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ISSUE No. 1692 | 7 - 13 December 2017 **COSTA DEL SOL » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION** WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

Weekend road chaos expected

MOTORISTS have been warned to drive carefully as millions hit Spain's roads during this week's national holidays.

Spain's Directorate General of Traffic has estimated that around 6.7 million vehicles will clog its road network over the weekend, and has been warning drivers to exercise caution since Tuesday, especially in and around cities and the coast.

Record swoop

ANTI-DRUGS police have claimed that a €210 million, six tonne cocaine haul seized in Algeciras is the largest this century.

Investigators swooped on a Colombian container ship and found the drugs hidden in a shipment of bananas destined for Barcelona.

Three people including one Spaniard, one Honduran and one Portuguese have been remanded in custody in connection with the raid.

€3.4bn takeover

New owner for Costa project

By Matt Ford

The firm behind Birmingham's Bullring centre has agreed to buy the company backing the Costa del Sol's most ambitious shopping project.

And the €3.4 billion deal will see the creation of Britain's biggest property business worth around €23 billion.

It comes as Hammerson, which also owns London's Brentford Cross centre, made the eye-watering offer to acquire rival developer Intu, the company behind a €650 million scheme to build what will be Andalucia's biggest shopping complex in Torremolinos.

The takeover will see Insu's portfolio, including Manchester's Trafford Centre and the Metrocentre in Gateshead, retain the Hammerson name. Hammerson chief executive, David Atkins, said: "Strategically it's



AMBITIOUS: An artist's impression of the centre and (inset) Hammerson chief executive David Atkins.

about acquiring more of the best quality shopping centres in the UK, but also it gives us a new market in Spain."

The 600,000 square-metre complex will include shops, restaurants, an artificial lake and a dry ski slope, and is expected to create around 4,500 jobs. After years of delays there has been significant progress in recent months, but the brakes have again been applied

after the Junta de Andalucia on Tuesday approved Torremolinos' PGOU Town Planning proposal, except for the plot where the centre is to be built.

Located adjacent to the town's Aqua Park, the regional authority is seeking answers to concerns over increased traffic at the site.

But Insu's director in Spain, Salvador Arenere, said that he hopes plans will be approved "within a matter of weeks."

Xmas Special

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NEWS EXTRA**2.5bn litre
storm boost**

THE Costa del Sol's dwindling water supply received a boost after rains swelled the area's reservoirs by 2.5 billion litres in a single day and replenished parched inland aquifers.

Job slump

UNEMPLOYMENT rose for the fourth month in a row in Malaga, with more than 4,500 people swelling the jobless total to 158,330, as the province's increase was beaten only by the Balearic Islands.

Scots haul

TWO Spanish brothers aged 32 and 21 have been held in Torremolinos after trying to send 7.5 kilos of cannabis to Scotland via courier, vacuum-packed and stuffed into pillow cases and towels.

Elite mob boss held

Gangster used pizzeria as front

A HIGH RANKING mafia leader has been held on the Costa del Sol.

The 69-year-old mobster, named as Cosimo Piscioneri, was remanded in custody on an international warrant at a pizzeria he owns in holiday hotspot Benalmadena.

It comes after a five year drug trafficking probe by police in Italy, with 12 other leaders of the gang arrested in the southern region of Calabria.

All belong to the notorious Ndragheta clan and are suspected of smuggling large quantities of hashish to Turin, Italy, in false-bottomed lorries and rental cars, police said in a statement.

The operation has been headed by CP since 2014, when the two original leaders, including his brother Rocco, were also arrested in Spain.



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GOT HIM: The suspect was held at his Benalmadena eatery by the National Police (inset).

He regularly visited them in prison, was responsible for the collection and distribution of money connected to the operation, and owned a series of firearms.

A Madrid judge has remanded him in custody while authorities prepare to extradite him to Italy, where he reportedly faces a 24-year jail sentence.

Animal killer jailed

THE ex-animal shelter boss found guilty of killing thousands of animals is behind bars.

It comes after Carmen Marin, former manager at Torremolinos' municipal animal pound, failed in a final appeal after claiming she suffers from psychological issues.

But the medical documents submitted by her legal team continue to be probed by Malaga's Criminal Court after the prosecutor initially ruled that 'the defendant can serve the prison sentence because the alleged pathologies do not endanger her life.'

Marin voluntarily entered the Victoria Kent Social Insertion Centre in Madrid before being transferred to a prison in the Spanish capital.

The former president was in 2016 found guilty of slaughtering at least 2,183 animals between 2008 and 2010.

She used small doses of a euthanasia product to kill the victims cheaply, so they died a slow, painful death.

She will serve three years and nine months in jail for forgery and animal abuse.

What does your kitchen moment look like?



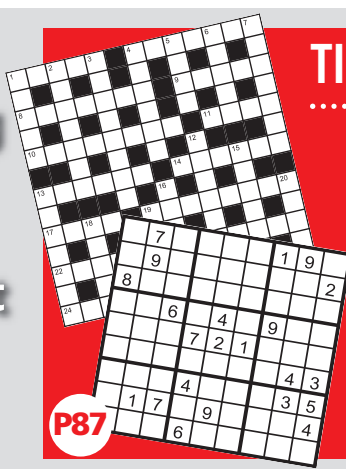
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**CELEB FOCUS**

Who is doing what and who with, often in front of the cameras!

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WEEKLY LEISURE INCLUDING PUZZLES, STARS AND MADDOCK'S VIEW ON LIFE

P87**PETS**

All the latest news and advice on pets and petcare

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SPAIN, UK EUROPE & GLOBAL SPORT SCENE

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Rail probe launched

THE judge handling the investigation into the Malaga-Sevilla train that went off the rails last Wednesday asked to see reports revealing how fast it was travelling and how the extreme weather conditions impacted the event. At least 37 passengers were injured in the accident, two seriously.

Stab scare

POLICE have detained a 28-year-old accused of stabbing a German man in the chest in Guadalmar after the two allegedly got in a heated argument. Police came upon the 20-year-old German clutching his bleeding chest, and succeeded in locating the knife-wielding attacker in close proximity.

In the balance

THE decision over whether to extradite Carlos Fernandez has been delayed indefinitely by an Argentine court after Spanish authorities submitted four more charges against him. The ex-Marbella councillor is wanted for multiple crimes, including bribery, misuse of public funds, and his involvement in the 'Malaya' scandal.

Game of stones

ELEVEN youths have been held in Torremolinos for allegedly throwing firecrackers and stones at moving trains as they passed through La Colina station. Police swooped to find the gang hidden in nearby bushes after receiving a complaint from rail company ADIF, who claim that it is a regular occurrence.

A helping hand

BANCOSOL'S sixth annual 'Gran Recogida' (great food collection) reached its objective of collecting 600,000 kilos of food for those in need. Over the weekend, volunteers lent a hand in stores across Malaga Province, as well as the rest of Spain, to help collect canned goods and other

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...40

Despite having the world's fourth most widely-spoken language as its native tongue, Spain is home to a mind-boggling array of communication systems, from the Gomeran Whistle to Chinese, writes Harrison Jones.

Real twisters for the tongue

SPAIN is a mixing pot of major languages, especially as European, Arabic and Asian residents settle in their own communities.

The country's history is littered with discarded sub-languages and the politics of retaining dialects that are spoken by so few people.

Today, virtually all native Spaniards speak Castilian, the language foreigners somewhat simplistically refer to as 'Spanish.'

Under General Franco's fascist dictatorship, regional variations were marginalised and even banned in public, reinforcing Castilian dominance.

Yet variations remain and are still so numerous that it becomes a challenge to even list them all.

The most famous is Catalan, which has seen a resurgence in interest since the controversial referendum on Catalan independence. Also referred to as 'Valencian' or 'Balearic,' it is spoken by around 17 per cent of the population.

Aranese, or 'Occitan,' is also co-official in Cataluña and can be heard in the north west of the region.

Basque, or 'Euskara,' is thought to

be the only non-Romance language in Spain, which classifies it as an official language alongside Galician, Catalan and Castilian.

There are complications with other minority languages, like Aragonese, Asturian and Leonese. These are all recognised - but unofficial - variations of Castilian, and thought to be seriously endangered.

CHEER OF UNITY: Nearly all Spaniards speak Castilian.

ONE of the quirkier languages is known as the Gomeran Whistle and practised by inhabitants of La Gomera in the Canary Islands.

As the name suggests, it is perhaps more song than language, but Unesco recognised the communication as the 'only whistled language in the world that is fully developed and practised by a large community.' As many as 22,000 people 'speak' it and schools teach how distinct whistles replace each Spanish consonant or vowel when communicating across wind-swept valleys.

The confusion does not stop there, though, as numerous dialects remain.

Andalucian and Canarian are common, though sub-vari-

WINDSWEEP: A valley in La Gomera. |

eties add to the difficulty of classification.

Amongst others, Fala, Cantabrian, Extremaduran, Eonavian and Ribagorça, Mirandese, Benasquese, Asturian and Leonese are believed to still be in use in continually shrinking numbers.

Aside from Basque, native Spanish tongues are all thought to be Indo-European in provenance.

There are even sign language dialects. The closely related Catalan and Valencian sign languages are remarkably different to the traditional Spanish version.

Minority sign language dialects are also still in use in the Canary Islands, Basque Country, Galicia and eastern Andalusia, but are much closer to the national version, which boasts an estimated 100,000 users.

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food products.

Tracked down

A DUTCHMAN faces 15 years behind bars after being held by the National

Police in Alhaurin de la Torre. It comes after Belgian authorities issued an international arrest warrant in the 49-year-old's name. He is wanted on suspicion of drug smuggling and awaits extradition.

234

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Let it snow!

Spain shivers as artic air rolls in



WINTER WONDERLAND: A scene from the Pyrenees.

THE first flakes of winter have fallen across large swathes of Spain.

It comes after the mercury plunged below zero in the wake of an arctic cold snap gripping the country.

Amateur snappers flocked to social media to share photos of the wintry scenes, with

some stunning results.

The bitter conditions follow a mild autumn and one of the driest Novembers on record.

But the freezing weather is set to last, as a fresh cold front sweeps northern Spain over the weekend, with the icy blast to send temperatures plummeting for a second time.



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Charter flights from UK airports to Gibraltar trialled next July

By John Smith | Monday, 27 November 2017 19:12

THE demise of Monarch airline meant that Gibraltar lost a number of flights to regional airports but this is in part to be resolved.



GIBRALTAR: Flights to be trialled.

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3,623 views Serious flooding in Andalucia forces train cancellations and school closures

27 November – 4 December

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

Poll of the week

Do you attend religious events over the Christmas period?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
With Black Friday out of the way, have you already finished your Christmas shopping?

Yes 20% No 80%

CORRECTIONS

At the EWN, we pride ourselves that reports are accurate and fair. If we do slip up, we promise to set the record straight in a clear, no-nonsense manner. To ask for an inaccuracy to be corrected.

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Thank-Hugh very much

HE'S best-known for playing razor-clawed superhero Wolverine in the X-Men film franchise.

But there were no knives being sharpened after Australian actor Hugh Jackman jetted to Spain to promote his latest film.

The star received a rapturous reception at the premiere of *The Greatest Showman*, due to be released in Spanish cinemas on Friday, December 29.

Speaking at the event the heartthrob confessed he would not be turning to directing now his stint as Wolverine has ended. He explained: "I would be a terrible director, the actors would hate me."

Jackman's latest film sees him play Phineas Taylor Barnum, the creator of the Barnum and Bailey American travelling circus. Starring alongside Zac Efron and Michelle Williams, the musical boasts a soundtrack by Justin Paul and Benj Pasek who won Oscars for their work on *La La Land*.



Photo credit Twitter
EX-MAN: Hugh Jackman in Madrid.

What an Eiffel!

SHE'S the hotel heiress who shot to fame after her sex-tape leaked.

But Paris Hilton has proven there's more to her than meets the eye after revealing that her business empire is worth €2.5 billion in a radio interview.

The blonde beauty recently announced she is to open an Ibiza hotel. The entrepreneur is calling the venture, Paris's Boutique Hotel, and she explained the venture would be "very futuristic and very Ibiza."

WELL-HEELED: Paris Hilton.



Photo credit Paris Hilton/Instagram



Photo credit YouTube
BESOTTED: Alejandra Silva and Richard Gere.

