

Stolen goods

seized in raid

SEVEN people from

Roquetas de Mar, including three youths who allegedly

committed 40 thefts and drugs offences have been

Police began their investigation after receiving sev-

eral complaints from people

stating their homes had

Officers probing the

group of alleged thieves

claimed it was made up of

different nationalities and

the ages of the adults ranged

Police said eight mopeds,

16 motorcycle helmets, four

bicycles, 24 mobile phones,

four TVs and four comput-

ers were among the items seized in the operation.

These would then be tak-

en apart and their parts sold

on the internet, according to

Around € 560 in cash.

128 grams of hashish and

more than 1,140 grams of

substances believed to be

for processing drugs were

Officers arrested the

group's members last

Thursday and they have

since been charged with

multiple burglaries, thefts,

Two of the detainees

have been remanded in cus-

tody. The youths' cases

have been sent to juvenile

prosecutors and the rest

bailed. The investigation re-

mains open and police said

they have not ruled out

making further arrests.

fraud and drug crimes.

also found in the raid.

the Guardia Civil.

arrested.

been robbed.

from 20 to 32.

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## Under threat

### British couple's house faces demolition

### **EXCLUSIVE**

by Joe Gerrard

An elderly British expatriate couple's Albox house could be torn down due to a change in the law voiding their planning permission.

The Junta de Andalucia is currently trying to get the home demolished. The owners said they had several documents proving it was legal and that it had been taxed.

Noel and Christine Payne, 76 and 73 years old respectively, said they had a licence of first occupation signed in 2003 by the then mayor of Albox Francisco Granero. The papers stated their property in the Los Guillenes area was in line with regional planning laws.

"We bought the house in 2001. Before that we went to the town hall to ask about a construction permit and they told us there would be no problems," the couple said.

Mr and Mrs Payne were visited by police on Christmas Day 2009 who told them their house was illegal and the legal process was underway for it to be demolished.

Abusos Urbanisticos Almanzora No (AUAN), an expat advocacy group, said changes to regional planning regulations on rural land meant that document became invalid.



"DISTRESSED": Noel and Christine Payne said they had documents stating the house was legal.

Albox Town Hall had informed the Junta the house could be granted legal status. The Junta maintains they are not buyers in good faith and have requested local authorities act on their demolition request, according to reports.

Maura Hillen, the president of AUAN, told Euro Weekly News she did not understand the Junta's position.

"We have been dealing with the Junta for years and have been working to try and get the law changed," Hillen

The AUAN president added the couple had been trapped in the "mindless bureaucracy" of the law which she added should be there to serve and not to punish people.

"Mr and Mrs Payne did

everything in their power to make sure their house was legal. But by the time planning permission was granted changes to the law were already going through.

"The Junta should think about how changes in the law will impact on the lives of people like the Paynes," Hillen added

Christine Payne said: "We looked into everything; we checked the licences and permissions. We were wrong to do so. It makes no sense.'

The news comes as the Priors, a British couple, were awarded compensation this year after their house was torn down in similar circumstances in 2008, although they failed to win what they believed was due.









### PROPERTY SPECIAL

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### **NEWS EXTRA**

### **Awareness** campaign

ALMERIA'S city council has approved the authority's participation in the 'Starting from Zero' initiative, a project launched by the Gypsy Secretariat Foundation last year to raise awareness of discrimination suffered by the Roma community.

### **Drug bust**

GUARDIA CIVIL officers arrested a 23 and a 29-year-old and seized some 62 doses of speed after stopping a vehicle in Las Negras, Nijar, in an effort to stop the movement of drugs through Almeria.

### Ravine fall

TWO people were taken by ambulance to Almeria City's Torrecardenas Hospital after falling down a ravine in Nijar. with police stating they suffered head, back and arm iniuries among others.

## 'Captive' women rescued

## Sex slaves forcibly held in cave houses

By Joe Gerrard

ARRESTS have been made across Spain and in Britain in connection with an international human trafficking ring operating in Almeria allegedly responsible for forcing Nigerian women into prostitution.

Guardia Civil officers collaborated with Britain's National Crime Agency and Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of People Trafficking for the operation which saw 89 people detained.

A total of 58 of those have been charged with organised crime, human trafficking and money laundering offences. Forty three of these have been remanded in custody.

A woman was also arrested in Middleton, Greater Manchester, on suspicion of being a 'madame' in the group which is known as Eiye Confraternity.

The operation also saw 39

women, allegedly trafficked from Africa and across Europe to Spain, freed from 'cave houses' in Cuevas del Almanzora in Almeria

Police said the women were found to be living in "extremely" unstable conditions. A total of 18 of the alleged victims reported 'voodoo' rites were used in their home country of Nige-

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ria to force them into the sex trafficking ring.

The investigation began in Torrevieja, Alicante, after officers received a complaint from one of the alleged victims, a girl reportedly underage.

The girl claimed she had been captured in Nigeria and subjected to voodoo-juju rites before being trafficked to Spain via the Libya to Italy migration

The complaint resulted in an investigation which led to arrests in January, with information on the operation withheld until last week for security rea-

Police investigating the complaint claimed the group had several women under their control who were forcibly transported across thousands of kilometres to Spain.

The women's journey began in Nigeria in western Africa, where they were transported to



ARRESTS: A total of 89 were detained in the operation which spanned Spain and Britain.

Libya in preparation for crossing the Mediterranean into Europe after undergoing voodoo rites.

The women, several of who were underage, were regarded as property by the group as they travelled from their home country to Lampedusa Island,

It was from an immigration camp there that members of Eiye Confraternity in Europe picked up the women and sent

them to countries across the continent, including Spain.

When the 39 women arrived in Cuevas del Almanzora they were put under the control of 'madames.' Many of these women had been forced into prostitution themselves in similar circumstances.

Those held were saddled with debts of around €30,000 for the journey which they were forced to pay off with sex work, according to police.

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### **Spending half** the average

ALMERIA received almost half of the national average per person in investment from the central government in 2017, according to an Andalucian builders' association report. The almost €164 per head figure was double that of the previous year, with the national average

### **Boat arrivals**

THE amount of children arriving alone by boat on the shores of Almeria tripled to 172 by November last year compared to 2016, according to government data. The figure is reportedly higher than those from the years 2012 to 2016 combined and was 2,117 nationally.

### **Holy Week**

PROCESSIONS have been making their way through the streets of Almeria's cities since last Sunday to mark Easter, known as Holy Week in Spain. Adra and Mojacar have already staged parades to mark Palm Sunday and more celebrations are planned across the province until Sunday.

### Fire put out

FIREFIGHTERS were called out in Almeria City to a blaze that started in a four-storey building housing a coffee shop on Avenida Padre Mendez. No one was injured in the fire which started at around 5.10pm on Saturday, according to the 112 emergency line.

### Flight routes

THE summer season has begun for Almeria Airport which is offering connections to 38 cities this year, 81 per cent of which are in Europe. Airlines have reportedly scheduled around 6,900 operations, with the season running from last Sunday to the end of October.



THE biggest religious festival of the year is underway across Spain.

Elaborate processions continue to take place today (Thursday), tomorrow and Sunday as Holy Week (Semana Santa) draws to a close.

Organised by brotherhoods known as cofradias, the spectacular events see members known as nazarenos parade through towns and cities dressed in the capirote. a conical hood traditionally used to cover the faces of penitents.

And while the more traditional, sombre processions take place in cities including Zamora in Castilla-La Mancha, where the celebration dates back to 1179, it is in Andalucia where glamour and a holiday atmosphere are to the

The most jaw-dropping festivities take place in regional capital Sevilla and Malaga on the Costa del Sol, attracting hundreds of thousands of spectators and serving up some stunning images.

The biggest draw in Sevilla is this evening's La Madruga, which runs during the night on Maundy Thursday and continues into the early hours of Good Friday.

In Malaga the cofradias carry huge, heavy tronos (thrones, known elsewhere as pasos) depicting scenes from the Passion of Christ or the Sorrows of Virgin Mary on their shoulders.

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## 79 years on



RECOGNISING THE SACRIFICE: Citizens of Madrid search through the remains of their homes after the city was 'liberated' by the nationalist forces of General Franco (inset) in March 1939.

SPAIN could finally be ready to exorcise the ghosts of its bloodiest internal conflict.

This Saturday marks 79 years since the end of the Spanish Civil War.

And a new museum in Teruel, Aragon, is set to become the first in the country dedicated to telling the story of the three-year battle.

The war began when General Francisco Franco's troops launched a brutal nationalist military uprising against the democratically elected Republican government of president Manuel Azaña on July 17, 1936.

By 1937 the nationalists had captured much of northern Spain, while Madrid was under siege.

In 1938 and 1939 they advanced on Cataluña, cutting off Barcelona from the capital and sealing Franco's victory on April 1, 1939.

But the conflict was distorted in the four decades until his death in 1975, as the dictator attempted to airbrush the Republicans from Spain's history books, and the issue has on the whole been neglected by governments since. A recent survey revealed that 69 per cent of 14-to 17-year-olds in Spain received 'little to no' information about the civil war in school history classes. War memorials that appeared across Spain in the wake of the war named only the Nationalist dead, while the relatives of thousands of missing Republicans were told to 'say nothing and forget' as Franco brainwashed a nation. It is only in the last decade that a generational shift has been sparked, after the controversial Law of Historical Memory was in 2007 passed by socialist prime minister Jose Zapatero.

The decree formally condemned the Franco regime and honoured victims on both sides.

And it has culminated in a move that would previously have been unthinkable, as the city of Teruel, which was bombed by both sides in a famous battle, seeks the green light to begin work on the country's first official civil war museum.

Should it go ahead, it could mark an important step in Spain coming to terms with its fascist past.

### **POLL** OF THE WEEK

Following his arrest in Germany, should former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont be extradited to Spain?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

In the wake of national protests, should Spain introduce life prison sentences for a wider range of crimes?

No 14%

## **EWN** online this week 170,870 Page views

stories

RED ALERT: Another 'weather bomb' on way to Spain TODAY and TOMORROW

STORM HUGO: Bringing strong winds, rain, snow and high waves to Spain. (File photograph)

**7.360** 

Another 'weather bomb' on way to

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ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

### **CORRECTIONS**

At the EWN, we pride ourselves that reports are accurate and fair. If we do slip up, we promise to set the record straight in a clear, nononsense manner. To ask for an inaccuracy to be corrected. Email:

editorial@euroweeklynews.com

### **NEWS EXTRA**

### **Sanitation** spending

AUTHORITIES in Almeria have said they will invest more than €200.000 into improving the sewage networks of the Plaza de la Cruz de San Juan and the Carretera de la Estacion areas of Alba.

### Gold award

THE Diputacion de Almeria conferred its Golden Shield award on Iñigo de la Serna. Spain's Minister of Public Works, for his commitment to the former Provincial Hospital building during a visit yesterday (Wednes-

### Road works

ALMERIA CITY mayor Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco has told a meeting of more than 100 residents that the city's council has invested €33,000 into improving a total of two kilometres of roads in the area.

### **OUR VIEW**

### Brexit link triggers democracy doubt

THE Vote Leave revelations bring into question the very democratic foundations of the UK.

Pro-Brexit whistleblower Shahmir Sanni, former treasurer of campaign organisation BeLeave, claimed that his supposedly independent operation was used to funnel €712,000 to a digital services firm on behalf of the official Vote Leave campaign.

He also said Vote Leave and BeLeave shared office space and the campaign fronted by Conservative MPs Boris Johnson and Michael Gove advised the latter how it should spend money.

If proven, Sanni's claims could mean the Vote Leave campaign violated election rules, according to reports, first by making an unofficial donation and second by working alongside another campaign organisation with which it did not share a

And the situation has arguably been worsened in the wake of evidence given to the Commons culture committee by former Cambridge Analytica employee Christopher Wylie.

He told MPs: "I think it is completely reasonable to say there could have been a different outcome of the referendum had there not been, in my view, cheating."

When considered together, the allegations raise serious concerns about the Brexit result, and more importantly, whether Britain's democracy remains intact.

And that should trigger alarm bells in leavers and remainers alike.

