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# Taking the rap

by Joe Gerrard

Spain's Supreme Court has ruled in favour of a National Court sentence of three and a half years in prison for the Mallorcan rapper Valtoneyc.

The rapper, whose real name is Josep Miguel Arenas, was found guilty of glorifying terrorism, insulting the Spanish crown and inciting violence against politicians in some of his songs.

Arenas argued during the appeal against the sentence that his lyrics were protected under the right to free expression and that they

were not offensive.

The Second Chamber of the court rejected his defence, ruling that the lyrics lauded terror groups such as the ETA and GRAPO and slandered the former king Juan Carlos I.

The court added the rapper's songs contained explicit death threats aimed at politicians and that such content was not protected under free speech laws.

Arenas said he was being put in prison for speaking out against oppression and persecution in Spain which he added was and continues to be a "fascist state."

"I'm going to lose my job, be away from my family and friends for expressing myself," he said in a statement.

Juan Manuel Olarieta, the rapper's lawyer, said he would seek to appeal the sentence before Spain's Constitutional court in a bid to have it overturned.

The lyrics cited by the court in their ruling included ones which said the Mallorcan politician Jorge Campos deserved a "bomb of nuclear destruction."

More than 200 cultural figures including writers and actors have said signed a letter in support of Arenas.

**UPHELD:** Arenas, who performs under the name Valtoneyc, had his appeal refused by Spain's Supreme Court.

## Russian drugs ring busted

THE trial of the Russian mafia in Mallorca has begun with the absence of its leader.

Two of the defendants, Mikhaili Rebo and Leonid Khazine, have had their prison sentences reduced to two years and 19 months respectively. They are part of an 18-strong Russian cartel called Tambovskaya which established itself on the island.

The court case started on February 19 without Gennadios Petrov, the head of the organisation who was arrested in his house in Calvia.

The Prosecution intends to fine Rebo €1.6 million, and Khazine (who had mitigating circumstances) €26,000.

Lawyers for the defendants argued for their acquittal on the first day, but prosecutors produced nearly 500 pages of indictments in response.

According to the prosecution, the criminal group consisted of individuals from Russia, the US, Switzerland and others in Europe who settled in the Balearics and the Costa del Sol.

Among other activities, the ring was guilty of murder, arms trafficking, extortion, fraud, forged documents, bribery, drugs trafficking and giving out 'beatings by order.'

See us on page 22



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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Jail request for hacker**

A WOMAN accused of illegally accessing her ex-boyfriend's emails has appeared in court where she said she opened his account accidentally, with prosecutors requesting two and half years in prison if she is found guilty.

**Drugs arrest**

THREE men who allegedly trafficked marijuana were arrested after police caught two of them getting into a van loaded with plants from a building in Son Gotleu.

**Worker hurt**

A 46-YEAR-OLD has been injured after falling into a gravel tank at work where he remained for half an hour before emergency services arrived and took him to hospital with leg injuries and breathing problems.

# Dusty demolition angers locals



Photo by Hosteltur / Twitter

by Tom Woods

RESIDENTS of Avenida Fra Joan Llabres, in Palma, have slammed the council for the collateral impact of the demolition of Playa Park Hotel.

Blankets of gravel and dust have covered their cars in the parking lot, and they have not received any information about the works or any offers about repairing the damage.

The neighbours are outraged that the volume of dirt is simply allowed to scatter across the area, with no safeguards

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**KNOCKED DOWN: The Playa Park Hotel.**

for public health.

Bulldozers began the demolition job on the hotel on January 24, and residents are also disgruntled by the noise pollution that has ensued.

A formal complaint has been issued to the council, with an expectation of some form of cleaning operation or compensation.

The old hotel will be replaced by a new four-star resort which is expected to open in the summer of 2019.

## Army barracks fight off sexual abuse claims

by Joe Gerrard

MILITARY justice officials have begun inquiries into two alleged cases of sexual assault in the Gerona and the Palma army barracks.

Two female soldiers have made complaints to army authorities over the accusations which reportedly involve a corporal and a lieutenant respectively.

The first case is said to have come to light after the alleged victim decided not to apply for professional renewal in the armed forces. Her captain asked why and the soldier made the accusations to him at the Gerona barracks.

The captain then informed General Francisco Javier Varela, the army's chief of staff, who has opened a disciplinary file and sent it to a military court in Cataluña. It is now reportedly conducting

initial inquiries into the case.

The second case allegedly took place at the barracks of the 47th Infantry Regiment in Palma last November.

A soldier there requested medical leave due to harassment she claims to have received from a lieutenant.

Proceedings for that case have been passed onto the Territorial Military Law Court in the city which has opened inquiries.

The lieutenant has also been assigned elsewhere in the army although it is unclear if this was in connection with the accusations.

Military justice officials will now determine whether the accusations need to be taken further. The Ministry of Defence has said protocol has been applied in the cases and both alleged victims have been offered psychological and legal support.



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**MOTORING**

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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## 'A university city'

THE Balearic Education Minister said the islands' government wants Palma to become a university city but that a consensus must first be reached. Marti March made the comments following a question over meetings to move the University of the Balearic Island's facilities to the city centre.

## Police pay

UNIONS representing police officers have walked away from negotiations on wage increases. Their members were offered an average pay rise of between €4,800 and €6,000 a year after thousands of them demonstrated in Palma demanding their pay be made equal to other forces in Spain.

## Hospital claims

A COMPANY that charged hospitals in Spain up to three times more than the official rate for healthcare costs for foreign tourists reportedly operated at Manacor's hospital until around 2010.

International Care Patient Assistance (ICPA) reportedly billed the hospital despite EU patients having health cards.

## Terrace talks

RESTAURANTS in the Blanquerna area of Palma have launched a campaign against proposals from the city's council to restrict the size of their outdoor seating areas. The establishments said their terraces have not caused any problems on the street and that changes would hurt businesses.

## Park expands

THE Balearic government is set to extend the size of the Albufera Natural Park by almost 420 hectares on its 30th anniversary of being declared a protected area. Francinca Armengol, the head of the government, said the expansion would help preserve and improve the site.

# Blooming gorgeous

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 2



**IN THE PINK:** Snow blankets the Sierra Nevada mountains in Granada as almond trees burst into flower on the lower slopes.

A MAGICAL display is taking place in the hills and mountains of Mediterranean Spain.

For a few weeks in January and February hundreds of thousands of almond trees erupt into blossom, with the countryside briefly transformed into a spectacular fairytale landscape of delicate pink and white hues.

Grown mostly in Andalucia, Aragon, Cataluña, Valencia, Murcia,

and the Balearic Islands, almonds form an important part of the local diet, being used to prepare everything from soups and sauces to cakes, pastries, marzipan and nougat.

Almonds form part of the Prunus 'stone fruit' genus along with plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines and apricots.

Native to the Middle East and Northern Africa, the trees were domes-

ticated around 3,000 BC and brought to Spain by the Moors.

And the country is now the world's second-largest producer of almonds after the United States.

More than 100 varieties are currently grown, but only five are produced on a commercial scale, with the marcona form - known as the queen of almonds - widely considered to be the best quality in the world.

## PLUS THE REGULARS

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# 108

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1702 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 34 local stories.

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# Spring watch



Photo credit: Jesus, iFlicker

**A Harramacho looks on and (inset) revellers gather in the village square.**

It is an ancient festival of unknown origin.

Taking place in the hamlet of Navalacruz in the foothills of the Sierra de Gredos mountains, Avila, the Los Harramachos ritual is thought to be a pre-Roman call to protect livestock and children and boost fertility at the onset of spring.

During the event revellers dress in fearsome-looking costumes made from sacking, animal skins and natural materials, concealing their faces with animalistic masks.

And a number of different characters are involved in the annual celebration, which took place last Saturday.

The Harramachos themselves are brash, masked individuals with a frightening appearance, although they do not participate in the ritual itself.

The Heifer is the incarnation of evil and wears a set of cow antlers and a bell at the waist, with three black crosses painted on his face.

He chases women and lifts their skirts with his horns, before fighting and 'dying' in the village square.

El Vaquero carries chorizo, wine and bread, and traditionally rewarded children who rang small bells.

The mayor is the highest-ranking of the Fifts - boys who turned 18 during the previous year - and can be recognised by his black cloak and long stick that is used to leap the Chico River several times at a point of his choosing during a key part of the ceremony.

He temporarily becomes mayor of the village during the festival.

## POLL OF THE WEEK

**Do you agree with the Balearics' decision to ban tourists from travelling to the islands in diesel or petrol cars?**

**LAST WEEK'S POLL:**  
 Do you agree with Formula 1's decision to replace grid girls with grid kids?

**Yes 83%** **No 17%**

**EWN online this week**  
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**TOP 5 stories**



**SPEEDING SNAP:** The EXACT speeds that will trigger the devices have been revealed.

- 8,806 views** Police warn of exact speeds that will trigger roadside radar cameras
- 3,987 views** Couple face fine after shooting adult film in national park in Spain
- 2,915 views** Brit 'crack head' arrested in Benidorm after stabbing British bar owner
- 2,706 views** Police stop overloaded car and can't believe what they find
- 2,491 views** Motor homes plague Costa Blanca beaches

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# PRIME HOMES

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🏠 3 🛏 3 🏠 220 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1542

Nova Santa Ponsa  
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🏠 5 🛏 5 🏠 650 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 2.400 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1778 2.900.000 €

Santa Ponsa  
Modern villa with incredible sea views



🏠 4 🛏 5 🏠 380 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 1.300 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-0846 1.750.000 €

Sol de Mallorca  
Magnificent villa in picturesque area



🏠 3 🛏 2 🏠 159 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 809 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1843 795.000 €

Costa de la Calma  
Spacious penthouse with breathtaking sea views



🏠 3 🛏 3 🏠 150 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 30 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1787 360.000 €

Santa Ponsa  
Contemporary villa with stunning sea view



🏠 4 🛏 5 🏠 388 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 900 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1705 1.450.000 €

Santa Ponsa  
Bright apartment with sea views



🏠 2 🛏 1 🏠 90 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 22 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1928 199.000 €

Santa Ponsa  
Beautiful apartment near the beach



🏠 2 🛏 2 🏠 110 m<sup>2</sup> 💎 20 m<sup>2</sup>  
MPH-1926 Rent: 1.450 € Sale: 349.000 €





**Celeb focus**



Chantelle Connelly/Twitter

**CHEEKY BUM TIME:** Chantelle shows off her new curves.

**Life's a peach!**

SHE'S never been shy of flaunting her surgically-enhanced assets on social media. And ex-Geordie Shore star Chantelle Connelly had even more to display after slipping into an orange thong to display the result of her new bum implants. The 27-year-old jetted to Marbella on the Costa del Sol for the surgery, and captioned the saucy snap with a series of peach emojis.

**Dancing on ice**

HE'S the Oscar-winning Spanish actor who married fellow star Penelope Cruz. And dad-of-two Javier Bardem, 48, has revealed that his next film project will be to provide a voice-over commentary for upcoming environmental flick Sanctuary. The project aims to draw attention to the plight of the Antarctic and create the world's largest nature reserve.

**Jess the ticket!**

SHE recently finished fourth on Celebrity Big Brother after splitting from rugby player fiancé Denny Solomona.

And former Ex On The Beach star Jess Impiazzi, 28, certainly appeared to be living life to the full after hitting the beach at an unknown location in Spain.

The London-born beauty left little to the imagination after slipping into a barely-there swimsuit for a racy frolic in the shallows.



Jess Impiazzi/Instagram

**IN THE PINK:** The stunner recently made the CBB final.



**LOVED UP:** Gemma and Gorka.

**Strictly on beach duty**

AFTER months of speculation they finally confirmed their romance on Valentine's Day.

And Spanish dancer Gorka Marquez, 27, and actress Gemma Atkinson, 33, are clearly head over heels after the pair posted a series of snaps after jetting to Tenerife for a blast of winter sun.

The loved-up couple were pictured enjoying a tanning session on the beach, with Gemma sporting a skimpy bikini and Gorka showcasing his rippling torso, after earlier uploading a video of themselves arm wrestling.

Although they had previously denied any romantic link, Gemma let the cat out of the bag on Valentine's Day as she posted a picture of them sat on a rock together with her head resting on his shoulder.

She captioned the shot: 'Here's to many more kid. Happy Valentine's Day @gorka\_marquez.'

Their idyllic getaway came after the pair wrapped up the Strictly Come Dancing live tour.

**Bad Baggies off hook over taxi raid**



**CIRCLED:** From L-R, culprits Livermore, Barry, Evans and Myhill.

THE West Bromwich Albion players who allegedly stole a taxi from a Barcelona McDonald's have been let off by Spanish police.

Jonny Evans, 30, Gareth Barry, 36, Jake Livermore, 28 and Boaz Myhill, 35, were expected to face community service or a fine, but a court in the Catalan capital shelved the case due to 'a lack of proof.'

The quartet reportedly broke a midnight curfew and returned drunk at 6am, leaving a set of taxi keys at reception before heading to bed. They were quizzed at a Local Police station and later released an apologetic statement via the club.

They had been staying in Cataluña for three days warm weather training ahead of an FA Cup fifth round game at home to Southampton, which they lost 2-1.

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## NEWS EXTRA

**Mountain stays**

THE number of stays overnight in Mallorca's 12 mountain shelters increased by 67 per cent in 2017, with a total of around 14,220 stays registered last year compared to more than 8,490 in 2016.

**Promo trip**

MALLORCA officials plan to attract more Danish tourists to the island during the off-peak season at The Danish Travel Fair in Herning as the Danes allegedly have more spending power and make longer trips.

**Palma police**

MORE officers have been put on the streets of the Mallorcan capital, with a total of 120 police officers divided among 10 zones which each have between six and 17 officers to cover them.

**Hotels appeal**

HOTEL owners in the Playa de Palma are set to ask for more police officers in the area during the next tourism season to help prevent illegal activity and anti-social behaviour.

**Tyre dumps**

AN illegal tyre spill has been found by Local Police in the area of Bunyola, a few days after another one was discovered in a nature reserve in Lloret.

**Tower costs**

PALMA'S council is set to pay €1,098,000 towards changes to works for the Son Puig pylon project with the money to be sourced from tourist tax revenues, according to the authority's urbanism spokesperson.

TEN members of a leftist group charged with public order offences over an anti-tourism protest have claimed they did not take part in the demonstration.

Five members of the Arran group, which organised the protest in Palma's harbour, said they were not in Mallorca when it took place. Another five claimed they did not participate in the protest which took place in July last year.

Two of the members have admitted

they were at the demonstration, according to sources reported in the Spanish media. The 12 people charged are set to testify in court in hearings scheduled be-

tween March 9 and 13.

Forty people took part in the protest against mass tourism on the island in the harbour area next to bars and restaurants

filled with holidaymakers in July 2017.

A video posted online appears to show people setting off smoke flares and waving banners next to boats moored in the port. Police were able to identify the 12 people charged from the video and from witness statements. Authorities and restaurant owners claim the group went into the terraces of food and drink establishment and covered diners in smoke and confetti. Arran said it was peaceful.

# Two anti-tourist protestors 'fess up

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# Protest held against 'Catalanisation' of islands

AROUND 2,500 people took to the streets of Mallorca's capital to protest what they said was the forced imposition of Catalan culture on the Balearic Islands.

The demonstration, organised by the Mos Movem group, was called following the Balearic government's announcement that workers in the island's health centres would be required to speak Catalan.

