs

The 14-date UK tour kicks off in Darwen on 17 April and will take in venues throughout the country, including The Waterloo in Blackpool, which Sas describes as the band’s “second home”, The Brook in Southampton, another regular venue for the group, along with two O2 academy gigs in Islington and Oxford.

“We have played many of these venues before and we have a very good following in the UK. We see a lot of familiar faces and some new ones. The audience seems to be getting younger again, either that, or we are getting older,” he says, bursting into laughter.

The band’s repertoire includes some of Deep Purple’s classic songs from the Made in Japan live album, along with a selection of songs from the band’s multiple lineups.

“You must play Smoke on the Water, and you really have to do

Highway Star. My favourites include Burn, Knocking at Your Back Door, and Child in Time, because I get a break at each end with a big solo in the middle,” he says, smiling profusely.

## Loud and energetic

Deeper Purple, who Sas describes as “pretty damn loud”, deliver an energetic reproduction of the original band’s live shows, and although the objective is to offer “an authentic a tribute as possible”, he points out that “one of the beauties about

this band is that we have fun on stage”.

“The audience is going to see a great representation of a fantastic band with an excellent pedigree. There is always some humour going on, but we offer a good show full of hits performed to a very high level. We do the best job we can at delivering a powerful tribute to one of the biggest bands of its generation,” Rob concluded.

Tickets and details of all their gigs on the tour can be found at: [www.deeperpurple.band](http://www.deeperpurple.band)



Guitarist Rob Sas (2l) and his tribute band, Deeper Purple. **SUR**

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EXHIBITIONS

Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo

**MARBELLA.** Until 30 April. C/Hospital Bazán.  
The museum is exhibiting 30 works by selected artists which demonstrate many different techniques including marbling and using recycled materials as canvases.  
www.mgec.es

On The Rugs, Roman Řehák

**MARBELLA.** Until 26 April. 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

Daniela Mauri and Manuela Bernardo

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

Cerámica y Tradición en el Arte

**MÁLAGA.** Until 2 June. Salas Mingorance del Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal.  
The exhibition, which consists of two artistic projects, looks at the tradition of using ceramics in contemporary art. The artists, Paloma de la Cruz and Nuria Riaza, will be holding two, free workshops:  
**Celosía Proyectada.** 18, 19 April, 6-8pm. With Paloma de la Cruz.  
**El Ajuar Bordado.** 23, 24 May, 6-



Sala Mingorance, Malaga.

8pm. With Nuria Riaza.  
Register: www.eventbrite.es

CAC Málaga.

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

CAC La Coracha

**MÁLAGA.** CAC Málaga - La Coracha.  
**Saltamontes y Miel Silvestre.** Until 23 June.  
Seville artist Javier Parilla reflects the paradox between historic art and the modern interpretation of iconography and aesthetic art.  
**La Continua Idea de Enredarme en el Pelo.** Until 23 June.  
Artist Mar García Ranedo has created organic drawings using thin black lines of ink (hairs) that interact with the whiteness of the paper.

Museo de Málaga

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

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, 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 Almire Rech Gallery

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.

Víctor Carrasco

**MÁLAGA.** Until 12 April. Galería Ignacio del Río, 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  
**Open Art Studios.** Until 14 April. The first Open Art Studios invites the public to find unique creative spaces in Malaga city. Galleries, art shops



Mar García Ranedo, CAC Malaga.

and art workshops open their doors for guided visits (available in English). Tickets to join a visit: www.eamalaga.com

Casa Gerald Brennan

**MÁLAGA.** Until 26 April. C/ Torremolinos, Churriana.  
The 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.

Ulla-Marie Lindström

**RIOGORDO.** Until 31 May, Ethnographic Museum.  
Visual and media artist Ulla-Mari Lindström employs photography, moving images and natural materials as tools in her new exhibition, Hybrid Herbarium, which is on display at Riogordo's Ethnographic museum. www.ulla-mari.com

MUSIC AND DANCE

La Cochera Cabaret

**MÁLAGA.** Avda de los Guindos.  
**12 April, 10pm.** Antónimo.  
**13 April, 9.30pm.** Alain Johannes.  
**14 April, 7pm.** Naile Ponce.  
Tickets: www.lacocheraentradas.com/

Clarence Jazz Club

**TORREMOLINOS.** C/Danza Invisible.  
**12 April, 10pm.** Rodrigo Parejo and Michal Vanoucek.  
**13 April, 10pm.** Nebuchadnezzar

# Flamenco favourite Arcángel to present his latest show in Malaga

The Huelva singer will present Hereje at the Cervantes theatre, a show that melds genres like jazz, pop, flamenco and rock

TONY BRYANT

**MÁLAGA.** Flamenco enthusiasts will enjoy a recital by Arcángel on Saturday 13 April, a concert that is part of the Flamenco Lo Serás Tú cycle currently taking place at the Cervantes theatre in Malaga.

The Huelva singer will present his latest show, Hereje, during which he explores expressive avenues through musical genres, including jazz, pop, flamenco and rock.

Although he began singing at the age of ten in 1987, the singer was first discovered during the Seville flamenco biennial in 1998, where he stood out for his incredible vocal range in the shows From Cádiz to Cuba, and Six Flamenco Dance Movements. Since then, he has become a popular accompanist with some of the most established



Flamenco singer Arcángel will perform in Malaga on Saturday. **SUR**

dancers on the current flamenco scene, including Israel Galván, Javier Barón, and Eva Yerbabuena, with whom he performed in the acclaimed show, Cinco Mujeres (five women).

The multi-award-winning singer is famed for his expertise with the fandangos, although his repertoire includes various different flamenco palos (styles), including soleares, tangos and what is termed 'cantes de ida y vuelta', the lighter styles of song influenced by the colombianas,

rumbas and guajiras, among others.

He has collaborated with various world musicians, such as the Chekkara Orchestra of Tetuán, and he has performed at venues and festivals all over the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York, the flamenco biennials in Rome and the Netherlands, and the prestige Mont-de-Marsan festival in France.

Tickets for the performance, which starts at 8pm, cost 30 euros from: www.teatrocervantes.com

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Group.  
**17 April, 10pm.** Blues jam session  
**18 April, 10pm.** Jazz jam session.  
**19 April, 10pm.** La Peruta - Saenz Quartet.  
**20 April, 10pm.** Iñaki Moreno Quartet.

**Sala Paris 15**  
**MALAGA.** C/ de la Orotava.  
**12 April, 8pm.** Pepe and Vizio.  
**13 April, 8.30pm.** Kadec Santa Anna.  
**13 April, 11.59pm.** Heat Pro hold a white party (dress in white).  
**20 April, 8.30pm.** Rebutijos  
<https://paris15.es/>

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

**Ventana Abierta Jazz Club**  
**NERJA.** C/ Granada, 3.  
**19 April, 8pm.** Nacho Loring Quartet.  
Call 690073871 or email: [ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com](mailto:ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.ventana-abierta.es](http://www.ventana-abierta.es)

**La Posada**  
**MALAGA.** Vincci Posada del Patio, Pasillo de Sta Isabel. 8.30pm every Friday.  
**12 April.** Daphne & Vicky.  
**19 April.** Black Soul.  
**26 April.** Imane & Javier.  
[www.tallerblues.es](http://www.tallerblues.es)

**Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**MALAGA.** Teatro Cervantes.  
**18, 19 April, 8pm.** Dvorak, Thchaik-

ovsky and Mendelssohn.  
**Brassarquía**  
**TORREMOLINOS.** Molino de Inca Botanical Gardens.  
**12 April, 7pm.** Amalgama woodwind quartet.  
**19 April, 7pm.** Brassarquía brass quintet.