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### Glam Pam's carpet stroll

EX-BAYWATCH Pamela Anderson turned heads after slipping into a silk gown for a charity event in Madrid.

The blonde star, 50, has recently been involved in a family spat, but she was all smiles as she accompanied Marbella-based actress Maria Bravo on the red carpet at the Global Gift

Maria founded the international trust for needy children. and Pam has been a regular ambassador

It comes after her 21-year-old son Brandon made the news for punching his father, and her exhusband, Tommy Lee in the

She posted a blog on her website in which she wrote that her son hit his father "in the nose for all of us who he has hurt.

"Now Tommy feels humiliated - and is attempting to destroy his own son.

"This is the Devil - this is the disease of alcoholism."



SHE'S the former page 3 girl who found fame on ITV dating reality show Love Island.

breast!

**But Danielle Sellers showed** she's still got front after frolicking topless on a Spanish beach.

The 23-year-old left little to the imagination after peeling off her bikini top before paddling in the shallows while barely covering her assets with her hands.

### On-off stars TOWIE-gether for good



ARGIE BARGIE: 'The GC' and James.

THEY finally confirmed their commitment to one another on an ITV reality show. And The Only Way Is Essex stars Gemma Collins, 37, and James 'Arg' Argent, 30, have splashed out on a holiday home on the Costa del Sol as they prepare to get married and start a family.

Speaking to OK! magazine, Gemma said Arg was a 'changed man' after shocking viewers of the season 22 TOWIE premier by revealing 'part of going to Spain is to relax my body to prepare for a baby.'

During a visit to a financial adviser on the show she added: "We got matching watches and we've bought a holiday home in Spain and now we're setting up a joint bank account.

"What it is, I'm a big roller, I earn well, I spend well. If Arg is watching the football, I'll have a massage girl come round."

focus

### **Band of brothers**

HE'S starring in a new series about the life of Malaga-born painter Pablo Picasso. And Antonio

IN THE SPIRIT OF THINGS: The actor wore a traditional white robe.

Banderas, 57, was this week back in his hometown where he took part in traditional Palm Sunday celebrations alongside girlfriend Nicole Kimpel, 37, and daughter Stella, 21. The Hollywood A-lister donned a white robe as he joined local brotherhoods for the annual Virgen de Lagrimas y Favores procession.

### The life aquatic

SHE'S married to Australian Thor muscleman Chris Hemsworth.

And Spanish actress Elsa Pataky has landed a starring role in the first Netflix series to be filmed in her hubby's homeland.

The 41-year-old beauty is set to play Adrielle Cuthbert, the 'ruthless leader of a group of dangerous half-siren half-humans,' in upcoming drama Tidelands.



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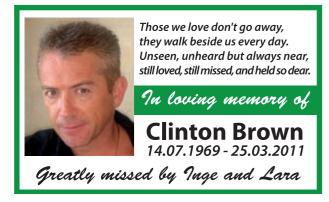
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NO SAIL: Police said the man may have made the false report to avoid sending the

## Man held for false boat theft

A 42-YEAR-OLD who allegedly falsely reported that his boat had been stolen has been arrested by the Guardia Civil in Pulpi.

Police began their investigation after receiving the report from the accused which claimed the vessel and its trailer, worth a combined total of

around € 10.000 were stolen.

Guardia Civil officers said the 42-year-old provided little in terms of details about the theft, which led police to believe it may not have hap-

It later emerged that the boat had been sold days before for €5,600, plus costs for repairs,

online. The man may therefore have reported the vessel stolen and hidden it to avoid delivering it to the buyer following an alleged disagreement over the price, police said.

Officers have since arrested the man and proceedings for the case have been sent to a court in Huercal-Overa.

### Police acquitted in parade scuffle

THE Provincial Court of Almeria has acquitted four Local Police officers of Nijar who were reported by a German detainee for alleged abuse.

He had alleged that he sustained injuries after being asked to moderate his behaviour, which involved shouting and clapping while watching Holy Week paraders and referring to them as 'fascistas.'

The ruling concluded that there was no evidence that the officers 'dragged or assaulted' the complainant while driving from the bar where he had been to the Local Police headquarters, or when they arrived.

One of the eyewitness statements also described the detainee ignoring the urgings of police to calm down, reacting with strange gestures and even headbutting an officer to the ground.

It was accepted by the court that two officers were then needed to restrain the man by handcuffing him, before his rights were then read and he was ushered into a police car.

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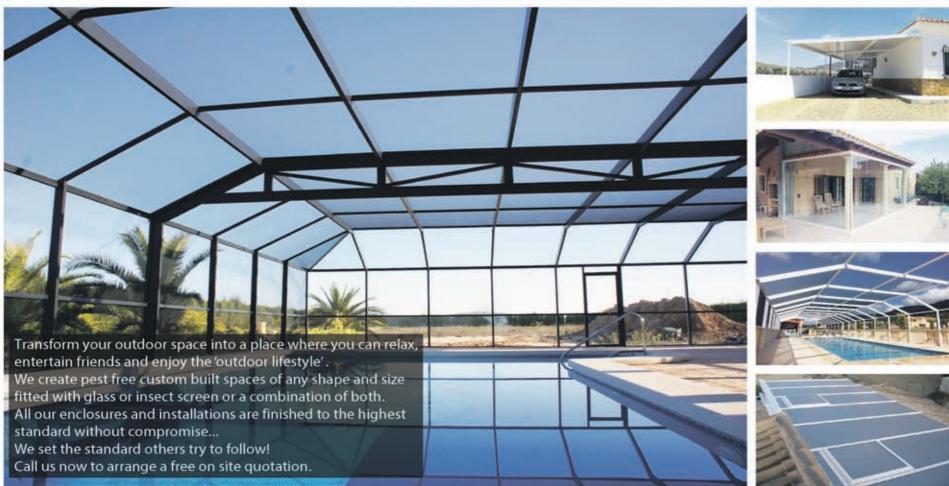


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## Red Cross helps 70,000

THE Red Cross in Almeria has presented its annual report showing that it helped almost 70,000 people thanks to the efforts of 2,192 selfless volunteers.

Its president, Maria del

Mar Pageo, praised "the people who make it possible, to technicians, volunteers, companies and the voluntary sector.

"They are all an example of dedication, courage and effort because they are the ones that make a better Red Cross every day.'

Thanks to the work of unheralded volunteers, nearly 70,000 vulnerable people benefited from Red Cross

which 53.68 per cent were men, and 43.32 per cent were women.

The charity's main objectives are not only to improve living conditions, but encourage the active involvement of the people they help.

Last year, 27,628 people received food assistance, while 1.176 children were provided with educational equipment.

Urgent help for those in extremely vulnerable situations was provided for 26,432 people, while 14,749 immigrants were cared for.

Socially enriching programmes that the charity is involved in include the Red Cross Employment Plan, which works with Almeria companies to employ the disadvantaged.

Red Cross Youth aims to reach out to young people with a history of anti-social behaviour, and to teach values that will enable them to integrate into society.

"Red Cross will always be on the side of those who need us most," added Ms

### €600,000 to rescue ambulance service

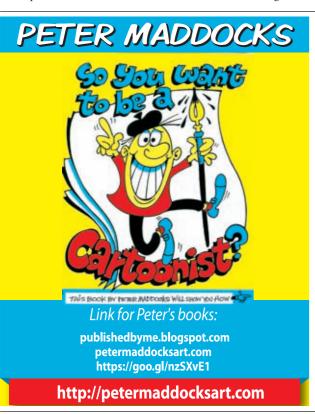
SIX companies have submitted bids for the tender of a new building for ambulances at the Hospital Torrecardenas de Almeria in a contract worth over €600,000.

The council of Almeria is now reviewing the applications, and the project will include the complete remodelling of the building and its infrastructure.

External works will also be undertaken to ensure that the premises are effectively connected and integrated with existing public services.

Hospital Torrecardenas is already expanding with a new building to house the maternal and child wings, and up until now the emergency department had been highlighted as a weak-

Every speciality on the new premises will have the necessary waiting rooms, toilets, nursing and administrative spaces.





CROSS FIT: The report shows the extent of the charity's humanitarian work.

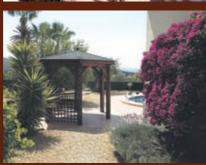
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## UK inheritance tax to be simplified?

If you struggle to navigate the UK's Inheritance Tax (IHT) regime you are not alone. Whether you are setting up your estate planning or sorting out the estate of a departed family member, the system can be hard to follow. Getting your planning wrong may mean your family are faced with unexpected high inheritance tax bills.

Chancellor Now Hammond has acknowledged that the rules are "particularly complex" and has asked for a review. While this will not necessarily mean lower tax bills, hopefully the system will be simplified.

UK IHT follows expatriates around the world, since it is based on domicile rather than residence. While long-term expatriates can adopt a 'domicile of choice' outside the UK, this takes time and is a complex area, so specialist advice and careful planning are essential. Assets situated in the UK are always liable to IHT.

Expatriates should continue to



By Gerald Turner, Partner. **Blevins Franks** 

follow changes to the UK IHT rules, and understand how it interacts with Spanish succession and gift tax. Cross-border estate planning can be challenging, particularly if you have assets in different countries or complex family situations.

IHT is charged at 40% on your total worldwide estate in excess of the current threshold of £325,000 (potentially £650,000 for a couple). This nil-rate band has not increased since April 2009.

A new Residential Nil Rate Band (RNRB) came into effect in April 2017: estates above the basic IHT threshold may be entitled to an 'additional threshold' before any IHT becomes due.

Starting at £100,000 for the 2017/18 tax year, it increases by £25,000 each year until reaching £175,000 in 2020/21 (and then rises with inflation).

It only applies to qualifying residential property which is left to direct descendants. Estates worth over £2 million receive a smaller allowance or nothing at all, depending on the value.

While a higher threshold is of course welcome, this new 'family home allowance' has added extra complication. It has also been criticised for discriminating against those who do not have children or

In January Chancellor Philip Hammond wrote to the Treasury's Office of Tax Simplification:

"Inheritance tax, and the system

within which it operates, is particularly complex and I would like to request that the OTS carry out a review. I would be most interested to hear any proposals you may have for simplification, to ensure that the system is fit for the purpose and makes the experience of those who interact with it as smooth as possible."

The letter suggests the OTS look at how the current gift rules interact with the wider IHT system and if the current system causes any distortions to taxpayers' decisions.

The OTS has since confirmed that it will carry out a review of a range of aspects of IHT and how it functions today. The overall aim is to identify opportunities and develop recommendations for simplifying IHT, from a tax technical and administrative standpoint.

IHT is a good earner for the government. Receipts for the 2016/17 tax year hit a record high

of £4.84 billion - more than double 2009/10's revenue. HM Treasury expects to raise £5.3 billion in 2017/18 and £6.5 billion by 2022/23.

All this illustrates how important it is to take professional advice for your estate planning, if you want to make sure you are up to date on the rules, are navigating them correctly, and shielding your family from paying any more tax than necessary.

The tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual is advised to seek personalised advice.

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com.

## Will your heirs still have to pay inheritance tax in Andalucía?

Andalucía has introduced a significant reform for succession and gift tax, which means your spouse and children could receive inheritances of up to €1 million tax free. Contact Blevins Franks to find out exactly how this will benefit your family, and if you can protect other heirs from this tax. We have 40 years' experience advising expatriates in Spain on their tax and estate planning.

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### Couple makes big Gabriel gesture



THE MURAL: Adorns the wall of Gabriel's grandmother's house.

A COUPLE living in the Basque Country have travelled more than 980 kilometres to paint a giant mural of young Gabriel Cruz.

Mikel Herrero, a street artist from San Sebastian, and his girlfriend Olaia Chocarro, travelled for more than 16 hours to paint the mural in Las Horichuelas, where Gabriel went missing.

Herrero told Spanish media that after their long journey, the couple travelled to Gabriel's grandmother's house in the small town to ask

for permission from Gabriel's father, Angel Cruz to draw a mural.

He told Spanish media: "He was sitting, pensive, we were paralysed, my legs were shaking. We did not know whether to approach him or not, we did it and, at first, he gave us a hug, that family has something special, and with a breathy voice we told him our plan."