Politicians from the Partido Popular and Ciudadanos, as well as Jorge Campos of the recently founded Actua Baleares regionalist party, joined the protests in Palma held on Sunday.

Campos said the Catalan language should never be made a requirement for medical staff on the islands and that health centres were losing great employees as a result.



Picture credit: Mos Movem/Twitter

**PROTESTS:** Demonstrators gathered in Palma to oppose requirements for staff in health centres to speak Catalan.

Demonstrators marched from the Placa d'Espanya to the Consolat de Mar building carrying banners which bore slogans that said: "We are Balearic, not Catalan," among others.

Ursula Mascaro, a spokesper-

son for Mos Movem, said the islands were not part of an "imaginary" Catalan land.

"We do not accept the imposition of Catalan because we don't want it. We are bilingual and we understand each other, but we do not want to communicate in standard Catalan," she said.

The Obra Cultural Balear, a

pro-Catalan group on the island, said people on the islands had the right to speak Catalan and to communicate with hospital staff in the language.

Jaume Mateu, a spokesperson for the group, said: "We will not allow any retrenchment in the matter of linguistic rights, especially if that comes from the administration."

1.7 million

Work contracts were signed last month according to government figures, although only 9.8 per cent were permanent.

## OUR VIEW

### Wildlife trade pledge smacks of tokenism

SPAIN has announced it is to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

It is the country's first crack at confronting the issue, and comes after a gang of monkey traffickers were recently caged by Guardia Civil investigators.

Animal rights campaigners will be overjoyed at the news the country long-known as the gateway to Europe for poachers operating in Africa and the Americas is finally acting to address the problem. But will the government's measures make a difference?

The official plan speaks of increases in funds for awareness campaigns and the provision of alternative livelihoods for communities involved in poaching, but crucially, it does not have a specific budget.

Wildlife trafficking is among the most profitable criminal activities in the world, worth hundreds of millions of Euros per year.

Demand is unlikely to be stemmed by an educational crusade, while it will surely be difficult if not impossible to convince local people profiting from the trade that they should seek new employment. Conservation biologists say that in reality, Spain will need to spend millions to make even a small change.

And based on previous pledges by a Spanish government which has a long history of flouting or simply ignoring environmental laws, the level of investment is likely to be lacking.

While this week's announcement has been widely cheered by animal lovers, including many readers of the *Euro Weekly News* website, time will tell whether it is simply a token gesture.

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## NEWS EXTRA

Victims  
remembered

CULTURAL authorities are set to propose that February 24 be made a Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Francoism, with visits to a Civil War memorial planned for the day after.

## Exam cheats

TWO Nigerian men who falsified documents in order to take a Spanish language exam to get citizenship have been arrested by police in Palma after one of the teachers at the centre alerted the authorities.

## Court ruling

THE High Court has ruled that two non-Spanish women who worked as prostitutes at a club in Palma were exploited and are entitled to €4,000 each in compensation for moral damage.

## Proposed ban on tourist cars

THE government of Spain's Balearic Islands is planning widespread new climate change regulations in Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera in a bid to be greener and protect the 'endangered' environment from carbon dioxide emissions.

It is proposing to ban all tourists travelling from the mainland in diesel vehicles from 2025 and in petrol vehicles from 2035.

By 2020, car rental firms will be obliged to have at least two per cent of their fleet in electric vehicles, rising to 100 per cent within the following 15 years.

And from 2025 islanders will not be able to purchase diesel cars or petrol vehicles from 2035.

It's currently estimated that 35 per cent of CO2 emissions in the Balearic Islands comes from road traffic, but no new regulations have been proposed for boats yet.

Island leaders also want the closure of all the power stations and want to see solar panels installed in large car parks, new buildings and industrial buildings of more than 1,000 square metres.

At the moment, only 2 per cent of the energy produced on the Balearics comes from renewable energy sources.



## OUR FRIENDS ELECTRIC: The Balearics could soon be turning greener.

Local councils will have five years to replace all public lighting on the islands to LED.

President of the Balearic government Francina Armengol said: "The rules place the Balearics at the forefront of the communities in the fight against climate change with measures that accelerate the transition from diesel and petrol

to 100 per cent clean mobility, with electric public transport and vehicles.

"The goal is to lay the foundation for the future of the Balearic Islands to work fully with renewable energies and to grow smartly and sustainably, respecting what we most cherish: our territory and our environment.

"The proposed law is ahead of the fu-

ture and looks to the long term, planning the society we want on the 2050 horizon, with concrete and timed measures.

"It will allow us to fulfil the international commitments acquired in the Paris Agreement."

The proposals will have to go out to public consultation before being approved.

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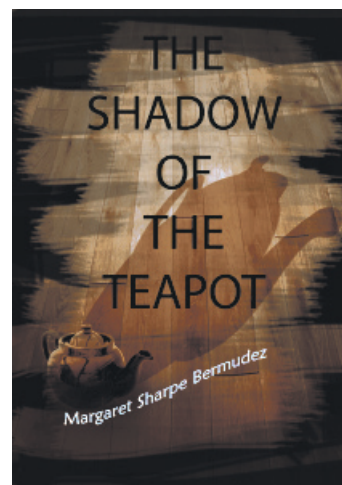
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## NEWS EXTRA

## Social security

THE number of non-Spanish paying into the Balearic welfare system increased by 5,729 from January 2017 to the first month of this year, but was lower than December last year by 1,299.

## Jackpot win

A ONCE lottery ticket which reportedly had a prize of €2,000 a month for 10 years has been won in Marratxi following the draw last Sunday.

## 112 calls

THE number of calls to the 112 Emergency line in the Balearic Islands stood at 781,074 at the end of last year, with almost 80 per cent of these made in Mallorca.

# Airbnb facing huge fine for 'illegal rentals'



**AIRBNB: Facing a big fine in Spain for 'illegal' holiday rentals.**

WORLDWIDE rental and home-sharing company, Airbnb, is facing a huge fine in Spain for ignoring the law and offering 'illegal' rentals.

The Balearic Islands government has slapped a

€300,000 fine on the company for advertising properties that do not have a holiday rental licence - a measure that was introduced last August.

The company has 15 days to answer the charge and avoid the penalty.

Tourism officials on the islands have described the flouting of the law as 'very serious' and say the company has been repeatedly warned that what it was doing was illegal.

The €300,000 fine includes sanctions for advertising 20 homes in Mallorca

without the legal requirements.

Airbnb says they haven't received any official notification of a fine and local families could lose €100 million because of the new tourist rental laws in the Balearics.

They estimate that last year the Airbnb community generated more than €500 million for the Balearic Islands' economy.

Airbnb says they want to continue to work with the government in the Balearics to develop a 'progressive home-sharing regulation.'



**SELLING UP: Eto'o has been legally forced to sell his Mallorcan homes.**

## Local football legends sell homes

TWO RCD Mallorca greats, Javier Olaizola and Samuel Eto'o have just lost their houses on the island, although for different reasons.

Former captain and coach Olaizola has been evicted from his home in Portol by a bank for not paying the mortgage.

Eto'o however, had one home in Son Vida and the other in Costa d'en Blanes (in Calvia), but has sold them off.

The house where Olaizola lived now stands with a 'se vende' sign outside, and the logo of the associated bank.

Olaizola is without a team after having been sacked last season at Mallorca, where he only managed for 15 matches.

Although he has had other offers of management, Olaizola has not returned to work because he has been recovering from a car accident from which he has long term injuries.

Eto'o has been caught up in a tax scandal in recent years, and has been ordered to sell the houses by the courts.

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## It's a fare cop

POLICE in Spain are investigating several taxi drivers who, it is alleged, have fiddled their meters to overcharge their customers.

Local Police officers in Sevilla in Andalucia, southern Spain, have also raided a workshop where it is claimed the electronic system was installed. Pressing a button, the electronic device allowed the taxi driver to manipulate the final price of the passengers' journeys on the official meter. The button was located below the gear lever out of sight of the customer. When drivers changed gear they could easily press the button that bumped up the price on the meter.

The city council in Sevilla that licenses the taxis issued a statement saying it believed the fraud only affected a 'small group.'

A taxi drivers' spokesman said, "It is not a massive fraud, but confined to a small group."

by Matt Ford

AFTER a decade of agony Helen and Len Prior have finally received a payout for their illegally demolished home.

"Now this is over, we just want to try and recover our lives, we have lost 10 years that no amount of money can ever replace," Helen said.

It comes as the couple, both in their early 70's, were paid a settlement of almost €236,000 by Vera Council.

Helen thanked lawyers Victor Martinez and Jose Contreras for their "hard work over the last 10 years," but pointed out that the payout is "very poor" since it does not even cover the original €350,000 cost of their home.

"The house was legal and demolished for political reasons, we were scapegoats," she said. "I was awarded €1,500 for 'moral damages' and my husband €7,500 for 10 years of suffering, ridicu-

# Justice at last



**TEN YEAR BATTLE:**  
Helen Prior speaks at a 2016 rally while husband Len (right) looks on and (inset) bulldozers demolish the couple's villa in 2008.

but the Andalucian High Court of Justice later ruled that they should receive just over half that amount.

They had initially requested €800,000 which included a €200,000 emotional damages claim, but the latter was reduced to less than €10,000.

Gerardo Vazquez, lawyer and spokesperson for the Abusos Urbanisticos Almanzora No (AUAN) campaign group, which has been helping the Priors through their ordeal, said: "As a spokesperson for AUAN, I am very happy for the Priors.

"I hope that you can at least continue with your lives more peacefully.

"With the good humour that has characterised them during the last 10 years that their struggle has lasted, they have shown great tenacity and resistance and are an example to all of us.

"I give all my love and admiration to the Priors."

And Helen added that at least "our case has helped others.

"We have supported AUAN and fought to change the laws to protect the innocent and those that bought property in good faith."

Politicians from the local Popular Party have called for a public apology to the Priors via social media.

lous.

"In any other EU country the amount would have been much higher," she added.

The Priors' story made international headlines after their home was bulldozed over 'planning irregularities,' although the couple insist the build was legal after the town hall granted them a municipal

construction licence in 2002.

But their two-storey dream villa was pulled down in 2008 and they were forced to live in a garage for four-and-a-half years, with the demolition order later annulled by the Constitutional Court.

In 2016 they won a court battle entitling them to €425,185 in compensation,



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## Crypto cash sweeteners

THE Spanish government is eager to attract companies using blockchain technology.

Conservative lawmaker Teodoro Garcia Egea has been tasked with preparing legislation to smooth potential deals, including possible tax breaks. "The level of digitalisation for companies is key," he said. "We hope to get the legislation ready this year."

According to Mr Garcia, it is in the country's interest to attract such firms as a driver for industries including finance, health and education.

# Sub crash trial goes on

By Matt Ford

A SENIOR British naval officer who cost the UK €2.4 million after crashing a nuclear submarine near Spain has pleaded guilty in court.

Commander Justin Codd, 45, was in charge of the €1.2 billion HMS Ambush when it collided with the tanker MV Andreas off Gibraltar.

The submarine was taken out of service for three months after suffering damage to its conning tower.

Commander Codd was leading a training course when the incident occurred, as the group practised observing shipping

movement while controlling the craft at periscope depth.

Captain John Atwill, prosecuting, said that the commander did not carry out observations himself, relying on those of the trainees, who focused on a nearby yacht and failed to spot the tanker. He added: "Commander Codd's decision to focus on teaching, not safety, compounded the error carried out by the students."

Captain Sean Moore, defending, said: "This is a failure that will live with him for the rest of his life.

"No officer becomes teacher of the Submarine Command Course because they are good enough, they must be the best the submarine service has to offer.

"Perisher is widely acknowledged as the toughest command course in the world."

Judge Advocate Robert Hill said while sentencing: "You have, save for this incident, an exemplary record. It was more in the nature of a momentary aberration than a careless attitude."

The case will reportedly affect Commander Codd's 'career progress' and €88,000 annual salary.

## A licence to print money

SPAIN wants to print money at a new location. And the government is pushing ahead with plans to build a new 'money factory,' after printing firm IMBISA - 80 per cent owned by the Bank of Spain - agreed contracts worth around €2 million.

More than half the cash will be handed to Spanish consultancy firm Everis for 'strategic design of information systems, with the remainder awarded to El Corte Ingles, best known for its chain of department stores, for 'development of new computer applications.'

### Quote of the Week

"The EU does not abandon those who face a tragedy." EU Policy Commissioner Corina Crețu announces Spain is to receive €32m in EU aid to help repair the damage caused by last year's devastating wildfires in the Galicia region.



Photo by Twitter

**GREAT BARCA BEKO-OFF:** The firm has sponsored the club since 2014.

## €19m shirt deal for Turkish firm

FC BARCELONA has extended a sponsorship deal with a budget washing machine brand.

Turkish domestic appliance maker Beko has revealed it is to pay €19 million per season for the next three years after sealing a new deal with the Catalan club.

In return, the company's logo will continue to appear on the first team training strip plus the left sleeve of the official club shirt.

Having been a relatively small sponsor since 2014, Beko now becomes one of the historic club's most important backers.

A new deal with American sportswear behemoth Nike - FC Barcelona's most important patron - is reportedly set to land the club €100 million per year for shirt sponsorship plus a further €60 million for managing its dedicated stores.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## The future is bright

SPAIN is set to be the second country to receive French telecommunication giant Orange's mobile banking service, with a full rollout planned for 2019 after the product dubbed Orange Bank launched in France last November.

## Pension pain

SPANISH pensioners will lose an average of €350 of purchasing power per month over the course of their retirement as a result of the latest government reforms, according to consultancy firm Analysts Financieros Internacionales [International Financial Analysts].

## Tasty profit

FOOD group Campofrio - headquartered in Madrid but owned by Mexican multinationals since 2013 - has revealed net sales shot through the €2 billion barrier in 2017, as the firm's Spanish sales soared by 22 per cent to €68.3 million.



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## Spanish misery goes on

SPAIN has retained its position as the world's eighth most miserable economy. The country scored 17.3 on US technology firm Bloomberg's annual Misery Index, which ranks economies according to their rates of inflation and unemployment.

The company said in a statement: "The Bloomberg Misery Index relies on the age-old concept that low inflation and unemployment generally

illustrate how good an economy's residents should feel."

The league table was topped by Venezuela with a massive score of 1872, followed by South Africa (33.1), Argentina (27.1), Egypt (26.4), Greece and Turkey (20.6) and Ukraine (17.8) ahead of Spain, with Brazil (15.8) and Saudi Arabia (14.7) completing the top 10.



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# Hunt for Med October

## STATE-OWNED FIRM TO DESIGN WARSHIPS

SPAIN appears set to build new warships for the United States (US).

The news comes after the US government confirmed that it has chosen Spanish state-owned shipbuilding company Navantia to head the conceptual design of its massive multi-billion Euro frigate programme.

And the decision places the shipbuilder - the fifth biggest in Europe - at the head of the queue to construct the boats on behalf of the US Navy.

The programme, dubbed FFG(X), will see the first of the frigates completed by 2020, with a second due in 2021, after which the Navy will buy two per year until reaching a total of 20 at a cost of 'no more than \$950 million (€767 million) each,' according to a US Department of Defence report.

This timeframe does not allow for development of a completely new design, therefore the Navy has requested that the FFG(X) be based on an existing 'parent' ship, with the Australian Hobart-class destroyer, itself based on Navantia's F100/Alvaro de Bazan-class frigate, having been selected.