She's a real pretty woman

ACTING legend Richard Gere has been spotted showing off his gorgeous Spanish girlfriend at an awards ceremony in Madrid.

The 68-year-old Officer and a Gentleman star certainly looked distinguished as he stepped out with Alejandra Silva, 34, at the Harper's Bazaar Awards.

The silver fox wore a navy coat over a white shirt as he snuggled up to the blonde businesswoman. Silva, whose father was for-

merly the vice-president of Real Madrid, is originally from Galicia and has made a successful career in PR.

Most recently starring in *Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer*, Gere has been enjoying something of a comeback in recent years with a string of films.

Originally from Philadelphia, America, Gere was previously married to supermodel Cindy Crawford, and is devoted to Buddhism.

Seeing double

A SPANISH politician who has been compared to Prince Harry's future wife Meghan Markle has become an internet star.

But mother-of-two Begoña Villacis, 40, was able to see the funny side as she tweeted: "Between Buckingham Palace and Cibeles... I'm sorry but I'm sticking with Madrid."

Her comments came after the leader of centre-right party Ciudadanos in Madrid received streams of messages via social media.

Chastain in Spain

SHE'S been nominated for two Oscars and earlier this year tied the knot with Italian fashion boss Gian Luca Passi de Preposulo.

Actress Jessica Chastain, 40, continued to live the high life appearing at a Madrid photo call to promote her latest flick *Molly's Game*, flaunting her ample curves in a stunning knitted dress.



Photo credit Ciudadanos Madrid
TAKE TWO: Begoña Villacis.

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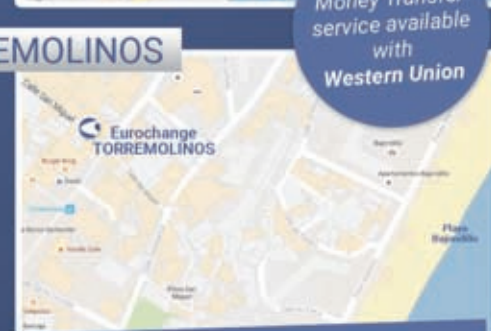
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NEWS EXTRA

Fake fag
gang held

A TOTAL of 18 Ukrainian and Bulgarian people have been held in Malaga and Granada provinces after police swooped on an illegal tobacco factory that produced two million counterfeit cigarettes per day.

€11.4m boom

MORE than 10 million tourists have visited Andalusia this year to October, swelling the region's economy by €11.4 million, according to Spanish National Institute of Statistics estimates.

Water works

MALAGA has allocated €430,000 to improve the water supply network in six towns across the province. The towns are Arriate, Alfarnatejo, La Viñuela, Ojen, Pizarra and Arenas.



SPRAY DAY: A cleaner focuses on the bins in a paved area.

Clean slate?

Drinking water used on roads

EXCLUSIVE

By Harrison Jones

FUENGIROLA Town Hall have been using drinking water to clean the city's streets.

Despite concerns about drought in the region, the local authority has been using high-power spray hose pipes on concrete streets.

One resident, 69-year-old Ron Gombault, said: "I think thousands of litres of good water were wasted on an already reasonably clean boulevard."

Mr Gombault also claims the cleaning began at 5.30am one morning and was noisy.

Noting that it rained significantly the next day, he added that he believed "very much work and water" was wasted on cleaning "kilometres" of the Paseo Marítimo.

Last week, one street cleaner confirmed to a *Euro Weekly News* journalist that the water being used to clean an area of pavement was drinkable.

The town hall have been contacted for comment by *Euro Weekly News* but had not replied at the time of going to print.

There have long been concerns about the availability of water in the region, and local experts have warned that action must be taken to avoid water shortages.

A word of warning

A BRITISH expatriate has warned of a potential scam on the Costa del Sol.

The Fuengirola resident, who did not wish to be named, told the *Euro Weekly News* that a man claiming to be an electrician rang her doorbell and asked if she had received a letter.

But when she said no, the man - who was 'in his mid-to-late 20's' - pushed his way inside and asked to see her kitchen.

On his way he 'was looking around and not paying attention to the kitchen at all,' leading the by now frightened Briton to usher him outside.

At the door, she spotted that 'an accomplice' was waiting for him on the stairs.

She described the man as 'Spanish but with good English, very polite and smart, wearing jeans and carrying a clipboard.'

It comes as local Spanish media reported that an identical con in Malaga City this week saw a 90-year-old woman relieved of €35,000 in cash.



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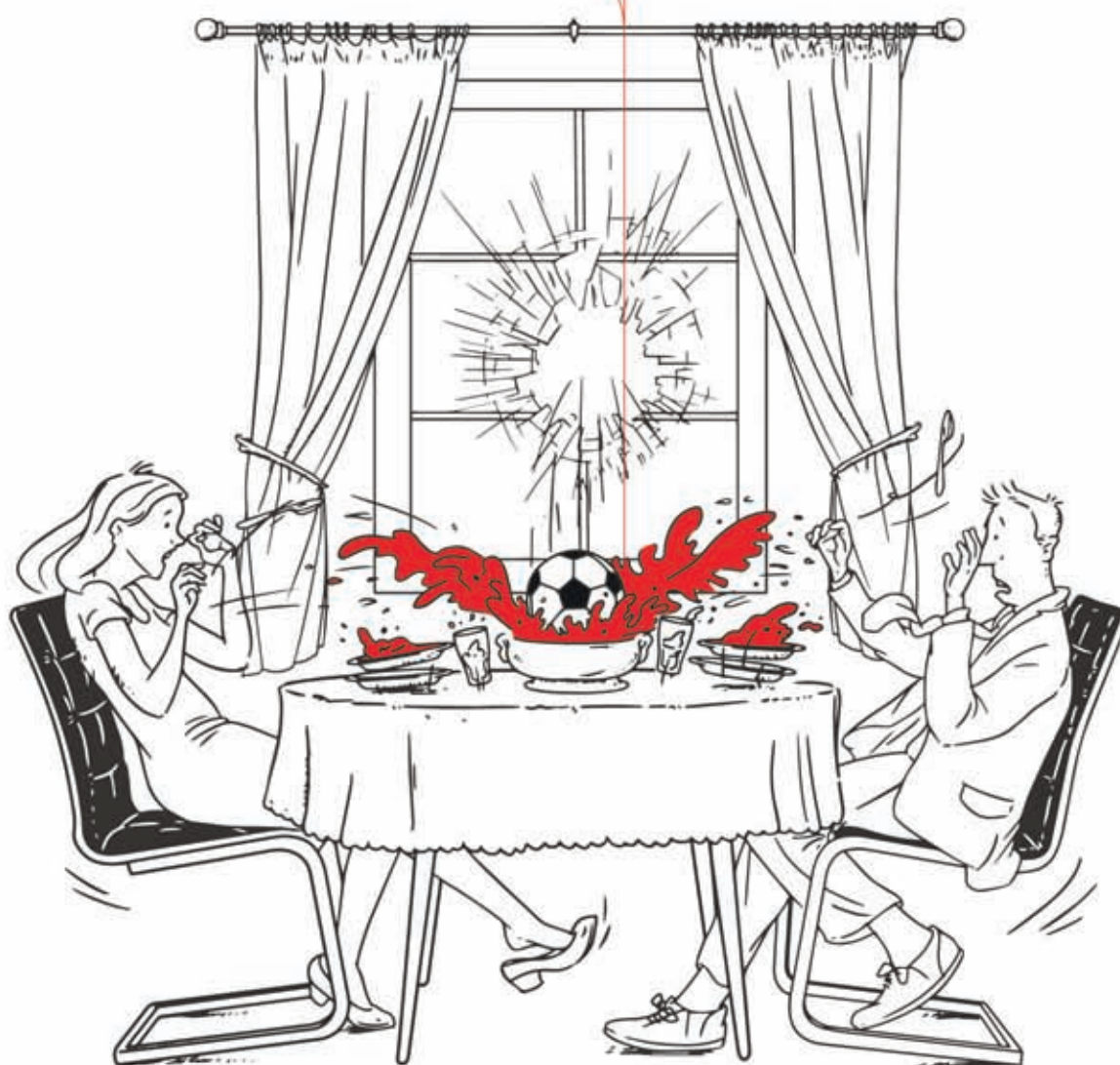
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OUR VIEW

Spain is losing Big Mac battle

THE crowning of San Sebastian as the world's top food city is another feather in the cap for Spanish gastronomy.

But as the country's culinary heritage continues to attract international acclaim, Spain must be careful to retain its traditional mealtime values.

An upswing in demand for Iberian ham from China has seen demand outstrip supply, while the famed Mediterranean diet increasingly appears more medical advice than lifestyle choice.

And as the price of ham, olive oil and other delicacies rockets, working class Spanish families are increasingly turning to the same packaged, cost-effective fare that has sparked an obesity crisis across the globe.

A recent report by two international think tanks concluded that the country is moving away from the Mediterranean diet, as the relentless rise of convenience and fast food sparks a profound cultural shift.

The World Health Organisation says that Spain is one of the top European countries for obese children, while the proportion of overweight adults has increased from below 8 per cent in 1987 to 16 per cent today.

The Mediterranean diet should include large amounts of fruit, vegetables, pulses, whole grains and olive oil, but importantly, none of this comes in a box.

Foodie's delight - page 28

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Nearly 600 migrants could be in Archidona prison

THE number of Algerian migrants placed in an Archidona prison could be as high as 570, according to different organisations.

Malaga Acoge say children could also be among the group, who remain in the facility despite widespread outrage about their treatment.

Opposition parties, charities and non-governmental organisations have spoken out about the situation, with some labelling it illegal.

A solidarity platform - comprised of around 20 social entities - again denounced the 'deficient conditions' at the prison earlier this week.

Gabriel Ruiz, a spokesman for the platform, claimed that until a visit from politicians last Friday, migrants remained in the same clothes for 12 days and that the heating was not in operation.

Speaking on Monday, he also suggested that some of the group had not been given access to phones or their belongings, and that only one interpreter and doctor was available.

The Ministry of the Interior have not responded to multiple requests for a comment.

In a statement reported by *Euro Weekly*



Credit: Malaga Acoge/Fronteras sin filtro/Twitter

SPEAKING UP: Representatives from a solidarity platform outside the facility and (inset) at a press conference in Malaga.

News last week, the ministry said: "The exceptional use of the Archidona centre has been motivated by an exceptional situation of irregular immigrants arriving on the Levante coast, who were unable to stay in the other Foreigners' Internment Centres."

The government have shown little sign of changing course since mid-November, when

the migrants were placed in the facility. The Secretary of State for Security, Jose Antonio Nieto has said the government would 'try' not to hold the migrants for longer than 60 days.

Thousands of refugees have attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea in an attempt to reach Europe in recent months.