According to reports, the couple's initial plan had been to paint a piece in the new park in Almeria City that will be dedicated to Gabriel, but got a call from Angel with a different plan.

"Ángel called us on the phone and suggested that we paint on the wall of the grandmother's house, for us it was an honour, and he gave us the images we used to make the mural," Herrero added.

The mural, which took the couple three days to finish, measures five metres high and features two images of the eight-year-old as well as recreations of the small fish Gabriel used to draw.





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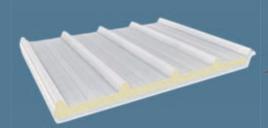
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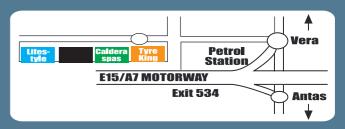


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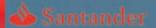
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## Keeping tradition alive

traditionally take place in Mojacar over Semana Santa (Holy Week), started last week with the traditional Novena Prayers at the town's Santa Maria Parish Church

On Palm Sunday, the Procession of the Donkey made its way from the Fuente to the Church, accompanied by the Municipal Band, for the blessing of the Palms and Olives, as well as a Holy

On Monday there was a concert of Sacred Music performed by the Town



**EASTER SERVICE: The** blessing of the Palms and Olives at the Santa Maria Parish Church.

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Band along with the local 'Embrujo Mojaquero' choir at the Centro de Usos Multiples.

The following day, on Tuesday, the Stations of the Cross were taken through the streets of Mojacar Pueblo, carried solely on the shoulders of women bearers.

Today (Thursday) there

will be another mass to celebrate the Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet at 7.30pm, followed by the procession from the Church through the streets at 10.30pm with The Nazarene and The Virgin of Sorrows.

The beautiful ornate floats or thrones (tronos) with their sculpted images (pasos) have had to be

adapted to suit the special characteristics of the locality and the narrow, winding streets which make its passage especially spectacular.

There are places where the accuracy of the bearers is essential as there are often only a few centimetres to spare between the tronos and the houses and at the Town Wall Gate the bearers

are required to be almost on their knees to allow the pasos to go through the gap.

The Holy Burial procession will take place tomorrow (Good Friday) at 12.30pm from the Parish Church, once again going through the streets of the town accompanied by the Municipal Band.

Mojacar Holy Week's religious events come to an end on Easter Sunday at noon after Mass, with the procession of the Risen Christ making an emotional last passage through the

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Price reduced by 25.000 euros. At the front of the villa is an attractive swimming pool and covered porch for al-fresco dining in the summer plus garage and two-car driveway. On entering the villa there is a newly fitted kitchen, spacious lounge and dining area with large windows offering views over the swimming pool and the olive orchards beyond, one double bedroom, a modern walk in shower room. On the first floor is the master bedroom with patio doors out to front terrace overlooking the pool area, the third bedroom and a modern family bathroom. The villa has been constructed to a very high standard, is seven years old though much of the finishing work has been done over the last year. With air conditioning in the lounge dining area, modern fixtures and fittings and a beautiful pool area and stunning rural views. The village of Cariatiz is a 10 minute walk with two local bars and restaurants

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SKY JINKS: Images from the the pilot's Instagram account.

## Snapchat cockpit shock

AN easyJet captain and his co-pilot have been suspended after filming Snapchat videos during a flight to Spain.

The pair could be seen interacting with an owl and other animated characters generated by the app whilst in the cockpit and taking selfies.

The captain then posted the images on his social media accounts, which have since been delet-

According to reports the footage was filmed on a Paris flight to Madrid.

easyJet has said passenger safety was not compromised at any point, but it had been contacted by passengers who branded their behaviour as 'dangerous' and 'irresponsible.'

A spokeswoman for the airline told news out-

"Whilst at no point was the safety of the passengers compromised, this falls well short of the high standards easyJet expects of its pilots.

"It is not acceptable and is not representative of the thousands of highly professional pilots who work for the airline.

"We take this issue seriously and, as such, the pilots have been suspended (in line with our procedures) pending a disciplinary investigation."



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A MAN who attacked a woman from behind while his pal filmed it for a video that went vi-

### chind vehind vehind behind ward it vehind was af the warmen

Mario Garcia Montealegre, kicked the legs of the woman from under her in

wards to the ground.

She was unable to work for 75 days after the attack because of cervical pain and injuries to her ankle, knee and wrist.

ral has been forced to pay his victim €60,000 in

compensation. In the video the 48-year-old

woman can be seen falling awkwardly back-

Barcelona in February 2015 while his friend Alvaro Gragera videoed it and then uploaded it to social networks. The attacker presented himself to police when he learned they had issued a public appeal to find him. The prosecutor had called for a jail sentence and fine for both the attacker and the person who recorded it.



ASYLUM: Spain rejected around two thirds of all asylum requests in 2017.

## Door swings shut

AROUND two thirds of all asylum applications submitted to Spanish authorities in 2017 were rejected, according a refugee NGO. Last year was a record year in terms of the number of requests, with Spain receiving around 31,120 applications.

That is double last year's amount, according to the Spanish Commission of Refugee Aid (CEAR) and European Union data. Requests for asylum made to the country made up around 4 per cent of the EU total. Applications made to Germany, Italy and France were higher at 222,560, 128,850 and 98,635, respectively.

Almost a third of all applications submitted to Spain came from Venezuelans, at 10,350. Requests from Syrian citizens stood at 4,225, followed by Columbians at 2,460. Ukrainians

2,265, Palestinians and Algerians both at 1,165, Salvadorans, 1,120, Hondurans, 970, Cameroonians, 750 and Moroccans, 525. Requests from male applicants made up 58 per cent of the total, while those from women made up 48 per cent.

A total of 595 requests were resolved by granting the applicant refugee status, out of the 13,350 applications resolved.

Around 4,080 applicants were granted subsidiary protection status. That means they were not granted asylum but were allowed to stay in Spain due to the risk of them facing serious harm if they returned to their home country.

The number of requests pending resolution, when the figures for 2017 are included, now stands at a total of 38,880.





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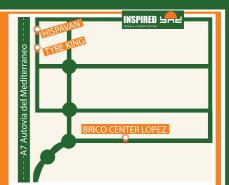
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### A great day

ON Sunday March 18, at Mojacar Church, the Suffragan Bishop, the Right Reverend David Hamid conducted a Confirmation Service with the Eucharist for Roger Bennet, Xavier and Inara Sunshine from Mojacar church.

Carole Robinson, from Llanos Del Peral Church, was unable to attend due to ill health but was later confirmed. A congregation of over 80 attended the service and enjoyed a lunch after.

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### A heartfelt tribute

MOJACAR is righteously blessed with various theatre groups that keep the local public smiling and entertained. The Godfather of it all just passed this week. Max Burten-Shaw will be reunited with his long serving wife, Davina once again.

For not only did they star in many productions together, they were essential in initiating and getting sent to Hollywood the famed play Cante Hondo that went on to win a Tony award. Thespians and theatre lovers can truly wear black in sadness for this great loss. Their brilliance radiated much further than our small village.

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## Mojacar Bowls Club celebrates its fourth anniversary

THE Mojacar Bowls Club. which is located at the Hotel Servigroup Marina Playa recently held a celebration for the fourth anniversary of its bowling

They were joined on the day by members from other clubs in the area for a friendly competition, with the Director of the Cadena Servigroup Hotel Marina Playa, Ricardo Escudero and Mojacar's councillors for Tourism and Sport, Emmanuel Agüero and Ana García also in attendance.

Altogether, there were 100 players from the host Club and the Cabrera, Zurgena and Almeria Lawns Clubs, with the Cabrera team winning on the day.

Four years ago, on March 7, 2014, the green was officially inaugurated by Mojacar's mayor, Rosmarí Cano, along with oth-



PIECE OF CAKE: Mojacar Bowls Club members at the fourth anniversary celebrations.

er provincial officials.

Located outdoors and set 100 metres from the hotel, it has a 25-square-metre artificial lawn with six rinks that can accommodate 48 players. There is also a clubhouse with a bar, terrace and all the necessary facilities along with ball carts, markers and all the essentials to enjoy a day's bowling.

The Mojacar Bowls Club

was founded in 1994 with around 25 members, who played at 'La Mata' until it closed. With the collaboration of the local council and the Servigroup company, the current rinks were made and have been in full operation since their inauguration, with a membership that continues to grow without losing any of the sporting camaraderie created by its founders.







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### Spain lodges FB complaint

SPAIN has accused embattled social network Facebook of abusing the data of 21 million users. It comes as the Cambridge Analytica scandal continues to engulf the American firm, with the Brexit campaign and senior UK politicians including Boris Johnson and Michael Gove now implicated.

And the Spanish Agency for Data Protection has accused the online giant of illegally collecting data on political ideologies, religious beliefs, gender and personal tastes of millions of accounts in Spain.

## Handshake boosts budget

SPANISH Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy could finally get his 2018 budget

Negotiations have been frozen for weeks with opposition groups unwilling to sign off the conservative minority government's proposals.

But Albert Rivera, leader of centreleft Cuidadanos - Spain's fourth-largest political party - has revealed that he has reached an agreement to support the budget after Rajoy 'yielded' to some of his demands.

These include an increase of 2 per cent on minimum state pensions, a

salary boost for young workers, an extra week of paternity leave for new fathers, €1,000 per year grants for the education of children aged 0 to three years, income tax reductions for those earning less than €17,000 per year, and the dismissal of Senator Pilar Barreiro, who is under investigation for fraud, forgery and em-

"The government knows how to count seats and without our support this [budget] could not happen," Rivera told Spanish media.

Rajoy must now appeal to other par-

ties to get the budget approved, since he remains seven seats short of a majority vote despite Cuidadanos' support.

He is expected to appeal to Basque nationalist party PNV, but its leaders have repeatedly said they will not negotiate the budget while the controversial Article 155, invoked by Rajoy to impose direct rule over Cataluña last October, remains active.

A PNV official said: "The latest events in Cataluña and Spain have left us very concerned, and talking about budgets seems a little frivolous... let them find support from other groups."

### Exec rakes in €20m salary

REAL MADRID boss Florentino Perez' number two has become the highest-paid executive in Spain. Marcelino Fernandez Verdes, CEO of civil engineering firm ACS and president of German subsidiary Hochtief, last year earned € 20.46 million to top the national ranking by more than €4 million.

The businessman is lined up to assume presidency of ACS when Perez eventually steps aside, with the latter's pension fund currently amounting to a jaw-dropping €41 million, according to reports in Spanish media.

Quote of the Week

Let me be clear: instead of risking a trade war, which he seems eager to wage, we should be aiming for greater cooperation. Make trade, not war, Mr President." EU leader Donald Tusk urges Donald Trump to think twice over trade tariffs.



FACE THE MUSIC: Ticket prices have come down after the government halved a controversial tax, with 91,000 paying to see US rockers Guns N' Roses last year.

## Rise in audiences boosts gig profits

SPAIN'S live music industry is booming.

A new report by the country's Asociacion de Promotores Musicales (APM) shows that ticket sales increased by 20.6 per cent to €296.2 million in 2017.

"Spain's consolidation as an unavoidable destination for the big tours by international artists... especially in large venues selling out thousands of tickets, like the Rolling Stones and U2, as well as a new market comprised of Latin stars like Ricky Martin, Maluma, Luis Fonsi and Morat, were reasons for a fourth-year increase in live music profits," savs the study.

Ricky Martin was the biggest draw, with 115,806 people drawn to his One World tour, while more than 91,000 saw November Rain hitmakers Gun N' Roses and Colombian reggaeton star Maluma attracted almost 71.000.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

### Attack of the clones

CHINESE smartphone giant Xiaomi, which last year opened its first three shops in Spain, has achieved a ranking of fourth in the Spanish market within four months, ahead of the likes of Apple and LG, according to sales figures.

### **Bottling** it

MANAGEMENT company AENA is to ensure that all newsagents and vending machines in Spain's airports offer small - 330 or 500 millilitre - bottles of water for sale at a maximum price of one

### House that

SPANISH real estate firm Testa has snapped up 1,458 rental properties from Valenciabased financial services group Caixabank for around €228 million, with the company forecasting the move to increase annual turnover by

## Vatican sparks outrage

A SPANISH website is taking on the Pope.