**'Tunas' competition**  
**MIJAS.** 12 April, 7pm. 13 April, 4.30pm.  
A 'tuna' is a small band of students playing musical instruments such as guitars, mandolins, lutes, and tambourines, among others. In this, the 50th anniversary of the Tuna de Medicina de Málaga, bands of students from various colleges and universities in Malaga and Granada (and one from Mexico), will compete. On Friday they will be in Calle Málaga



Jazz , María Cristina, Malaga.

and in the Casa Museo and on Saturday in the Plaza Virgen de la Peña.  
**Series of Jazz Concerts**  
**MALAGA.** Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina.  
**19 April, 8pm.** Joshua Edelman Trío. Latin jazz with invited guests Manuel Machado and Julen and Ander Edelman.  
Tickets: [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)

**Mediterranean Chamber Orchestra**  
**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 21 April, 7pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.  
The orchestra will play a concert specially for spring with works by Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Borodin, Hisaichi and Richter. Email: [jovenorquestamediterranea@gmail.com](mailto:jovenorquestamediterranea@gmail.com) or Tickets: [www.bravoentradas.es](http://www.bravoentradas.es)

**Salon Varietés concerts**  
**FUENGIROLA.** 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, C/Emancipación  
**12 April.** Viva Las Vegas with Johnny G.  
**19 April.** Queen of Magic tribute to Queen.  
[www.salonvarietestheatre.com/](http://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.  
**17 April, 8.30pm.** Tribute to Tina Turner.

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

**Classical violin recital**  
**MALAGA.** 16 April, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.  
Violinist Paco Montalvo, will be playing pieces from classical composers as well as flamenco and tango.

**Piano Recital**  
**GIBRALTAR.** 16 April, 8pm. TThe Convent Ballroom.  
Child prodigy pianist, Alexandra Dovgan, will be playing at this concert organised by The Kusuma Trust. Tickets available: [www.buytickets.gi](http://www.buytickets.gi) or at The John Mackintosh Hall.

**Dance in the Thyssen**  
**MALAGA.** 17 April, 9pm. Man Ray exhibition room.  
María M. Cabeza de Vaca will interpret the Man Ray exhibition through dance.

**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.

**New Tricks band dates**  
**VARIOUS.**  
New Tricks are a four-piece band playing rock, pop and Britpop covers from artists such as The Who, The Rolling Stones and Status Quo to



Alexandra Dovgan, Gibraltar.

Oasis, Blur and The Stereophonics.  
**13 April, 10.30pm.** The Claddagh, Marbella.  
**27 April, 9pm.** The Boma, Alhaurin el Grande.  
[www.facebook.com/newtricksspain](http://www.facebook.com/newtricksspain)  
[www.instagram.com/newtricksspain](http://www.instagram.com/newtricksspain)

**Guy Roberts**  
**MALAGA.** 12 April, 7pm. Eddy's Music Factory, Churriana.  
British musician and composer Guy Roberts will be in concert. Tickets: <https://www.taquilla.com/malaga/ed-dys-music-factory-malaga>

**Music at St George's Church**  
**MALAGA.** 13 April, 8pm. 15€.  
English Music by Vaughan Williams and other British Composers performed by the Astrea Quintet.  
[www.stgeorgesmalaga.com](http://www.stgeorgesmalaga.com)

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FLAMENCO

**Flamenco lo Serás Tú**  
**MÁLAGA.** *Teatro Cervantes.*  
**12 April, 8pm.** La Piñona. Insaciable. Dance: Lucía Álvarez La Piñona and Jonatan Miró. Guitar: Ramón Amador. Vocals: Jesús Corbacho, José El Pechuguita and Ezequiel Montoya Chanito.  
**13 April, 8pm.** Arcángel. Hereje. Vocals: Arcángel; keyboards: Álvaro Gandul; flamenco guitar: Benito Bernal; flamenco, acoustic and electric guitar: Francis Gómez; drums: Lito Martínez; backing vocals: Los Melli.  
**14 April, 7pm.** Rafael Riqueni. Nerja. Guitar: Rafael Riqueni, Manuel Amador and Manuel Cerpa; cello: Gretchen Talbot.  
Tickets: [www.teatrocervantes.com/es/programacion/](http://www.teatrocervantes.com/es/programacion/)



Frida Kahlo lecture, Sotogrande.

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. It will address its importance as a cultural hub, particularly from 1969 to 1982 when the frontier was closed. Reservations necessary: [www.buytickets.gi](http://www.buytickets.gi)

**The Arts Society De La Frontera SOTOGRADE.** 17 April, 11am. San Roque Club, A7, km 127.  
Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera : The Golden Age of Mexican Painting given by Chloe Sayer. 15€. [www.theartsocietydelafrontera.com](http://www.theartsocietydelafrontera.com)

**Estepona Floral Art Society ESTEPONA.** 16 April, 1.30pm El Paraíso Golf Club.  
Estepona Floral Art Society will be celebrating their 25th anniversary with cava and tapas at 1.30pm followed by a demonstration from Nigel Whytes. Nigel is a fully qualified florist and numerous awards including a silver medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2011. He is a member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers and has been one of their National Demonstrators since 2012. Cost of the demonstration 20€. Email: [esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com](mailto:esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com) or call: 636349399.

CHARITY

**AECG Gala MÁLAGA.** 15 April, 8pm. Teatro Cer-

vantes.  
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](http://www.teatrocervantes.com)

**ARCH Spring Festival ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** 14 April, from 10am until 4pm. Hacienda Moreno, Viña Borrego  
Craft market, raffle, live music, dog show with competitions and games, DJ, refreshments. [www.horserescue-spain.org](http://www.horserescue-spain.org)

**Charity Market ESTEPONA.** 13 April, from 10am until 3pm. Estepona Port.  
A variety of charities and associations will be present at the market and there will be stalls selling crafts as well as many other items .

FIESTAS AND FAIRS

**Feria de Queso Popi Sabor a Málaga ESTEPONA.** Until 14 April.  
Usually held a few days before Christmas, this food fair has moved its date to be more convenient for the producers as well as visitors. It features dairy products from across Spain but pays particular attention to cheese from Andalucía.

**Feria de Sabor a Málaga VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 14 April. C/Canalejas.  
Stalls selling local products such as cheese, oil, wine, cooked meats etc.

**Día del 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 throughout the day and a concert at 5pm.

**Spring Culinary Days CASABERMEJA.** 13, 14 April.  
A food fair that celebrates local produce such as broad beans, artichokes and peas as well as wild asparagus, fennel and tagarninas (a type of this- tle). There will be stalls selling local products, tastings and workshops.

**International Residents Day TORREMOLINOS.** 12-14 April, Plaza del Remo.  
Various nationalities resident in Torremolinos will be showcasing their traditions, food and culture.

**Cheese and honey COLMENAR.** 19 -21 April.  
The Mercado de Primavera concentrates on traditional foods such as local cheese and honey.