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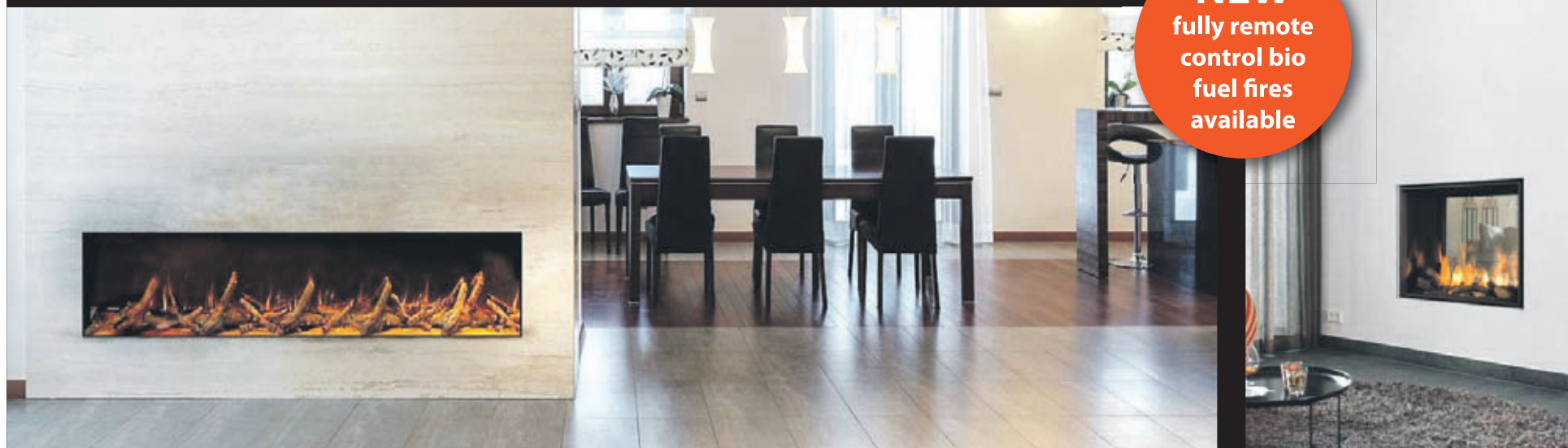
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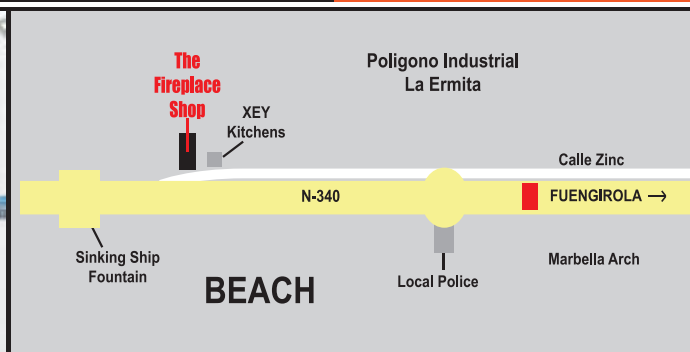
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MC Boulevard News

MARBELLA - The luxurious Puente Romano is set for the 2017 Festive Season. Christmas festivities will begin with **Gatsby Christmas Party**, which will take place on **Friday December 15** in Salon Andalucia. The event that was an instant success last year is back with more character and grace.

The Gatsby Christmas Party concept is something new - something extraordinary and beautiful, it's jazz music, flapper culture, themed styling and Champagne towers. It's a get-together for colleagues, friends and families. The night will begin with a welcome cocktail, followed by a four-course dinner, drinks and dancing.

This year's **Puente Romano's Christmas** is celebrated in **Sea Grill**. The **Christmas Eve** will be accompanied with a **four-course** menu and live music programme.

On Monday December 25, the traditional **Christmas Day brunch** will take place. It's a fun-filled day with heavenly buffet where selection features turkey, oysters, lobster and a great array of other Mediterranean inspired delicacies; the gastronomy feast is completed by a grand assortment of desserts and special Christmas pastries. It's an all family lunch that Santa Claus never skips.

For **New Year's Eve** there are three events to choose from;

Grand Gala Dinner that takes place in **Salon Andalucia**. It's a family friendly gala event offering a welcome cocktail, **seven-course dinner** paired with wines and extensive programme.

Nobu's nine-course New Year's Eve menu has been created by legend **Nobu Matsuhisa** himself.

The selection dishes include Slow Cooked Chilean Seabass with Uni sauce and Bottarga and Japanese A5 Beef with Truffle Crust and Sake Soy Wild Mushrooms.

Mediterranean views restaurant **Sea Grill** serves a warm ambience in a classy setting. For New Year's Eve there is a live music programme, served together with a **five-course** menu.

For the ones who wish to enjoy the sunshine of the **New Year's Day**, **Sea Grill** hosts a legendary lunch buffet. It's a display of splendid local and international delicacies, such as Beef Wellington, Oysters, Caviar and delicacies cooked on the Grill and in the Tandoor Oven.

Festive Season 2017 in Puente Romano



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A loving farewell

By Karl Smallman
and Matt Ford

BRAVE brain cancer fighter, Leo the Lion may have gone, but he will never be forgotten.

Hundreds of friends, family and supporters of the inspirational four-year-old gathered on Palomares beach in Almeria to pay tribute in a moving ceremony which saw 250 helium-filled balloons - many carrying hand-written messages - released into the sky.

The *Euro Weekly News* team performed a simultaneous release of balloons outside their head office on the Costa del Sol, as did campaign support groups and individuals in other parts of Spain, the UK and beyond.

An invitation-only funeral and cremation saw family and close friends pay their own respects on Tuesday, after many sent flowers or paid a visit to Leo as he lay in the chapel of rest over the weekend.

A hearse carried him around Palomares prior to the service, allowing



EMOTIONAL: Family, friends and supporters gather on Palomares beach.

people to pay their respects and friends to wave goodbye.

In the UK, thousands of Manchester City supporters honoured Leo with a minute's applause during their home Premier League match against West Ham last Sunday.

Days short of his fifth birthday,

which would have been yesterday (Wednesday) the courageous four-year-old passed away peacefully in his mother Karen's arms last Friday as dad Jorge and sister Sofia stood by.

His last words were, to Sofia, a very clear "I love you."

On September 2, 2015 Leo was diag-

nosed with a rare form of brain cancer.

Since then he underwent surgery at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in the UK and, thanks to a fund launched late last year, which the *Euro Weekly News* supported, travelled to Oklahoma in the United States for cutting-edge proton beam therapy.



SOLIDARITY: The EWN team release balloons.

But sadly, it was all in vain.

Karen recently told the *Euro Weekly News*: "I want people to remember Leo for the happy little boy that he once was, that cheeky little boy, the one who smiled no matter what..."

"I want to thank everyone for their continuous support during this journey to give Leo the best chance for a life."

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Police clock watch scam

INVESTIGATORS in Marbella have held a 31-year-old Spanish thief for pretending to be a crime victim.

The accused contacted police to claim that the locks on his delivery van had been forced and €6,170 worth

of watches stolen.

However, a probe revealed that that the incident did not happen, with the driver having taken the merchandise - destined for a popular Puerto Banus boutique - himself.



GETAWAY: Abdellah El Haj escaped during the raid in May.

NEWS EXTRA

Dangerous driver held

A DRIVER who was travelling at 214 kilometres per hour on the A7 through San Roque was stopped by Guardia Civil officers and tested positive for cannabis.

Market on

ALHAURIN DE LA TORRE'S municipal market has reopened, with upgrades including improvements to the air conditioning system, insulation and better access for disabled people, according to Spanish media.

Man injured

A 66-YEAR-OLD man has been left in a serious condition after he was hit by a lorry while out cycling in Fuenigiro. He was reportedly hit by the vehicle at the entrance to the town's fishing port.

Fight club

FIVE people aged between 20 and 25 have been arrested for confronting the doorman of a club in Marbella, after they reportedly threw furniture at the doorman when one of them was told to leave the nightspot.

'Messi of hashish' arrested

THE leader of one of the largest drug trafficking gangs in Spain has been arrested in a joint operation by Spain's National Police and Guardia Civil.

Abdellah El Haj had escaped to Morocco in May after 19 of his gang were arrested.

The Moroccan heads one of the largest marihuana trafficking operations in Spain that operates through the Strait of Gibraltar. He has now been detained in Campo de Gibraltar by Guardia Civil officers from Algeciras.

Last May, the National Police and the Guardia Civil detained 19 people, all of them now in prison, for possession of

13 tonnes of hashish. Four firearms were also recovered. Abdellah, however, had a getaway car parked nearby and managed to escape to Morocco.

The drug trafficker is known to police as the 'Messi of hashish' for his frequent social media posts in which he wears the shirt of the Argentine football player.

Despite the fact that he has a history of fleeing, following his arrest, the alleged drug dealer was released the day after his arrest by the courts on €100,000 bail.

He has also had to surrender his passport and report to the court on a daily basis.

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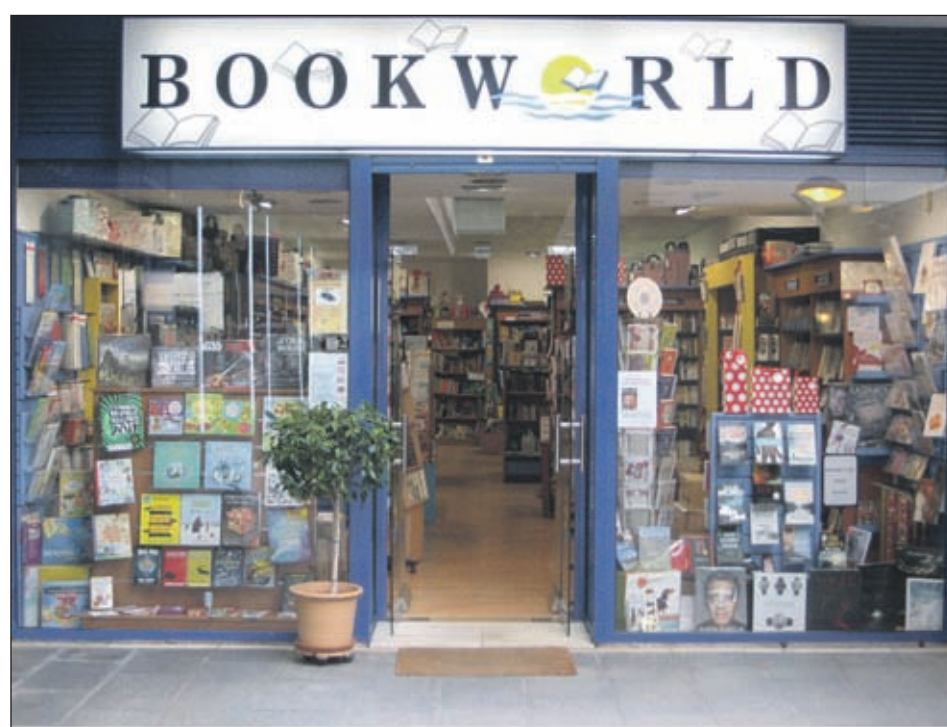
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Protesters call for independence



MASS PROTEST: Around 2,000 people are believed to have attended the march through Malaga City.

THOUSANDS of left-wing protesters have marched through Malaga City to remember a dead protester and call for Andalusian independence.

The annual march takes place in early December in memory of Javier Verdejo, a communist protester who was shot dead by police during an independence march in 1976.

His shooting came in the transition period following the end of General Franco's dictatorship and caused outrage.

The official account of his death cleared police of any wrongdoing.

Waving Andalusian flags and marching en masse, organisers demanded bread, work and liber-

ty while calling for Andalusia to become independent from Spanish rule.

Alonso Martinez, a 32-year-old protester, said: "I don't support Andalusian independence but I am a revolutionary."

"It's a good place to meet people and exchange ideas."

The demonstration follows tensions over Catalanian independence.

In October, Catalans voted heavily in favour of separation from Spain, in an illegal referendum overshadowed by police violence.

Other regions of Spain, including the Basque Country, Valencia and Galicia, also have strong independence movements.

NEWS EXTRA

Bed crisis revealed

THE Spanish Confederation of Labour Unions has revealed that Malaga Province has one of the lowest number of hospital beds per inhabitant in the whole of Europe, with only 15 beds per 10,000 inhabitants.

Cycle chase

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy has been arrested after he allegedly stole a moped and drove it the wrong way down a road in Teatinos, Malaga. During a police pursuit, the boy also reportedly took the moped onto the pavement.

Behind bars

A WOMAN who attempted to join the Islamic State has been sentenced to two years in prison. She was arrested in 2015 after leaving Spain with her Moroccan partner and 14-month-old baby.

Great ambitions

By Kat Ashton

OFFICIALS in Andalusia have announced plans to become a go-to destination for the LGBTQIA community.

Around 10 per cent of visitors to the region are LGBTQIA, according to data from the World Tourism Organisation.

The first LGBTQIA International Tourism Meeting was held in Torremolinos, which is already a hotspot for LGBTQIA tourists, and was attended by around a hundred tour operators from numerous countries.

The event was chaired by Francisco Javier Fernandez, the Andalusian Minister of Tourism, who revealed the average amount

spent by the community - around €113 per day - and said he wants the community to feel at home in the province.

Spain as a whole has also seen a rise in LGBTQIA tourism, with a 28 per cent increase in visitors in the last year alone.

The mayor of Torremolinos, Jose Ortiz, described Torremolinos as an 'open city' which has pioneered the way for LGBTQIA tourism since the 1960's when the first gay pub opened there.

This meeting consisted of presentations and workshops about how to best promote the region's accommodation, cultural sites, beaches, gastronomy and leisure activities to make them attractive for LGBTQIA visitors.

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RETURNED: A recovered bike that has now been given back to its rightful owner.