The Vatican has launched a crackdown on the commercial use of its name and emblems, and the move has triggered a debate over whether the Holy See is legally able to claim ownership of the 'brand.'

But Gabriel Ariza of the online portal Info Vaticana.com argues that the Catholic Church has started a 'political witch hunt' against the site for its exposing of corruption in the institu-

"We have already taken down logos and other vestiges that can relate us to the Vatican, but they just want to shut us down," he said. "We think that serving the Church is defending it from its enemies."



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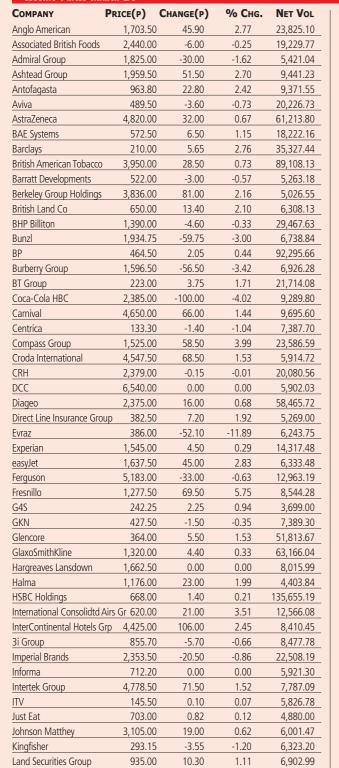


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Persimmon	2,721.00		9.06	7,730.13
Pearson	761.80		0.13	5,945.44
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,900.00		0.60	41,512.88
Royal Bank of Scotland Grou	-		-0.82	30,908.15
Royal Dutch Shell	2,257.50		2.66	101,320.88
Royal Dutch Shell	2,220.00		-1.27	84,273.45
RELX	1,450.00		0.87	15,346.63
Rio Tinto	3,555.00		-0.32	48,029.94
Royal Mail	491.30		-7.16	5,254.00
Rolls-Royce Group	851.50		-1.13	16,396.37
Randgold Resources	5,824.00		-1.82	5,432.41
RSA Insurance Group	627.50	2.90	0.46	6,450.11
Rentokil Initial	250.50	-17.70	-6.60	5,010.41
Sainsbury (J)	227.00	-0.50	-0.22	5,015.87
Schroders	3,439.50	221.50	6.88	7,366.07
Sage Group (The)	650.00	4.00	0.62	7,037.71
Segro	587.00	-2.40	-0.41	5,953.37
Shire	3,060.00	79.50	2.67	27,285.49
Smurfit Kappa Group	3,182.00	124.00	4.05	7,200.72
Sky	1,336.50	28.50	2.18	22,587.89
Standard Life Aberdeen	400.25	33.05	9.00	11,091.34
Smith (DS)	474.80	0.00	0.00	5,121.67
Smiths Group	1,508.50	40.00	2.72	6,078.75
Scottish Mortgage Invst Trst	447.50		2.45	6,192.62
Smith & Nephew	1,332.50		2.58	11,458.93
SSE	1,224.00		-0.61	12,312.65
Standard Chartered	735.00		3.01	23,971.94
St James's Place	1,255.00		14.98	5,864.86
Severn Trent	1,853.00		8.68	4,043.81
Tesco	204.15		0.62	19,766.41
TULAG	1,625.00		7.51	8,966.46
Taylor Wimpey	183.20		-0.73	6,015.24
Unilever	3,737.50		0.08	46,172.79
United Utilities Group	691.00		3.94	4,564.56
Vodafone Group	195.50		0.97	51,313.19
WPP Group	1,080.00		-1.37	13,899.94
Whitbread	3,660.00			6,741.53
vviiitbiedu	3,000.00	-3.00	-0.08	0,741.33

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The above table uses the current interbank exchange rates, which aren't representative of the rate we of

### **DOW JONES**

### CLOSING PRICES MARCH 26

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	215,360	-3,50%	-7,810	128.330,25
AMERICAN EXPRESS	90,4500	-1,05%	-0,9600	77.782,88
APPLE	164,940	-2,32%	-3,910	837.567,33
BOEING CO	321,000	+0,43%	1,390	188.748,60
CATERPILLAR	144,290	-1,78%	-2,610	86.315,09
CHEVRON	112,98	-0,63%	-0,72	215.954,13
CISCO SYSTEMS	42,420	-1,51%	-0,650	209.708,45
COCA-COLA	42,33	-1,01%	-0,43	180.644,20
DOWDUPONT	63,06	-3,90%	-2,56	146.883,44
EXXON MOBIL	72,89	-0,83%	-0,61	308.868,62
GENERAL ELECTRIC	13,0700	-2,10%	-0,2800	113.667,18
GOLDMAN SACHS	245,26	-2,91%	-7,34	93.262,27
HOME DEPOT	171,8000	-1,99%	-3,4900	200.806,05
IBM	148,89	-2,10%	-3,20	137.180,32
INTEL CORP	49,3600	-2,89%	-1,4700	231.004,80
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	107,0100	-2,67%	-2,9400	367.219,56
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	125,1000	-1,79%	-2,2800	335.437,26
MC DONALD'S CORP	154,9800	-1,31%	-2,0600	123.234,57
MERCK AND CO. NEW	53,41	-1,31%	-0,71	144.111,38
MICROSOFT	87,180	-2,91%	-2,610	672.557,96
NIKE	64,63	+0,33%	0,21	83.881,65
PFIZER	34,4900	-3,12%	-1,1100	205.285,70
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	75,910	-0,65%	-0,500	191.495,44
TRAVELERS CIES	134,90	-2,35%	-3,25	36.634,63
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	122,31	-1,42%	-1,76	97.962,55
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	212,55	-1,24%	-2,66	205.831,58
VERIZON COMMS	46,29	-1,26%	-0,59	191.157,05
VISA	117,00	-2,49%	-2,99	210.871,02
WAL-MART STORES	85,4200	-1,97%	-1,7200	253.283,61
WALT DISNEY CO	98,5400	-2,05%	-2,0600	148.202,26

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Multi Asset Growth B GBP
Multi Asset Growth B FUR

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€1.0565	€0.0086
£1.3081	-£0.0153
€1.1984	€0.0142
£1.4583	-£0.0228
€1.3428	€0.0215

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 21/03/2018

### NASDAQ

### CLOSING PRICES MARCH 26

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
CareDx, Inc.	\$ 7.52	1.54 ▲ 25.75%
Odonate Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 24.01	2.85 ▲ 13.47%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 10.57	1.05 ▲ 11.03%
SMART Global Holdings, Inc.	\$ 48.92	4.85 ▲ 11.01%
Fred's, Inc.	\$ 2.75	0.24 ▲ 9.56%
Arbutus Biopharma Corporation	\$ 5.20	0.45 ▲ 9.47%
Solid Biosciences Inc.	\$ 8.96	0.70 ▲ 8.47%
Foamix Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	\$ 5.29	0.41 <b>A</b> 8.40%
ProShares UltraPro Short QQQ	\$ 19.21	1.41 ▲ 7.92%
The Dixie Group, Inc.	\$ 2.90	0.20 ▲ 7.41%
ProShares UltraPro Short NASDAQ Biot	echnology\$ 10.97	0.74 ▲ 7.23%
Most Declined		
Ferroglobe PLC	\$ 11.085	3.435 ▼ 23.66%
Zions Bancorporation	\$ 15.46	2.22 ▼ 12.56%
Westport Fuel Systems Inc	\$ 2.54	0.33 ▼ 11.50%
Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 8.29	1.03 ▼ 11.05%
Black Box Corporation	\$ 2.05	0.25 ▼ 10.87%
resTORbio, Inc.	\$ 11.78	1.40 ▼ 10.62%
Omeros Corporation	\$ 14.09	1.66 ▼ 10.54%
Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 10.49	1.19 ▼ 10.19%
Calyxt, Inc.	\$ 15.35	1.67 ▼ 9.81%
Progenics Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$ 7.54	0.82 ▼ 9.81%
Melinta Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 8.45	0.90 ▼ 9.63%









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## Dram good performance

## BOTTOMS UP AS WHISKY SALES SKYROCKET

SPANIARDS' favourite tipple is whisky, a report says.

According to the latest data from the Spanish Federation of Spirit Drinks (FEBE), 214 million litres of spirits were sold across the country in 2016.

The boozy blowout produced revenues of almost  $\in$  7.6 billion -  $\in$  1 billion more than UK drinkers spent over the same period - and provided 330,000 jobs while swelling the public treasury's coffers with €1.3 billion obtained via indirect taxes.

And consumers chose whisky as their go-to imbibe, as year-on-year sales grew by almost 2 per cent for a 27 per cent market share.

Trendy rival gin was the second-most popular spirit, accounting for 22 per cent of the market as sales increased by 9.9 per cent.

But rum sales dropped by 2.3 per cent, leaving the Caribbean classic a distant third in the market with a 16 per cent share.

Less popular still were liqueurs (13 per cent), brandy (9), anisette (7), vodka (5) and tequila (1).

A FEBE official confirmed that figures for 2017 are currently being analysed but are not expected to differ wildly from 2016, meaning 'whisky will be the most-consumed beverage, followed by gin and

Scotch whiskies topped the national brand ranking, accounting for 73 per cent of sales, with Johnnie Walker, Ballantine's, J&B, Chivas, Grant's and William Lawson's among the most popular.

The gin market was more evenly-spread, with 47 per cent of boozers opting for Spanish brands and 53 per cent preferring international products, with Malaga's Larios 12 the best-selling overall.

Rum sales were dominated by dark varieties, which accounted for



**GIN AND BEAR IT:** Spain's thirst for whisky shows no sign of being quenched with gin a distant second.

86 per cent of the market, while the most popular brands included Bacardi and Havana Club from Cuba, plus Barcelo and Brugal from the Dominican Republic.

But Vicente Montecinos, director of market research group NPD, believes that vodka will be the next big thing in Spain.

"Vodka is a growing market," he told Spanish media. "Spirits move slowly with fashions and trendy brands including Smirnoff, Absolut, Grey Goose and Zubrowka are becoming more popular.

"The Spanish vodka Basmmon, made from potatoes, has won international awards and is another that is on the rise."

### product record as Aragon tops regional charts THE Spanish economy con-

Gross domestic

tinues to grow.

And new data from the National Statistics Institute has revealed that gross domestic product (GDP) last year rose most in Aragon among the country's autonomous com-

The northern region saw its GDP increase by 3.6 per cent in 2017, with Asturias (3.5 per cent) and Madrid (3.4 per cent) completing the top three.

These figures eclipse the European average of 2.4 per cent, with only Castilla y Leon (1.9 per cent), and La Rioja (1.8), plus the African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla falling to beat the bench-

GDP per capita smashed records in 2017 with Madrid (€33,809) topping the rankings, followed by the Basque Country (€33,088) and Navarra (€30,809).

## **EQUITY FUNDS 'ARE LIKE MIGRATING BIRDS'** €10bn deal world's biggest

IT was the biggest real estate deal of 2017.

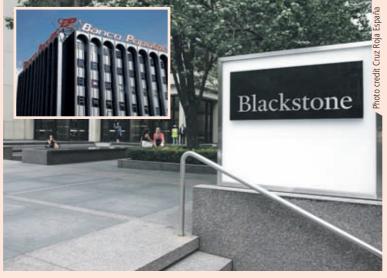
The €10 billion agreement which saw American asset management firm Blackstone snap up the property portfolio owned by failed Spanish bank Banco Popular leads the worldwide ranking for sales involving a single asset or portfolio.

It came after rival banking group Santander acquired Banco Popular for a token €1 last June, and involved forming a company of which Blackstone bought a controlling 51 per cent stake.

The remaining 49 per cent remains with Santander as part of its Banco popular rescue package.

It leaves Blackstone, which also picked up the housing portfolio of Catalunya Caixa - now part of BBVA - among others, as one of the largest real estate owners in Spain.

And the huge deal was followed a few months later by American private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management successfully bid-



BLACKSTONE: Now one of Spain's biggest real estate owners after snapping up the property portfolio formerly owned by Banco Popular (inset) in the wake of the bank's collapse.

ding €5.5 billion for 80 per cent of BBVA's property portfolio.