**St George's Day NERJA.** 20 April, from 2pm. Marazul Hostel, Avda Mediterránea.  
The Royal British Legion has organised games, food and drinks , tom- bola etc. Proceeds to the Poppy

Run in colour to raise awareness about autism

Torre del Mar's annual Carrera de Color takes place on Sunday and participants will be given a free gift bag

JENNIE RHODES

**TORRE DEL MAR.** The annual Torre del Mar Carrera de Color (colour run) is taking place on Sunday along the town's promenade. Deputy mayor of Torre del Mar Jesús Atencia said that the event, which is in its fifth year, "represents the continuity of a charity event in aid of autism awareness".  
The run is scheduled to start at 10.30am at the Templo de la Música on the promenade and after the race there will be music, dancing, raffles, according to Atencia.  
Participants will be given a bag with gifts including a water bottle, T-shirt, sun glasses and more.  
María del Mar Vargas, rep-



The 2023 'colour run'. SUR

resentative of ACTEA (Regional Association for the Care and Integration of People with Autistic Spectrum Disorders-ASD), said, "It is a family event to be enjoyed by mothers, fathers and children at which parents who have children with ASD feel very welcome."  
Registration for the run can be done at Box Akyles in Plazamar and Calle Poniente, Base shops in Torre del Mar and Vélez-Málaga and online at [www.global-tempo.com](http://www.global-tempo.com)

Appeal. More info: 643212944 /951834488  
**BENALMÁDENA.** 23 April, from 1pm. Plaza de la Mezquita, Arroyo de la Miel.  
The 'Cool Britannia' celebrations will include performances by the Costa Soul Singers, The Andalusia Performing Arts Society (TAPAS), Tony Whitehouse, Gordon Williams, Cassie Spalding, The Disclaimers and Rock of the Ages, among others. There will also be English-style drinks and food.

MORE IDEAS

**Collectors Fair VILLANUEVA DEL TRABUCO.** Plaza del Prado. 13, 20 April  
Toy cars, dolls, memorabilia, antiques, whatever you collect will be at this collectors fair in Trabuco.

**Guided photo walk MÁLAGA.** 18 April. Parque de la Candelaria.  
Guided photo walk in Malaga. Discover Malaga with a professional photographer. No experience or professional equipment needed. Anyone can join with a camera or a smart phone. 25€ per person. Details and registration: [www.notatreasurehunt.com](http://www.notatreasurehunt.com)

**Circus and market LAS LAGUNAS.** From 19 until 20 April. Parque de la Candelaria.  
The park will be transformed into a circus market from the 1920s with games, workshops, circus performances and live music as well as stalls selling crafts, food and drinks.

**Lux Mundi TORRE DEL MAR.** Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 952



ARCH spring fair, Alhaurín EL Grande

543 334.  
**Coach trip to Cabra.** 18 April. Visit the Rio fountain, the castle, the baroque church and the Puerta del Sol gate.

**Tapas route COÍN.** Until 21 April.  
Fifteen bars and restaurants will be participating this year. As usual, customers have to vote for the best tapa. A draw will determine the winning member of the public who will receive a dinner for four and their weight in beer. More information from the town hall.

**Motorbike meet TORRE DE BENAGALBÓN.** 13 April, 1pm. The old train station.  
A motorcycle route, free paella, live music and DJ. More info call: 670064149

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**Dune Part 2:** 13.45 (Sun); 20.50 (every day).  
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**Monkey Man:** 19.40 (Fri-Mon, Wed).  
**The First Omen:** 22.00 (Fri-Mon, Wed, Thurs).  
**Wicked Little Letters:** 12.00, 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).  
**Dune 2:** 16.30 (Sat, Sun), 18.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs), 21.10 (Fri, Wed).  
**Ghostbusters: The Frozen Empire:** 21.00 (Sat, Sun); 21.35 (Fri, Mon- Thurs).  
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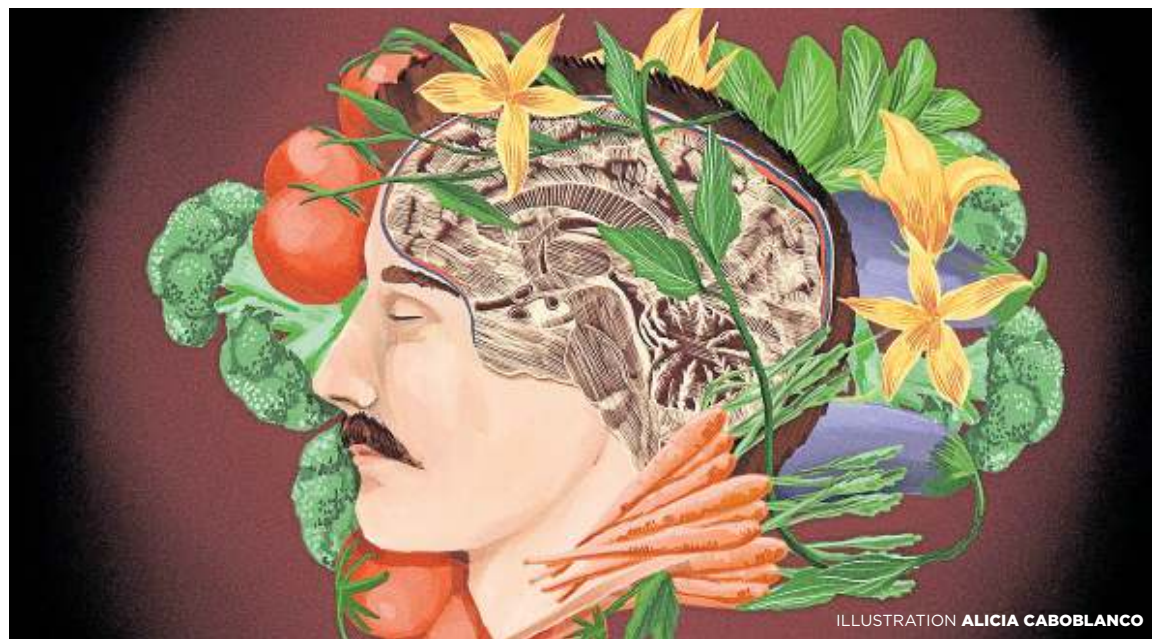
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## Those extra kilos can also weigh heavy on the brain

**Overweight.** How obesity can influence your chances of a stroke or developing dementia or Parkinson's

ELENA MARTÍN LÓPEZ

Since whatever we put into our mouth can expand our body but not especially our head, we tend to link being overweight and obese with the stomach rather than with the brain. However, while the love handles are very noticeable, they are not the worst consequence of overeating. In fact, the brain is one of the most significant victims of obesity and not only because of how this disease can affect us psychologically.

That does not mean that fat is like poison to this organ. On the contrary, although fat is de-

monised at the social level, the reality is that it is a vital nutrient for proper bodily functions (storing energy, facilitating the transport of essential vitamins round the body, being a key part of the membranes that make up our cells, supporting our organs...) and, more specifically, for the brain, which is a fatty organ.

Furthermore, "myelin, a substance that surrounds and protects neurons and is responsible for the transmission of nerve impulses, is fatty," explains Dr Gurutz Linazasoro, neurologist and spokesperson for the Spanish Society of Neurology (SEN). Therefore, the problem is not fat itself but the excess of it in our bodies due to an excessive, unbalanced consumption.

What is more, there is also a two-way relationship between food and the brain. For example, the brain regulates when we feel full or hungry based on the information it receives from different hormones and neurotransmitters in the stomach.

The problem with obesity is that it affects the balance between both organs because, among other things, "it promotes an overgrowth of bacteria that generate a state of inflammation, causing cell death and a decrease in nerve transmission and affecting blood vessels, thus enabling the appearance of diseases such as diabetes or arterial diseases, increasing the risk

of stroke (due to heart attack or cerebral haemorrhage) and dementia," explains Linazasoro.

### Altered perception of taste

Interesting findings have also turned up following studies using different neuroimaging techniques. For example, "findings that describe a decrease in the thickness of the cerebral cortex and reduced connectivity between the different regions of the brain, alterations in the perception of flavours and changes in the structure and function of the hypothalamus, a critical area of the brain that controls appetite," says the neurologist, although he warns that it is tricky distinguishing which of these harmful changes are solely down to obesity.