By Benjamin Park

A 'GANG' of young people have been arrested in Malaga accused of being involved in a number of thefts and assaults.

Ten people in total have been detained, three adults and the rest children, for allegedly committing various assaults in

parks and leisure areas across Malaga City.

According to reports, those involved would use their numerical superiority to intimidate victims, often young people,

occasionally also displaying knives to frighten victims into handing over their possessions, which would usually consist of bikes, mobile phones or money.

Seven complaints of theft have been given to police, six involving violence or intimidation and the other with force.

A number of items have now been recovered, including two bicycles, mobile phones and a television, all being returned to their rightful owners.

Gang members held

Father of three dies suddenly

THE funeral has taken place at Benalmadena Cemetery of Paul Henry, a Costa del Sol resident from 2002-2005 and 2012-2017.

Paul, aged 44, was married to Claudia Tennant-Henry, daughter of Lady Sheila Tennant, and is survived by daughters Camille, 13, Jasmine, 11, and Claire, 8.

Paul was born in Australia to Irish parents and met Claudia at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 before moving to Spain with her two years later.

He worked briefly for the *Euro Weekly News* before setting up his own internet business, and recently bought a new house.

His death on Saturday followed a massive heart at-



LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER: Paul Henry.

tack, with his family describing him as a healthy family man and loving husband.

Many of his Irish family flew to Spain to attend the funeral service, which was followed by cremation.

EXCLUSIVE

Council: 'No hosepipe ban' in Mijas

MIJAS Town Hall has denied that a hosepipe ban is in place. Some residents have suggested that water use is being restricted in the area. One reader contacted *Euro Weekly News* to say: "I am told hosepipe ban now in place locally... and certainly the gym run by the town hall in La Cala is telling users that 'you can't shower here.'"

But a council official stated that "there is no such hosepipe ban."

They went on to suggest that incidents at the gym "seem to be a misunderstanding."

The volume of water in Mijas aquifers has been decreasing each year due to drought and increased consumption, leading experts to warn that action needs to be taken. The head of a water company warned last week that levels were "worrisome," warning that water supplies in Mijas, Torremolinos and Benalmadena could be affected.

3.4 million people are currently unemployed in Spain according to government statistics, with 7,255 losing their jobs in November alone.

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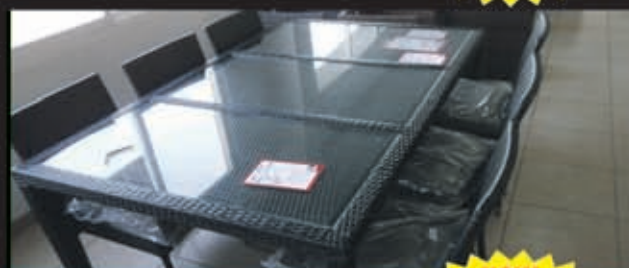
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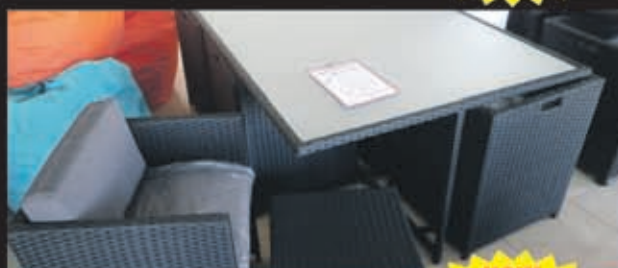
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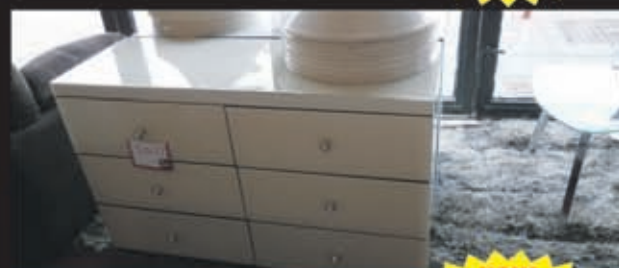
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Specialist children's unit opened

HOSPITAL Quironsalud Malaga and Marbella has opened a Children's Orthopedic Unit.

Specialist orthopedic and traumatology surgeon, and head of the Children's Orthopedic Unit, Dr David M Farrington said "children are not small adults, in the processes that can occur in adults, the focus and treatment are usually very different in the case of children.

"Therefore it is essential to have a multi-disciplinary team dedicated to these specialties," he added.

The state-of-the-art facility will be able to deal with a whole range of developmental and growth issues children may face such as scoliosis, infant cerebral paralysis and lower limb deformities.



NEW HOSPITAL: Guest of honour, Mayor Muñoz, Maria Jose Cañete and family members at the opening ceremony.

New Helicopteros Sanitarios Hospital Puerto Banus

By John Smith

A LARGE crowd of press and local dignitaries arrived for the official opening of the Helicopteros Sanitarios Hospital.

Guest of honour was Angeles Muñoz, mayor of Marbella who formally declared the hospital open after listening to a heartfelt speech from the inspiring founder of the group, Maria Jose Cañete who explained a little about

how she came to set up Helicopteros Sanitarios and how proud she was when her dream of opening the hospital was achieved.

She went on to thank all of the doctors, nurses and paramedics who work so hard to ensure that members receive a first class treatment, be it from a home visit, ambulance services or care in the hospital.

Mayor Muñoz responded that she was delighted to officiate at the opening and

how pleased she was that this impressive hospital had been constructed in Marbella.

She then congratulated Maria Jose Cañete and her staff and colleagues for all that had been achieved in just over 25 years since setting up a service to give assistance to accident victims on the, then dangerous, stretch of the N340 motorway running between Marbella and Malaga.

A reception for guests was held following the ceremony.

Top of the tree

TWO Malaga hospitals have been named among Spain's best.

Both the Carlos Haya and the Quironsalud Malaga were named on the fourth edition of the Health Reputation Monitor (MRS) lists, highlighting the best private and public hospitals in the country. The lists are compiled by Merco, a corporate reputation managerial monitor, alongside a reported 3,200 experts in the field, including doctors, nurses, health associations, patients, managers and health journalists.

Seventy-five hospitals appear in the list of the best public hospitals in Spain, while the private list is reduced to 25.

Despite continuing to feature on the separate lists, both Malaga hospitals fell in their overall standing compared to last year.

In the public list, the Carlos Haya features at 22nd position, falling six places after it was rated 16th in the 2016 survey, while on the private list, the Quironsalud Malaga fell from 8th position to 10th.

The list of the top 10 public hospitals is dominated by clinics based in Madrid and Barcelona.

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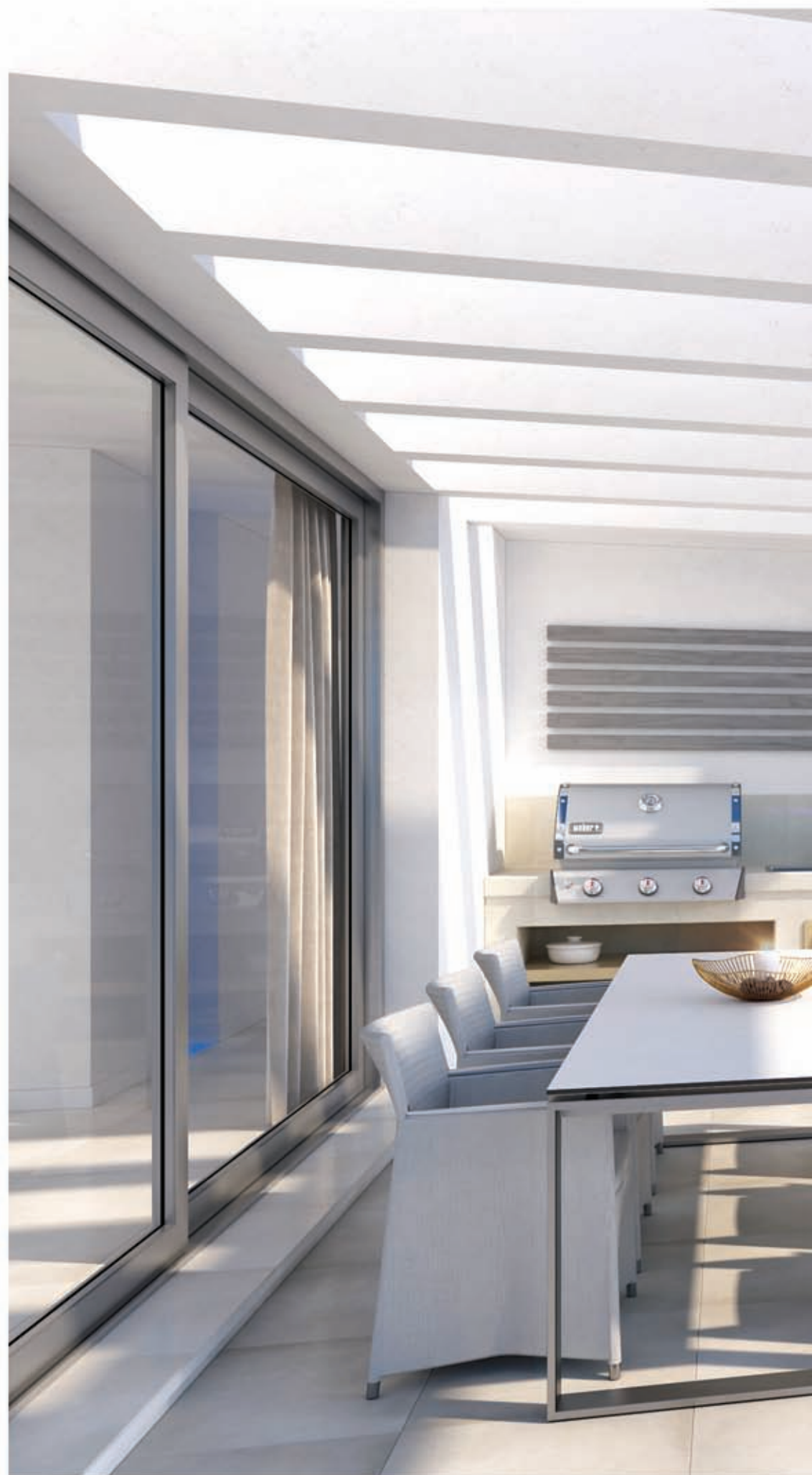
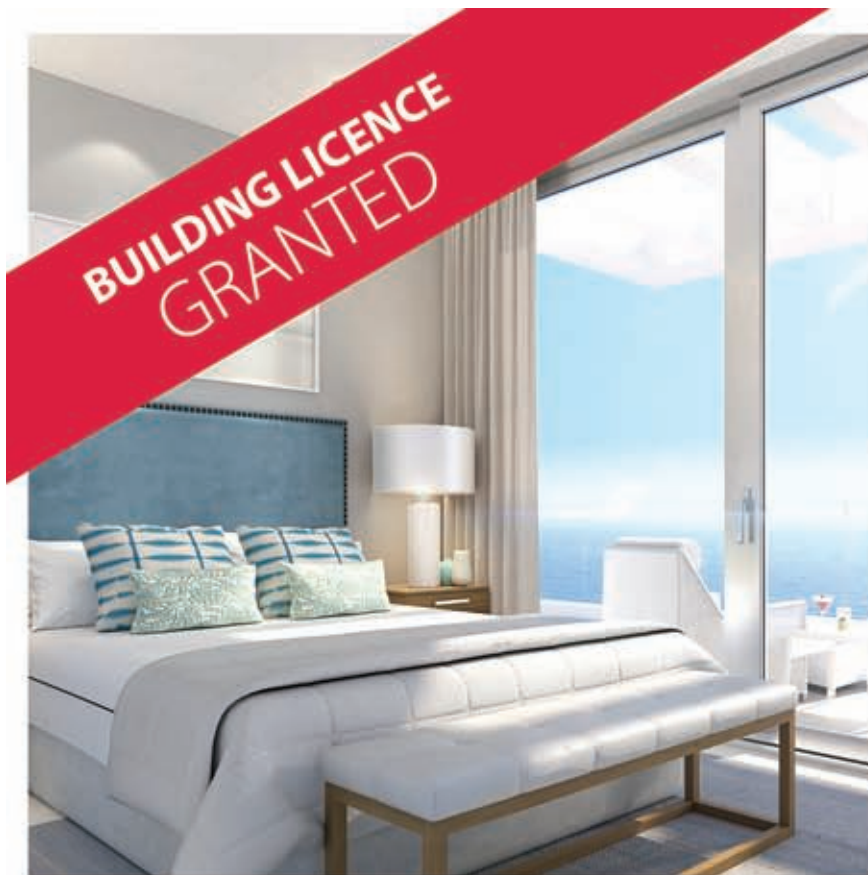
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SPAIN is leading an initiative to take action against plastic pollution affecting sea creatures.