Having beaten off competition from four other firms, Navantia will now work alongside partner General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, a shipyard located on the Kennebec River in Bath, Maine, to design the frigates.

The US has ordered a warship that can keep pace with aircraft carriers, and the FFG(X) programme will equip the Navy with "sufficient capacity to achieve the objective of maritime security control and operations, as well as provide support to naval combat groups," Navantia said in a statement.

The frigates will be equipped with guided missiles and will have



**ART OF WAR:** The new frigates will be based on Navantia's existing F100 blueprint.

the capacity to destroy enemy ships over the horizon, detect submarines, defend convoys, employ electronic warfare systems, and defend against swarming small boat attacks.

The F100-class design has seen Navantia contracted to the world's largest warship programmes, including the Australian and Canadian fleets.

It last year agreed to work with Bath Iron Works on US military projects in a reverse of a relationship which began more than 40 years ago, when the American company helped provide technology to build ships for the Spanish Navy's Santa Maria-class fleet.

# FAST FOOD AND BREAKFASTS ON RISE

## Grub's up for restaurants

SPANISH diners are visiting more bars and restaurants than ever.

Sales in the catering sector increased by 2.5 per cent in 2017, with overall revenue topping €36 million, according to American market research company the NPD Group.

It is the third consecutive year that the industry has demonstrated positive growth, with the number of visits climbing by 1.3 per cent, or 98 million.

Each customer also spent an additional 1 per cent, an average of €4.88.

NPD Group Executive Director Vicente Montesinos said: "The improvement in an economic context has favoured recovery in terms of traffic, while the increase in visits and a growing average expenditure allowed the market to exceed €36 million in sales for the first time since 2011."

But the market has not yet recovered to pre-financial crisis levels, with the number of visits and expenditure both below the totals for 2005-2007.

The annual average number of visits per individual during that period was



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Spaniards are eating out more but increasingly prefer burgers and pizza, says NPD's Vicente Montesinos (inset).

180, while the average for 2017 was 158.

And the latest statistics show that eateries serving products quickly are the main driver behind the growth, with fast food restaurants, tapas bars and coffee

shops representing 86 per cent of the increase.

There is also a trend away from traditional Spanish fare, with American-style hamburger and Italian restaurants outstripping their rivals.

Chains also eclipsed independently-owned businesses in terms of both the number of visits and the amount of money spent, accounting for 23 per cent of the overall catering market.

Breakfast and lunchtime demonstrated the greatest increases in diners during the week, while the number of people eating out at weekends also shot up.

Mr Montesinos added: "At the beginning of the [financial] crisis the first thing that was hit were breakfasts eaten outside the home, because unemployment increased and labour mobility decreased.

"Then, around two million people lost their jobs in 2009 and the lunch industry was hit.

"But with the economic recovery we are seeing more jobs and an increase in the number of people eating out, including breakfast, lunch and dinner."

## Spanish oil company inks €1.2bn 'mega deal'

SPANISH oil and gas firm Cepsa has announced a €1.2 billion mega deal with the United Arab Emirates.

The 40-year agreement will see the multinational bag a 20 per cent stake in the Umm Lulu and Satah al-Razboot (also known as SARB) offshore oilfields from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

It is the biggest contract inked by the company since its €1.76 billion acquisition of South East Asian exploration and production company Coastal Energy in 2013.

Cepsa was bought by Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) in a €267 million 2011 takeover.

IPIC was in 2016 merged with Mubadala Development Company PJSC, an investment vehicle owned by the Abu Dhabi government and classed as a National Wealth Fund.

## Minister to tour London

SPAIN has moved to quash Brexit fears.

Speaking to the national congress, Development Minister Iñigo de la Serna revealed that Spain continues to view the UK as one of 11 key construction and infrastructure markets despite voting to leave the EU.

The official went on to confirm that he has a trip to London lined up later this month, during which he will offer support to Spanish companies competing for major UK infrastructure contracts, including construction of the HS2 high speed train and expansion of Heathrow Airport.

The whistle-stop tour will see the official hold a series of key business meetings plus bilateral talks with his UK government peers, before he visits some existing Spanish-led projects.

# FLORIDA AND BALI CHEAPER THAN SPAIN Long-haul savings sky high

SPANISH hoteliers may have shot themselves in the foot.

Rising room prices, plus a weak United States dollar and competition from the Middle East mean it can now be cheaper to spend two weeks in far flung locations including Thailand, Dubai and Florida.

It comes after several years of record-breaking tourist figures, with 82 million holidaymakers choosing Spain in 2017.

But research by price comparison website TravelSupermarket has revealed that in 2018 various long-haul destinations are considerably more cost-effective than the Costa del Sol, Balearic and Canary Islands.

For example, over the upcoming May half-term, a week in a four-star Abu Dhabi hotel costs around €350 per person, compared with €620 in Menorca and €475 in Tenerife.

A similar break in Dubai - based on a seven-night stay for a



family of four flying from London Gatwick on the last weekend in May - is priced at €350, while Florida costs €420.

In summer, Pattaya in Thailand and the Indonesian paradise of Bali are up to 20 per cent cheaper than Ibiza or Menorca, according to TravelSupermarket's Emma Coulthurst.

"People may think their holiday budget can only stretch to short haul and they can't afford

long haul, so don't consider it. "But the reality is, long-haul destinations can offer incredible

value this summer... it is really worth doing your research and comparing both to see what else you can get for your money.

"But, be realistic on weather. Florida, for example, is also coming up cheaper this July and August and offering some incredible deals - but the weather at that time of year is incredibly hot and humid."

US holiday firms have slashed prices by up to 35 per

cent due to the so-called 'Trump slump,' with travellers less-inclined to visit the country in the wake of his appointment.

Ms Coulthurst added: "Brits have always been one of the US's biggest markets and Florida, particularly Orlando, can't afford for us not to go there."

Abu Dhabi and Dubai have also made cuts of around 10 per cent, while Spanish hotel prices have increased by around 8 per cent since 2016.

It is however cheaper to eat and hire a car in Spain.

More than 20 million British holidaymakers visited Spain last year, the most of any country, but 2018 forecasts predict a fall in numbers.

The 2016 Spanish boom came in the wake of terrorist attacks in Turkey, Egypt, and Tunisia, although travel agent Thomas Cook recently announced that it will fly to the latter this year.

## De Guindos fears raised in Brussels

HE appears set to be named vice-president of the European Central Bank.

But the European Parliament has raised concerns over the appointment of Spain's Finance Minister, Luis de Guindos, to the coveted role.

In government office since 2011, the conservative politician announced he will step down 'in the coming days' after Ireland's Philip Lane - his sole rival - pulled out of the race.

He has been slated to replace Portugal's Vitor Constancio for months, although it was Lane who most impressed senior members of the parliament's monetary and finance committee during a non-binding, closed-door hearing with the two candidates in Brussels.

He had little support from ministers, however, while De Guindos has been backed by influential countries including France and Germany. A final decision is expected in March.



# Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at [international@stoneking.co.uk](mailto:international@stoneking.co.uk)



MANY UK expatriates living in Spain own properties in the UK and have pensions and investments in the UK. They rely on their UK assets to maintain their lifestyles (and those of their families) in Spain. If they can no longer manage their affairs in the UK due to a loss of mental capacity, it can cause many difficulties.

**“ You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able. ”**

The best way to avoid the legal and practical difficulties that can occur with the loss of mental capacity is to plan for it in advance by drawing up a document called a 'Lasting Power of Attorney' ('LPA').



**| An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity.**

**What is an LPA?**

An LPA is a legal document that enables you to appoint one or more attor-

neys to act for you when you are no longer able to act for yourself.

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

There are two types of LPA: 'Health and Welfare' or 'Property and Financial Affairs'

An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity. It is therefore important to make one while you are in good health.

**Why should you get an LPA?**

You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able.

If you lose your mental capacity and do not have an LPA, then your family (or the authorities) will have no choice but to make an application to the Court of Protection to appoint a 'deputy' to look after your affairs, which can be time consuming and costly.

**Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?**

Unfortunately there is no international type of LPA which is guaranteed to work in both the UK and Spain.

The advice we give to our clients at Stone King, is that if you have assets in both Spain and the UK, your only safe option is to appoint attorneys in both jurisdictions.



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# Something must be done quickly

**LEAPY LEE SAYS IT**  
OTHERS THINK IT



THESE latest revelations of paedophilia and 'sex for aid' in OXFAM didn't surprise me one bit.

Frankly I also consider it merely the tip of the iceberg. I believe that just about all organisations that deal with children are positively riddled with these low life predators. After all, if I were a junkie I would go where the drugs are. If my habit was gambling I would seek out gambling joints.

It stands to reason that those who feel the need to prey on youngsters, go where they can find children. OXFAM. UNICEF. Football scouting. Church and teaching organisations. Dr Barnardo's homes. Children's hospitals and so on, all are vulnerable to the infiltration of these evil beings who destroy young lives before they have barely begun.

A recent report by an ex-UN official stated that UN aid workers, may not only have raped up to 60,000 people over the last 10 years, but are estimated to employ some 3,300 paedophiles in their worldwide operation.

One terribly sad result of these alarming, seemingly never-ending revelations, is that decent men and women, who sincerely want to



## OXFAM SCANDAL: The tip of the iceberg?

help and care for the young, are shying away and entering other professions, simply because they don't want to be regarded with suspicion by their peers. Even stating publicly that you love children can attract a 'funny' look in some circumstances. If this unacceptable situation is allowed to continue unchecked, sooner or later the majority of children's charity workers will all be sex abusers and paedophiles.

So where do you start? Well first of all there needs to be a worldwide easily accessible data centre, which holds a record of every worker who has been sacked for abuse of any kind.

This would ensure that these people at least could never get into any other organisation that involved children. Secondly, those at the very top need to be thoroughly vetted. After all it stands to reason, if they are rife with such

large numbers of offenders, some could quite easily be in board and management positions.

This would also explain the fact that there have been numbers of occasions where whistleblowers have been sacked, with their accusations stifled and pushed under the carpet.

Far from being vilified, these caring people need to be given every encouragement and complete anonymity while a thorough investigation of their accusations is conducted by an independent body set up by respective governments. I also believe the finances of these big charity companies should be more carefully looked into. It seems to me many of those 'at the top' seem to be living far too comfortably - for comfort - if you get my drift.

Well that's my three penneth, for what it's worth. All I know is something must be done and as quickly as possible. After all it is the children who are suffering at the hands of these monsters, and above all they must retain priority.

Thanks for all your wonderful mails after last week's piece. Fair warmed the ol' boy's cockles. Keep 'em coming, and whatever ya do.

*Always.*

*Keep the faith,*

[columnists@euoweeklynews.com](mailto:columnists@euoweeklynews.com)

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**Nora Johnson***Breaking Views*

Nora is the author of popular psychological suspense and crime thrillers and a freelance journalist. To comment on any of the issues raised in her column, go to [www.euroweeklynews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson](http://www.euroweeklynews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson)

# What a state Britain's in - how did it get to this?

WHAT'S going on in the UK?

We read that the NHS was forced to pay £1,500 for a £2 pot of moisturiser, people have been extortionately fined for putting cardboard boxes in the wrong recycling bins, plus there's been a torrent of false rape allegations.

First up, the owner of the high street chemist, Boots, charged the NHS £1,500 for a £2 moisturiser.

The case is among thousands where it looks as if the NHS has been overcharged for drugs called specials: custom-made for patients who need non-standard medicines, mixtures of skin creams for eczema etc and drugs in liquid form for those unable to swallow pills.

This speaks volumes about poor management at the NHS. Are they totally blind to the blatant abuse of the

system by unscrupulous suppliers, who must have knowledge of pricing and policies, but choose to exploit them for their own gain?

Next, a woman was fined £600 for putting one cardboard box into the wrong recycling bin. When she complained, she was warned she'd face an even larger fine, possibly a prison sentence unless she paid up. The fine was imposed by a company, employed by the council, that provides enforcement to councils free of charge and makes money from all these fines. Really?

Then, the false rape allegations. A teenage schoolboy, Liam Allan, was cleared of rape after his lawyers uncovered key evidence proving his innocence but missed by



**EXTORTIONATE:** Boots ripped the NHS off £1,500 for a £2 moisturiser.

police and prosecutors.

Expelled from school after his arrest, on bail for two years, he's the youngest vic-

tim of the disclosure scandal engulfing the CPS.

But are other innocent men behind bars less 'lucky' than

young Liam? Has the pendulum against men swung a bit too far?

Let's take another exam-

ple. The UK, as elsewhere, is confronted by threats of a world order; Putin's Russia on the prowl, terrorists galore, Trump's America not completely dependable anymore. Meanwhile, what sort of questions were the British media hurling at the defence secretary in response recently? Why, all about his past sex life, of course. 'Nuff said.

*Nora Johnson's psychological crime thrillers 'The Girl in the Red Dress', 'No Way Back', 'Landscape of Lies', 'Retribution', 'Soul Stealer', 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.nora-johnson.net) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99;£0.99) and iBookstore.*

*All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.*

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**Nick Horne** *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



SEARCHING for a discreet yet fabulous holiday? One that is a destination and a conveyance at one and the same time? Need to take the whole family, several friends and their families too? Looking for the height of luxury, the epitome of service, huge interior spaces as well as a close and intimate connection to the ocean? May I suggest the yacht NIRVANA.

Completed by Oceanco and delivered to her owner in the spring of 2012, then presented to the world at the Monaco Yacht Show (the premier superyacht show of the world) that September.

NIRVANA at 88.50 metres is a striking, elegant and exclusive mega yacht with modern lines and contemporary style. NIRVANA features six enormous decks and offers an impressive 150 square metre owner's suite comprising study, lounge, lobby and private exterior deck area with whirlpool. A further five guest cabins, a 3-D cinema, a fully equipped gym, a 7.5-metre long oval pool and whirlpools with panoramic views are just a few of the massive superlatives of this superyacht.

NIRVANA's six decks are connected by the main stairwell and an extraordinary six-person glass lift, which is entwined in a striking Balinese stainless-steel woven art piece resembling a bubbling whirlpool. This sculptural feature is a focal point from all levels of the yacht.

Two vivariums act as room dividers - be-

## This is what a €900,000 a week holiday looks like



**TRULY OPULENT:** NIRVANA at sea.



**EATING IN STYLE:** The al fresco dining area.



**SIX DECKS:** A view from above.



**WATER SPORTS:** The garage houses jet skis and a speedboat.

tween the salon, dining room and a cosy separate sitting room - and are home to live and active reptiles, a chameleon, water dragons, bearded lizards, turtles and exotic frogs.

The timeless Sorgioanni-designed interior mixes various distinctive and exceptional materials, including bamboos and textured leathers, in imaginative and inspiring ways.

NIRVANA accommodates an experienced crew of 24 in an exceptionally friendly layout, enabling the efficient and discreet fulfilment of any and all her guests' requirements.

Guests are close to the sea and the excitement and involvement is enhanced through the garage, which can hold a large array of tenders and water sports equipment.

A watersports room holds diving equipment and a drying cabinet for wetsuits, with immediate access to the sea through the lower lobby access.

Charlie Birkett and Gary Wright together with their professional team at Y.CO ([www.ycoyacht.com](http://www.ycoyacht.com)) are the brokers for numerous mega yachts as well as NIRVANA.