Still, from a clinical point of view subtle issues have been detected in processes such as memory, decision-making, mobility and balance. "The relationship with amnesic-MCI [mild cognitive impairment mostly affecting short-term memory], a precursor to Alzheimer's, is supported by a variety of studies. Obesity is also noted as a symptom during the phase preceding the appearance of Parkinson's disease, although this is not an idea accepted by everyone. And it is a clear risk factor for suffering more aggressive and severe forms of Covid-19," states the specialist.

Regarding obesity's impact on



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## The whole body can suffer

### The heart

Obesity is associated with a higher risk of developing cardiovascular diseases such as coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction, hypertension or atrial fibrillation.

### The bones

Not just our bones, but muscles too, obesity can cause fibromyalgia, osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lower back pain and an increased risk of bone fractures in children.

### The lungs

Excess body fat reduces the strength of these respiratory muscles and increases the risk of sleep apnea (stopping breathing while asleep), as well as obesity hypoventilation syndrome, all of which are known to cause respiratory failure.

### The kidneys

Being overweight can cause a deterioration in kidney function, their primary function being to clean the blood of waste and potentially harmful substances to be passed out of the body in our urine.

daily life, it is associated with a sedentary lifestyle, diabetes and high blood pressure, and is sometimes accompanied by other harmful habits such as smoking, alcohol consumption or an inadequate diet. "There are many studies that measure the impact of obesity on the quality of life and the results are very negative, because they affect the physical, emotional and social aspects. The image of the 'happy fatty' is fading

in a society that's inventing the cult of the body and that is increasingly aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle," says Linazasoro. What's more, a lack of self-esteem, anxiety, social isolation and depression are some of the common psychological disorders associated with obesity. A final point, obese people have a shorter life expectancy than the average individual.

It is true that excess fat does not affect the brains of men and women in the same manner. "For example, sensitive areas related to body image, decision-making and emotional control are more affected in men, while in women the areas associated with the brain's reward system are more activated, becoming overactive when faced with stimuli or actions that give us pleasure," explains Linazasoro.

All of this suggests that the mechanisms involved in loss of appetite control could differ depending on gender. "Maybe hormones play a certain role. It's a fact that obesity is more prevalent in women. These are questions that will be resolved with more research, leading to more personalised treatment such as designing the most suitable diet," he says.

As for avoiding obesity, the prevention is simple: a proper diet, physical exercise and a healthy lifestyle. "It is important to start from childhood, with an education that especially encourages exercise and good nutrition. High-calorie and ultra-processed foods are the worst. It is about eating a healthy, varied, balanced diet and eating in moderation. The enemies are salt, sugar, trans-fats and alcohol."



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# Cheaper than cola

ANDREW J. LINN



As wine buyers and critics head for Bordeaux to taste samples of the 2023 vintage en primeur, bottles of which will later be sold at between 20 and 200 euros plus, wine at Frances's huge Carrefour chain is selling at soft drink prices. Shoppers at the store's Spring Wine Fair paid 2.97 euros for a wine that won a gold medal in the 2023 Gilbert & Gaillard International Challenge, while a marginally pricier one picked up an award at the 2023 Concours International de Lyon.

So it is probably not surprising that Bordeaux, in common

with other French wine regions that are reducing production due to falling sales and changing consumer tastes, is uprooting its vineyards, affecting 10% of the region's total area. The aim is to enhance wine quality, and the Bordeaux Wine Council has approved the removal of approximately 9,500 hectares of vineyard, compensating growers with 6,000 euros per hectare.

However, agricultural unions demand higher compensation and complete removal of at least 15,000 hectares, while critics assert that this is insufficient to resolve issues like chronic over-

supply and loss of market share. They claim that uprooting benefits large wineries at the expense of small and medium-sized ones, and uprooting is a short-term fix with potential long-term drawbacks like loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage.

The situation in Bordeaux mirrors that of Spain's Rioja region, where the regulatory council faces calls to remove 10% of vineyards that are located in unsuitable areas. However, this proposal faces resistance from the majority of the regulatory council. Wine times, they are a'changing.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

**62 Millas al Cielo 2022**  
This oddly named wine, classified as a *tinto fino*, comes from Spain's largest independently owned bodega, Familia Torres, and the grapes grow in the highest vineyards of the region. Matured for nine months in oak. Refreshing and good value at around 12.50 euros.



O'Dreams in Avenida Rosaleda offers bubble tea with doughnuts.  
MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

# Bubble tea, the trendy Asian drink conquering Malaga

**Popular.** Tea is flavoured with fruit or syrups and tapioca is added which gives it an intriguing texture. It can be enjoyed hot or cold, with or without milk

JUAN SOTO

Bubble tea, a sweet drink from Asia, has carved a niche for itself in the tastebuds of the people of Malaga. Simply called boba tea, it is becoming ever more popular throughout the province. The proof lies in the large number of bubble tea bars springing up all along the coast.

Bubble tea is made with tea which is flavoured with fruit or syrups and accompanied by tapioca pearls, which gives it an intriguing texture. It can be drunk either hot or cold, with or without milk.

In Malaga there are currently numerous establishments specialising in this type of beverage,

mainly international companies or entrepreneurs from other countries where this drink already has a long tradition and is widely accepted. Tapio Bubble Tea, TeaOne and Teeamo are some of the most well-known names, although the list is growing practically every week. "It's a product that appeals to people of all ages," say the bubble tea entrepreneurs.

One of the characteristics that make this drink original and completely different has to be the tapioca that is drunk at the same time as the tea. They are made from the starch extracted from the root of the cassava, to which different flavours can be added to provide contrast with, or simply to match the flavour of the drink. Some can even be made to explode in the mouth with a fizz.

Bubble tea's popularity spread in the 1980s from Taiwan to nearby countries and then to the USA, where it became very popular in the many Chinatown business districts. It is said to have originated at the Chun Shui Tang tea house in Taichung, Taiwan. There, Liu Han Chie began to experiment by mixing cold milk tea with fruit, syrup, caramelised sweet potato and tapioca balls. This invention was not very popular at first, but its appearance on a television programme led to widespread demand, especially among Taiwanese businessmen.

Among the companies that already offer this beverage in Malaga, Tapio Bubble Tea stands out as one of the pioneers to set up in the

provincial capital. Initially they opened a small store in Calle Ollerías although, in a short time, and due to being very well received, they opened a second in Calle Armengual de la Mota. Their growth has been so exponential that they are even considering franchising the brand.

Bubble tea is a product that appeals mainly to young people aged 15 to 30, although undoubtedly anyone trying it will repeat the experience. Initially it appeals to the eye, largely due to its colourful and 'instagrammable' aesthetics, although its real strength is its flavour. People who have already tried it describe it as a sweet drink with the tapioca providing a contrast on the palate, giving you something to play with and, on top of that, it can be made in different colours to make it even more eye-catching.

O'Dream's is one of the latest tea-shops to open in the city. The Belgian chain has taken over premises on Avenida de La Rosaleda. In their case, they combine bubble tea with other sweet products, mostly doughnuts, as they assure us that the combination is perfect. "It's a product that is becoming very popular," they state.

TeaOne Málaga prepares 15 different flavours, all of them fruit-based, both with and without milk. It belongs to a German company with premises all over the world. As to their target consumers, owner Reza Ghasemi says: "It's the most interesting drink around for young people aged 12 to 18 as they don't drink coffee or alcohol."