According to the country's embassy in London, they are seeking global approval to deal with plastic litter's impact on marine life. Worldwide, plastic in the ocean is leading to the deaths of sea creatures who ingest tiny particles of the material. Scientists believe that plastic

Spain leading fight against ocean plastic

is now so widespread in the oceans that it will remain in the food chain for decades and could affect human health.

Plastics also often trap animals and impact tourist hotspots.

Spanish delegates have spoken at an ongoing International

Maritime Organisation (IMO) summit, which focuses on climate change and sustainability.

The embassy said Spain was leading an IMO initiative against marine plastic pollution and that they were 'seeking enhanced Assembly's commitment' on plastic marine litter.

In October, Spain became the 32nd country to sign up to the UN Clean Seas campaign, which aims to 'turn the tide on plastic.' Plastic use continues to grow dramatically, with some eight million tonnes being discarded into the oceans each year, according to the UN.



STAR PERFORMER: A meteor shower could be visible next week.



FULLER MOON: The phenomenon over Segovia last week.

Shoot for the stars

STARGAZERS will be treated to one of the most impressive meteor showers of the year next week.

The Geminids are set to peak on next Wednesday night and the morning of Thursday December 14.

Viewers' experiences will vary depending on atmospheric conditions, but southern Spain should see the spectacle comparatively clearly because it has less light pollution than many other areas.

Depending on weather conditions, space enthusiasts will be able to view up to 120 meteors per hour, according to *space.com*.

As the name suggests, the shooting stars - which are visible worldwide for a number of days - appear to come

from the Gemini constellation.

The shower is thought to be nearly 200 years old and is one of the most famous in the astrological calendar.

It has been getting stronger since because of Jupiter's gravity pulling the shower closer to earth. Experts advise that binoculars are not necessary but suggest staying away from artificial light and allowing 20-30 minutes for the human eye to adjust to the dark.

There is thought to be no danger of any meteors reaching the Earth's surface.

Meanwhile, last week a 'super-moon' was visible over parts of Spain. Two more are expected next year, in January in February.

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Spain is home to 'world's best city'

ACCORDING to a major study commissioned by a British catering service Spain is top of the list of the world's top 100 cities for food. San Sebastian, in the north of the country, led the rest of the world in the survey for Caterwings.

And it's not just based on the number of Michelin stars.

Ratings from 20,000 food journalists and restaurant critics were taken into account to evaluate the quality of the local food scene in hundreds of cities worldwide.

They also considered the number of restaurants per 10,000 citizens, the percentage of fast food outlets to restaurants, plus vegetarian and vegan options.

The study also looked at affordability, calculating



SAN SEBASTIAN: 'World's best city for food' and (inset) the quality of local cuisine.

how many hours a person on minimum wage would have to work in order to afford a two-person dinner in a restaurant and the percentage of fast food chains as compared to restaurants.

San Sebastian stands above the competition thanks to its affordable offer for tourists.

Tokyo, the city with the most Michelin stars, comes second in the top 100, scor-

ing particularly low on vegetarian and vegan options, while New York is third.

Spain had another two entries in the top 10, with Barcelona in fourth and Madrid in seventh.

London squeezed into the top 10 at ninth place.

Other notable appearances in the top 100 were: Glasgow (61), Manchester (64), Edinburgh (77), and Brighton (93).

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SITTING COMFORTABLY: The two leaders in Downing Street.

Rajoy tells May: Brexit talks will begin soon

THE prime ministers of Britain and Spain have met in Downing Street for Brexit talks.

Theresa May and Mariano Rajoy discussed the next phase of negotiations during a lunch meeting on Tuesday, which also covered citizens' rights, Gibraltar and the Catalan referendum. Rajoy told May that he was "absolutely convinced" the next phase of Brexit talks would begin shortly, despite Monday's deadlock over the Irish border.

Writing in the *Guardian* ahead of the meeting, Rajoy said the two countries' histories were "inextricably intertwined, and will continue to be so."

He added: "Britain can count on Spain's loyal and sincere friendship."

May said: "I want to reiterate my support for

Prime Minister Rajoy on Cataluña. It is important that the rule of law is upheld and that the Spanish constitution is respected."

Thanking the UK for backing the Spanish government during the Catalan referendum, Rajoy wrote that Brexit would not break the countries' 'friendship'. Though he emphasised the importance of trade between the two countries, he later tweeted that 'the main priority for Spain is and will continue to be the preservation of the rights and interests of citizens.'

His article did not mention Gibraltar, which has been a source of some tension between the two nations.

There were a number of demonstrations in Britain protesting against the Spanish government's conduct during the Catalan referendum.

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WHAT better way to celebrate Christmas and New Year than to POP open a bottle of cava with friends?

A sparkling wine with Denominación de Origen (DO) status from Cataluña, cava can be produced throughout Spain, though about 95 per cent is from Penedes (near Barcelona) with Codorníu and Freixenet the major and best known among about 200 manufacturers.

Cava in Catalan means 'cellar' with the name officially adopted in 1970 to distinguish it from French Champagne, though only wines produced in the champagne traditional method may be labelled cava.

The primary grape is Macabeu with faint floral aromatics and slightly bitter finish; Xarel·lo has stronger floral and fruity aromas while Paralleda has high acidity and citrus flavours, creating a balanced fruity sparkling drink closer to Champagne than Prosecco.

Produced in varying lev-



CAVA: Highly versatile when paired with food.

Spanish sparkle

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



els of sweetness, the driest cava is brut nature, progressing through brut, brut reserve, seco, semiseco to

dulce which is the sweetest.

Dating back as early as 1851, cava can be white (blanc) or rosé (rosat), which is produced by adding small quantities of red wines: Cabernet Sauvignon, Garnacha or Monastrell.

Though some regard cava as an aperitif or a drink served for a toast, in fact it is highly versatile when

food pairing as it can be light and refreshing all the way up to full-bodied.

Its acidity and effervescence will compliment

a whole range of foods including poultry, cured and smoked meats, fish and seafood in addition to light desserts and spicy Asian dishes.

Cava prices range from a few euros per bottle to €30 for a Gran Reserva, though in all cases I do not believe you will be disappointed.

Happy tasting.

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Symphonic Queen on tour

WITH six tours under their belts a Symphonic Queen show which has been viewed by nearly 500,000 people sets off across Spain in the New Year.

For those who love the music of one of the greatest bands of all time, there will be just one show presented by the One World Symphonic Orchestra in the Costa del Sol during January and tickets are already on sale.

The orchestra and a huge cast of rock musicians and singers arrive at the Palacio de Congresos in La Linea de la Concepcion on Friday January 12 with tickets costing €35 each.

This promises to be an exceptional show which combines the talents of professional rock musicians and a symphony orchestra in a two-hour show which will present the music of Queen in a unique and exciting way.



| There's a kind of Magic.

Visit <https://www.queensymphonicrhapsody.com/> to find out more about the show and to view videos of past performances.

Snappy exhibition

THE Mijas Photography Group (MPG) is formed by a small group of like-minded international photography enthusiasts hailing from Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Norway and the UK who want to develop their skills and create powerful and

artistic images.

Formed in spring 2015, the group meets fortnightly in Mijas Pueblo, and members bring their photographs for discussion.

Being avid travellers, their members often return from trips abroad with excit-

ing images of their journeys.

Many of these images will be on display at the group's forthcoming exhibition at the Casa Museo de Mijas, Mijas Pueblo which opens at 8pm on Friday December 15 and remains open until Sunday January 7.

Gipsy Cannis returns to Marbella

FOR the second year running, the Gipsy Cannis exhibition will be held at the Adolfo Suárez Conference Centre in Marbella next Saturday and Sunday.

The exhibition is named by organiser Llanin Marco after her first dog Gipsy and there will be a host of interesting events including competitions for fur and beauty as well as dogs looking for adoption and fundraising for the charity Asociación Perros Azules, whose purpose is to improve the quality of hospital care for patients through interaction with therapy dogs.

The fair will begin on Saturday at 10am, with a dog walk that will leave from the Tourist Office of La Fontanilla heading towards the Conference Centre and where gifts and free tickets will be distributed for the fair itself.

There will be a range of displays over the two days which will include the canine unit of the Local Police, yoga for dogs and even fashion show and beauty shows.

A Saturday night gala starring Steve Cline will start 9pm at the Almazan restaurant in Benahavís, to raise funds for various canine associations and tickets which cost €49 per person must be reserved by calling 619 285 478 or 655 080 195.

www.gipsycannis.com

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Advertising feature

Beckett's Marbella, more than 16 years in the city

HAVING gained a reputation for providing top class service and serving high quality food time and time again it's no wonder they have been a recipient of the coveted TripAdvisor Award of Excellence several years running, including 2017.

With a warm and welcoming atmosphere the restaurant leaves no stone unturned to bring you an enjoyable dining experience and the restaurant has become a firm favourite with visitors and locals alike.

The menu, described as ‘innovative and fresh,’ has locally sourced ingredients at its core and offers both daring and simple homey dishes in the same space.

Consequently there is something to suit everyone's palette and with a focus on delivering quality and quantity, it means you never leave Beckett's hungry.

Beckett's was completely renovated and expanded two years ago to include a stand-alone bar area with a classic collection of whiskies and certainly worth a few visits to work through the list.

Designed for comfort whilst dining, first and foremost, the new interior has been styled with a refreshing mix of old and new.



The comfortable surroundings at Beckett's Marbella.

The layout now means that as a fine dining location in central Marbella it's definitely top of the list as a party option for larger groups.

Currently closed for a winter break to allow everyone to recharge their festive batteries, Beckett's reopens on Thursday December 21 when it will be open from 6pm until late, although you will need to call to check holiday times.

*Beckett's C/ Camilo José Cela, 4, 29602
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Phone: 0034 952 86 88 98

Email: info@beckettsmarbella.com

Web: <http://beckettsmarbella.com>

100 years of curing pork

THE old town of Benaolan in Malaga Province will be hosting its 15th Chacina Fair and expects 7,000 visitors to enjoy the taste and flavour of its cured pork.

There will be some 30 companies offering visitors a range of tasty pork dishes as well as a

selection of oils, preserves and handicrafts this Saturday and Sunday.

The streets of the ancient town promise to smell of the mouth-watering aroma of pork tenderloin, fried chorizo and drying hams and sausages.

As well as stands offering

these various items for sale there will be a series of tastings, children's entertainment, cooking demonstrations and even a Jamon cutting competition, plus, perhaps slightly incongruously a selection of motor scooters and vintage cars organised by Club Ronda.

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Welcome Cocktail served with a selection of hot & cold canapés

STARTER

Warm lobster salad

(1/2 lobster au gratin with Hollandaise Sauce)

+

Foie gras of the house with caramelized apple and mango vinaigrette

MAIN COURSE

Fillet of beef in cream sauce with a scent of Sherry wine served with stir-fried rice with mushrooms, pine nuts and grapes.

Sole in shellfish sauce served with fresh vegetables.

Shoulder of baby lamb (Chef's specialty) in its own juice with herbs served with sautéed potatoes, peppers and tomatoes.

DESSERT

Pineapple carpaccio with coconut ice cream.

Chocolate fondant with fresh fruit

(Children under 12 - 50% discount)

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Roast duck with orange sauce

English roast beef with Yorkshire pudding & horseradish sauce

Served with all the trimmings:

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Advertising feature

The Scottish Butcher - helping you enjoy the Festive Season

ALTHOUGH important, Christmas Day is just one of a number of festive celebrations which can be enjoyed at home with the family.

Many people love to get together on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and even Three Kings, so make sure you put your meat orders in early to ensure you get the best range of meats for all of your celebration dinners.