This winter NIRVANA is cruising in the Indian Ocean, and can be yours for a charter of €900,000 per week.



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# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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## It seems crazy that the Spanish government makes some things so difficult

I LIVE in Spain, needing to fit a much-needed body-part to my car that would help my wife to enter and exit - especially as she has advancing mobility problems.

But so help me, the very expensive and robust stainless-steel side-steps I bought from Poland cannot be fitted as it doesn't include a Homologated Certificate. Where the heck does it all end?

Spain is a great country, with a population that is welcoming, friendly and warm; so why the Spanish government is so short-sighted, blinkered and blatantly stupid when it comes to allowing individuals to fit replacement or new parts to their cars is unbelievable?

Towing arms, bull-bars, air-horns, etc are all included. And lots more too! Whoever made this stupid rule a law needs to reconsider it, I reckon. Maybe Gibraltar should close its borders to the Spanish! That would cause a storm-and-a-half!

The fact that anything fitted to a car that is seen as modifying it (?) has to be checked by an experienced Trained Tester at an ITV Centre before it is added to the relevant vehicle's paperwork for legality.

So why-oh-why is there such a palaver when it comes to fitting something? Either it's done properly or not at all. If not at all,

### A honeymoon and now their forever home

WE originally came here in 1985 on honeymoon (age 23 and 22 years old), we have been back a few times since then but back again this year, 2018 (some 33 years later!).

It was always a dream of ours to come back to our beloved Benalmadena and for two months now we have been doing the groundwork, planning out the next chapter of our lives. On the right is us in 1985 on the prom. This is us in the same place, today: 33 years later!

Anne Currie,  
Benalmadena



it will fail. It doesn't need a flimsy certificate. It doesn't necessarily need a so-called professional mechanic to fit it. It's only a few nuts and bolts, in most cases! It fails or it passes. What could be simpler?

Scotty Mackay, Alcaucin

### Sangria explained

SANGRIA was originally produced and consumed only during Easter and its name refers to the blood of Christ.

It was produced on Easter Saturday from red wine, lemonade, lemon slices, cloves, cinnamon and a shot of brandy, no more, no less.

It was left in a bowl to simmer overnight and was consumed on Easter Sunday.

Oscar Gonzalez, Marbella

### Road rules

RE Issue 1701, cyclists are governed by the same traffic laws that apply to any vehicle using the roads in Spain. The traffic law also states cyclists must now use head-phones when using a mobile phone or when listening to music. They also should dismount before using a crossing.

Hope this helps.

John Dale, Los Dolses

### HAVE YOUR SAY

All letters by email or post should carry the writer's address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published.

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com).

## Motor homes plague Costa Blanca beaches

Live and let live. The vast majority are tidy people, some of the motorhomes cost more than a bungalow in Torrevieja. Plus, most of the 'beauty spots' around Costa Blanca look like wasteland anyway.

Marcus Tipa

If the town hall got their heads together, found them some wasteland, charged them a nominal fee and supplied electricity, water, toilets etc. They could then ban them from the beaches.

Maureen Rush

How is it that they don't use all the campsites on the Costas? Or are they too tight?

George R Carman

Some of us 'motorhomers' do not enjoy getting stacked like sardines into campsites. We pour the grey water into drains and the WC waste into disposal spots. Mostly we stay two or three nights and spend money in shops and restaurants, a lot of them owned by the very people moaning about our existence.

We do appreciate that in winter it is a different ball game than in summer and would expect to use official sites then, if only because all those areas will be full of Spaniards coming down to the coast and there is no room.

### Comments from EWN online

But I would hope that the money spent in the local economies is worth way more than minor inconveniences caused by a few.

Edda Stentiford

### Exact speeds that trigger radar cameras

Wish there were more signs posting the correct speed, too many ups and downs as it is!

Justice Christopher

What about when they hide in a full car park in an unmarked car, that's entrapment surely!

Amanda Allen Wheatley

What about people who drive far too slow? Surely that is just as bad, and dangerous?

Tricia Harrington

### Political party members face jail over protest

They might change their minds if the Brits did go home and their money stream dried up.

Richard Gus Warren

Would be replaced by a better Quality of tourist Richard! Ones that spend real money! Like the Russians and the Scandinavians that don't want to come and see drunk Brits vomiting all over the place falling off balconies!

John William Roberts

I have several (seven) friends who live there most of the year John. They spend 'mucho dinero' there. They have all lived there for 15 to 20 years each. That's a lot of spending power. This mob of terrorists 'Arran' (check the definition of terrorist) need to be locked away for a few years till they grow up. They are the NF of Mallorca.

Richard Gus Warren

Arran is CUP. This is not about tourism, it's Catalan nationalist 'kale borroka.'

Peter Harvey

### Poll position

I THINK we should keep grid girls provided they are not forced to be there.

As grid children will be all boys that will start another argument as grid girls will come under the ban.

Anyway, the grid girls provide a touch of glamour to a male dominated sport. I am an F1 fan and vote for the status quo.

Derek, La Marina

### Suits the Spanish

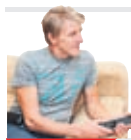
IT always amazes me how very popular crowded, noisy events are with the Spanish people.

This is not a criticism, but maybe a cause for grudging admiration from a 'stiff upper lip Brit' who wouldn't dream of dressing up as a pirate and wandering around town during carnival.

Having said that however when you see hens and stags in fancy dress, they do actually look like idiots, but the Spanish seem to have a naïve charm which makes their bizarre costumes seem common place.

Perhaps the fact that they join in as groups of family and neighbours rather than a pack of drunken foreigners helps!

Brian Cox, Sabinillas



**TV COUCH CRITIC**

THERE seems to be a concerted effort by the BBC to bring American football to the British sporting masses?

I applaud the coverage shown on Sunday at some ungodly hour for the Super Bowl, and I realise it's a big deal in America, but to headline it on the sports news the following day. Why? Not too many people are interested except the odd fan.

There is only one football and it doesn't have American before it! We also have rugby in two codes - union and league - both of which are much more entertaining and British.

I prefer The Voice (ITV Saturdays) to the X Factor. Although the judges are far more famous on The Voice they are also more humble and don't love themselves as much as the X Factor pretenders.

Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson, Olly Murs and the great Sir Tom Jones come across as genuinely seeking singing talent that they personally like and can improve. The banter between the acts, with themselves and the audience really appeals.

I also love the ad-lib jamming that they all do and last week we had an impromptu rendering of 'It's Not Unusual' live by Tom which was fantastic. His own voice has lost none of its strength and he is held in awe by the three other judges as well as myself. Yes indeed Tom, a true legend!

What can you say about Casualty (BBC1 Saturdays)? Firstly, it's not my usual fare on Saturdays but



**HUMBLE:** The Voice judges Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson, Tom Jones and will.i.am.



**FABULOUS:** Mary Berry.

**The Voice has the X Factor and Berry is a gem**

I occasionally watch it. It's been going so long the early operations were performed using ether as the anaesthetic, and they even had a contract with Burke and Hare for supplying specimens to practise on.

Good old Charley, (Derek Thompson) the only surviving original cast member on the show, was a sprightly young man at the series onset and him and Duffy (Kathy Shipton) seemed to always have a thing for each other so marriage was inevitable. Still, the hospital staff always go the extra mile, much further than a normal hospital in the UK would, but it seems there's a good following or the Beeb would have pulled the plug ages ago.

Who wouldn't want to stay at Mary Berry's house for a week or two? Her Saturday lunchtime cookery show on BBC1 has me drooling at the screen. Apart from her fantastic food recipes she comes across as a

nice person. The rack of lamb she produced last week had me scrambling to open a tin of beans as soon as the show finished. Still judging by the size of the house and gardens either her cooking or character has paid dividends, or her husband's not short of a few bob. Good luck to her whichever, she deserves it and is fabulous.

It's obvious Morse was as miserable in his early police career as he was in later life, judging by ITV's Sunday evening prequel, *Endeavour*. I have to admit his fledgling police career is more gritty and the nostalgia of early policing methods and the 60's feel swings it for me, even though there was only one John Thaw.

Shawn Evans plays the young Endeavour Morse well, and in this episode he had just been promoted to a DS before going about his business hunting

down murder suspects which are connected to a horror film set at the local flix. There's also an influx of racist attacks which seem to escalate.

Morse and Inspector Thursday hunt down their prey in a relaxed manner, ably assisted by the usual forensic scientist describing the victim's injuries in colourful detail after examining the bodies.

Not seen much of the *Winter Olympics* this time round (BBC1 and BBC2, various times), although I don't think many people have. The usual problem is that it's not cold enough and there's not enough snow, but Korea seems to be the opposite! Oh well, at least we have had a lessening of hostilities between the two warring factors north and south, both actually presenting a passable united front and sitting down to talk. Progress I hope.

*Critique: PM, San Fulgencio, Costa Blanca.*

**Advertising Feature**

**An appetite to travel?**

**Christina Sharp**

**GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL**

christina@globelink.co.uk



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**WINTER SPORTS:** Cover is free on certain policies.

older you get, especially for the over 80's.

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22 FEBRUARY	3:15pm	The Coroner	1:00pm	The Chase	4:00pm	NCIS
	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	2:00pm	ITV News London	5:00pm	Killer Obsession
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	7:00pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	5 News at 5
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm	Emmerdale	6:30pm	Neighbours
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:00pm	Trans Kids: The Right	7:00pm	Home and Away
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:00pm	Response? Tonight	7:30pm	5 News Tonight
	7:30pm	BBC London News	9:30pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	The Wonderful World of Puppies
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	John Worboys: The Taxi Cab Rapist	9:00pm	Police Interceptors
	8:30pm	EastEnders	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm	Dale Winton's Florida Fly Drive
	9:30pm	Would I Lie to You?	11:30pm			
10:00pm	Death in Paradise	12:15am				
23 FEBRUARY	3:15pm	The Coroner	2:00pm	The Chase	3:10pm	NCIS
	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	7:00pm	ITV News London	4:00pm	A Sister's Nightmare
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	5:00pm	5 News at 5
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:00pm	Neighbours
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:30pm	Coronation Street	6:30pm	Home and Away
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:00pm	Love Your Garden	7:00pm	5 News Tonight
	7:30pm	BBC London News	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	The Wine Show
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	8:00pm	Celebrity Five Go Barging
	8:30pm	Six Nations Rugby Union	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	11:30pm	ITV News London	10:00pm	McDonald
11:25pm	BBC London News			10:00pm	Will and Grace	
24 FEBRUARY	2:10pm	Weather	3:00pm	Six Nations Live	2:25pm	Rich House, Poor House
	2:15pm	Winter Olympics	4:00pm	Ireland v Wales	3:25pm	The Wonderful World of Puppies
	5:00pm	Six Nations Rugby Union	5:00pm	ITV News and Weather	4:25pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald
	8:00pm	BBC News	5:30pm	Local News and Weather	5:30pm	Britannia: Secrets of the Royal Yacht
	8:10pm	Regional News	6:00pm	The Chase	6:35pm	5 News
	8:13pm	Weather	6:30pm	Take Me Out	7:30pm	Football on 5
	8:15pm	All Together Now	7:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night	8:00pm	Football on 5
	9:20pm	Casualty	7:30pm	Takeaway	9:00pm	Britain's Favourite Biscuit
	10:10pm	Troy: Fall of a City	8:00pm	The Voice UK	9:00pm	
	11:10pm	BBC News	9:00pm	Through the Keyhole	10:00pm	
11:25pm	Weather	10:50pm		11:50pm		
25 FEBRUARY	4:30pm	Songs of Praise	7:00am	What Would Your Kid Do?	3:00pm	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
	5:05pm	Earth's Natural Wonders	12:00pm	Tipping Point	3:30pm	Football on 5
	6:05pm	Earth's Natural Wonders	3:00pm	ITV News and Weather	3:55pm	Football on 5
	7:05pm	BBC News	6:30pm	Local News and Weather	6:00pm	The Bridge at Remagen
	7:20pm	Regional News	7:00pm	The Chase	7:35pm	A Bridge Too Far
	7:25pm	Weather	8:00pm	Dancing on Ice	8:00pm	Where Eagles Dare
	7:30pm	Countryfile	9:00pm	Endeavour	9:00pm	Football on 5
	8:30pm	Hold the Sunset	10:00pm	Life and Death Row	9:55pm	5 News
	9:00pm	Call the Midwife	11:15pm	The Mash Report	10:00pm	Trainwreck
			11:45pm	Top Gear Extra Gear	10:00pm	Sex Tape
		12:10am	Cleverman	11:10pm		
26 FEBRUARY	6:15pm	Pointless	4:55pm	Tenable	6:00pm	NCIS
	7:00pm	BBC News	5:00pm	Tipping Point	6:30pm	Killer Obsession
	7:30pm	Regional News	5:25pm	The Chase	7:00pm	5 News
	8:00pm	The One Show	6:25pm	Local News and Weather	7:30pm	Neighbours
	8:30pm	Inside Out	7:00pm	ITV Evening News	8:00pm	Home and Away
	9:00pm	EastEnders	7:30pm	Emmerdale	7:30pm	5 News
	9:30pm	Classic Mary Berry	8:00pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	Aviva Premiership
	10:00pm	MasterChef	8:30pm	The Martin Lewis Money Show	9:00pm	Rugby Highlights
	11:00pm	BBC News	9:00pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Extreme Winter Road Rescue
	11:30pm	Regional News	9:30pm	Marcella	11:00pm	The Flying Scotsman
11:40pm	Weather	10:00pm		12:05am		
27 FEBRUARY	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	4:55pm	James Martin's American Adventure	3:10pm	5 News
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	5:25pm	Tenable	6:30pm	Neighbours
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	6:25pm	Tipping Point	7:00pm	Home and Away
	6:15pm	Pointless	7:00pm	The Chase	7:30pm	5 News
	7:00pm	BBC News	7:30pm	Local News and Weather	8:00pm	Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild
	7:30pm	Regional News	8:00pm	ITV Evening News	9:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:30pm	Emmerdale	10:00pm	Elizabeth: Our Queen-the Crown Under Attack
	8:30pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	100 Year Old Driving School		
	9:00pm	Holby City	10:00pm	What Would Your Kid Do?		
	10:00pm	Shetland				
11:00pm	BBC News					
28 FEBRUARY	3:15pm	Shakespeare and Hathaway	6:20pm	Tipping Point	2:05pm	NCIS
	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	7:00pm	The Chase	3:10pm	Left for Dead
	4:45pm	Get Away for Winter	7:30pm	Local News and Weather	4:00pm	5 News
	5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Neighbours
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:30pm	Emmerdale	6:30pm	Home and Away
	7:00pm	BBC News	9:00pm	Coronation Street	7:00pm	5 News
	7:30pm	Regional News	10:00pm	Britain's Brightest Family	7:30pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
	8:00pm	The One Show	9:30pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
	9:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build	10:00pm	Benidorm	9:00pm	Violent Child, Desperate Parents
	10:00pm	Earth's Natural Wonders	10:50pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm	
11:00pm	BBC News	11:30pm				

The schedules for the television programme pages are provided by an external company: we regret that any changes or errors are not the responsibility of Euro Weekly News.

# If 'Send to All' really existed...

If you really want to play the Michael McIntyre game, practise safe sending

## TECH FOR THE TIMID



LAST year a friend sent my email address a joke.

Now I'm deluged with offers to augment the male anatomy, retrieve my winnings from a lottery I didn't enter, or enjoy the charms of ladies called Anushka or Anastasya.