# Another Malaga athlete seals spot at the Paris Olympics

SAILING

Ana Moncada's strong showing at the Trofeo Princesa Sofía regatta at the weekend was enough to earn selection

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Malaga sailor Ana Moncada has been chosen to represent Spain in the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris, the Spanish Sailing Federation confirmed on Tuesday.

Moncada will be the first Costa del Sol sailor to go to the Games since Theresa Zabell brought back her last Olympic gold medal 28 years ago.

The news comes after a strong showing in what was the final event in the Olympic qualification cycle, the Trofeo Princesa Sofía regatta which took place over the weekend.



Ana Moncada, competing in the ILCA 6 category. RFEV

After overcoming a series of setbacks, Moncada eventually confirmed her position as the country's best performer in the ILCA 6 category in Palma de Mallorca by rallying to finish as the top Spanish sailor.

It has been a strong year for

Moncada who shone at the World Championships in Mar del Plata (Argentina) in January before triumphing again at the European Championships in February, a week after coming second in the Spanish Championships.

# Two race records smashed as Skyrunner World Series comes to Benalmádena

SKYRUNNING

SUR. Two records were smashed on Saturday as the second instalment of this year's Merrell Skyrunner World Series took place across 27.5 kilometres and at an altitude of 2,270 metres on Monte Calamorro in Benalmádena.

Spain's Sara Alonso, representing Team Asics, set a new record in the Calamorro Skyrace with a time of 2:59:08, surpass-

ing her previous record (3:00:08 in 2022). Julia Font took second place (3:00:42) after a stumble allowed Alonso to surge ahead and claim victory. Naiara Irigoyen, meanwhile, secured third place.

In the men's category, Roberto Delorenzi, running for Brooks Running, smashed Antonio Martínez's record (2:39:01) with a time of 2:25:40. The Swiss led from the beginning, maintaining a strong pace through-

out the race.

Martínez (2:34:47) and Luca del Pero (2:36:55) claimed second and third place, respectively.

The Calamorro Skyrace, organised by Grupo Alpino Benalmádena since 2008 and broadcast live on the Evasion TV platform, distributed a total of 7,600 euros in prize money among the winners, with trophies and cash prizes awarded to the top performers in both male and female categories.



Díaz, Lima and Kravish smile as they leave the court in Manresa. ACB

# Unicaja, top of the league for the first time in nine years

BASKETBALL

J. CALDERÓN. For the first time in nearly a decade, Unicaja now sit top of the Liga ACB after their 88-77 win away at Manresa on Sunday afternoon.

The Malaga-based basketball side put in a gritty performance on their visit to Catalonia, where they initially struggled but eventually staged an impressive comeback to clinch victory.

This win, coupled with Real Madrid's 85-79 defeat to Bar-

celona in El Clásico later the same day, propelled Unicaja to the summit of the league table for the first time since the 2014-2015 season, when the team was led by Joan Plaza.

With just six games left to play, this development could massively favour Unicaja in the play-offs, where they would potentially be granted home-court advantage up to the final.

Ibon Navarro's side have shown remarkable consistency this year, losing just two games out of their previous 24.

# Local swimmers enjoy international success in Portugal

SWIMMING

N. CARMONA. The Portugal Open, which took place in Coimbra over the weekend, proved to be a great success for Andalusian swimmers on the international stage, namely Malaga's María de Valdés, who claimed a bronze medal.

Third place in the 800 freestyle event, with a time of 8:45.82, adds to her significant list of recent achievements, including secur-

ing a spot at the Paris Olympic Games and winning silver at the World Championships in the 10-kilometre open water event.

Meanwhile, Pablo Ortega from Benalmádena narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing fifth in the 50-metre backstroke, but nonetheless gaining valuable experience with the national team.

As for the other Andalusians who received the call, Carlos Garach secured three gold medals, while Alba Vázquez won the 200 individual medley.

Ángela Martínez, who trains in Málaga, claimed gold in the 800 freestyle, silver in the 1,500 freestyle and bronze in the 400 freestyle.

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# Anti-climax as Malaga's 120th anniversary celebration ends in costly stalemate

Sergio Pellicer's side's hopes of automatic promotion appear to be over after a third draw on the bounce

MALAGA 1  
CEUTA 1

DARYL FINCH



MALAGA. The game that was supposed to be a celebration of 120 years of football in Malaga ultimately ended in disappointment as Ceuta managed to bag a 1-1 draw at La Rosaleda on Sunday afternoon to effectively end the hosts' chances of automatic promotion.

Malaga, wearing a commemorative retro kit for the occasion, set out to seize control of the game early on in a bid to get their season back on track after three draws from the last four games. However, as the match pro-



Juande's first-half header restored parity. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

gressed, both teams cancelled each other out with scoring opportunities scarce for both sides. Only young Irishman Aaron Ochoa could force an attempt on goal for Malaga but his effort missed the target.

Despite the hosts' initial push, they failed to get the goal they needed and it was play-off-chasing Ceuta who capitalised in the 26th minute, with an unmarked Cedric Teguia heading home a cross from the right that keeper

Alfonso Herrero won't want to see again.

### Quick reaction

This prompted a swift reaction from Sergio Pellicer's side who pressed forward with Genaro leading the charge with a couple of notable chances, especially a clear header that could have levelled the scores.

Then, just before halftime, Juande managed just that, adjusting well to head home a deflected freekick from the left at the back post. Again, the keeper probably should have done better.

As the second half commenced, Malaga intensified their efforts in pursuit of a crucial lead. Despite several close calls and dangerous attacks, they couldn't find the back of the net. Meanwhile, the opposition remained a constant threat, with Rodri coming close to scoring, only to be denied by a spectacular save from Herrero.

With the game hanging in the balance, both teams made their final substitutions. But despite Malaga's attempts to mount a comeback, they couldn't find the

### PRIMERA RFEF GROUP 2

Results	Next game
Alcoyano - San Fernando 1-1	San Fernando - Intercity
Intercity - Castellón 1-2	Córdoba - Alcoyano
Granada B - Mérida 0-2	Mérida - Algeciras
Ibiza - Melilla 4-3	Baleares - Ibiza
Linares - Antequera 0-1	Ceuta - Linares
Recreativo - Baleares 0-0	Murcia - UD Melilla
Malaga - Ceuta 1-1	Recreativo - RM Castilla
RM Castilla - Córdoba 0-2	Atlético B - Malaga
Algeciras - Murcia 0-1	Castellón - Granada B
Sanluqueño - Atlético B 0-3	Antequera - Sanluqueño

### SEGUNDA RFEF GROUP 4

Results	Next game
Sevilla Atlético - Lepe 2-1	Cádiz B - Orihuela
Pinatar - Yeclano 1-0	Estepona - Cartagena B
Betis B - Marbella 5-1	Manchego - Antoniano
Vélez - Mar Menor 0-1	Lepe - Vélez
El Palo - Cádiz B 3-1	Mar Menor - UCAM
Cartagena B - Manchego 0-4	B. Linense - El Palo
UCAM - B. Linense 1-1	Marbella - Sevilla Atlético
Antoniano - Águilas 3-2	Águilas - Pinatar
Orihuela - Estepona 2-0	Yeclano - Betis B

### TERCERA RFEF GROUP 9

Results	Next game
At Melilla - Málaga City 0-2	Málaga City - Mancha Real
Mancha Real - Jaén 2-2	Jaén - Torre del Mar
Torre del Mar - Torreperegril 1-0	Torreperegril - Almería B
Almería B - Motril 1-0	Motril - Almería
Almería - Huétor Vega 4-1	H. Vega-Torredonjimeno
Torremolinos - Arenas 5-0	H. Tájir - Torremolinos
Maracena - At. Malagueño 2-2	Arenas - El Ejido
El Ejido - Rincón 1-0	Rincón - Maracena
Torredonjimeno - H. Tájir 1-0	At. Malagueño - At Melilla

decisive goal, with right-back Jokin Gabilondo's diving header in stoppage time drawing a heroic save from Pedro López, who ensured the match ended in draw.