The Scottish Butcher in Fuengirola is ready to supply some of the best free range turkeys, but can also offer rolled turkey breast, large fresh chickens, gammon joints, fresh legs of lamb, sausage meat, stuffing, chipolatas, rolled pork with crackling, rolled rib of beef, rolled sirloin and much more - all at affordable prices.

All of their meat is sourced from natural farms and supplied locally, with no additives or colouring added, so not only do you get the freshest and tastiest meat around, but you can really taste the difference!

Owner, Scott Gray says his secret is "hanging the beef prior to selling it, this makes sure the meat is tender and has loads of flavour."

At the Scottish Butcher, they also stock all your favourite British condiments to add the finishing



A wide range of quality meat at The Scottish Butcher.

touches to the perfect dinner. Sea salt, apple sauce, mint sauce, traditional horseradish and of course cranberry sauce which goes so well with turkey.

Scott, who has been a butcher for over 30 years in Fuengirola, says: "We like to get orders in nice and early so that we can make sure everyone gets what they need for their Christmas dinner and none of our customers are left disappointed."

"Customers travel from all over the coast to buy from us, because we can deliver high quality meats, fabulous free range turkeys at reasonable

prices and being Scottish, our two week hung beef has all the flavour and tenderness you need."

Call The Scottish Butcher now on 952 467 743 to discuss all that you need to order in advance or visit Scott and his team at the Mercacento, Avda. Jesus Santos Rein, 29640, Fuengirola between 8.30am and 2.30pm daily except Sunday.

The Mercacento car park offers free parking from 9am to 2.30pm for customers so you can place your order by phone and then when ready, collect your meat without any hassle.

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bookings for
Xmas and
New Year's
Eve



Photo Credit: EWN Media Group

Dining at La Sala Puerto Banus.

Get your Sala Group rewards card for Christmas

SUCCESSFUL Marbella-based hospitality company Sala Group has pledged to give away €250,000 to their loyal customers for Christmas.

The idea is to thank the local community for all their support as La Sala Banus enters its eighth year as the only social and dining venue on the coast with live music 365 days a year.

Sala Group therefore relaunched their Rewards loyalty card and as a special offer every one of the 13,000 Rewards members who exchange their old card will au-

tomatically receive a bonus worth €20 in points with a total of €250,000 available.

This €20 can be spent in any of the Sala Group venues including the famed La Sala Banus, La Sala By The Sea, OAK Garden and Grill, Mahiki Beach, and as an additional bonus La Sala Chigwell in Essex.

The original card wasn't accepted in every one of the venues mentioned above, however this new and improved card can be used in them all and you can collect points and then spend them at the venue of your choos-

ing.

For the first time also you will be able to accumulate your spend. The equivalent of 10 per cent of your bill will be allocated in points for the equivalent amount and added directly onto the card enabling you to save up for future spend.

Why not use your points during this festive season and celebrate your Christmas party at La Sala, or save your points and treat yourself to a spa day at La Sala by the Sea?

To keep track of your current points you will be able

to check your total online at www.SalaRewards.com.

The cards can be picked up at La Sala Puerto Banus so either trade in your old card now to receive your €20 bonus, or for those who are not current members, just pick up a card today and start collecting your points.

The Sala Rewards card is sponsored by the new luxury villa development - The Heights at La Resina Golf, which is an estate of 11 unique private villas in a secured gated golf and country club www.theheightsatlaresinagolf.com.



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We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

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Advertising feature

Christmas and New Year with Da Bruno Mijas

QUALITY Italian food is always a delight but when it is combined with Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations, you know it is going to be very special.

Closed on Christmas Eve, Da Bruno Mijas is offering a superb three-course set Christmas Day menu at just €39.90 inclusive of tax but reservations have to be made in advance.

New Year's Eve is going to be very special with a fantastic selection of appetisers followed by a starter, main course and desSert, a welcome glass of Prosecco, wines, beers and soft drinks during the meal, Champagne and lucky grapes at midnight together with a party bag and live music.

The evening promises to be a real, great start to 2018 and is

bound to be quickly booked with tickets costing €129 including tax with children being offered a 50 per cent discount.

If you can't make either of those special events, the restaurant will be open as usual offering its extensive menu and as well as live music daily, there are three great special performances with the Ollie Hughes Take That Tribute tonight (tonight) then there is the Broadway Show the following Thursday and on December 21 you can catch the Il Divo Tribute by Senza Catene.

Situated in the Centro Idea on the Fuengirola to Mijas road, Da Bruno Mijas is a fantastic example of a family eatery offering exceptional Italian food of all types with regular special seasonal menus.



The restaurant is open from noon to midnight, seven days a week but also goes that extra step to offer a take away option or free delivery between Fuengirola and Mijas Pueblo provided the order costs €15 or more.

Delivery is available from

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Tuesday 12th December	Wednesday 13th December	
20:45 Burnley v Stoke City	20:45 Newcastle Utd v Everton	20:45 Hibernian v Rangers
21:00 Crystal Palace v Watford	20:45 Southampton v Leicester City	21:00 Liverpool v West Bromwich Albion
21:00 Huddersfield Town v Chelsea	20:45 Swansea City v Manchester City	21:00 Manchester Utd v Bournemouth
		21:00 Tottenham v Brighton & Hove Albion
		21:00 West Ham United v Arsenal

Check out our Facebook page for more information on all our events and sports fixtures

Year as



Elegant surroundings and delicious food at Da Bruno Mijas.

food available which includes rice, pizza, pasta, fish, meat and even drinks as well as the full and extensive dining menu for those who wish to visit the restaurant.

There are regular special offers and there is also the Da Bruno VIP card which not only gives you the chance to accumulate points at the Da Bruno Restaurants, but also offers you great discounts from a range of associated companies.

Membership is free and all you need to do is to complete a simple form next time you visit Da Bruno Mijas (although it should be noted that the card is not valid on New Year's Eve).

Bookings aren't always necessary except for special events but to ensure that you won't have to wait for a table call 952 460 724 or 673 016 181, email mijascosta@dabruno.com or reserve through their website, www.dabrunomijas.es/reservar.

Monday to Saturday 12.30am to 4.30pm and then 7.30pm to 11.30pm although times may vary slightly during Christmas week.

If you visit the Da Bruno Mijas web site www.dabrunomijas.es you will be able to see the wide range of take away

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Thursday Dec 7

■ Age Concern meet every Thursday from 11.00-13.00 at the Pensionista building in Los Boliches. They are located above the indoor market and just around the corner from Los Boliches station. They look forward to seeing you. Lifeline 652 537 615.

■ Language exchange workshop: free, every week from 9.30-11.30am in the Pensioners Centre in Las Lagunas. For more information contact 952 890 010 or frd@mijas.es.

■ Los Jueves al Casco: Every week from 8am-12 noon enjoy special discounts, live music, free tastings and more in Marbella Old Town.

■ Rio Verde Villa Romana Ruins: free guided tour from 11am to 1pm. Calle del Mar, Marbella.

■ Rotary Club: meets every week at 2pm during lunch at Cortijo de Ramiro, Calle 11, Urb Guadalmina Baja, San Pedro de Alcantara. Please contact lizzie@marriageweddingservices.com to book a place.

■ San Pedro street market: Every week from 9am-2pm, Calle Jorge Guillen.

■ American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.aces-tepona.org.

■ Walking Football: every week from 10.30am at the Estadio Santa Maria in Elviria. Visit www.walkingfootballspain.com for details.

Friday Dec 8

■ Age Concern meet every



DO NOT MISS....

La Gran Feria Sabor a Malaga, Paseo del Parque, Malaga capital, Dec 7-10

MALAGA capital's 'La Gran Feria Sabor' - or Great Taste Fair - will be held at the Paseo del Parque and will feature 90 farmers and wholesalers and four catering companies.

The fair is a great opportunity to sample the region's best produce including honey, oil, olives,

cheese, dried fruits, wine, craft beers, cured meats and much, much more.

There will also be competitions, presentations, tastings, raffles, workshops and cooking demonstrations.

Renowned chefs will offer live workshops and



Photo by Agro Periodico/Facebook

BAKE OFF: A baker shows off his wares at last year's La Gran Feria Sabor in Malaga.

cooking demonstrations, including Roberto Soler, director of the Taste Cooking School of Torre del Mar, Sergio Garrido, Aitor Perurena and Carlos Bjork, Japanese cuisine expert and finalist of the

2016 Sushi World Championship in Japan.

Other free activities include nougat making workshops, tutorials on making traditional Malaga sweets and classes on baking healthy bread.

Friday from 11.30-13.00 at Bar Conrisa in the centre of La Cala de Mijas. They are located behind Supersol and there is plenty of free parking. They look forward to seeing you. Lifeline 652 537 615.

■ Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 12.30pm at the Hogar del Jubilado in Los Boliches, Fuengirola. For more information contact 635 407 255.

■ Christian Basilica of San Pedro de Alcantara: From 11am-1pm, free guided tour of one of the oldest Christian churches on the Iberian Peninsula. Calle Vega del Mar, San Pedro de Alcantara.

■ Royal British Legion: Benejarafe branch meets every Friday from 12.30-

2.30pm at Restaurante Puerta Niza, Carretera Nacional 340A Km 263.7 offering emotional and financial help to those who have served in the Armed Forces.

■ American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.aces-tepona.org.

■ University of the Third Age Costa del Sol: play Mah Jong every week from 10am-1pm at the PYR Hotel in Fuengirola. For more information contact +34 633 552 238 or visit www.u3a-fuengirolacostadel-sol.com.

Saturday December 8

Flamenco show: free every Wednesday and Saturday

from 12-1pm in Plaza Virgen de la Peña, Mijas Pueblo.

■ Organic market: Every week from 10am-1pm at Guadalhorce - Las Chapas.

■ Puerto Banus street market: Every week from 9am-2pm near the bull ring in Nueva Andalucia.

■ Triple A: Every week volunteer dog walkers required between 10am and 3pm at Calle Carril de la Mina 33 in Marbella. For more information contact 952 771 586.

■ American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.aces-tepona.org.

Sunday Dec 9

■ Benahavis second-hand market: Every week from 9am to 2pm, located 1km before the village on the right hand side of the road.

■ University of the Third Age: Every week coffee morning from 11.30am to 1pm at the Primavera Bar, Paseo Marítimo, Los Boliches. For more information contact : 679 516 654 or visit www.u3a-fuengirolacostadel-sol.com.

■ Sunday market La Trocha Coin. Every week. Over 200 stalls. All welcome. For more info call 618 826 852.

Monday Dec 10

■ Royal Air Forces Association introduces a Coffee Morning social: every first Monday of the month. 12pm Restaurante Venta los Morenos, Alhaurin el

Grande.

■ Royal Air Forces Association also pleased to invite you to afternoon social third Monday of the month at 2pm. Bar El Jardin, Avenida Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel, Benalmadena. Quiz with prize and raffle with all proceeds going to the association to help with welfare work.

■ Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 12.30pm at La Iglesia Bar in Benalmadena. Drop in for a chat and to share experiences. For more information contact 635 407 255.

■ RAF Association Costa del Sol: social meeting, first Monday of the month, at 12pm in Restaurante Los Morenos, Alhaurin el Grande. For more information contact secretary@rafa-costadelsol.co.uk.

■ American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.aces-tepona.org.

■ Walking Football: every week from 7.30pm at the El Retamar pitch by the Butterfly Park in Benalmadena. Visit www.walkingfootballspain.com for details.

■ 'Are you affected by someone's drinking?' Al-anon Family Groups hold a meeting at 8.30pm in the Divina Pastora church rooms (Calle Juan Breva 2), Marbella. Confidential helpline: 602 553 470.

Tuesday Dec 11

■ Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 1pm at the International Baptist Church in Calahonda. For more information contact 635 407 255.

■ Arroyo Social and Welfare Club meets every Tuesday at Agata Apartments Arroyo de la Miel 11.30am for 12 noon start. There is a raffle, quiz, and a game such as Play Your Cards Right, plus extras! For more information call Anthia on 634 157 042.

■ Costa Women Business Group: meets every second Tuesday at 09.30 until 11.30 for business networking in La Cala. For more information contact Ali 677 251 058.

■ Fuengirola Ukulele Singalong Group: meets every Tuesday 8pm at Cabaret Club in Fuengirola (next to Bioparc Zoo).

■ Language exchange workshop: free, every week from 9.30-11.30am in the Pensioners Centre in Mijas village. For more information contact 952 890 010 or frd@mijas.es.