And all because my friend took a leaf from the Michael McIntyre show by using his equivalent of that 'Send to All' game to pass on his innocuous joke.

What email etiquette did he contravene? His emailed joke was openly addressed to everyone in his address book. I could see all his dozens of friends' addresses, and they could all see mine. In this age of easy digital pilferage that put all our addresses out there in the wild, it's easy pickings for the spammers.

So here's this week's tiny but vital email etiquette tip: when you want to forward the funniest thing since seg-



**EMAIL OVERLOAD: To BCC or not to BCC.**

mented whole wheat, hide the addresses of your inflicttees.

Here's how:

- 1) Compose your email.
- 2) Address it to your own email address.
- 3) Then add your recipients one by one with the BCC button.

BCC officially means 'Blind Carbon Copy'. It's the subversive variant of the CC 'copy' function, responsible single-handedly for swamping workplaces with avalanches of digital

sludge.

BCC is a really sneaky way to copy someone into correspondence without the original addressee being aware of it. All BCC addresses are hidden from all other recipients, so no one can harvest valuable contact details from your address book.

By addressing an email to yourself and then BCC-ing your recipients, their details remain sacrosanct and they'll only hate you for the inanity of your joke, not for revealing their email

addresses to all.

While we're at it, here's another obvious but surprisingly common email fault: keeping everything in your Inbox.

My immortal beloved eventually had several thousand emails in her groaning, treacle-slow Inbox until she finally saw the light and was saved.

All it takes is to make folders/directories in your email program's left-hand navigation column, and every day drag your dealt-with emails from the Inbox into their respective folders: Business, Friends, Lovers, Potential lovers, Final demands, Absolutely final demands, whatever folders suit your particular needs. It makes finding the email you want a whole lot easier too.

One more tip: delete those huge attachments from your emails once you're done with them. In some programs you just right-click the attachment symbol and choose delete.

Your email program will become much more responsive without the burden of all those forwarded cat videos. So do it right miaow.

## Scorched earth

RATHER than clean my lodgings as a student, it was often easier just to keep moving somewhere else.

Sadly it's not that simple with email, though some of us do indeed just give up when spammers overrun our accounts, and endure the 'scorched earth' hassle of starting a new address.

Hitting an 'Unsubscribe' link at the bottom of an email often works. But sometimes it has the opposite and unintended effect of confirming to the spammer that he has reached an actual live recipient, and the invasion ramps up.

For extreme cases you can actually train your program to recognise junk mail and move it to a junk folder automatically. Or you can use a proper spam blocker. I had 30 emails advertising one in my Inbox last week...

# In a manner of speaking

## Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

- and not entirely impartial reaction - to the Spanish political scene

PODEMOS leader Pablo Iglesias and his girlfriend Irene Montero, who is also the party spokeswoman, want to use 'la portavoz' instead of 'la portavoza' which means nothing other than spokeswoman.

What's more Adriana Lastra, a PSOE spokeswoman, agreed with Montero and is happy to use it, she said.

Portavoz is one of those nice Spanish words that can be preceded by el or la depending on whether it describes a male or female. You could say it was gender-neutral, which should keep everybody happy.

Unfortunately portavoza could be here to stay because politicians increasingly feel the need to refer to both genders, which makes for some very clunky speechmaking and irritates more people than it pleases.

But it's not going to close the male-female pay gap, which is where Montero and Lastra should be investing their energies instead of splitting semantic hairs.

Interestingly, no-one has asked the Podemos spokeswoman if she intends to

change her surname to Montera.

## Up, up and away

THE polls show Ciudadanos taking the lead again, ahead of the governing Partido Popular (PP) and the PSOE.

With regional and municipal elections only a year away, the government has agreed that something must be done to clip Albert Rivera's wings. The PP barons have their own ideas about how to do this but are afraid to tell Rajoy. And no wonder. The best and least conflictive way to stop Rivera

from flying up, up and away is by grounding and replacing Mariano Rajoy.

Telling him so is regarded inside the party as heresy but 60 per cent of PP voters have told pollsters that they think Rajoy should go. If the faithful are deserting him now, how can the party ever hope to recruit non-believers?

## The icing on the cake

SPAIN'S Economy Minister Luis de Guindos hopes to become vice-president of the European Central Bank.

Inside Spain there was criticism because he announced his candidacy but hasn't yet handed in the boxy briefcases that are the Spanish government's equivalent of a despatch box.

There should be a respectable hiatus between both jobs, it's claimed.

That's inside Spain. Outside, it's a different story because there is uneasiness about his past with Lehman Brothers.

Remember Lehman Brothers? The economic crisis was already looming in 2008 but the bank's collapse brought it into focus while Luis de Guindos was its European adviser and director of Lehman's subsidiary in Spain and Portugal.

And oh yes, just to make things really kosher and put the icing on the cake, De Guindos belongs to Opus Dei, too.

## A rose by any other name

IT'S said that a resigned Mariano Rajoy would allow Carles Puigdemont, currently skulking in Waterloo, to receive an honorary designation from Cataluña's pro-independence parliament. This would be acceptable so long as he receives no public money and possesses no administrative powers, Madrid has hinted.

Two months after the regional elections, Cataluña still does not have a government because the pro-independence parties whose combined majority allows them to call the shots, wanted Puigdemont as president. It must be him or no-one, they threatened, so the Madrid compromise would be one way of investing someone - possibly Elsa Artadi - so that Cataluña finally has a semblance of a government.

Although with Puigdemont as a string puller and an acknowledged presence in Belgium there would be no change in secessionist ambitions and this particular remedy could turn out to be worse than the disease.



Irene Montero/Facebook

**IRENE MONTERO: The 'portavoza' of Podemos.**

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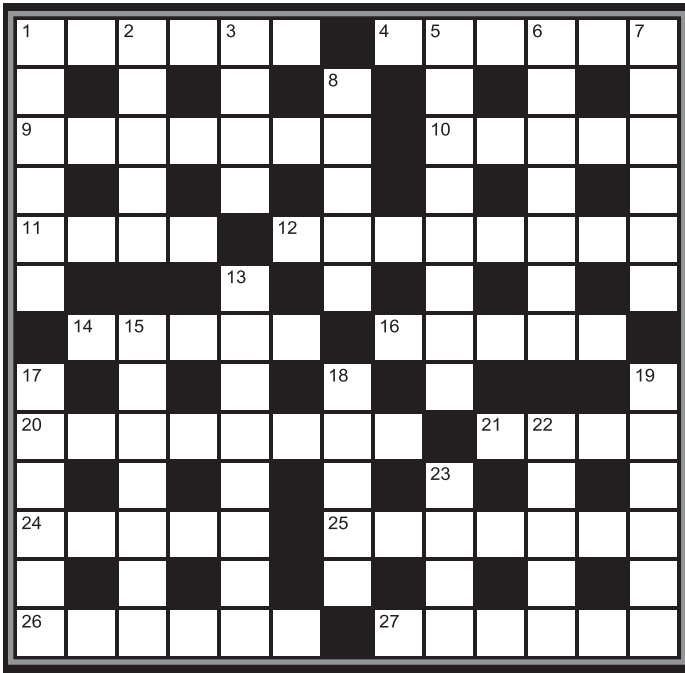
**Cryptic**

**Across**

- 1 Stop translating Sartre (6)
- 4 Prepared sauces for the campaigns (6)
- 9 First class rider takes a tumble in Scotland (7)
- 10 Swap jazz key (5)
- 11 Rotate tea boiler (4)
- 12 Fine head start with British Airways, perhaps (8)
- 14 Harbour with own pole (5)
- 16 It's torture putting silver on Yankee (5)
- 20 Risk money, a pound, after some light shopping? (8)
- 21 Funny ditch (2-2)
- 24 Play doctor and a graduate (5)
- 25 Crush the star characters (7)
- 26 Something glossy for a teen's dance (6)
- 27 Love means nothing for such players (6)

**Down**

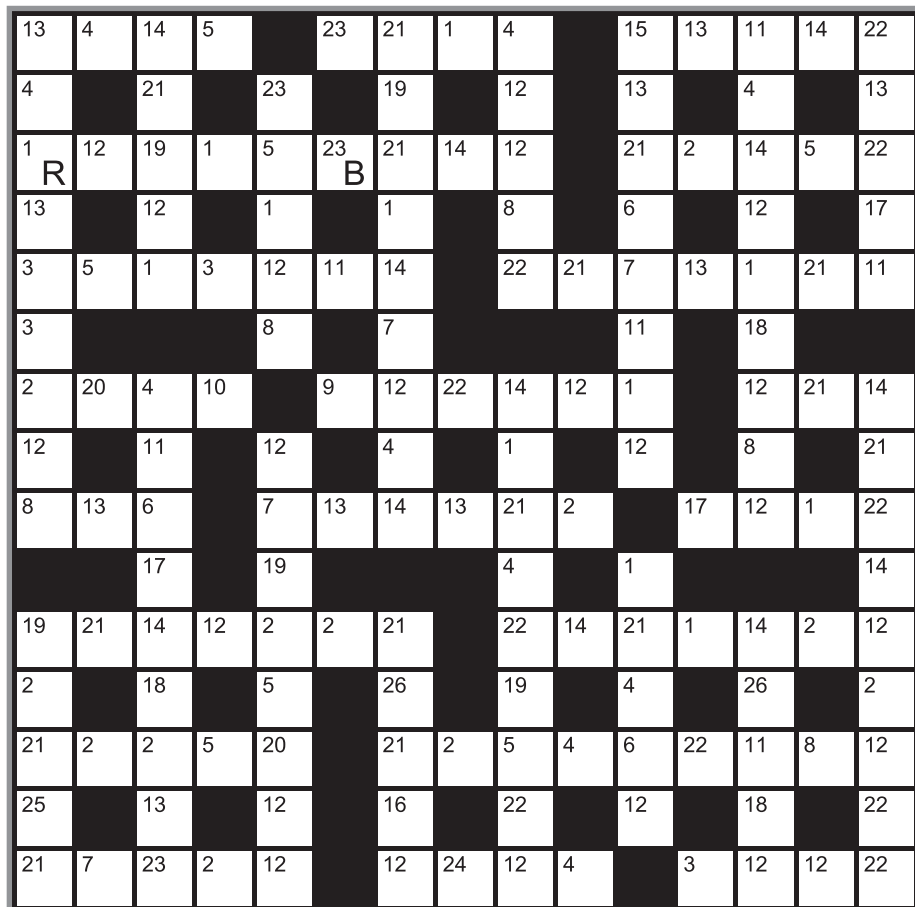
- 1 Changes Pat's ad about (6)
- 2 More uncommon rubles are registered (5)
- 3 Agile secret agent creeping round the ringleader (4)
- 5 Modify, for example, ring for a confidant (5,3)
- 6 One's position is not changed at the inside (7)
- 7 Metal pin crook finally found in waste pipe (6)
- 8 Keep out of French watering



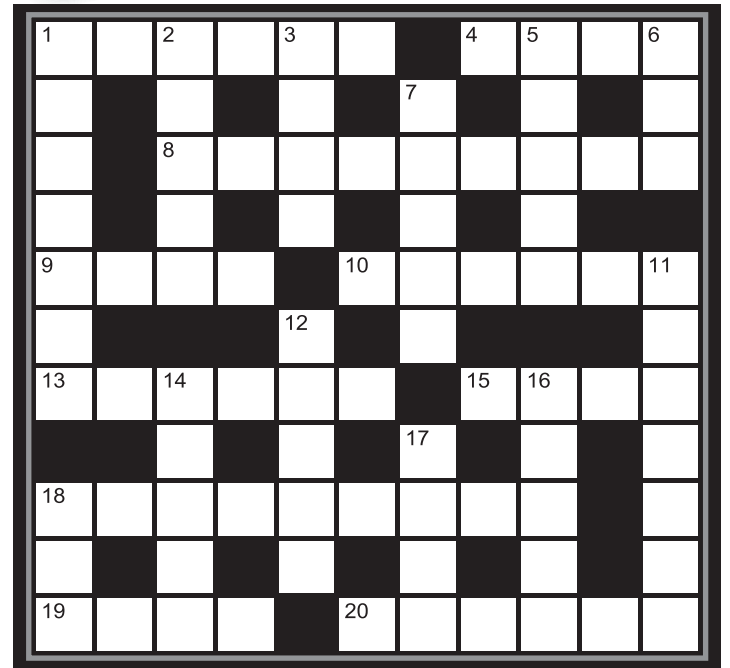
- hole (5)
- 13 State risk accepting European jurisprudence (8)
- 15 After a time, the pamphlet will entice (7)
- 17 Remains in taxicab I'd escaped in (6)
- 18 Squander, say, part of the body (5)
- 19 Mother, doctor and a Sikh leader are all from Chennai (6)
- 22 Continue performing in part of West London (5)
- 23 Cabbage is an ingredient of cock-a-leekie soup (4)

**Code Breaker**

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 1 represents R and 23 represents B, so fill in R every time the figure 1 appears and B every time the figure 23 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



**Quick**



**Across**

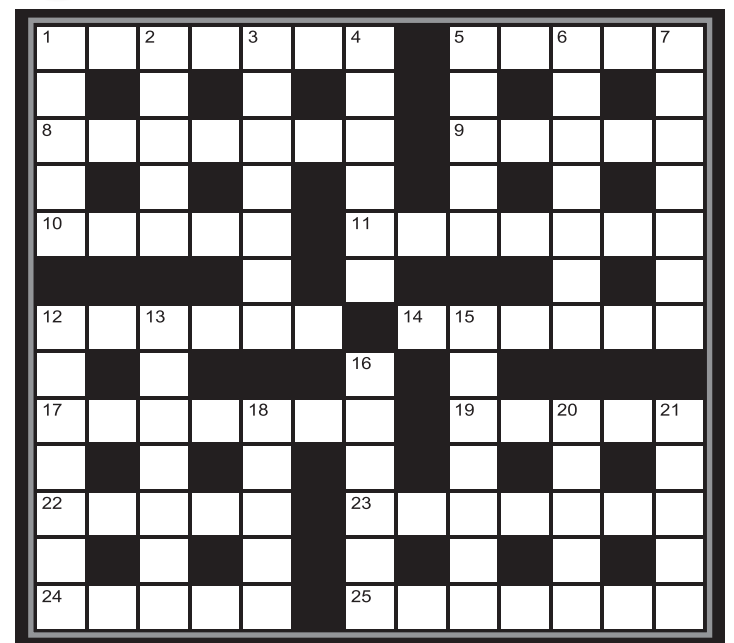
- 1 Come or go back (6)
- 4 Prison (4)
- 8 Variety of peach with a smooth skin (9)
- 9 Gemstone (4)
- 10 Rely on (6)
- 13 Stable units (6)
- 15 Capital of Norway (4)
- 18 Sweets on sticks (9)
- 19 Nesting insect (4)
- 20 Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal (6)

**Down**

- 1 Unpleasantly loud and harsh (7)
- 2 Friendly Islands (5)
- 3 Wealthy (4)
- 5 Nimble or active (5)
- 6/18 Hide out (3,3)
- 7 Ship of the desert (5)
- 11 Bishop's jurisdiction (7)
- 12 Ordinary (5)
- 14 Collection of maps in book form (5)
- 16 Japanese food (5)
- 17 Chief or leader (4)
- 18 See 6

**English - Spanish**

The clues are mixed, some clues are in Spanish and some are in English.