This was the third consecutive stalemate for Malaga who are now 11 points off leaders Castellón with just seven games left to play.

## Retro shirt craze continues with 6,000 more snapped up in just a few hours

The shirt launched to commemorate 120 years of football in the city has become one of the fastest-selling in the club's history

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Thousands more retro shirts - launched by Malaga CF to commemorate the 120th anniversary of football in the city - have been snapped up in just a few hours.

The vintage kit, reminiscent of the Malaga shirt worn by the likes of Juanito and Esteban Vigo at the end of the 80s when the now defunct Club Deportivo Malaga returned to the top flight, was presented at La Malagueta bullring last Wednesday ahead of the Ceuta game.

It received an immediate warm response from the fanbase and the initial 2,000 units prompted queues outside the club shop from 6am and sold out in just four hours. This prompted the club to release a second batch.

These shirts, priced at 69.95 euros for the general public, with season ticket holders receiving a 10 per cent discount, went on pre-



Fans proudly wear the new shirt inside the club shop. SALVADOR SALAS

sale on the club's website this Tuesday morning.

For those who still want to buy one, the shirts can still be purchased until the 20th of this month. This batch will be delivered to fans at the end of May or, for the last ones reserved, perhaps a little later, as the demand has been tremendous.

### Historic response

Data from the online store, seen by SUR, shows the pre-sale campaign registered more than 4,000 sessions up until Tuesday after-

noon (9 April), which means the payment and reservation, making a conservative estimate, of more than 6,000 shirts sold.

Club sources say they can't remember such a response to a shirt from the fanbase. In fact, not even the Champions League shirt sparked this much interest.

Although the rate of pre-sales will decrease as the days go by, it's now unpredictable how many of these shirts will finally be sold. That said, the club has warned this will be the last chance to get hold of one of them.



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, ESPN

## A changed man

Barcelona's coach, Xavi Hernández, who looked hesitant and frightened to make big calls before he announced he would be resigning in June, now doesn't hesitate to make decisive decisions



**X**avi announcing a June resignation from his job in January could be one of the greatest managerial masterstrokes - however it could be time for a dramatic U-turn.

Stepping aside was the right thing to do. It saved the club sacking him. The relief was evident on his face when he said: "I decided a few days ago, but I think it's time. The club needs a change of dynamic."

They'd just lost 5-3 to Villarreal, were knocked out of the Copa del Rey by Athletic Club and suffered the humiliation of defeat in the Spanish Super Cup to Real Madrid. The president was distancing himself from the coach and Deco, the director of football, was hardly supportive. It was agreed that he would continue until June to avoid financial complications.

He added: "I think the club needs a change of direction and it's for the good of the players who I think will be liberated by the decision."

His words were prophetic. The players were not alone in feeling liberated. For the first time he could manage with freedom. He could make decisions without wondering what the hierarchy thought.

The results have been outstanding. It's eight wins in a run of 12 unbeaten games, topped off by a first leg victory in Paris in the Champions League quarter-finals.

A coach who could do no right



Xavi Hernández. SUR

can now do no wrong. Pau Cubarsí, the 17-year-old he promoted just after his pending resignation announcement, has been a revelation. His decision to stick with 16-year-old Lamine Yamal has paid dividends.

He took a gamble on selecting Andreas Christensen, a defender by trade, as a holding midfielder and it has worked a treat. He's selected João Félix, a favourite of the footballing director, only when he thought it was correct and resisted the pressure from above to start winter-signing Victor Roque.

The senior players have played their part too: Robert Lewandowski threw a team-bonding barbeque and he's started roasting opposing defences; club captain Sergi Roberto has imposed himself on the squad; and goalkeeper Marc Andre Ter Stegen returned after a three month lay-off.

Some of it has been luck but the victory against PSG came down to judgement. He chose not to start Pedri and Christensen. The original game plan

worked and, then when Pedri was introduced, he created a goal with his first telling touch. Christensen dashed onto the field and immediately scored the game winning goal.

Xavi fully derives the praise. The coach who looked hesitant and frightened to make big calls now doesn't hesitate to make decisive decisions.

He's a changed man and many think he should change his mind. There doesn't appear to be an obvious candidate. Nobody knows the players better than Xavi, nobody knows the club better than Xavi, nobody knows the financial restraints better than Xavi, and nobody has greater respect from the youngsters than Xavi.

So, it's up to Xavi. In some ways, it reminds me of the situation at Liverpool FC when Kenny Dalglish stepped aside. The club legend never had a break between playing and managing. He'd also won the league very early as the boss but chose to step aside in an emotional bleak mid-winter. Dalglish did return refreshed and learned to delegate to a coaching team; it resulted in Blackburn Rovers winning the Premier League.

Liverpool's loss was Blackburn's gain. Barcelona should be trying to ensure that they benefit from the re-energised Xavi and it isn't another club gaining from his learning experiences.

## Spanish national team set to take on Northern Ireland in Mallorca this June

This will be the final warm-up game for Luis de la Fuente's side ahead of Euro 2024 this summer

PEDRO RODRÍGUEZ

MADRID. Son Moix stadium in Mallorca will play host to the Spanish national team's final football match before Euro 2024 - a friendly against Northern Ireland on 8 June.

The clash, which will kick off at 9.30pm and be broadcast live on Spain's La 1 television station, will take place just a week before La Roja's opening game in Germany against Croatia.

This will be the second of only two games Luis de la Fuente's side



The Spanish players celebrate scoring in a recent game. @SEFUTBOL

have scheduled to make final preparations ahead of the tournament in which they've also been paired with Italy and Albania in

the group phase.

The Northern Ireland game will come just three days after Spain face Andorra in Badajoz.

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THE STARS



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Home and hearth beckon, encouraging a time of rest. A spark of brilliance could bring ideas for a business you can run from the kitchen table.




**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
The art of dialogue becomes an opportunity to close deals, negotiate and make new and helpful connections. The right conversation may unlock fresh opportunities.




**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Ideas for making money may flow effortlessly, and a fabulous Jupiter/Uranus tie means you can explore lucrative ideas with confidence.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
You're in your element as the Sun enters your sign. This week your unique qualities set you apart, enabling you to stand out from the crowd.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Ready to trust your intuition? It can help you get out of your own way and be the key to happiness and promising relationships.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
A stroke of good fortune could bring a game-changing offer your way that you may be very ready to snap up. Stay open to lucky encounters, as they could lead to a chance to fulfil a bold dream.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
This week sizzles with promise, if you pay special regard to career opportunities and embrace any chance to bask in the limelight. Stay open to ideas that come out of the blue.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Considering a collaboration? Mars in Pisces can hold the key to pioneering ideas. The current line-up promises a journey ripe with prosperous ventures and personal contentment.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
The seeds of new ideas may sprout into golden opportunities, with any investments becoming a potential windfall. Those exciting projects you've been working on can bear fruit.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Get ready for a dazzling and unexpected proposition that could pave the way for a special opportunity. Relationships flourish, both in business and pleasure, promising all kinds of gains.