■ The Good Companions Club meets every Tuesday in Manila Bar, Paseo Marítimo, Los Boliches 12- 1.30pm. For more information contact Tony White on 952 494 730.

■ The Good Vibrations: singing sessions every week from 7.30pm at Huber Plateforme de Arte, Calle San Antonio, Estepona. Cost €10 per session or €8 per session for a block of six sessions. For more information find Your Voice Vocal Studio on Facebook.

■ American Club of Es-

tepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.aces-tepona.org.

■ Walking Football: every week from 8pm on the five-a-side pitches at the Estadio de San Pedro in San Pedro de Alcantara. Visit www.walkingfootballspain.com for details.

Wednesday Dec 12

■ The Royal British Legion: Torremolinos Branch meets every Wednesday in the Vanilla Bar in Plaza la Nogalera Torremolinos (opp the railway station) from 12.30pm.

■ Age Care Association: Weekly coffee morning from 11am to 12.30pm at the Salon Varietes Theatre in Fuengirola. For more information contact 635 407 255.

■ Flamenco show: free every Wednesday and Saturday from 12-1pm in Plaza Virgen de la Peña, Mijas Pueblo.

■ Language exchange workshop: free, every week from 9.30-11.30am in the Pensioners Centre in La Cala. For more information contact 952 890 010 or frd@mijas.es.

■ Malaga Picasso Museum: guided tours in English every Wednesday at 11.30am. Entry €8, children under 18 go free.

■ Parent and baby coffee mornings: every week from 11am-1pm at Mundo Mania, Cancelada. Entry €5 and includes coffee and two hours of play in the baby and toddler play frame.

■ TIMS (The International Music Society) Choir: rehearsals every week from 7-9.30pm in St Andrews Church, Los Boliches. A very friendly group of different nationalities. For more information contact 654 891 790.

■ American Club of Estepona (ACE [all nationalities welcome]): Open Mon-Sat, 1-4pm. Calle San Roque 65 (three blocks west of old bus station). For more information contact 952 793 059 (club times) or www.aces-tepona.org.

Winter cold has arrived, time to make your warm fireside sanctuary

GRAEME TYRRELL

IF you are fortunate enough to have a well constructed fireplace or wood burning heater, it is a wonderful asset for keeping warm during the short days and long nights of winter.

Gardeners have an advantage for having a supply of wood to burn from their own garden while improving the health of their garden. It is the right time to prune deciduous trees and shrubs in winter and this can be a great source of kindling and logs for your fire.

The Mediterranean trees that provide the best firewood are olives, almond, carob and to a lesser extent pine. They are readily available from the regular pruning on farmland and larger gardens but if you have some of these trees in your garden you will have ready access to your own supply.

An enclosed fireplace that prevents sparks from flying out makes the range of wood that can be burned extended. Wood such as pine and cypress can spit out sparks profusely, but burn well with plenty of heat if well managed.

Many other trees and shrubs can also be used



REGULAR PRUNING: Cut wood to size for use in the fireplace.

such as citrus, mulberry, holm oak, hackberry, grape vine branches and they will give various amounts of heat and lengths of time to burn according to the characteristics of the wood.

It is a long term process to prepare firewood as living wood pruned off the trees is better left a year to dry out before burning to reduce their

moisture level. Dead wood pruned off the trees can be used straight away.

It is easiest to cut logs to size when still green as the saw will have less difficulty to cut through them as the moisture acts as a lubricant for the saw. The opposite is true for splitting wood as the drying process makes sawn logs shrink and

crack naturally making split larger logs much easier.

I find it easiest to prune with creating firewood in mind so I cut the branches to fireplace size as I prune. This makes it easier to transport the prepared logs and branches straight to the wood shed ready made.

Even with all the trees I have, I still need to buy wood to keep the fireplace burning 24/7 during the coldest months but I appreciate that the cost of firewood is usually justified when you understand the time it takes for trees to grow and the work to prepare, store and transport it for the wonder of a living fire to keep warm.

The ash from a fireplace can also be a benefit for the garden as a natural soil improvement. It should not be used in excess as it is very alkaline and is best used in combination with plenty of compost and manures that are more acidic to keep the soil ph balance neutral when adding the ash.

It is great for improving the soil texture which makes it easier to dig and provides loads of carbon which is important for storing nutrition from the other organic fertiliser added to the garden.

Decorate like a pro

By Sally Underwood

DO YOU dream of a perfect Christmas tree?

You know, the kind you see in shop windows, complete with tasteful colour palettes, perfectly spaced baubles and discreet lighting?

If the perfect tree has so far eluded you, you are in luck because *House and Garden* has shared its advice for decorating your tree like an editor.

Deputy decoration editor Ruth Sleightholme says there are five steps to creating a fairy tale Christmas tree, beginning with choosing the right fairy lights. She explains, "a Christmas tree can appear as a bit of a dark hulk without them. Always choose 'warm white' lights rather than colder tones, these are so much cosier and less brash."

Next, she advises using two sets which you can connect to each other to save the hassle of working with two sets, as well as pushing lights deep into the tree's branches, hiding any cables and creating a subtle twinkling effect.

Sleightholme says adding foliage such as pale Eucalyptus or Ruscus will add visual depth as well as variety. She advises, "simply stuff the boughs of foliage into the tree, making it appear fuller and more generous."

On top of this, the editor recommends using simple decorations, choosing two or three designs.

Ruth says your tree will have the most impact if "these elements contrast," such as using red and gold.

Lastly, she suggests keeping the size of your decorations

to scale with your tree, adding "you never need as many as you think for an impactful look."

If you have a tiny tree, she says, "miniature decorations would look adorable."



FAIRY TALE: A beautiful Christmas tree.



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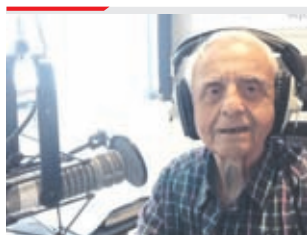
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Puppy love



PUGTASTIC: It is important to socialise your puppy from the get-go.

I HOPE you have not purchased a puppy from the internet or pet shops, if so expect your puppy to have health problems. If you have answered a newspaper advertisement I hope you saw the mother.

If you have a puppy I do hope that your vet has recommended a good puppy class for you to attend if not then in my opinion you have the wrong vet.

Your new member of the family is cuddly, pretty and being spoilt! Your puppy is making toilet mistakes and possibly started to chew up anything in site!

The main problem is that if the

truth be known you really do not know anything about your new member of the family. It is well

recorded that one of the most attentive times is when you buy your puppy. You will listen and remember

what was told to you by the 'breeder' who often knows very little about health, feeding, behaviour or train-

ing. Most if not all have no qualifications and the end result is that you are doing most things wrong.

Your next outing will be your first visit to the vet for inoculations and an examination. You will most probably buy a collar and lead, believe me it will be the wrong type, and toys, please do not buy a harness.

Your vet should be familiar with local training schools and should recommend you to a puppy class which is vital for both you and the puppy's future. A vet that does not recommend a puppy class (many run their own puppy classes) is really out of date therefore you should seek another vet.

So what is a puppy class?

Many people do not think it important to go to a puppy class, however in my opinion it is vital to attend and is good for your morale as you realise you are not alone in your suffering. There is so much you need to know and a good class will first calm you down as well as your puppy. You will now realise that your puppy is perfectly normal and you will be given so much information about correct feeding, handling, advice on the correct collar and leash as so many of you do get it wrong.

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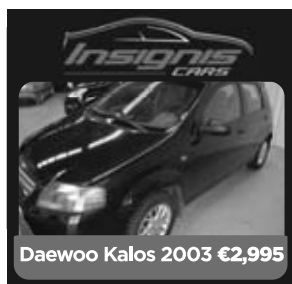
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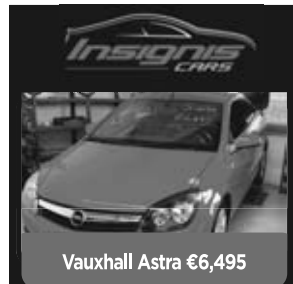


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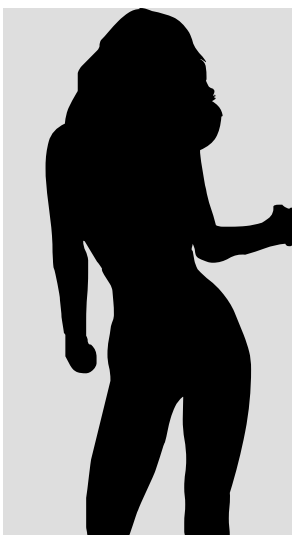
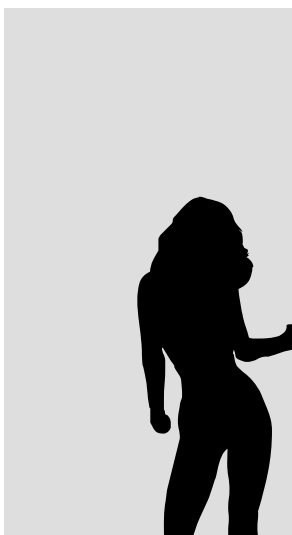
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Marlon has previously spent nine years at other companies offering airport parking and services and Niek has worked as an auto mechanic and painter. Realising they could combine their talents, focusing on high customer service and satisfaction, they came together to form Luxu Parking.

Basing their company policy on providing the best service possible, they pride themselves on guaranteed punctuality, always arriving early, ready to meet clients at the meeting point for vehicle drop-offs and pick-ups.

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They have annual parking packages available from just €499 for the 'silver pack' which includes a total of 12 stays and exterior wash for your vehicle if

parked outside or €799 if parked inside.

Their 'gold pack' which covers 12 stays and 12 valets costs €599 for outside parking and €999 inside.

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**Clarkson
Quote of the Week**

Telling people at a dinner party you drive a Nissan Almera is like telling them you have Ebola and are about to sneeze."

Some might say...



Mini's electric marvel LA's British invasion

By Matthew Elliott

MINI brought its new Electric Concept to the Los Angeles Auto Show this week. It was the US debut for the British brand's latest creation.

Alongside the Electric Concept, Mini also wooed the American audience with 10 different models. Its Ice Blue Edition is designed exclusively for the American market and was paraded alongside the Mini Hardtop 4 and new Mini Convertible.

But Mini's venture into the emerging electric market was the most anticipated moment of the show. The Electric Concept is



Photo by Mini

NIFTY: Electric Mini will redefine small car market.

powered by a lithium-ion battery, emits zero emissions and is more mobile than the original, while maintaining the distinctive Mini look.

Large scale production of the Mini Electric is slated for early 2019, exactly 60 years after the classic Mini invaded British streets.

It will be released alongside hybrid plug-in model, the Mini Cooper S E Countryman ALL4. The hybrid Countryman can reach a top speed of 78mph on the electric motor alone. It switches into combustion mode when high performance is needed. Speeds of up to

189mph are possible.

Another British brand has raised eyebrows at the LA Convention Centre. Land Rover has released what has been described as the most luxurious Range Rover in history. The SV Autobiography is an SUV with a luxury interior including power-close door, a hot stone massage option, bountiful leg space, 4G wifi, wine bottle holders, and a fridge.

There is a plug-in hybrid version and a 4.4 litre SDV8 turbo-charged diesel option. Prices start at around £170,000 (€193,000). The SV Autobiography comes with its own signature watch for an extra €5,000.

Fastest Jag in town

THERE is a new fastest four-door production car on the planet. The Jaguar XE SV Project 8 supersaloon sped around Germany's Nurburgring Nordschleife track in a record time of seven minutes and 21.23 seconds.

The track is regularly used as a speed test for supercars. But the road legal Jaguar XE SV Project 8 would beat famous rivals, including the Ferrari Enzo and Porsche Carrera GT.

With a 600hp engine, the engineers behind Project 8 claim it has a top speed of 200mph and can reach 60mph from a dead start in just 3.3 seconds.

Jaguar call it "the most track-focused road legal Jaguar in history." The British firm are keeping production limited to just 300 vehicles. Prices begin at just under £150,000 (€170,000).