**Across**

- 1 Desafortunado (7)
- 5 Toads (5)
- 8 Gaviota (7)
- 9 Parrots (5)
- 10 Thirteen (5)
- 11 To obtain (7)
- 12 Cubo (balde) (6)
- 14 Geese (domestic) (6)
- 17 Reign (7)
- 19 Arches (5)
- 22 January (5)
- 23 Pendiente (joya) (7)
- 24 Sheep (5)
- 25 Cantantes (7)

**Down**

- 1 Alterado (5)
- 2 Key (door) (5)
- 3 Dummy (for baby) (7)
- 4 Amarillo (6)
- 5 Hendidura (corte) (5)
- 6 Padres (7)
- 7 Tailors (7)
- 12 Barber (7)
- 13 Chino (7)
- 15 Scorpion (7)
- 16 Toallas (6)
- 18 Now (at this time, immediately) (5)
- 20 Delito (5)
- 21 Señales (indicaciones) (5)



# I am 'Relentless'

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



THERE is nothing that makes me grumpier than dealing with ignorant, stupid people. Ryanair has recently introduced a 'live chat' facility which, after never being able to actually speak to a human being, is a good alternative. But this is the conversation I had with one of their agents today:

'Hello Michael - how may I help you?'

'I have booked a flight and paid to carry hand luggage. I am disabled and travel with my own wheelchair and I have just read in your FAQs that disabled passengers can take their hand luggage free of charge so I'd like to arrange a refund please.'

After going through the usual security questions she comes back with, 'There is no refund with priority boarding. Is there anything else I can help you with today?'

Well a) she hadn't actually helped me with anything and b) now she's offering to not help me with something else.

I explained again that I don't need priority boarding as I always have Special Assistance due to my disability but, because of their new

luggage policy, I felt I had no choice other than to pay for priority boarding. Nowhere on their luggage details do they state that passengers using Special Assistance are able to keep their hand luggage with them free of charge.

I only discovered that little gem buried in their FAQs. Is it so hard to make it easy for people to know that or is it, as I suspect, an easy way to nick more money?

She confirms again there is no refund as they are 'a non-refundable airline'! What the hell does that mean??? I asked to be transferred to a supervisor at which point she says, 'I can't transfer you to a supervisor, if you're not happy fill out a form, goodbye'. And then she disconnects our chat!! And that was the end of my chat. How rude. This is not 'customer service' - this is 'customer alienation.'

Ryanair boast about how they are 'making things better' for their passengers. Really??? I then get a box come up asking me to fill in a survey regarding my experience. I asked them to send me copy of the chat so if anyone thinks I'm exaggerating I have the proof. I'm sure that nowhere on the booking page or the priority boarding does it say Special Assistance passengers do not need to pay. My nickname is 'Relentless' so I won't let this go and it's not even about the money, it's the principle.

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# LEGALLY SPEAKING

## Permission to use your vehicle

**WE** answer some common driving questions, kindly provided by members of the Guardia Civil based in Torrevieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.

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 Dirección (Address):  
 Teléfono de contacto (Contact Phone):

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 MARCA (Make):  
 MODELO (Model):  
 Compañía Aseguradora (Insurance Company):  
 Teléfono Asistencia / Roadside Assistance Phone:  
 N° Póliza (Policy Number):

**CONDUCTOR AUTORIZADO / AUTHORIZED DRIVER**  
 Nombre/Apellidos (Name/surname):  
 N° NIE/Pasaporte (Nie/Passport):  
 Dirección (Address):

**VIGENCIA DE LA AUTORIZACIÓN / TERM**  
 Desde (from):  
 Hasta (until):

*Legar, fecha, hora / Place, date, hour.*  
 Titular (signature) Autorizado (signature)

(Attach the photocopy of both IDs to this document)

ASSUMING your insurance covers multiple drivers, you may allow any qualified driver to use your vehicle. However, in order to avoid problems if the driver is stopped, it is recommended that the vehicle driver is given a document proving that they have the owner's permission to drive the vehicle.

This may seem like an inconvenience, but it is for your protection. If the vehicle is stopped, the officers who come across a vehicle driven by somebody other than the registered keeper will question the legalities of the driver, which is in your best interest, as if it is stolen they will find out very soon.

Otherwise, if a vehicle is stolen but not yet reported as such, there could be no reason for the

Guardia Civil or police to doubt the person driving the vehicle has the owner's permission, and so it could otherwise go unchecked. But of course there could be a genuine reason for somebody other than the registered keeper to drive the car, which is what this document would help to prove.

Simply download the document and complete it, or complete the online version and print it, and attach a copy of both the owner's driving licence, and a copy of the licence of the person given permission to drive. It should be completed in full, including a term of validity, and then dated and signed.

Download, print and complete the following document: <http://n332.es/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/authdriver.pdf>.

**For more news and articles visit [www.n332.es](http://www.n332.es) or search N332 on Facebook.**

## What is rental registration?

**Q.** To a recent enquiry about noisy renters you replied that the landlord must include a registration number on his advert. Does this apply to companies that manage properties for rental for the

landlord? I ask because I never knew this and I have not seen it on any adverts. Where would the registration be placed and how many digits should it have?

*MF (by email)*

**A.** Good question. The regulation of short-term tourist lettings is handled by each one of Spain's 17 autonomous regions, so the rules are different from Andalusia to Valencia to the Balearic Islands. Furthermore, most of the regulations are quite new and the land-

**David Searl**  
*You and the Law in Spain*



lords may have up to a year to comply in some areas. My own quick search showed that practically no one is in compliance yet. There have been

many bureaucratic delays in obtaining the registration but it has been made easier in some areas so you should find the numbers used before too long. And, yes, the letting agencies will be required to include the registration number for each property they advertise on the internet.


**Send your questions for David Searl through lawyers Ubeda-Retana & Associates in Fuengirola at [Ask@lawtaxspain.com](mailto:Ask@lawtaxspain.com), or call 952 667 090.**

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# Lathering in lavender

LAVENDER oil is extracted from the flowers of the lavender plant, usually using steam, and is often used in beauty and health products such as aromatherapy oil, lotions and soaps.

The essential oil also works well when blended with other essential oils such as pine, cedar wood, geranium and nutmeg.

The health benefits of lavender oil have been raved about for centuries. It has the ability to relieve pain, enhance blood circulation, get rid of nervous tension, disinfect the skin, enhance blood circulation, and treat respiratory problems among others.

It also works as an effective bug repellent and has anti-inflammatory qualities that help to re-



Photo by Unsplash

**PURPLE GAIN:** Lavender has been proven to reduce emotional stress and nervous tension.

duce the irritation if you do get bitten.

Lavender oil has been

used for centuries to induce sleep and can be used to treat insomnia.

Studies on elderly people have revealed their sleep regularity increases when they place some lavender essential oil on their pillows due to its relaxing impact.

For this reason it also helps to calm the nerves and ease anxiety.

The stimulating aroma has been proven to get rid of nervous exhaustion and restlessness while increasing mental activity at the same time. This, therefore, makes it effective in treating depression, headaches, emotional stress and nervous tension.

One study revealed that people taking exams suffered from less anxiety if they inhaled lavender and rosemary oil before taking the test.

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Photo by Unsplash

**WARMING:** Steep herbal tea in a covered vessel to preserve the essential oils.

## Herbal tea: a holistic health boost

IF you're suffering from bloating, nausea or even just feeling a bit under the weather, instead of rifling through the medicine cabinet, perhaps reach for a herbal tea bag instead.

Besides being a stimulating, caffeine-free pick-me-up, herbal tea has been proven to have many health benefits and some also contain many of the vitamins and minerals needed on a daily basis.

Herbal tea isn't actually

made from the tea plant of course; it's an infusion of plant leaves, roots, seeds or bark, which provides all the benefits of the plant in an easy-to-digest form.

If you drink herbal tea every day, it can make a significant difference to your skin, your mood, and your energy levels.

Peppermint tea is effective at relieving muscle spasms, as well as the symptoms of nausea and bloating. However, you should avoid it altogether

if you suffer from indigestion or heartburn.

Fresh ginger tea is also great at solving digestion problems and is a powerful cold-fighting remedy when you add lemon and honey.

Known for its anti-oxidant properties, rooibos tea can help to ward off disease and can help reduce the signs of ageing, while chamomile tea can help treat insomnia or anxiety due to its calming and sedative qualities.

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Update on food, drink, entertainments, what's on and weekly happenings

# The Other Side of the Moon

ALTHOUGH it's a long way ahead, some concerts are so popular that they need to be booked well in advance and a visit by The Other Side with their Pink Floyd Live Experience to Palma is one to consider.

Even until quite recently, the concept of a tribute singer or band was not particularly well received but nowadays the tribute world is quite different and when you move into the world of rock the situation changes quite dramatically.

On March 31, the Trui Teatre will welcome a fine tribute band made up of 13 professional musicians from Menorca who are dedicated to performing the music of their heroes in a manner which is true to the original but with the benefit of today's modern equipment.

The programme lasts for almost three hours with a mix of music from the early days to their last album incorporating psychedelic and symphonic



ROCK TRIBUTE: The Other Side in performance.

elements mixed with superb lighting, sound and of course musicians who know exactly what they are doing and have been performing as The Other

Side for five years.

Tickets which cost from €30 to €33 and may be obtained online from the Trui Teatre for the gig which starts at 9pm.

## The Bruno Sotos Band

A YOUNG man from Andratx was delighted to have the chance to appear in the series Spain's Got Talent and although he missed out in the semi-finals, it was the springboard for a new career as a professional musician.

When he sang *Hoy Duele* (Today Hurts) on the TV programme which was a self-composed tribute to his late father and it pulled at the heartstrings of viewers.

The video version of the song has been viewed by millions of Spanish speakers throughout the world.

Since then Bruno released his first album *Para Respirar* (To Breathe) in 2016 and has just signed a four year deal with Sony. He is in the process of recording songs for a new album with a taste of these songs appearing on a recently released EP *Acuarela* (Watercolour).



Photo Credit: Bruno Sotos Twitter

TALENT: Bruno, on the right, received a portrait from artist Mesas Sanchez.

Now he is appearing with his band, in which he sings and plays guitar, at the Auditori de Peguera in Calvia on Friday March 2 alongside Miguel Forteza (violin), Sergio Ramis (keyboards), Pedro Moya (drums), Toni Morales (bass) and Juanjo Monserrat (guitar).

Tickets for the gig, which starts at 9.30pm, cost €10 in advance or €15 on the night.

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## Upcoming wine region

PRIORAT, as one of the upcoming Spanish wine regions, has recorded an extraordinary leap in quality and reputation over the last decade.

This small area which qualifies as Denominació d'Origen Qualificada (DOQ) is in Tarragona Province in Catalunya and is one of only two regions - alongside Rioja - to qualify as DOCa, the highest qualification.

It produces mainly red and powerful wines. Characterised by a terroir of volcanic origins with black slate and quartz soil known as llicorella, with vineyards on terraces at 100m - 700m, the area has low yields due to the rocky soil which does not allow water accumulation.

Wine production in the area dates from the 12th century, when monks from the Monastery of Scala Dei introduced viticulture and the prior ruled as a feudal lord, giving rise to the name Priorat.

At the end of the 19th century, the phylloxera pest devastated the vineyards and replanting was undertaken only in the 1950's. In the 1980's bulk wine production was phased out

**BACCHUS CELLAR**

by Lorenzo Barbareschi





PRIORAT: On the march.

and bottling of quality wine was introduced.

The traditional grape variety in El Priorat is the red Garnacha tinta, which is found in all the older vineyards. Other red varieties are Garnacha Peluda, Cariñena, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah.

White varieties are Garnacha blanca, Macabeo, Pedro Ximenez and Chenin.

The traditional reds are a single grape bottling of Grenache and Carignan, or a blend of these with French grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Syrah. Usually aged in oak barrels for 18 months followed by six months in the bottle, Priorat wines have a consumption optimal two years later.

*Happy tasting.*

# Balearic Symphony Orchestra

AS part of the ongoing series of classical concerts, the Balearic Symphony Orchestra with Joaquin Achucarro playing concert piano will be appearing at the Palma Auditorium today (Thursday) and the Auditorium in Manacor tomorrow (Friday).

Under the direction of Guillermo Garcia Calvo, the solo pianist will be presenting the following pieces, *Overture per a Bon Dia* by Parera, *Piano Concerto no 4 Op 58* by Beethoven and *Quartet for Orchestra Op 25* by Brahms and Schönberg.

Tickets for the Palma performance will cost between €22 and €32 whilst at Manacor tickets will be just €17.



**WORLD-RENOWNED:** Pianist Joaquin Achucarro.



Photo Credit: The Original Wailers

**GUITARIST:** Al Anderson.

## Reggae greats

HAVING come to international attention with the album *Catch a Fire*, Bob Marley and the Wailers consisting of Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer decided to go their separate ways.

In theory now a solo musician, Marley recruited a working band which still toured as the Wailers and perhaps, surprisingly, recruited an American guitarist, Al Anderson of Amerind and African descent who was already closely involved with Chris Blackwell's Island Music.

It was this band, working with Bob Marley - now signed to Island - that had so much success with a whole range of

songs such as *No Woman No Cry* catapulting Marley from cult status to one of international stardom which even saw him becoming involved in Jamaican politics and getting shot.

Playing with the band, Anderson earned a number of platinum discs as well as receiving his own Grammy nomination for his band the Original Wailers following the untimely death of Bob Marley.

Now under the direction of this former close associate of Bob Marley, the Original Wailers are constantly on the road and will be making a

short tour of Spain which will bring them to the Centro Musical Es Gremi in Palma on Sunday March 11 supported by La Barraca Sound System and Calee Arias.

Tickets are priced €18 plus booking fee or €22 on the night.

The audience can expect an evening of ska and reggae with a number of the best known Bob Marley songs performed by Al Anderson alongside exceptional musicians, Chet Samuel (lead vocals/guitar), Omar Lopez (bass guitar), Howard Smith (drums), and Adrian 'AK' Cisneros (keyboards and Organ).

## Gastronomic first for Calvia

FOLLOWING the opening of two special markets offering a range of different foods in Palma, the town of Calvia is about to follow suit.

Based in Calle Pinada near the beach, the Central Street Food Market will have space for 24 different food stalls in 2,500 square metres over two floors.

Offering a wide mixture of different food types including Asian and Mallorcan specialities. This new concept for the town which expects to be open shortly after Easter and in time for the spring and summer holidays will also offer a number of diverse events to attract customers.

It is hoped that, like other gastronomic markets around Spain, this market will attract a clientele which enjoys and understands food and the concept of being able to 'mix and match' different tastes and styles.

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Hugh Carville is a famous face on Mallorca, having entertained the masses for 5 years at popular venue 'The Stadium'. He's a music aficionado who can tell his Black Sabbath from his Black Lace.

Hugh's radio career started when he was a regular host of the legendary weekend radio show 'English Radio Mallorca'. On air he highlighted weekly events and was one member of the popular team who's show has now become part of Mallorca's history.

Hugh has his finger on the pulse of what's happening on Mallorca and brings you local news, events, charity updates, gossip, and much more each day on Spectrum Mallorca.