"It is striking how some of the opportunistic private equity funds move in flocks like migratory birds," says Borja Sierra, international executive vice-president of real estate consultancy firm Savills Aguirre Newman.

"One minute they are calm in a pond in Africa and then they start flying and travel 4,500 kilometres

to an island in the middle of the ocean to breed.

"This happened in Spain from

"One of the birds usually starts the flight and takes the lead, marking the direction of travel, and in this case it is Blackstone.

"They have consistently been pioneers and trend markers for their competitors, and as big investors they don't get involved in small operations."

Compiled by New York-based real estate number-crunchers Real Capital Analytics, the list shows that five of the 10 most expensive deals not involving a company takeover last year took place in China, with two in the UK.

The latter pair of sales included the € 5.1 billion acquisition of shares in a portfolio of hospitals and nursing homes by Chinese insurer Taikang, and a €2.1 billion stake in the Bluewater shopping centre in Kent purchased by Royal London Mutual Insurance Society.

### €500m energy deal confirmed

AMERICAN multinational banking giant JP Morgan has become Spain's biggest investor in solar energy.

The financial services firm has revealed it is to snap up a €500 million controlling stake in a 660 megawatt solar project in southern Spain and Portugal via its investment vehicle Sonnedix.

The scheme includes a number of plants in Andalucia, Extremadura and Murcia, which will generate 495 megawatts, with the remaining 165 megawatts produced by Portuguese facilities.

Together, the project will generate enough electrical energy to power 400,000 homes per year, with Barcelona-based supplier Audax signing a 20-year deal in what is reckoned to be the biggest long-term solar power contract ever agreed in Spain.



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## Spain remains on debt row

### TARGET BEATEN BUT DEFICIT STILL EXCESSIVE

SPANISH Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has revealed that the country met its European Union (EU) debt target for the first time last year.

The leader tweeted: 'Spain achieves: we have in 2017 reduced the public deficit to 3.07 per cent (4.3 per cent in 2016). A fundamental fact to continue growing, create employment and guarantee our public services." It is the smallest difference between public spending and revenue that Spain has registered since the financial crisis broke out a decade ago, and just beats the 2017 target of 3.1 per cent set by the EU.

The final figure of 3.07 per cent is equivalent to an overspend of €35.7 million, a Treasury official confirmed.

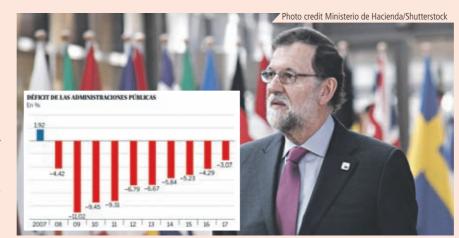
It sees Spain continue to claw its way out of a financial black hole triggered by the international banking crisis of 2008, which was later deepened after the country's housing bubble burst in 2009.

The twin collapse saw public debt soar to 11 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) after it climbed by more than €100 million in the

But the economy has recently spluttered into life, growing by around 3 per cent per year since 2015 and slowly reducing debt in the wake of sweeping cuts and tax increases which in 2012 totalled €65 billion of austerity measures.

The government has been working to a model designed by Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro which has been dubbed the 'Montoro adjustment,' whereby a small increase in public spending is permitted provided the total is lower than the nominal growth in GDP (with inflation).

Spain will however remain in the EU's Excessive Debt Procedure (EDP), a corrective process for countries with a public deficit of more than 3 per cent, for at least another year.



MAN WITH A **PLAN: Brussels** believes that Mariano Rajoy could have reduced deficit further but chose not to do so.

It could soon be the only one of the EU's 28 member states with an open procedure after the UK, Greece, Portugal and Croatia last year exited the process, with France expected to follow.

EU officials reportedly believe that Rajoy's government has intentionally maintained the EDP because if Spain was to reduce debt below 3 per cent new limits would be imposed, including a €7 billion 'structural adjustment' that would force Madrid into further cuts or tax hikes. The 2018 deficit target for Spain is 2.3 per cent, but there is a widespread consensus in Brussels that the country will again fail to meet it and will instead try to remain at least a 10th above 3 per cent in order to avoid the new adjustment, with regional and local elections due in 2019.

### Blue passport fury as British firm snubbed

UK HOME SECRETARY Amber Rudd signed off a €560 million blue passport deal without knowing who had won the contract, it has been claimed.

The controversial deal will see post-Brexit British passports produced by Gemalto, a European company listed on the Dutch and French stock exchanges.

And according to the Home Office, the process was a blind tender, meaning ministers had no clue which firm submitted each bid.

IIK-based De La Rue and French company Oberthur also competed for the contract, with the final result sparking a major backlash, with critics calling the decision a 'humiliating symbol' of the post-Brexit UK.

But the Home Office said the deal will save taxpavers €137 million over five years.

### Social security fraud savaged

THE Spanish labour inspectorate has slammed a 'huge' social security fraud.

It comes after the Social Security department revealed that an estimated 300,000 'false' self-employed people in Spain receive more than 75 per cent of their income from a single client.

An official from the labour inspectorate told the Congress that the majority are forced to register as self-employed 'so that the company that pays them does not have to pay social security.'

But the practice may now be living on borrowed time after Fermin Yebenes Salices, president of the Labour Inspectors' Union, appeared before a government subcommittee to discuss reforms to self-employed labour laws in order to crack down on the problem.

## INHERITANCE TAX SHAKE-UP ANNOUNCED Non-EU loophole slams shut

SPAIN'S highest court has ruled the Spanish practice that charges non-residents of Spain a higher rate of inheritance tax to be discriminatory and therefore unlaw-

According to reports, this has now left the window open for those who have paid the higher rate to file claims for refunds.

In a landmark case, the Spanish Supreme Court has ruled that the practice is no longer acceptable even if the non residents of Spain live in a third country that isn't part of the European Union.

As a result, non-European Economic Area (EEA) citizens that have paid Spanish inheritance tax in the last four years are expected to now be able to apply for a re-

According to Madrid-based tax partner of Cuatrecasas law firm, Antonio Barba, said the judgement will have a 'huge impact on Spain's current inheritance and gift tax rules by not only forcing Span-



**LEVY BREAK: Many non-EU** nationals could be due a tax rebate, says lawyer Antonio Barba (inset).

ish authorities to amend the current legislation but "opens the door for taxpayers to claim refunds of all taxes paid under the discriminative rules in the past four years, the standard term of the statute of limitations for taxes."

He told International Investment: "We estimate several hundred non-EU taxpayers to be entitled to apply for a refund of inheritance tax-

> es paid [by them] to Spain during the last four years.

"Just think that many provinces of Spain, [such as] Baleares and Andalucia, where foreign investments in real estate are huge.

"Most of the investors are EU residents - who are not affected by this last judgement, as the law was amended to give them tax breaks two years ago. But there are still quite a few investments from the US, Latin America, China, etc."

## I really do lose the will to live



GREAT contender for our, 'You thought you'd heard it all' trophy this week.

British police will now no longer attend any shoplifting episodes unless the 'haul' exceeds £200! Apparently, this new policy, which effectively decriminalises shoplifting, has been quietly introduced by ministers over the last few months. Well, we're all in the wrong game, aren't we?

Personally, I see this as a great way to becoming an entrepreneur. We can become wholesale goods suppliers. All we need is a few trucks going around to various collection points and a staff of average 'tea leaves.' We then send them out to various stores, equipped with shopping bags and a calculator. When they have nicked £199 worth of goods, they simply leave the store and drop the stuff off at the pre-determined pick up points. Job done

Actually, the opportunities are limitless. We could supply our own shops. We'll call them



GRENFELL TOWER: More questions are now being asked about the tragedy.

| SHOPLIFTING: 'Effectively decriminalised.'

'Lifted.' I can see us on every street corner. Pound and charity shops will become a thing of the past. One day we could even be quoted on the stock exchange. Ok Leapy, simmer down. Got a bit carried away there. Also, not quite sure how we could prevent stores from nicking their stuff back!

You really couldn't make it up though could you? Oh, and by the way. Don't rely on shop se-

curity staff to do the plod job. They can be prosecuted for laying a hand on you! Sometimes I really do find myself losing the will to live.

I see yet another toe rag fraudster has been convicted of pretending to be a Grenfell tower victim. This latest individual hailed from Zimbabwe and lived miles from the tower, yet still managed to con social workers into handing over £19,000 before being 'sussed.' With this in mind I decided to ask Google (yes, I do research occasionally!) just how many false claims had actually been made by these despicable fraudsters, who are already presumably enjoying the fruits of the UK's utterly misguided luvvie approach to our immigrant population.

What popped up to my request for more info was indeed something of a revelation. The Metropolitan Police Service have published a form under the freedom of information act. Far too lengthy to put in this blurb, it contains some 20 or so questions that have been put to the MPS since the tragedy. Talk about a waffle.

'Not in the interest' seems to be a phrase that crops up a great deal. I suggest those who are interested take a look. Enter 'Information about the fatalities during the Grenfell fire tragedy' and up it all comes in pdf format. Some weeks ago, I also took quite a lot of disdainful stick when I revealed information given to a friend of mine from one of the firemen who was actually on the scene. This brave firefighter told my associate he had seen at least 40 bodies in one flat alone.

I see rather more official questions are now being asked about this previous 'Leapy Rant' revelation. Remember you read it here first folks. Have a great week. Enjoy the onset of spring. And whatever ya do.

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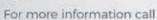




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THERE'S rejoicing aplenty in our household when a device breaks. It means we can buy a new one without a guilty conscience.

Filling your country mansion with gadgets by the thousand is all well and good if you're a moneyed technophile like Stephen Fry though to be fair to the great man, manufacturers probably throw scads of free stuff at him in the hope he'll promote it to his 13 million Twitter followers.

As a lesser mortal I grew up with the constricting ethic that you only buy what you will actually use, and you don't replace it until it breaks. And I've never got over it.

In fact until repairing stuff started becoming something of a dead art a decade or two ago, I would even give up precious free time in hand-to-hand combat with a dodgy toaster, menacing an innocent amplifier with a deadly soldering iron or perhaps the most futile exercise of all, using a couple of euros' worth of glue to do a reverse Humpty Dumpty on a vase costing just half that in the local sec-

## Give us a break

Don't cry for me Argentina if something breaks, says Terence Kennedy



DIY: 'Do you feel lucky, punk?'

ond-hand emporium.

Now when stuff dies we buy new stuff. Lots of new stuff. We've all got drawers full of dead phones, and even the poor in Africa would sneer at my old Nokia 1100.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to even open up our technology,

though the web has any number of people doing 'teardowns' of the latest devices - even on a thousand euros' worth of new iPhone, the spoiled

Fortunately there is still some stuff you can build yourself if you are so waywardly minded.

When my computer died at the ripe old age of 10. I felt like a child with a new Meccano set (rather dubiously renamed Erector sets in the USA. where they don't do double enten-

I got to work happily assembling my own Dagwood-sandwich-type computer from a case, a power supply, a motherboard, RAM chips, a hard drive, a gaggle of YouTube videos and more bad language than the average sailor.

For the most part though, we just

It's an ethic hard to knock when a friend recently spent more to fix an ageing laptop than it would have cost him to buy another one on eBay, or a new one for €50 extra.

Oops, I just 'accidentally' dropped that irritating bedside clock I've hated with a passion every morning for years. Hooray I can finally buy a new one. As Groucho Marx said, if you don't like my principles, I have oth-

### Make do and mend

THE 'Maker Movement' is a worthy one but they're fighting a losing battle.

Look them up on the internet and perhaps there's one near you, kindly souls with technical expertise, meeting locally over a weekend to repair all sorts of dead technology brought in by members of the public.

'Makers' even produce their own cookbooks of repair recipes.

Some are printed but they are mainly found online, if you're brave enough to tackle technology designed to resist even the most determined siege.

It certainly is morally satisfying to breathe new life into an old toaster, or to get that old Apple Newton back up and running again - even if only to find that Steve Jobs took its proprietary software with him to the grave.