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Lamborghini unveil their new SUV

LAMBORGHINI have launched their new SUV, named the Urus, claiming that it will be the world's first 'Super Sports Utility Vehicle.' The five-seater Urus has a 650-horsepower 4.0 litre V8 twin-turbo engine and will travel from 0-62mph in just 3.6 seconds and will also reach speeds of 190mph

Costing around €170,000, the Italian super-car giants are set to release the vehicle next year, with the first customers expected to receive their vehicles by spring 2018.

The Urus becomes the brand's first SUV since it built the LM002 between 1986 and 1993.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Peugeot 5008 GT Line

MULTI-PURPOSE vehicles are declining in popularity as larger SUV models begin to dominate and a new contender has just been launched which will certainly shake up the SUV sector.

The new Peugeot 5008 is a seven-seater with a lot of visual cachet, a spacious interior and styling cues from its already popular 3008 stablemate.

Priced from €27,385 (£24,495), the new 5008 is radically different from its predecessor and is certain to attract a raft of younger family buyers who like charismatic street image yet with day to day practicality.

The 5008 sets a new benchmark for quality cabin materials and standard of fit and finish for the brand and inside and out, this new

model has a wow factor.

The engine range mirrors that of the smaller 3008,

Peugeot 5008 GT Line.

which uses the same platform, and embraces petrol and diesel units with varying power outputs, with manual and auto gearboxes available.

There are four trim levels and a 30cm (12 inch) display screen is standard on all models, as is a touch-screen info system, climate control and parking sensors.

On the road, the 5008 drives smoothly and is very composed on the corners, with minimal body roll. The car has a smaller than usual steering wheel which looks and feels a little odd but you quickly get used to it. Driving position is great, with good forward visibility, and very supportive seating and well-balanced suspension combine to make the 5008 very comfortable.

My test model was a top-spec GT Line model with a 2.0 litre 148 hp diesel engine and six-speed manual transmission.

The 0-100 kph time of 9.6 seconds is nippy for this class of vehicle, and top speed is 207 kph (129 mph). Fuel economy is very good at 21.7 kpl (61.4 mpg).

The GT Line model, priced at €34,931 (£31,245), has a lot of extra kit including keyless entry and push-button start, adaptive cruise control, leather seats, diamond-cut alloys, panoramic glass roof and

Stats panel

Model:
Peugeot 5008 GT Line

Engine:
2.0 litre diesel

Transmission:
6 speed manual

Performance:
0-100 kph 9.6 seconds,
top speed 207 kph (129 mph)

Economy:
21.7 kpl (61.4 mpg)

Emissions:
118g/km

multi-point massage facility on driver's seat.

With seats folded, load capacity is a massive 2,150 litres.

The new 5008 takes on established rivals such as the Renault Grand Scenic and newcomers such as the Skoda Kodiaq, and is certainly going to give those - and other rivals - a hard time in the sector's sales battle.

Model tested was UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.



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Rocket Man's revenge



Photo by Twitter

TINY DANCER: Sir Elton with his luxury wheels.

A BENTLEY once owned by Sir Elton John is up for auction. The S1 Continental Sport Saloon is being offered up to wealthy collectors at the Bonhams Bond Street sale.

Rocket Man bought the car in 1976, when it was almost 20 years old. He spent a small fortune renovating the car

he described as 'the most beautiful ever designed.'

The 1957 Saloon was soon equipped with air con, power steering and a state-of-the-art stereo system. In the early 2000s he sold it to businessman Sir Alan Sugar at a Christie's sale. Sugar paid more than €200,000 for the car. Later he famously re-

marked: "Elton John stitched me up with this Bentley. I bought it at auction, on the phone. Bid against myself I reckon."

Sugar made a loss on the car when he sold it six years later. But in 2017 it is expected to fetch between €450,000 and €550,000 as the classic car market enjoys a lucrative revival.



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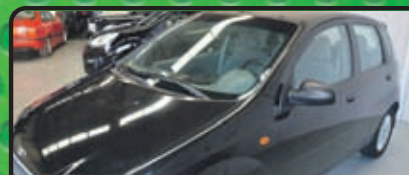
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with Andrew Atkinson

DAVID DE GEA believes that Spain's hopes in the 2018 World Cup in Russia have been improved under Julen Lopetegui having replaced Vicente Del Bosque.

Group B sees 2010 winners Spain and current European champions Portugal, captained by Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo, meet in a mouth-watering fixture.

Spain's Group B opponents are Portugal, Morocco and Iran and De Gea, who replaced Iker Casillas as Spain's number one goalkeeper, said: "We are better organised under Lopetegui."

Lopetegui dropped captain Casillas, who has a team-record 167 matches for Spain, for the start of 2018 World Cup qualifying games.

Casillas, who made his international debut in 2000, wore the No. 1 jersey when Spain won three major titles; the 2010 World Cup; and the 2008 and 2012 European Championships.

Defending World Cup Champions

Spain flopped in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil with Casillas, having a nightmare tournament.

Del Bosque's faith in players who won the World Cup in 2010 backfired, namely Xavi, Alonso, Pique, Torres and Casillas.

De la Bosque knew the consequences of his future as national manager - underlined with a shock 5-1 defeat against the Netherlands - despite say-

ing they were not falling apart.

Spain unceremoniously made an exit from the 2014 World Cup, following a 2-0 defeat against Chile, the end of an era, after winning the World Cup and two straight European Championships.

Spain's key players include Real Madrid star midfielder Isco who has impressed during qualifying, with six goals in Spain's past seven matches. Isco has seven goals in 23 appearances.

Spain have a plethora of Premier League players in Juan Mata (Manchester United), Nacho Monreal (Arsenal), Alvaro Morata (Chelsea), De Gea (Manchester United), Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea), Ander Herrera (Manchester United), Pedro (Chelsea) and David Silva (Man-

chester City).

Lopetegui, appointed in July 2016, who is unbeaten in 13 matches, won the European Championships with Spain's U21s and U19s.

"We go into games with more intensity and are more organised," De Gea said of coach Lopetegui, who replaced Del Bosque as national team coach.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez remains keen to lure de Gea, 26, to the Bernabeu after the 2018 World Cup, following a proposed move collapsed in 2015.

De Gea, settled at Old Trafford, joined Manchester United from Atletico Madrid in 2011, and earns £200,000 a week, having signed a new deal.

If De Gea - whose current contract with United ends in 2019 - departs, Red's boss Jose Mourinho has been linked with a move for Barcelona's Marc Andre Ter-Stegen.

Ter-Stegen, who has a €160 million release clause in his contract, took the jersey of Claudio Bravo at the Nou Camp, following his departure to Manchester City in 2016.

The opening game of the World Cup features hosts Russia against Saudi Arabia in Group A on June 14.



SPAIN'S NUMBER ONE:
David de Gea.

World Cup 2018 draw

Group A:
Russia, Uruguay, Egypt, Saudi Arabia

Group B:
Portugal, Spain, Iran, Morocco

Group C:
France, Peru, Denmark, Australia

Group D:
Argentina, Croatia, Iceland, Nigeria

Group E:
Brazil, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Serbia

Group F:
Germany, Mexico, Sweden, Korea Republic

Group G:
Belgium, England, Tunisia, Panama

Group H:
Poland, Colombia, Senegal, Japan

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UKSPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

Premier League

SPAIN and Manchester United midfielder Ander Herrera is keeping focused on winning trophies ahead of the 2018 World Cup.

"We are optimistic of fighting for every title this season," said Herrera, ahead of United's derby clash against Manchester City on Sunday.

City are leading the Premier League title race but now that United have a fully fit squad available Herrera warned: "It's great to have players back."

Paul Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Marcos Rojo and Marouane Fellaini have returned to the fold after injury and Herrera said: "With them in the squad we are stronger."

Meanwhile Spain midfielder and World Cup winner Juan Mata has praised United teammate Marcus Rashford: "Marcus is something special - a great mentality - and great qualities," said Mata.

Liverpool host Everton at Anfield on Sunday with Toffees new boss Sam Allardyce chewing over his hopes after signing an 18-month contract at Goodison Park.

"I've taken over the reins to bring stability - I want to do much more - it's my job to get among the European places, the FA Cup final or League Cup final," said Allardyce.

Premier League fixtures: (Saturday) West Ham v Chelsea; Spurs v Stoke; Burnley v Watford; Newcastle v Chelsea; Swansea v WBA; Crystal Palace v Bournemouth; Huddersfield v Brighton.

Sunday: Manchester United v Manchester City; Southampton v Arsenal; Liverpool v Everton.

We go to the World Cup to try and win - Rashford and Mourinho say England have a chance

2018 World Cup

with Andrew Atkinson

ENGLAND'S 2018 World Cup hopes are alive and kicking with Manchester United ace Marcus Rashford ready to head for Russia for the Finals next summer.

"We are doing our best to go there with a real plan and intensity to try and win the tournament," said Rashford.

England have been drawn with Belgium, Tunisia and Panama in World Cup Group G with their opening game against Tunisia in Volgograd on June 18.

England meet Panama, playing in their first ever World Cup, in Novgorod on June 24, and play their final group match against top seeds Belgium in Kaliningrad on June 28.

Rashford, who has been in the England fold under three

managers in Gareth Southgate, Sam Allardyce and Roy Hodgson, said: "The players are gelling in a whole different way."

Southgate was appointed as England manager in November 2016, and Rashford, axed from England's squad by new Everton boss Allardyce, said: "The set-up, aim and vision of where we want to go is much better."

England appear to have a great chance of reaching the last 16 in the 2018 World Cup and Rashford, 20, said: "We have to build our own plan once we get to the World Cup, to try and win it."

England qualified for the World Cup without losing a game in qualifying and Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho believes they go to Russia with hope.

"England must have a chance. There's a great generation of players at different ages and with different qualities,"

said Mourinho.

"They have good experience at club level, playing in the Premier League and in the Champions League. England have great potential," said Mourinho.

With the busy December schedule - United were in action against CSKA Moscow in the Champions League on Tuesday - and Rashford said: "It's great to have all the games. We take one game at a time."

United, who last won the Premier League title under Sir Alex Ferguson in 2013, finished sixth last season; winning the League Cup and Europa League under Mourinho.

United host arch rivals and Premier League leaders Manchester City on Sunday; Bournemouth on December 13; travel to West Brom on December 17 and play Bristol City in the League Cup quarter final on December 20.

"By the time it gets to Christmas, it calms down a bit. You

start to see pathways - to certain tournaments - and trophies," said Rashford.

Rashford, who joined United's Academy aged seven, said: "You don't start to think about England until you start playing in the England youth team. That's when you start to dream about moments like this."

Rashford has been encouraged by England 1966 World Cup winning star and United legend Sir Bobby Charlton, 80, selected for four World Cups, who won 106 caps.

"Someone who has won it before - that's the biggest inspiration we can have as players," said Rashford.

Despite avoiding 2018 World Cup joint-favourites Brazil and Germany in the Group draw England boss Southgate was cautious.

"We've been good at writing teams off - and getting beat - we're going to make sure we're prepared," said Southgate.

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Weekly News

with
Ron Garrood



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VALENCIA suffered their first defeat of the season as they were beaten 1-0 by 10-man Getafe on Saturday. The result leaves Los Ches five points adrift of league leaders Barcelona and just a point ahead of third placed Atletico Madrid.

The Costa Del Sol's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

TWENTY teams entered the newly formatted President's Fours this year held at Santa Maria Bowls Club.

Excellent bowling was seen on the first day by the many spectators, with several games being won by just one shot.

When Saturday arrived, keen bowlers gathered to play the semi-finals. Amber Dineen, Tony Land, Lennie Dineen and skip, Barbara Land after their good win in the quarter finals played well but could not match the team from La Posada.

Julie Banfield, Ted Hughes, Allen Gateshill

President's Fours at Santa Maria

and Jeff Rowe who finished up with 16 shots to 12. The other semi-final was between Jeff Turner's team and John Warn's team and

ended in John's team running out at 19 shots to 11.

The final was a game of two halves with the

Santa Maria team of Dine Warn, John Bell, Susan Walker and John Warn leaping into a 12 - 3 lead but on losing the jack, the La Posada team changed the length and won end after end.

On the 16th end, both teams were equal but with fantastic leading from Julie Banfield the La Posada team gained their victory and were crowned President's Fours champions.

Pat Fisher, President of Santa Maria presented the finalists with their medals and the champions, Julie Banfield, Ted Holmes, Allen Gateshill and Jeff Rowe from La Posada were presented with their medals and the Trophy.

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