Hugh has lived on Mallorca for 10 years and shares a home with his fiancé in Palmanova. He loves to help with the various charities on the island and enjoys walking in the mountains of Mallorca. Having learnt his DJ trade in various clubs and bars in and around London, he decided to make his move to the wonderful island of Mallorca; which he now calls home. You can listen to Hugh in the mornings on Spectrum FM from 8am to 12 pm.

Have an event? Get in contact with Hugh  
on [hugh@spectrumfm.net](mailto:hugh@spectrumfm.net)  
or via Facebook @mallorcaspectrum

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# Lap of luxury

## Costa is class act for high end sales



**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION:** The Mediterranean coast is leading the luxury property drive.

By Kat Ashton

**T**HE purchase of Spanish homes by foreign buyers is sky rocketing.

And the real estate market has recovered faster since the financial crisis than most of the country's other industries.

The Spanish Mediterranean coast remains among the top destinations for those on the hunt for luxury homes, complete with pristine golf courses and, above all, sea views.

According to the latest data published by Spanish notaries, there were more than 50,000 purchases by foreign investors in the first half of 2017, marking a 13.4 per cent year-on-year increase.

And while Spanish housing market figures have shown a consistent improvement since 2014, they have boomed in recent months.

The southern Spanish coast remains one of the preferred destinations year after year for foreign buyers looking for a luxury home.

Sea views are reportedly among the



top priority for these buyers, closely followed by distance to the nearest golf course and their own swimming pool, according to a new report by a leading estate agent.

The agency claims that these buyers are looking for properties built using the latest materials and technology, but are also ener-

gy efficient. Smart homes are the latest trend among foreign upmarket buyers, which combine state-of-the-art technology with energy saving features.

However, foreign buyers reportedly prefer a house further away from the coast, so long as they have a good pool, are closer to the golf course and

still have great views of the sea, while homes sought by Spanish buyers tend to be closer to the beachfront. The typical "foreigner looking for a house in Spain is usually Nordic or British, who buys the property as a holiday home first and often ends up spending his retirement there," explained the agency.

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Ever heard of Llucmajor? Nice town in the south eastern part of Mallorca, very well communicated with Palma and offering some of the most interesting coast sites on the island.

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Living area 73m2.



### Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

Semi-detached house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with American kitchen, garden and roof terrace. 75m<sup>2</sup> living area.



### Ref 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

Terraced house near the sea with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, laundry room, private garage, garden, aircon



### Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

Large finca perfect for keeping horses: main house 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen/diner, garage. Guest house for total reform, large stables, own well, mains electricity. Totally constructed 750m2, plot 70,500m2



### Ref 3118, Llucmajor, 106,500€

Apartment in good state of repair, 3rd floor. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, 2 balconies. No lift. Living area 90m2 plus terraces.



### Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

Plot with building permission, mains electricity and mains water possible. Nice views.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE HEIGHTS/DREAM LIFE PROPERTIES/SHUTTERSTOCK



## Moving home from Spain? Make your money go further

If the sun is setting on your time in Spain and you need to transfer savings or the proceeds of a property sale back to the UK, it's important to consider your currency options.

Picking the best time to transfer your funds and having the support of a specialist provider can leave you thousands better off. Intrigued? Read on to discover the key things you should be looking out for...

### 1. Exchange rate volatility

Exchange rates are the value of one currency relative to another, and they can move in reaction to all manner of economic, political, social and even environmental stimuli.

The EUR/GBP exchange rate, for example, has shifted significantly over the last few years.

Back in 2016 the EUR/GBP exchange rate was around £0.75 - meaning one euro was worth 75 pence. But then Brexit happened. The UK's unexpected vote to leave the EU sent the pound reeling, and the broad-based weakness in Sterling helped the EUR/GBP exchange rate jump as high as £0.92 - 17 pence stronger.

17 pence might not sound like much (it couldn't even buy you half a Mars Bar these days) but the exchange rate shift meant that people making larger currency transfers from the Eurozone to the UK were thousands better off than they would have been pre-vote.

Although the EUR/GBP exchange rate has since eased away from its post-referendum highs, it's still substantially stronger than it was a couple of years ago - making now a good time to transfer money back to Britain.

However, exchange rates can move by as much as 5% in a matter of weeks, so it's worth keeping an eye on what the currency market's up to if you want to transfer your funds at the best time.

If you aren't sure where to find the latest currency news, sign up to receive market updates from a leading currency broker and they'll send the information you need to know right to your inbox.

The type of provider you use can also make a massive difference to how much you receive, with currency specialists tending to offer far more competitive exchange rates than banks.

### 2. Transfer charges

While currency providers like Currencies Direct will manage your currency transfers fee-free, many other providers (and most high-street banks) will charge for the service.

The fee will vary, but no matter how much it is, it's still money you don't need to spend. Make

sure you check how much a provider charges before using them to move your funds back home.

### 3. Transfer options

When it comes to transferring currency overseas, there are a number of different options to choose from...

If you need to make an immediate transfer, a spot contract allows you to move the money quickly at the current exchange rate.

Meanwhile, if you don't need to move money at the moment but you're worried the exchange rate might change in the future, you can use a forward contract to lock in the rate for up to a year.

You can even use a stop loss order to set a worst-case rate, or use a limit order to target a rate higher than the current market level.

Currencies Direct offers all these options, and their teams of currency experts will be able to talk through your requirements and help you pick the best solution for you.

Currencies Direct also have a relationship with CaixaBank that means anyone selling a property in Spain can deposit the banker's draft in their euro account without incurring all the usual fees.

*At Currencies Direct, we've helped over 210,000 customers save on their currency transfers since 1996. Just pop into your local Currencies Direct branch or give us a call to find out more about how you can save money on your currency transfers.*

### Get in touch

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ATTRACTING birds to your garden is easy if you have the right plants that will provide water, food, shelter and protection from predators.

Birds do best in gardens with multiple storeys of plants from ground covers, shrubs as under storeys, to taller tree canopies as an upper storey.

Providing water in the dry months in safe places for birds to drink, is the sure way to have birds attracted to your garden. A steady, reliable source of water is a primary need, even more than food, if other sources of water are not nearby.

If you provide water, birds will visit regularly, if you provide food plants, they will stay longer and if you provide safe shelter as well, native birds may start to nest in your garden. Migratory birds will only visit but are more likely to visit if you have a food source as well as water.

There are many plants that can provide food for the birds. As different bird species have different requirements of seed, nectar or insects, a variety of different plants are needed to attract the bird species you wish to support in your garden.

# Bird lovers paradise, a garden for the birds

The best way to provide food is to use a lot of native plants and have a wild zone for allowing naturally occurring non-invasive native plants - even the plants considered weeds in the ornamental and vegetable garden - to go through their full life cycle.

Many plants considered weeds are useful plants for birds to feed on for the flowers, nectar and seeds.

Birds usually prefer to arrive onto the upper storey to survey a garden for food and dangers before entering, and different species build their nests in the upper storey for safety from ground based predators.

Each bird species has different needs however, so many smaller birds will look for nesting places in the under storey that has dense thickets to prevent larger predators from entering. So to attract a wide range of birds, having a wide range

of plants that give good protection is important for diversity.

Plants that provide nectar include Sages (*Salvia* species), Grevillea species, Torch lilies (*Kniphofia* species), Lobelia species, Penstemon species, Verbena species, Sunflowers (*Helianthus*), Thyme (*Thymus* species), Lavender (*Lavendula* species), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* species), Ice Plant (*Sedum* species), Firethorn (*Pyracantha* species) and Barberry (*Berberis* species).

Seed plants include Sunflower (*Helianthus* species), Coneflower (*Echinacea* species), Aster species, Zinnia species, Cumin (*Cuminum* species), Calendula species and many others.

Attracting birds can just be a matter of widening the range of plants that you normally grow, which may provide even more interest to your garden as many bird food plants are very attractive.

Hedges and thickets of plants will provide safe nesting places for smaller birds, and tall trees can have nesting boxes installed to make trees a ready-made nesting place.

Applying natural mulches around your garden will help birds find materials to build the nests.



**BEAUTIFUL:** Everyone loves to see birds in their garden.

Ana Aguirre Perez Shutterstock

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Traditionally small wood remnants such as branches are burnt to ash, which is a waste. It's better to mulch them into small wood chips and use them for covering your garden. It prevents the soil from drying out in the summer and eventually it will compost and give nutrients back to the soil. It's better for both the garden and the environment.

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## February jobs for the garden

IT may not quite be spring yet, but now is a great time to start getting stuck into your garden again.

Although temperatures are on the up, there is still a risk of some chilly days ahead, so make sure you protect any

plants that are extremely averse to the cold by wrapping them in insulation, such as garden fleece.

This is also a good time to clear your garden of any fallen leaves or debris in time for spring, as well as clearing out your shed

or greenhouse.

You could also get structures and plans in place for what you want to plant when it gets a bit warmer.

If it is fairly warm where you live, you could start sowing seeds in parts of your garden that receive a lot of sunlight.

Keep the seeds and seedlings covered at night to protect them from pests and then plant in well-prepared soil when it gets warmer.

Also make sure to keep up with your pruning, but leave cherry, plum and apricots trees until summer, as pruning these trees now could make them vulnerable to Silver Leaf disease.



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**TIDY UP:** Make sure to keep up with your pruning in February.



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# Training day is vital

OVER the past 60 years I have seen many changes, some excellent but many not suitable. I frown upon the harness as I do not know anyone that can train a dog in a harness which was designed for tracking, rescue and for the blind and disabled.

Those that use the flexi cord should be aware they were designed for people who live in apartments to enable dogs to be taken down to the garden to relieve themselves.

Those that use them in the streets are not aware of the danger these can cause since there is no control when they are extended and again this is not a suitable tool for training. I have known many people to trip and indeed get hurt.

The standards of training have certainly diminished. Most 'trainers' have been to a training school themselves for four to six months, then give themselves a title 'I am a dog trainer'.

Some join American organisations on the internet which give out certifi-



**GOOD JOB:** These dogs know how to behave.

icates without putting the person through a test to see how they handle dogs. Note I use the word 'dogs', every type of dog is different to handle and so much depends on the breeders and pup-

py school teachers, best to look before you book!

All good schools will spend at least half the time explaining to owners many aspects of the dog including,

most importantly, feeding the correct type of dried food, as food affects behaviour and many skin problems. Today one does not need to march around in circles as owners need information

and help on feeding, grooming and their general attitude towards their pet.

Dogs must be respected by children who in turn need educating and taught that this is not a furry baby or toy, it is a canine live creature.

Young married couples must think hard before taking on a dog as one must think of their lifestyle including a future family, since everything changes once the lady gets pregnant. Dogs do get jealous and a good trainer will explain about dangers etc. Many of you reading this article may not realise that I never trained a dog! (I educated people.)

Never forget children need to be taught to respect animals. It is always a good idea to allow them to feed the dog and explain we never touch the dog or bowl when the dog is eating.

Before training a dog one must do research and understand how much work, cost and time is needed, plus the most important fact that dogs should never be allowed to be on their own for more than two hours.

## House or pet-sitters required?

THE online network HouseSitMatch offers home and pet owners a safe way to connect with checked house-sitters online, to make arrangements for someone to care for homes and property in their absence.

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By registering on our HouseSitMatch network it means you can get to know people who would like to visit your area of Spain and would house-sit for free in exchange for free accommodation. It is an exchange of services. A barter if you like in old fashioned terms. Registered members of the network help each other. It saves both members a lot of money, no hotel fees for the house-sitter, and no pet or paid sitter fees for the owner.

Use the discount coupon code PERFECT20 when you register online to get the 20 per cent off any registration plan.

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- If you have pets and need house-sitters - Register on our site as a 'homeowner' and provide photos and general information about your location and your assignment. If you register as a Premium Homeowner for £79 per year we help you at every step.

- If you have experience with home and pet care and want to house-sit in Spain or abroad - Register as a 'house-sitter,' build a profile with



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photos and describe how you think you can help homeowners with pets. Choose a Premium plan for £79 per year and you can build a large profile with more prominence online.

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*This company have been excellent from start to finish in finding a house-sitter for us in Andalusia. They have checked up at all stages and also after the event. This gives us confidence in using the system.*

~ Nina JP, Gibraltar ~ Home & Pet owner  
(See more reviews in Trustpilot)

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## Dangers of a 'butcher's dog' diet

IN the vein of the clean eating health food trend that involves going back to basics and consuming raw, unprocessed food, some dog owners are rejecting traditional pet food and going back to a more old-school 'butcher's dog' diet consisting of raw meat.

This food is still often bought pre-prepared so it can be easily served and frozen for convenience.

However, a recent study has suggested these raw meat products could contain bacterial and parasitic diseases, which are not necessarily a problem for dogs - although they can suffer from food poisoning - but they can become carriers of the bacteria.

This can then be spread through their faeces, which could then make their owners seriously ill.

Storing the meat at -20°C could help to kill the bacteria and handling the food sensibly should help minimise the risks.

Always make sure to wash your hands with hot water and soap after handling the dog



**WILD:** Golden Retriever eats a raw chicken.

food and picking up your pet's faeces. cutlery and bowls separate from your dogs and try to keep him out of the kitchen if possible.

You should also keep your



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Photo by Abxbay Wikimedia

**FORCE BLUE:** Moored in Monaco in happier days.

## Italian tycoon fights to avoid prison

SCHADENFREUDE is a German word meaning the gaining of pleasure at someone's bad fortune and there may be one or two people around the world who are revelling at the fall of Italian Flavio Briatore, the former manager of the Benetton and Renault F1 racing teams.

He had risen from being a restaurant manager and insurance

salesman to become a highly successful businessman although he was found guilty of several acts of fraud in the 1980's but escaped imprisonment thanks to a general amnesty.

His latest problem however involves his 63-metre Superyacht Force Blue and the thorny and age old problem of non-payment of vat.

In this case, it was alleged (and later proven) that the Cayman Islands registered vessel was actually operating in Italian waters from July 2006 to the spring of 2010 and should therefore have paid €3.6 million for unpaid VAT.

There was a further charge of improperly declaring the yacht's fuel exempt from VAT, thereby saving a further €800,000 in duty.

The yacht was seized and sits in the port of Genoa whilst appeal follows appeal and currently Briatore had his initial sentence of 23 months imprisonment reduced to 18 months whilst the yacht's captain and an administrator of Autumn Sailing Ltd, the offshore company that owns the yacht, also received 18-month sentences although other defendants had charges dropped.

It is expected that a further appeal will be made against the sentence received by all three men.

In the meantime, the former chairman of Queens Park Rangers football club and current manager of Fernando Alonso who is the father of one of supermodel Heidi Klum's children, will continue to fight his corner but currently without access to Force Blue.

## Time has slowed as the winds drop

AS the six yachts still taking part in Leg 6 of the Volvo Ocean Race to Auckland New Zealand, head into the doldrums there is still just 100 nautical miles between them.

The whole leadership, however, has turned around and Spanish boat MAPFRE is now last whilst Turn the tide on plastic took over the leadership from Scallywag.

Positioning, whilst in the doldrums, is of prime importance and the speed of the various competitors ranges from five to 10 knots but with nearly 1,500



**CLOSE COMPETITION:** Almost close enough to touch.

miles still to cover, it could be anybody's race to win.

After all this time, the back markers are within metres of each other and Carolijn Brouwer, from Dongfeng Race Team in fifth place posted a comment 'One would think we were attached by a bungee,' captioning a photo that showed MAPFRE nearly within high-five distance.

This is the longest competitive sporting event in the world which covers 45,000 miles and takes boats and crews across four oceans and six continents.