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You'll boost your knowledge; mental well-being; physical fitness and feel a sense of achievement, especially with the prospect of a gastronomic treat and a fine wine to finish off a perfect day's exploration.

Learn something new each day, or combine your favourite interests like history, archaeology, food and wine and meander through lavender fields of Provence, or across the Himalayas. Or retrace the route of Alexander the Great through Turkey, or tread a well-loved path through the vineyards of the Dordogne or Alsace.

Perhaps you fancy something a little off the beaten track, like the



GLOBELINK: Will insure you up to age 89.

vast wilderness of Iceland. Explore a roaring 100ft waterfall like Strútsfoss, or Jokulsa gorge and a coastal ridge walk through the ice and fire landscape of this majestic location.

Stav closer to home with a meander through the Italian Sibillini

Mountains. Between Umbria and Marche, stunningly beautiful and steeped in ancient mythology with the Gola dell'Infernaccio, (the Gorge of Hell), and Cave of Sibyl. Unspoilt summits, rare wildflowers and wildlife and any discerning

foodies culinary heaven, with delicate mountain cheeses, black truffle. wild mushrooms and cured meats.

At Globelink Travel Insurance, we will get your itchy feet covered and proudly offer Travel Insurance for people aged up to 89 years living anywhere in Europe.

Unlike many insurers, our standard policy covers trekking up to 3.500m on organised tours and recognised routes. That includes helicopter rescue for medical emergencies. Don't forget to add to your peace of mind by checking whether any pre-existing medical conditions are covered. We now include over 50 medical conditions as standard, including gastric reflux, diabetes, hypertension and more.

Take a walk on the wild side with Globelink Travel Insurance: www.globelink.co.uk, or call (UK) +44 1353 699 082 or our Spanish link line 966 265 000.

Currencies Direct Let's talk currency

Look no further for a home. 20-page special starts here...

## Shining sun on your savings

F you have money burning a hole in your pocket, why not think about buying a second property in Spain and reap the rewards of a wise investment?

You can choose to invest in property by either buying real estate as cheaply as possible to sell in the short term at a higher price or by investing in a steadily growing market to receive rental income over the longer term. Which option you prefer will dictate how and where you spend your hard earned cash.

Valencia offers good opportunities for short-term resale properties. With rock bottom prices often 40 per cent lower than their peak in 2007, you can still grab a bargain but you need to act

Prices are steadily on the rise given that investors are looking south of Cataluña in light of the general political instability there and the almost precrises levels of property in Barcelona.

Another option is Madrid where residential property is currently about 13 per cent cheaper than in 2008. Here, the capital also offers promising returns with prices expected to grow by almost 11 per cent.

For buy-to-let investments, look for areas that have steadily rising property prices. You need to also decide if you wish to offer either short-term or longterm rentals. However, with short-term rentals commanding prices of 400 per cent more over the summer months



GOLDEN RETURNS: See your savings grow under the Spanish sunshine.

than monthly long-term rental prices, that choice can be an easy one!

For short-term rental properties, consider locations close to golf courses or ski resorts. This means you can offset the majority of your annual mortgage repayments during the high season and take advantage of low season golfing and skiing rentals to provide a solid secondary income stream.

It will come as no surprise that properties along the Costas can offer fantastic opportunities for this. House prices along the Mediterranean coast are steadily on the increase, having witnessed a 3 per cent rise in 2017 and in the sunnier climes of the Canaries, house prices are expected to increase by almost 8 per cent in 2018

For non-coastal options, Granada and the surrounding Sierra Nevada Mountains can offer you serious rental income all year though.

Whether for short-term resale or long-term rental, now is the time to capitalise on your savings as Spanish property prices slowly creep upwards since the economic crash ten years ago.





### **Advertising Feature**

FIRMLY established as a leading real estate agency with the main office located in San Juan de los Terreros, Grupo Platinum Estates.

They believe 'clients are the foundation of their business.' with a team of extremely active multilingual professionals, to offer advice and support when choosing to buy or sell a property, look no further than Grupo Platinum Estates. Their office opens seven days a week to ensure the best service to buyer and seller.

Having gained a well-earned reputation for offering a quality service to all clients, why compromise? They work through every step making the buying process clean, simple and enjoyable.

Keen to offer the whole package, they offer a range of associated aftersales services, including property rental and management, financial and insurance services, along with

## Let 2018 be the year that you buy your home in Spain!

Free Entry into a draw to win €5,000 \*

It's simple!! Buy or sell a property with Grupo Platinum Estates in 2018 and you will be entered into a draw to win €5,000. There will be two prizes, one for a buyer and one for a seller.



renovations and upgrades to your property, in collaboration with trusted part-

For property vendors, they guarantee maximum exposure of your property on sales portals in many different countries as well as in local publications.

Agents located internationally all working hard to sell your home. New property listings are urgently required in all

price brackets and of all property types, to meet the needs of clients, following a brilliant start to 2018, with properties selling faster than ever, please make contact with them now.

Looking to buy or sell on the coast of Almeria and Murcia and the San Juan de los Terreros area, don't compromise on service, choose the experts, contact Grupo Platinum Estates today. *Telephone 950* 466 112 or 666 687 251 email info@grupoplatinum.com www.grupoplatinum.com.

\* Buy or sell a property with Grupo Platinum Estates in 2018 and you will be entered into a draw to win €5,000\* Each property can only have one ticket in the draw, so if there are multiple owners, sellers or purchasers, just one ticket will be given in joint names. Each prize has a maximum value of €5,000\*. There will be two prizes. One for a seller. One for a buyer. The draw will take place in front of the notary public of Pulpi on January 10, 2019.

## Tourism boom sees wealthy Brits snap up Spanish homes

PAIN received a recordbreaking 82 million visitors in 2017, overtaking the US as the world's second most visited nation.

According to the Tourist Market Barometer, the average spending of tourists to Spain rose 13 per cent between January and November 2017.

Unsurprisingly, British visitors were among the biggest spenders, contributing €17.4 billion to the Spanish economy, up 8.2 per cent on the previous year. The tourism industry has been an integral driver of Spain's economy over recent decades, benefiting from the increase in cheap flights through low cost airlines, and affordable accommodation.

However, the success of the lowcost tourism model is at risk of negatively impacting the exclusive end of the market, with Spain accounting for only 10 per cent of the wealthiest tourists in the world.

But as local authorities set out ambitious plans to tackle the issue of mass market tourism, Taylor Wimpey



TAYLOR MADE: Discerning buyers are increasingly turning to Taylor Wimpey España.

España (TWE), which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, continues to deliver high quality homes for discerning visitors.

Mark Pritchard, TWE's Sales and

Marketing Director, said:

"It is fantastic to see Spain's popularity continuing to flourish, and we have certainly received a great number of enquiries from international visitors looking to experience all that this wonderful country has to offer.

"I do believe, however, that it is important to ensure that popular destinations such as the Costa del Sol remain sustainable, which is why we are focused on delivering quality homes in quality locations for generations to enjoy."

In terms of numbers, December 2017 saw the sixth consecutive month of growth in sales to British buyers for Taylor Wimpey España.

The majority of transactions were made at the upper bracket of €450,000 and beyond, a trend never seen before.

It is believed that with an eye on Brexit in April 2019, British buyers are splashing out more on Spanish properties to secure the right home either for holidays or retirement.

For more information, interested buyers can contact Taylor Wimpey España on 08000 121 020 or visit http://www.taylorwimpeyspain.com. Those outside the UK can call +34 971 706 972.







### **WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE**















Estate Agency located in the village of San Juan de los Terreros, specialising in offering property along the coastline of Almeria and **Murcia**. Contact us today to let us help you find your perfect home and LOCATION, First Time!!

### **INMOBILIARIA** San Juan de los Terreros

### SJPD208M - 89.000€



Fantastic 2 bed & 2 bathroom bungalow for this bargain price with private full roof solárium with sea views, all just a short walk from the beach and the centre of town.

### SJPD08B - 110.000€



Brand new to the market, beautiful 2 bed & 2 bath apartment in one of the most sought after urbanisations in San Juan de los Terreros, communal pool, tennis courts and lots more

### SJPDR16M - 115.000€



Incredible views from this apartment with 2 bedrooms and a large terrace offering stunning views over San Juan de los Terreros, sold fully furnished with communal pool

### **BUY OR SELL WITH US AND WIN** OFFER FOR 2018 WIN Act 40 5.000€ Terms and conditions on our website www.grupoplatinum.com

### SJPD11G - 179.000€



Brand new to the market, Fantastic 2 bed & 2 bathroom detached villla on a large plot. For this bargain price. Finished and furnished to the highest standards with plunge pool.

### **SJPDBAMM - 259,000€**



Unique opportunity to purchase this luxury 3 bed & 2 bath detached villa on a private plot with swimming pool, in the heart of San Juan de los Terreros. Just a short walk from the beach

SJPD2CT - 500.000€



Outstanding sea front detached villa located on the beach!! Beautiful 6 bedroom property with the best location and views in the área. Sold fully furnished

### Contact us now to sell your house WE ARE OPEN EVERY DAY INCLUDING SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

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Email: info@grupoplatinum.com

www.grupoplatinum.com • www.inmobiliariasanjuandelosterreros.es









Advertising Feature by Voss Home

## Property of the week

## Calling all investors!

IF you are looking for a property with great rental potential or a bargain villa to live in or use as a holiday home this would be ideal.

Villa Gabi is a, modern style, recently decorated, 130m2 with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two storey villa on a low maintenance 303m2 walled and private garden just a few hundred yards from a shop, cafe, restaurant, doctors and school in the village of Urcal. Eight minutes drive to Huercal-Overa town and 35 minutes drive to the beaches at San Juan de los Terreros, Mojacar, Vera and Garrucha

The villa was built in 2007 and has an impressive modern style on the outside and a more traditional, homely style inside. This property has been recently decorated inside and out and is located in a cul-de-sac on the edge of a small friendly village.

Downstairs is the front covered



SUPERB PROPERTY: At a great price.

porch which leads into a spacious, light and airy living/dining room, recently fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a large family bathroom.

Upstairs is a large master bedroom with a walk-in dressing area with 'his and hers' fitted wardrobes and en suite bathroom. From the master bedroom. and landing there are two large, private sun terraces to enjoy the views for miles over the village and countryside.

The private walled and gated

garden is a blank canvas. There is just enough room for an 8m x 4m swimming pool if required. The property is on urban land and under the Huercal-Overa Town Hall you can get permission for a swimming pool.

Mains water and electricity are connected. Internet and phone can also be easily connected and the house has a security alarm. There is pre-installation for air con.

Urcal village is a very welcoming, mostly Spanish, village with



an expatriate community who wish to integrate. The community revolves around the Spanish run shop, cafe/restaurant, bar, health centre and school.

Huercal-Overa is well-known for still being Spanish and for its 3 bed, 2 bath villa for

award-winning hospital, twice weekly street markets (Monday and Thursday), local fiestas, numerous shops, cafes, restaurants, banks, sporting and leisure facilities, cinema and theatre, history

Voss Homes is a British familyrun business with an office in the thriving, market town of Huercal-Overa. They concentrate on selling properties around Huercal-Overa, Zurgena, La Alfoquia, Taberno and Puerto Lumbreras, and look forward to helping you find you ideal property in Spain.

For more information or to arrange a viewing of Villa Gabi ref VH1185 please contact Voss Homes on 0034 950 616 827 or 0034 678 002 006 or visit their office in Huercal-Overa. They are iust 1km off exit 553 of the A7 motorway, 100m from Lidl.

## **New property?** Don't forget

AVING just signed and sealed the contract on your new property, here's a few helpful suggestions of the important tasks you need to do.

First things first: change those locks! Who knows how many people have been given a copy of the keys to your new home since it was put on the market. Apart from giving you peace of mind, installing new locks and changing your alarm pin code is often required for insurance purposes - on which note, don't forget to organise building insurance!

Secondly, confirm with your lawyer that they have transferred all bills into your name and have registered you as the new owner of your property at the town hall (for the payment of council taxes). If

you are a tax resident in Spain, you are also required to register on your town hall's municipal residency register (similar to an electoral roll). This is not a requirement if your property is your holiday home, however, doing so means you can access certain local benefits.