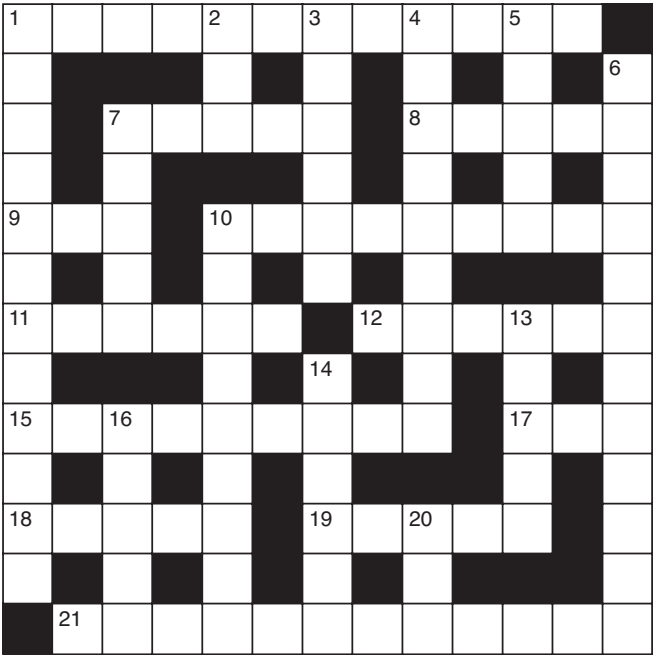


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Aim for the path less travelled as a venture of yours could turn to gold. Revamp your routines for peak performance as your ideas can become a source of prosperity.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Next week is like a rebirth, and creative friendships can assist you with finding your feet. Your talents shine brightly, attracting admiration.

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**Across**

1. Dexterous and most valuable assistant (5-4,3)  
7. Money found in a drain (5)  
8. Eastern European vet, say (5)  
9. Manage to take part in the Olympics (3)  
10. Food at the end of the meadow for a thrush (9)  
11. An idea for recreating her toy (6)  
12. Warden's name (6)  
15. Around which people hold hands? (4,5)  
17. Garland from a little island (3)  
18. I care about this girl (5)  
19. Wood brought out by one (5)  
21. Where the shop's income is listed in contracts (12)

**Down**

1. What one making a comeback needs? (6,6)  
2. Weight not returned (3)  
3. Marine confused by fliers (6)  
4. Degeneration of French modulation (9)  
5. Possibly near a stadium (5)  
6. They create revolutionary devices (12)  
7. Study the South-East - it's thickly populated (5)  
10. Splendid speed one attains in bottom gear (5-4)  
13. Not an early race (5)  
14. The aim is to protest (6)  
16. Rule on a cause of flooding, say (5)  
20. All right to have one in a tree (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

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

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

Can you identify the animals from their related adjectives listed below? You'll find the answers in the grid written either vertically or horizontally.

1. Canine  
2. Equine  
3. Vulpine  
4. Bovine  
5. Aquiline  
6. Lupine  
7. Ovine  
8. Avian  
9. Feline  
10. Porcine

CODEWORD

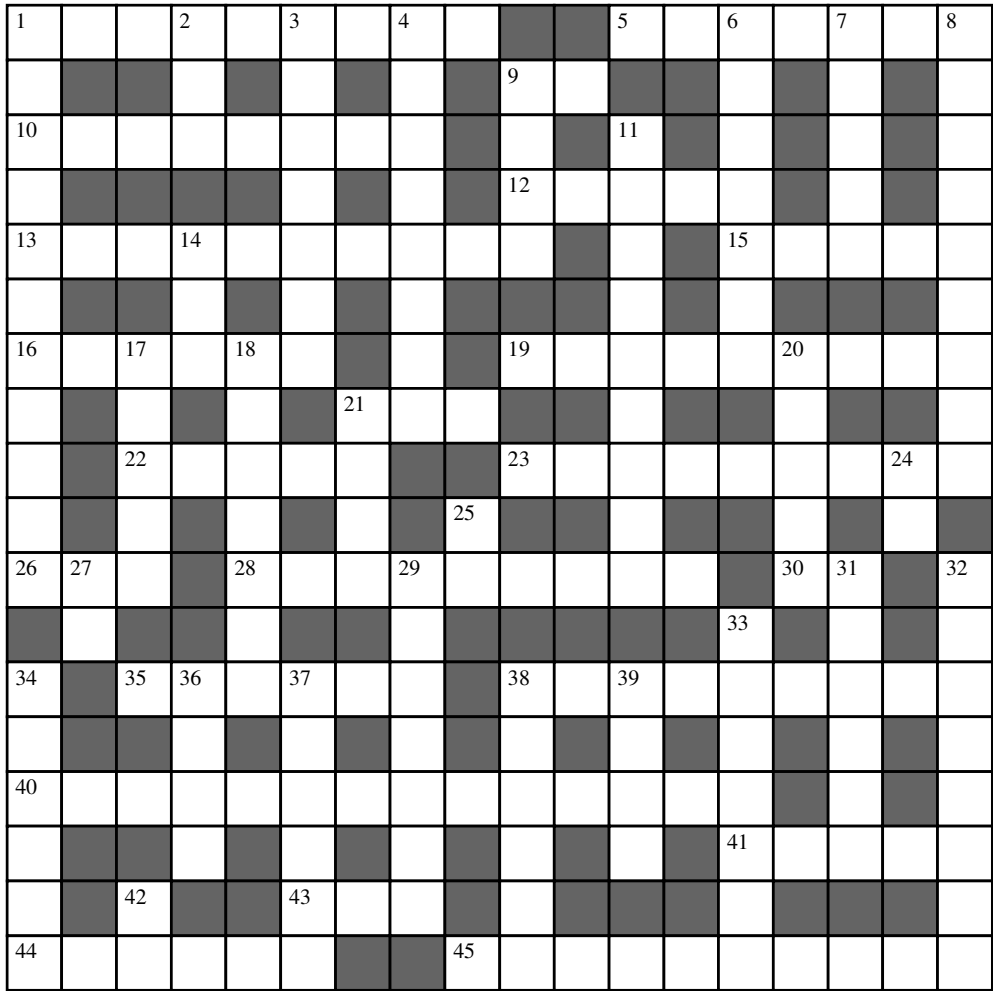
	23		3			18		12	19	13	10	20
16	24	18	7	14	22	20		7			20	
	19		22			11		23	22	24	11	15
26	17	7	16	20	1	24	17	2				7
	8				15			20		11		18
13	20	3	22	24	5	8		11	20	7	8	20
		7				7				25		
8	23	17	19	14		13	21	24	25	21	13	20
21		2		7			23				21	I
22				8	9	19	20	20	6	21	4	10
2	4	24	23	2		8			24		21	
	24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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	D
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	I	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) Published (m) (9)

5) Gypsies (7)

9) My (2)

10) Knees (8)

12) Branch (5)

13) I would eliminate (10)

15) April (5)

16) Urban (f) (6)

19) Parish church (9)

21) With (3)

22) I felt (5)

23) Unwanted (m) (9)

26) Us (3)

28) Founder (f) (9)

30) You (pl) (2)

35) Twine (6)

38) Mythology (9)

40) Researchers (14)

41) To bring (5)

43) To see (3)

44) Although (6)

45) Monuments (10)
- 1) Persecution (11)

2) I read (3)

3) Colony (7)

4) District (8)

6) Keyboard (7)

7) To swim (5)

8) From Seville (m) (9)

9) He looks (4)

11) Emperor (9)

14) Mine (f) (3)

17) Kisses (5)

18) Water lily (7)

20) Cheese (5)

21) Hundred (4)

24) From (2)

25) It goes (2)

27) I heard (2)

29) To delegate (7)

31) Sure (f) (6)

32) Travellers (8)

33) Distinguished (7)

34) Bank (river) (6)

36) To smell (4)

37) I stopped (6)

38) Doctor (6)

39) Bull (4)

42) In (2)

QUIZ

How much bigger than a standard blueberry was the world record in 2023?