## Trying to get a quart into a pint pot



Photo by Boot Dusseldorf

**OOPS:** There really isn't room on board.

SOMETIMES people day-dream and have ideas that don't quite work.

It's possible that the owner of this car imagined that he or she was the proud possessor of a Superyacht and therefore had space to garage a run around on board.

It must have come as something of a shock when they woke up and realised that their dream didn't quite match the reality of the situation.

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## A clever gadget to remove nasty smells.

INTRODUCED last year is a very simple but highly efficient unit intended to remove unpleasant odours from luxury yachts.

For some crews, it is a challenge to ensure that when the owner comes on board there are no nasty nasal surprises which could be the result of paint, perfume, tobacco or simply because

the vessel has been laid up for a while.

A British company, Cathelco has developed the unimaginatively named OdourFree 3000, a light and portable unit which produces ozone in order to permanently remove bad smells.

Measuring 220mm and weighing just one kilogramme,

it uses very small levels of power in order to combat smells in quite large areas.

Once you have used the unit a few times, you will be able to estimate the length of time it needs to be left on and the manufacturers are hoping this will become a must have product for every large yacht.

**MOTORING FACT**



Hypothetically speaking, it would take less than six months to get to the moon by car if you were travelling at an average speed of 95km/h.



Photo by Twitter/Shutterstock

**BEAUTIFUL:** The limited edition Aston, owned by Daniel Craig (inset).

## Bond bombshell! Limited edition Aston up for sale

A LIMITED edition Aston Martin, owned by James Bond actor Daniel Craig, is expected to sell for more than €450,000 when it is put up for sale.

Craig's very own customised Vanquish is being put under the hammer to raise money for his youth project.

The 2014 model, aptly numbered 007, can reach speeds of up to 320 kmph and has a spec chosen specifically by the Hollywood A-lister.

It features left-hand drive with a denim and dark interior, and deep blue, leather, hand-stitched seats based on Craig's personal choice.

On his decision to let the car go, Craig told British media: "This Aston Martin Vanquish is a tour de force of automobile engineering and a distinct pleasure to drive."

"While I will miss it, I am keen to further the very important work of The Opportunity Network with its sale."

The car was personally designed by Marek Reichman, Aston Martin's Chief Creative Officer, who was also responsible for the DB10 in Spectre.

It is capable of doing 0 - 100 kmph in

roughly four seconds and reach 320 kmph thanks to its 5.9 litre V12 engine.

The famous Aston will officially head to auction on April 20 in Christie's, The Exceptional Sale.

Along with purchasing the car, the winning bidder will also be offered a behind-the-scenes tour of the Aston Martin headquarters in Gaydon, Warwickshire, England.

Becky MacGuire, director of The Exceptional Sale, told British media: "We are thrilled at the chance to support Daniel Craig's generosity to The Opportunity Network with the offer of this unique and gorgeous sports car."

"With its pristine condition, luxury materials, exceptional craftsmanship and impeccable provenance, the Aston Martin fits perfectly into Christie's masterpiece sale."

Auctioneers have estimated that the car will fetch between €320,000 and €480,000, with all proceeds going to The Opportunity Network.

The Opportunity Network, which Craig is an avid supporter of, is a non-profit organisation that aims to help young people into higher education and support career development.

## Spanish superiority



Photo by Credit: Opel

**STEP FORWARD:** Opel CEO Michael Lohscheller, Plant Manager Zaragoza Antonio Cobo and Jonathan Akeroyd, Director Sales, Marketing & Aftersales Opel Iberian Cluster.

OPEL has announced that the next generation of the Opel/Vauxhall Corsa will be exclusively produced at the company's Zaragoza plant as of 2019.

The company has also announced that the electric version of the bestselling sub-compact car will roll off the Zaragoza production line by 2020, meaning that the Spanish plant will be the first Groupe PSA plant to produce a fully electric Opel/Vauxhall model in Europe.

Opel Chief Executive, Michael Lohscheller, said: "This is an important step forward for the Zaragoza plant and marks the beginning of a new era."

The news comes after a social framework agreement was signed between Opel and the workers unions at the end of January.

The deal will not only enable

the plant to significantly increase its competitiveness, but will also allow further future investments into the site

Lohscheller continued: "This result is significant and shows the mutual trust and confidence of all involved stakeholders."

"Zaragoza will continue to play an important role in the industrial footprint of Groupe PSA."

The Corsa will be one of four electrified models in the Opel/Vauxhall portfolio by

2020 and according to the company's strategic plan 'PACE!', all European Opel/Vauxhall passenger car models will have an electrified version by 2024.

The Zaragoza plant started building the Opel Corsa in 1982 and since then almost 13 million cars have been built at the plant, more than 10 million of which are Corsas.

Vehicles also being built at the plant include the Opel Mokka X, the Opel Crossland X and the Citroën C3 Aircross.

FC BARCELONA'S players have all picked out brand new Audis thanks to a deal with the German car giants.

The deal with Audi sees Barcelona's squad able to select any top-of-the-range model they want each year for their daily car, available with every extra possible.

## B-AUDI-lona

The pick of this year's choices saw Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Gerard Pique decide on more family orientated RS6 Avants, worth roughly €146,000 each, while January signings Philippe Coutinho and

Yerry Mina both opted for an Audi Q7 TDI, valued at approximately €73,000.

On the deal, Audi's Christian Guenther told British media: "The Barca players are expected to use their car to get to and from training."

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La Liga Preview

# Malaga on the brink

by Ben Park

MALAGA'S relegation to the Segunda division could be all but confirmed by next week as they face a tough La Liga double header in the space of three days.

Los Boquerones were much the better side in their last match against Valencia, and led for a large period of the game thanks to Brown Ideye's first goal since joining on loan in January.

But a late collapse saw them concede two goals in the final 10 minutes and lose Ignasi Miquel to suspension after picking up a red card, as they fell to yet another loss.

They first face a Bilbao side on Saturday that is desperate for a win themselves, having picked up just three points from a possible 15 in their last five La Liga games.

Following the trip to Bilbao, they host Sevilla at home in what will be considered as a must win game if the side have any hope of surviving the drop to Segunda B.

Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid will look to cement their position in second but face a difficult match as they travel to Sevilla on Sunday.

Madrid closed the gap on Barcelona

last weekend as they swept aside Athletic Bilbao 2-0 thanks to goals from Kevin Gameiro and Diego Costa.

Following the Sevilla match, Greizmann and co host Leganes at the Wanda Metropolitano and will be confident of a win.

Barcelona will continue their push towards the title and look to keep up their unbeaten record as they host Leganes at the Camp Nou.

The Catalan giants sit seven points clear of Atletico at the top of La Liga following their 2-0 win over Eibar last weekend and are still yet to lose in the league this season (W19 D5).

Valencia remain locked in a battle with Real Madrid for third place and will be confident of grabbing all six points from their La Liga double header as they first host Real Sociedad on Sunday before heading to Athletic Bilbao next Wednesday.

Madrid will also be hopeful of getting all six points but may suffer from fatigue as their schedule begins to hot up.

After travelling to Leganes yesterday (Wednesday) Real Madrid host Alaves on Saturday before playing their third game in six days against Espanyol on Tuesday.

Villarreal remain in the driving seat for Europa League qualification and will hope to get back to winning ways after last week's 1-1 draw with Espanyol as they first host Getafe before travelling to Eibar, who are also in the hunt for a Europa League spot, on Wednesday.

Full week's fixture list

Tomorrow (Friday)

Deportivo La Coruña vs Espanyol

Saturday

Celta Vigo vs Eibar

Real Madrid vs Alaves

Leganes vs Las Palmas

Barcelona vs Girona

Sunday

Villarreal vs Getafe

Athletic Bilbao vs Malaga

Valencia vs Real Sociedad

Sevilla vs Atletico Madrid

Monday, February 26

Levante vs Real Betis

Tuesday, February 27

Espanyol vs Real Madrid

Girona vs Celta Vigo

Wednesday, February 28

Athletic Bilbao vs Valencia

Getafe vs Deportivo La Coruña

Malaga vs Sevilla

Atletico Madrid vs Leganes

Eibar vs Villarreal



STRUGGLING: Malaga are yet to win under Jose Gonzalez.

Credit: @ChampionsLeague/Twitter

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PJ	PG	PE	PP	GF	GC	PT
1 • Barcelona	24	19	5	0	62	11	62
2 • Atlético	24	16	7	1	36	9	55
3 • Valencia	24	14	4	6	47	28	46
4 • Real Madrid	23	13	6	4	55	26	45
5 • Sevilla	24	12	3	9	31	35	39
6 • Villarreal	24	11	5	8	35	29	38
7 • Eibar	24	10	5	9	32	36	35
8 • Girona	24	9	7	8	34	30	34
9 • Getafe	24	8	9	7	29	21	33
10 • Betis	24	10	3	11	41	50	33
11 • Celta	24	9	5	10	41	37	32
12 • R. Sociedad	24	8	5	11	46	45	29
13 • Leganés	23	8	5	10	20	25	29
14 • Athletic	24	6	10	8	24	27	28
15 • Alavés	24	9	1	14	22	33	28
16 • Espanyol	24	6	9	9	22	32	27
17 • Levante	24	3	11	10	21	38	20
18 • Las Palmas	24	5	3	16	18	52	18
19 • Deportivo	24	4	5	15	24	53	17
20 • Málaga	24	3	4	17	15	38	13

Premier League preview

# United host Chelsea in top four clash

MANCHESTER UNITED welcome Chelsea to Old Trafford as the Premier League returns this weekend in what could be a huge game in the quest for automatic Champions League places.

The Red Devils were all at sea during their last fixture against Newcastle, as Matt Ritchie's goal was enough to secure a memorable win over Mourinho's men.

They host a Chelsea side on Sunday, who returned to winning ways with a 3-0 win against West Brom, following a string of bad results to ease the pressure on boss Antonio Conte and could climb up the table with a win.

If Manchester United were to lose by several goals, they could drop down as low as fourth in the Premier League table by the end of the day.

That is provided that Liverpool, who thrashed Porto 5-0 in their Champions League match last Tuesday, beat West Ham at Anfield.

The Hammers have found a bit of form in recent times, registering a 2-0 win against Watford in their last game, but it is hard to see anyone stopping in-form front three Mohammed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino at the moment.

At the other end of the table, West

**RESULT: Alvaro Morata scored the only goal of the game the last time the two sides met.**

Bromwich Albion host Huddersfield Town in a tie that could be vital for both team's seasons

Premier League new boys Huddersfield currently sit just a point above the relegation zone and a win could give them some breathing space between them and the bottom three, while a loss for West Brom may all but seal their drop to the Championship.

Fellow strugglers Swansea seemed to have turned a corner since bringing former Sheffield Wednesday boss Carlos Carvalhal into the frame, with big wins against Arsenal and Liverpool followed up by a 1-0 victory against Burnley

They travel to Brighton and Hove Albion on Saturday, who themselves will be buoyed by the result in their last Premier League fixture, a big 4-1 win over Bournemouth.

In the weekend's other fixtures Leicester host Stoke, Newcastle travel to Bournemouth, Burnley are at home to Southampton, Watford take on Everton and Tottenham travel to Crystal Palace on Monday.

Full weekend fixtures

Saturday

Leicester vs Stoke City

Bournemouth vs Newcastle United

Brighton and Hove Albion vs Swansea

Burnley vs Southampton

Liverpool vs West Ham United

West Bromwich Albion vs Huddersfield Town

Watford vs Everton

Sunday

Crystal Palace vs Tottenham Hotspur

Manchester United vs Chelsea

Champions L. Europa L. Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	27	23	3	1	79	20	72
2 • M. United	27	17	5	5	51	19	56
3 • Liverpool	27	15	9	3	61	31	54
4 • Chelsea	27	16	5	6	49	23	53
5 • Tottenham H.	27	15	7	5	52	24	52
6 • Arsenal	27	13	6	8	51	36	45
7 • Burnley	27	9	9	9	21	24	36
8 • Leicester City	27	9	8	10	39	40	35
9 • Everton	27	9	7	11	32	46	34
10 • Bournemouth	27	8	7	12	31	41	31
11 • Watford	27	8	6	13	37	47	30
12 • West Ham Utd.	27	7	9	11	34	46	30
13 • Newcastle United	27	7	7	13	25	36	28
14 • Brighton	27	6	10	11	22	36	28
15 • Crystal Palace	27	6	9	12	25	42	27
16 • Swansea City	27	7	6	14	20	37	27
17 • Huddersfield Town	27	7	6	14	23	47	27
18 • Southampton	27	5	11	11	28	40	26
19 • Stoke City	27	6	7	14	27	53	25
20 • West Bromwich	27	3	11	13	21	40	20



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AFTER going 160 games without a goal for Arsenal, January signing Francis Coquelin opened his goal-scoring account for Valencia at the weekend. Coquelin scored the equaliser in Valencia's 2-1 victory over Malaga.

TO READ MORE

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

# One step closer

## Spain edge nearer to Rugby World Cup

SPAIN took a huge leap towards qualifying for the 2019 Rugby World Cup after beating top-of-the-table rivals Romania 22-10 in Madrid.

Los Leones haven't qualified for a World Cup tournament since 1999, but moved top of the table after overpowering the Oaks at a packed Estadio Nacional Complutense in Madrid.

Early tries from Benat Auzqui and Sebastien Ascarat eased the pressure on the hosts, as Brad Linklater also kicked



Credit: Federacion Española de Rugby

**BATTLE: Spain fought hard for their victory against Romania.**

four successful penalties in front of almost 16,000 fans.

Spain now sit one point clear of Romania on 21 points at the top of the group following the victory and two wins from their remaining fixtures against Germany and Belgium in March will guarantee Spain's place at the World Cup.

The winner of the group will

qualify outright for the Tokyo World Cup next year and will go into Group A alongside Ireland, Scotland and Japan as well as the winner of a play-off.

Los Leones host Germany in their next group game on March 11, before heading to Brussels to face Belgium in their final group game on March 18.

# Knocked off his perch

## Federer overtakes Nadal as World No 1

RAFAEL NADAL has congratulated Roger Federer after the Swiss superstar overtook him to become ATP World Number One.

The 36-year-old claimed his third Rotterdam Open ATP trophy as he beat Grigor Dimitrov, but climbed back to the top of the rankings by beating Robin Haase at the quarter-final stage.

In doing so, Federer became the oldest man ever to become World Number One, surpassing Andre Agassi's previous record of 33, and also beats the overall record set by 35-year-old Serena Williams in May 2017.

The Swiss star also claims the men's record for biggest gap between spells as World Number One. He was last at the top of the world rankings in November 2012 and re-

claimed the title five years and 106 days later.

Since returning from injury 13 months ago, Federer has won three out of the five Grand Slams available and former World Number One Nadal has now congratulated his long-time rival on his return to the top.

Speaking to Spanish radio, Nadal said: "Roger Federer has amply demonstrated what he is and did not need to return to No 1 to prove it. At his age he has achieved something very complicated and we must congratulate him."

While Nadal was full of praise for Federer, he admitted that the time may be com-

ing where their rivalry will no longer grace the tennis court, but plans to continue for as long as possible

"Federer and I do what we can and there will come a day that we won't be able to," Nadal continued.

"In the meantime, we'll give the most and see how long it lasts."



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**GRACIOUS: Nadal has praised Federer after he reclaimed the World Number One title.**

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