Don't forget that as a homeowner in Spain, you are now required to submit an annual tax return. This is the case even if you are not a tax resident and earn no income from your property, as you will still have to pay a small amount of tax.

Also, be aware, that if you are planning on renting your property out, recent changes to the law mean that you must obtain the appropriate licence by registering your property at your local town hall for this purpose.

And finally, don't forget to install



vour TV and internet services - as well as air conditioning - so once you have completed these important tasks you can slip off your shoes and relax in your cool new surroundings.



## INMOBILIARIA LESTATE AGE

Please call **0034 950 616 827 /** 0034 678 002 006 / 0034 667 891 741 or email info@vosshomesspain.com Office: 155a Carretera Estacion, Huércal-Overa. 1km off the A7 motorway at exit 553. 100 metres from Lidl.

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### VH1290 €164,950 CEE TBC



- · Large, 3 bed, 2 bath Modern Villa
- 758m2 landscaped garden
- · Sun roof, carport & air con
- · Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia.

### VH852 €119,950 CEE G45 33



- 2 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 346m2 garden & jacuzzi
- · Walk to amenities
- · La Alfoquia Village

### VH1288 €169,950 CEE TBC



- 8m x 4m swimming pool
- Walk to bar / restaurant
- · Zurgena area

### VH1285 €119,950 CEE TBC



- 2 bed, 1 bath Villa
- 504m2 garden
- 5 mins drive to Huercal-Overa
- El Saltador

### VH1289 €169,500 CEE TBC



- 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- Garage & Jacuzzi
- · Walk to bar / restaurant
- · Zurgena area

### VH1217 €89,950 CEE E190 32



- 2/3 bed, 2 bath Semi Detached
- Access to 2 communal pools
- Private garden
- · Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia

### VH1275 €88,500 CEE E189 32



- 3 bed, 2 bath Semi Detached
- Access to 2 communal pools
- Walking distance to amenities
- La Alfoquia

### VH1273 €129,950 CEE TBC



- · Quirky, 3 bed, 2.5 bath Country House
- · Separate apartment & 2,500m2 land
- 7m x 3m Swimming pool
- 12 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

### VH1286 €169,950 CEE E33 4



- · 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 592m2 garden & sun roof
- · Walk to amenities
- · 8 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

### VH1191 €79,950 CEE E182



- 4 bed, 2 bath House
- 130m2 build & 40m2 garden
- · Walk to amenities
- La Alfoquia Village

### VH1100 €164,950 CEE F57 77



- 3 bed, 3 bath Country House
- Quality renovation
- 1,400m2 garden with pool
- 14 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

**WE ARE THE MAIN SELLING AGENT IN THE HUERCAL-OVERA, LA ALFOQUIA, ZURGENA** & TABERNO AREA. **WE URGENTLY NEED MORE PROPERTIES** 











Advertising Feature by Spanish Property Choice

### Property of the week

## Properties wanted urgently in **Arboleas and surrounding areas!**

THIS fantastic detached villa can be summed up in three simple words, quality, quality, quality.

The property is located in a very sought after residential area with similar stunning villas situated along the wide avenues of the surrounding location and with the local village being just a short drive away where you will find all of the local amenities, this house really does have it all.

Upon entry into the superbly manicured gardens through the wrought iron entrance gate you can immediately see that this is one of those few and far between immaculate houses that really are hard to find and is hard to surpass in this style of house.

The pathway from the entrance winds down through the ornamental gardens which have raised beds and are planted with indigenous plants, shrubs and



STUNNING HOME: Really does have it all.

trees and where you will find the family sized swimming pool which has recently been completely refurbished. There is an adjacent area for sunbathing and taking in

To the rear of the villa there are several separate zones, the first of which has raised flower beds and where you will find a table and chairs and a terrace which is enclosed with ornate balustrade.

the lovely scenery.

There is a barbecue garden with ample space to entertain visiting guests and family and there is a garden storage shed along with an additional workshop which also houses the villa's central heating equipment which is fitted to every room. Finally to the outside there is a covered carport which is accessed via a private driveway that has enough parking for several vehicles.

To the front of the main house there is a large part covered terrace again edged by balustrade. Through the main front door you

enter into the homely main lounge room of the property which is tastefully decorated to a very high standard and this leads through into the separate dining room which is of a good size with a door to access the rear terrace of the property.

Adjacent to the dining room is the fully fitted kitchen with top quality fixtures and fittings along with granite work surfaces and solid wood cabinets throughout.

The sleeping arrangement con-

*229,950* 

sists of three good sized double bedrooms which have fitted wardrobes plus ceiling fans.

The master bedroom benefits from having its own ensuite which is beautifully clad with high quality ceramic tiling to both the walls and floors along with excellent sanitary ware as is the family bathroom which comes with a lovely feel and design along with contemporary decor.

So if you are looking for that luxury property in this wonderful area of southern Spanish then look no further just give our office a call today to book a viewing.

For more details about this property visit https://www.span ishpropertychoice.com and to find out about Spanish Property Choice, the agents who have regularly appeared on Channel 4's Sun, Sea and Selling Houses call +34 950 615 388.



## **Property Sales Almeria**

The Belgian agency of the region Also construction projects



### **Landhouse in Sorbas**



PSA-SRB022

Price: 499,000€

### **Penthouse Vera-Playa**



PSA-VP058

Price: 179,000€

### **Duplex Vera-Playa**



PSA-VP059

Price: 160,000€

### **Penthouse Vera-Playa**



PSA-LK043

Price: 124,900€

### Penthouse Vera-Playa



PSA-CM020

Price: 89,950€

### **Penthouse Vera-Playa**



PSA-VP040

Price: 125,000€

Phone: +34 (0) 638 80 38 28

www.propertysales-almeria.com

info@propertysales-almeria.com

Office address: Calle Mayor 29A, 04630 Garrucha





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Whether you are a buyer or a seller, a chat with First Choice Almeria costs you nothing, but could save you thousands



# A Selection of our Latest Properties



Villa in San Juan De Los Terreros price €259.000

3 Bed 2 bath - Private pool - Video intercom on the Gate - Electric gate - Electric Shutters - Private parking Sea views



price €228.500

Joea 3 Gath - Air conditioning and heating - Private pool - Off street parking - Gated and walled property - Sea views



Villa in Desert Springs price €259.000

4 bed 4 bath - Air conditioning and heating - Private pool - Off street parking - Gated and walled property



Villa in Antas price €185.000 Ref 2067

3 bed 2 bath · Air conditioning · Private pool Close to shops Bars etc · Close to golf



**New apartments in Carboneras** price €113.000 Ref 2063

1, 2 and 3 bedroom · High quality finish 10 year builders guarantee Sea views · Ask about great finance plans



**Beach front Apartment in Mojacar** Ref 2046 price €165.000

2 bed 2 bath - Communal pool and garden - Garage Fully furnished - Air conditioning



price €299.000 Ref 1742

3 bed 3 bath - Very large plot of 11,000m Stunning views · Beautiful Gardens Off street parking · Must be seen!!



price €97.000

2 bed 1 bath - Fully furnished Air conditioning - 2 communal pools Very well kept gardens - Close to the beach and shop

Open Monday to Friday 10am - 6pm Saturday 11 am - 2pm

The minimalist modern home in Valdes, a small town in Asturias, northwest of Madrid, reportedly took less than four months to build in a factory but was assembled in five hours in total on site.

Designed by Studio Baragaño, the 'Montaña house' is described as a stylish mix between a traditional home and more modern houses found throughout the

The house, built in wood and raised on pillars typical of many homes in the Iberian Peninsula, was constructed in a factory in Madrid and was later transported to Valde, where it was embellished by a local artisan with a traditional slate roof.

It has two levels, with common living spaces occupying most of the bottom level while bedrooms accommodate the second floor.

The designers reportedly drew inspiration from the architectural style of the traditional residential structure found in the region.

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# Home is where the island is

HE rich and famous looking to expand their property portfolio can now buy their own island by surfing the web.

More than 2,650 islands have been sold on the Vladi Private Islands website, and Pumpkin Key, near Miami, Florida, is available to buy for an eye watering £70 million (€79 million).

The exclusive private island in the Florida Keys has one main home, built in 1985, which has three bedrooms and bathrooms, and has the highest price tag on the site.

It also has its own private club, an airstrip for private jets and is just a 10-minute journey to Miami's South Beach.

Meanwhile, a 64 acre island off the coast of Shetland, Scotland is also available to buy and comes with planning per-

TWITTER @LACYGCOOKE



**LINGA FRANCA:** The Scottish island is on the market for just €282,000

mission for a pier and a two-acre loch.

Other spectacular islands up for sale include a similarly sized island in Fiji, known as the Remote Resort, which has been listed for €2.9 million (€3.27 million).

Last year the average London home sold for

£481,000 (€542,000), making the Scottish island of Linga, on the market for £250,000 (€282,000) almost half the price. A huge, 35,000 acre island, 16 miles long and off the coast of Mexico, is on the market for £15 million (€16.9 million). Cerralvo Island has a breathtaking landscape which includes a 2,100ft mountainous ridaeline.

The Isla Centinela in Spain comes with a

1920's castle which is surrounded by water and is available to purchase for £3.5 million (€3.95 mil-

Farhad Vladi, CEO of Vladi Private Islands, said the website was set up in 1999 and more than 2.650 islands have been sold since.

"Islands are pharmacies for the soul and you can control what you see. They are the best combination of lifestyle and investment," he said.

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Contact us for a free market valuation.



### Free EPC for Properties listed exclusively with VIP Almeria

**Apartment in Mojacar Playa** VIP7267



- 2 Bedrooms
- 1 Bathroom
- **Communal Pool**

• 3 Bedrooms

• 2 Bathrooms

· Room for a Pool

Sea Views

Price: 130,000€ Sea View

Villa in Turre VIP7520



- 2 Bedrooms
- 1 Bathroom

Price: 174,000€

**Apartment in Villaricos** • VIP7551



- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Bathrooms

Communal Pool Gated Community

Price:137,750€

Townhouse in Valle del Este VIP7471



- 3 Redrooms
- 3 Bathrooms
- Golf Property

′Price: 129,000€

Villa in Mojacar Playa VIP7528



Apartment in Mojacar Playa

- 2 Bedrooms
- 1 Bathroom ommunal Pool
- El Cantal Area

Price: 128,000€

Villa in San Juan de los Terreros • VIP7558



Apartment in Mojacar Playa

VIP7476

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Sea Views
   Private Pool

Price: 265,750€



Villa in Turre

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Breathtaking Views

Price: 110,000€

**Apartment in Mojacar Playa** 

Price: 325,000€

Sea Views



- Private Solarium
- Communal Pool and Gym
- Price: 239,950€



**Apartment in San Juan De Los Terreros** 

- 2 Bedrooms
- Communal Pool
- 1 Bathroom Easy Walking distance to Beach

Price: 121,000€

- 3 Bedrooms Communal Pool
- Centrally Located
- 1 Bathroom

Price: 139,000€



- 2 Bedrooms • 1 Bathroom
- Private Solarium
- Communal Pool

Price: 89,000€

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The property sales market is very active, and it is common place that all agents want a vendor's business. Many people feel comfortable knowing that we put ourselves in your shoes and will offer the benefits of what are advantages or disadvantages in a particular area. VIP Almeria are an Irish run company and 5 languages are spoken at our office as communication is important to us. When you become a VİP Almeria client, we work harder to produce targeted results and this is shown in our testimonials and referrals.

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spanish property

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VENDORS IN ARBOLEAS........ Due to the proactive administration of the local town hall and the impending completion of Innovacion 14, properties in your area are becoming more and more sought after by our clients. This means your properties no matter how many come onto the market will command a sensible asking price in line with the current general market, which is on the up.