1. 5 times
2. 10 times
3. 20 times
4. 50 times



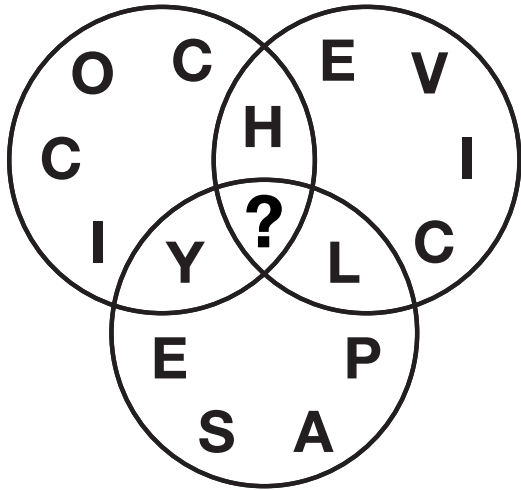
Which plant family are blueberries a member of?

1. rose
2. daisy
3. heath
4. mallow

Blueberries are native to..?

1. Europe
2. America
3. Asia
4. Australia

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?

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Azamara Quest	12/04	-	-	08.00	22.00
Corinthian	13/04	Tangier	Gibraltar	05.00	23.00
Island Princess	14/04	-	-	07.00	17.00
Mein Schiff	15/04	Tangier	Valencia	08.00	19.00
Wind Star	15/04	-	-	08.00	22.00
MSC Grandiosa	16/04	Casablanca	Valencia	07.00	19.00
Oosterdam	16/04	Cadiz	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Hanseatic Nature	16-17/04	Marbella	Valencia	22.00	23.59
Wind Surf	17/04	-	-	08.00	20.00
Azamara Quest	18/04	-	-	08.00	22.00
Norwegian Escape	19/04	Cadiz	Ibiza	09.30	17.00



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

1. Dog  
2. Horse  
3. Fox  
4. Cattle  
5. Eagle  
6. Wolf  
7. Sheep  
8. Bird  
9. Cat  
10. Pig  
11. Pig  
12. Pig  
13. Pig  
14. Pig  
15. Pig  
16. Pig  
17. Pig  
18. Pig  
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37. Pig  
38. Pig  
39. Pig  
40. Pig  
41. Pig  
42. Pig  
43. Pig  
44. Pig  
45. Pig

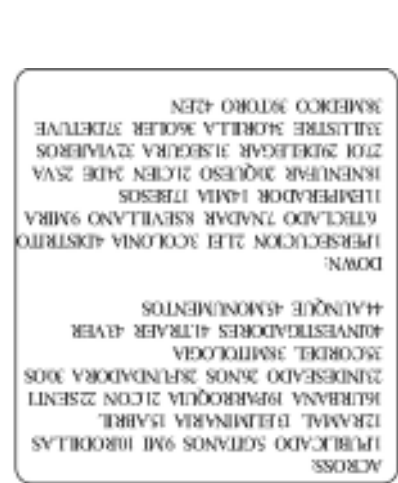
Wordpuzzler solution

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

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

Language Crossword



Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram



Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Right-hand man; 7 Dinar; 8 Czech; 9 Run; 10 Field-fare; 11 Theory; 12 Andrew; 15 Card table; 17 Lei; 18 Erica; 19 Ebony; 21 Undertakings. Down: 1 Return ticket; 2 Ton; 3 Air-men; 4 Decadence; 5 Arena; 6 Wheelwrights; 7 Dense; 10 First-rate; 13 Relay; 14 Object; 16 Reign; 20 Oak.



# Collection of 200 ancient Phoenician terracotta figures to stay in Malaga

The Ifergan Gallery has catalogued the pieces recovered from the sea off Tyre, Lebanon, which date back nearly 3,000 years

**FRANCISCO GRINÁN**



**MALAGA.** The Phoenicians ruled the Mediterranean before the Greeks and Romans. A reminder of this is a collection of 201 Phoenician terracotta figures, retrieved from the sea near Tyre (one of the civilisation's major cities, in modern-day Lebanon), which is to remain in Malaga indefinitely.

Following an announcement last year that they were on sale, the Ifergan Gallery's star pieces - the biggest private collection of its kind - will now continue to occupy the exhibition room on Calle Sebastián Souvirón, close to the Central Market. Securing the permanence of the collection in Malaga is thanks to the support of archeologist Eduardo García Alfonso, who has curated the gallery's new catalogue, which includes this precious collection. It also features the first scientific study on these votive sculptures from Tyre.

A specialist in the Phoenician civilisation and head of communications at the Museum of Malaga, García Alfonso ex-

plained this new phase of the gallery owned by collector Vicente Jiménez Ifergan. After unveiling this archeological exhibition in 2018, comprising half the terracotta figures as well as Mesopotamian, Greek, Egyptian, Roman and Arab art, the gallery proposed a temporary transfer of the two hundred Phoenician sculptures to the Museum of Malaga. However, the idea never came to fruition due to the arrival of the pandemic.

This left the gallery's future uncertain; it remained closed and many of its pieces were put on sale and sold. The exhibition, however, reopened last summer, with the private collection of Phoenician terracotta figures - which remained intact. The collector has now opted to highlight the importance of these treasures through their cataloguing and study.

In the absence of Jiménez Ifergan, who has been doing humanitarian work in Ukraine since the start of the war with Russia, Eduardo García Alfonso explained this week that the businessman and philanthropist has committed to "not selling this collection because he has a special appreciation and affection for it". In addition, they would have to be sold separately if they were to be put on the market, and the current owner has put "as the only condition that it has to remain as one while he is living".

García Alfonso's study brings a



Some of the pieces in Ifergan's collection of Phoenician terracotta on display in Malaga. **MARILÚ BÁEZ**

fresh perspective on the origin of these sculptures: it was believed that they were part of a ship's cargo, which, in an attempt to save these divine figures from the siege of Tyre by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC, ended up at the bottom of the sea, sunk by the Greeks.

## There was no shipwreck

This romantic vision is one which the archeologist prefers to replace with a more scientific version. "Temples would be filled with these votive offerings to the gods, and every so often, they would be buried in order to liberate these sacred spaces, therefore my hypothesis is that in Tyre, they were thrown into the sea, an idea that has more basis than that of a sunken ship," explained the archeologist. He added that there are three areas in Tyre where these sculptures appeared, in some cases over 2,000

## THE COLLECTION

**Name:** Ifergan Collection.

**Pieces:** 201 Phoenician terracotta figures recovered near Tyre in 1958, after almost 3,000 years on the sea bed.

**Price:** General entry, 7 euros; residents in Malaga, students and pensioners 3.50 euros.

**Location:** Calle Sebastián Souvirón, 9, Malaga.

rescued pieces, which reinforces his theory that in reality "they were thrown into the sea as offerings, which also happened during the Phoenician period in Cadiz". They remained at the bot-

tom of the Mediterranean Sea until the 1950s, when fishermen started recovering hundreds of these pieces through the use of new fishing techniques such as trawling.



## Devotion to the gods

The figures also reveal lesser known facts about Phoenician culture, such as their gods and their religious fervour. For instance, the start of the tour features a figure of a priest, over one metre high, as well as a triton, which represents Pontus, god of the sea. Both have their hands in the air, as if to welcome people into the collection, although visitors would soon realise that this greeting gesture is common in representations of the gods Astarte, Melqart or Tanit. "Raised hands are a sign of protection, which was already used in Egyptian art," the archeologist concluded.



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