Spanish Property Choice, as many know, are the only agent to have 3 local offices, 2 in Mojacar and 1 in Albox, run with a professional team of 12 staff dealing with clients daily looking to buy your property. So if you have it on the market with other agents "fine no problem" but why not give us the opportunity to sell it for you? You have nothing to lose! We are proactive & have the power of TV behind us:)



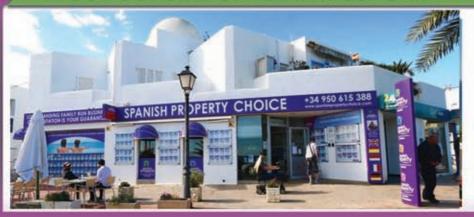


# Spanish Property Choice Offices in Mojacar & Albox



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### **OUR INLAND OFFICE IN ALBOX**





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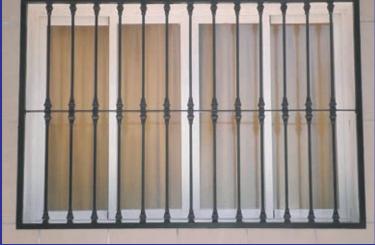
# MOJACAR HOME IMPROVEMENTS



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E: info@mojacarhomeimprovements.com











Paseo del Mediterraneo



NE ARE HERE







SMART: The Yeti app transforms the home into a smart home.

# Watch out for the Yeti!

POPULAR new smartphone app that lets you control the smart devices in your home is looking to expand to Spain.

Yeti, by a company called Netbeast, connects all your smart devices to simplify the control of your home and lets homeowners control, automate and monitor all their smart devices from anywhere, any-

It supports a wide range of smart home devices from lights and wireless speakers to heating and security solutions, offering homeowners comfort, security and convenience.

The company claim that with the app, homeowners will allow the home to be simpler as it lets you control all your smart devices with one app instead of many, better as it gives you a variety of features to empower your house, smarter as it helps your devices to adapt to you and your habits and perfectlytailored as you can choose between local and cloud control

Last year, the app's owner company Netbeast were selected by Shuttle, a leading Spanish brand for start-up accelerators, to participate in its fourth edition of acceleration.

Netbeast launched in January last year and has continued to grow 30 per cent monthly while an estimated 15,000 homes now use the brand.

The company has now linked up with Crowdcube Spain and is looking to raise €190,000 in funding.

They have already received more than two thirds of that target, already securing more than €120,000 from 21 separate in-

Speaking to website Crowdfund Insider, CEO Jon Senra Deark said: "Our two target goals for 2018 are to expand support to up to 25+ smart home brands which will allow us to target more smart home users and will set up the perfect ground to launch a premium version of

"The second goal is to secure a partnership with a top real estate promoter within Spain which will allow us to push smart home technology within this market."





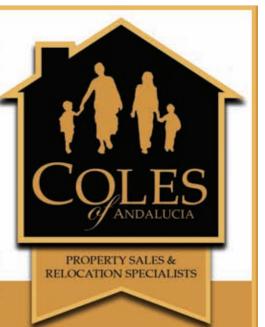
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Aguilas REF TUR2A45 Turre REF TUR2V10





REF ARB3VJU06



3 bed 2 bath detached villa very near Arboleas village centre with pool, roof terrace and great views. Easy walk into town.

**Arboleas** €189.000

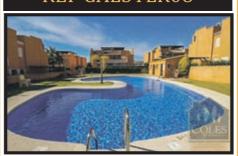
REF ARB3VGL14



3 bed 2 bath Lakes Vega villa in Arboleas, private pool, fly free dining area, great views, car port and casita store.

€169,950 Arboleas

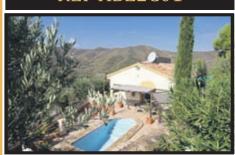
**REF GAL3TLR08** 



bed 2.5 bath duplex in Los Gallardos with garden, roof terrace, communal pool, air-con and fully furnished

Los Gallardos

REF ABZ2C01



2 bedroom 1 bathroom cortiio near Arboleas. With pool & great views over the valley and to the mountains

€109,950 Arboleas €129.000

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Advertising Feature by Price Brown

# Property of the week

**Detached villa with private** swimming pool

Ref: DV1454 Agua Nueva. Mojacar, Turre

A BEAUTIFULLY presented detached villa in a quiet residential area.

Lovely views over the countryside and in easy walking distance of the town of Turre with excellent access to the E15/A7 motorways and the main roads to the local towns and villages.

On the lower level the property comprises: a covered east facing terrace, living room/dining room with air conditioning, newly installed wood burner. patio doors to the 8 x 5 swimming pool and terrace, a well fitted bright, light, kitchen with access to a service patio, a double bedroom with ceiling fans and built-in wardrobes

There is a further bedroom (currently being used as a dining room) with built in wardrobes and ceiling fan, and a full size bathroom with WC,

PRICE

DETACHED VILLA: Viewing is highly recommended.

bidet and bath.

Stairs from the living room lead to the upper floor with the master bedroom and a spacious walk-in shower room

The master bedroom has built in wardrobes, air conditioning and doors to a private terrace.

This very well maintained property which is turnkey ready,

has a sensible price tag and viewing is highly recommend-

Contact us to make an appointment to view this property, or to look

at our extensive portfolio, call in to our office on the Paseo del Mediterraneo 171.

If you are looking to sell your property call us now for a free, no obligation valuation.

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BEACH EXERCISE: Make friends and stay healthy

# The Golden Years

PAIN has just been listed ninth place among the top 10 retirement destinations in the world by the Annual Global Retirement Index compiled by the International Living Magazine.

Among the various factors considered are the ease and cost of buying or renting a property, the cost of living, visa and residence options, and the ease of fitting in and enjoying a healthy and varied lifestyle.

Of course, this news will come as no surprise to the many Brits who have already retired to some of the most popular expatriate communities in Albox and Mojacar. Basking in almost year-long sunshine, these retirees have come to enjoy the relaxed lifestyle and top cuisine along some of the world's best beaches.

If you do decide to come and retire to Spain, remember there is much more to do than simply lie back under the sun. Depending on where you move to, there should be an endless number of activities that you can get involved in. From more active activities such as golf, sailing, hiking or cycling to - perhaps - somewhat less physically demanding activities such as drama groups or yoga and cooking lessons.



# MOJÁCAR - CORNER OF ENCHANTMENT

PROPERTY SALES, MANAGEMENT















DV1447 380,000€















A1335

135,000€







Due to increased activity we need all types of properties in Mojácar, we have clients waiting. Contact us now.





# Paying for your child's tuition fees? Save money on your currency transfers

Putting your child through higher education can be seriously costly, with tuition fees and living costs typically amounting to tens of thousands of pounds in just a few years. If you're living abroad but transferring money back to the UK to fund your child's time in University, the process could be made costlier still if you're using your bank to manage the currency transfers.

### A new school of thought

When it comes to transferring money overseas, moving your funds through your bank seems like the logical choice on paper. But in reality, what should be a quick and simple task can end up taking considerably more time than it should.

If you're looking for a simpler and speedier alternative, consider the benefits attached to using a leading currency broker.

Whether you need to make regular, smaller currency transfers or have a large lump sum to transfer, currency brokers can help you save time and money. They can also help you understand the volatility of the currency market and teach you how to time your currency transfers effectively.

For example, while the EUR/GBP exchange rate initially strengthened considerably in the wake of the UK's vote to leave the EU in 2016, the pairing has experienced significant fluctuations ever since.

This exchange rate movement can make

planning your transfers a bit of a pain. With complex Brexit negotiations still ongoing, the EUR/GBP exchange rate will remain unstable for the foreseeable future, so it's important to be prepared for sudden shifts.

### Do your sums

One major advantage to using a currency broker like Currencies Direct is that they don't charge transfer fees (unlike many banks) ensuring that the money you're sending to the UK is not reduced by unnecessary costs, Transfer fees can quickly add up if you make frequent transfers, so you could end up saving hundreds of euros a year.

By using a currency broker you can also ensure that you're getting the most competitive exchange rate for your transfer, meaning you'll get more for your money.

### Revise your options

Using a currency broker also takes a lot of hassle out of the transfer process, as you can set up payments 24/7 from the comfort of your own home and arrange

for them to be made automatically on pre-set dates.

You can also make instant or 'spot' transfers whenever you need to, so you don't need to wait to move the money if your child needs some emergency

Another option you might want to look into is a forward contract, which gives you the ability to fix an exchange rate for up to two years in advance of making a transfer - protecting your funds from negative market movements.

By doing a bit of research into the different transfer options available you can eliminate the hassle and get more from your currency transfers. Find the services that suit your needs and you'll quickly discover how much you can

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 - Costa de Almeria .....

### Mojácar

 Avenida Mediterráneo 341, Mojácar, 04638, Almería

+34 950 478 914

mojacar@currenciesdirect.com

### Mazarron

Avenida los Covachos, Camposol B, Mazarrón, 30875. Murcia

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Advertising Feature by Almeria Property Investments

# Property of the week 239,950

# Who wants a 360 degree view?

THIS is without any doubt the apartment with the best views in Mojacar playa!

From the roof terrace (92m2) you have unbeatable 360 degree views over the Marina golf course with its lake, the village of Mojacar, the fishing port of Garrucha and the beach.

This lovely very spacious three bedroom, two bathroom apartment is located on the second floor of the complex, Playa and Golf in Marina de la Torre, Mojacar, only 100 metres from the beach.

The apartment of 102.60 m2 has a spacious and bright living room with access to a southwest facing terrace with lovely views over the golf course with its lake, an open plan kitchen with all appliances and granite countertops, three bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes.

Two large bedrooms have access to a second east facing terrace with a utility room and side

YOUR HOME: Or potential rental.

views of the sea. The third bedroom with views over the golf course has an ensuite shower

There are two bathrooms, a family bathroom with bath and a second bathroom with a shower.

The apartment has an air conditioning and heating system which is individually controlled and it is sold furnished (according to inventory).

Furthermore, an underground

Playa and Golf, a quiet urbanisation with beautiful common areas, a large swimming pool overlooking the golf course, concierge, full gym and sauna.

An excellent opportunity with great rental potential!

> Some 17 kilometres of fine golden sandy beaches, a perfect place

to enjoy the Mediterranean

Just a short distance from the beautiful white village of Mojacar and close to hotels, shopping centre, restaurants, supermarkets,

health centre, etc and within a few kilometres there are three golf courses. There is a bus stop just a short walk from the complex with a regular service along the entire beach and to the village of Mojacar.

Only 45 minutes from Almeria

airport. The airports of Murcia (one hour) and Alicante (two hours) are also easily accessi-

An absolute must see with a selling price of €239,950.

For more information or to arrange a viewing you can contact us by phone on +34 950 460 874 or +34 666 260 792, email info@almeriapropertyin vestments.com or pop in to our office!

Almeria Property Investments is a real estate company specialising in selling beach properties (Moiacar to San Juan de los Terreros) and project management of new builds.

We are based in Vera playa, in the Buganvillas area, next to the Dutch bar 'Cactus' and the shop "Luces"

We offer a large variety of properties ranging from small budget apartments to large front line beach villas. All properties have the correct paperwork.

# Your Belgian estate agent at the coast!

parking

in the price.

space and a

storage room are also included

The apartment offers a lot of

privacy and has, with its two ter-

races and its huge roof terrace,

all the sun that you want to enjoy

Located in the urbanisation

the Mediterranean climate.



### **API-V0349** 65,000€ VERA PLAYA

1 bedroom & 1 bathroom top floor 2 terraces (25m2) and sea view Covered parking space Air conditioning (hot/cold) Fully furnished

2 Outdoor pools & indoor pool paddle court



### API-DS0102 148,000€ **DESERT SPRINGS GOLF**

2 bedroom 2 bathroom townhouse Terrace, balconies & roof terrace Fully furnished

Air conditioning Parking space Outdoor pool

On Desert Springs golf course



### 99,950€ **API-V0352 VERA PLAYA**

2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms Ground floor 2 Terraces

Air conditioning Fully furnished Outdoor pool

400 m to the beach and Garrucha



### **API-M0146** 150,000€ **MOJACAR PLAYA**

2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms Spacious terrace (44m2) with sea

Underground parking space Storage room (10 sqm) Air conditioning (hot/cold) Outdoor & indoor pool, Jacuzzi Lift with panoramic views



### **API-V0351**

129,000€

### **VERA PLAYA**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms Terrace, porch & garden Fully furnished Air conditioning Covered parking space
2 Outdoor pools & Indoor pool with SPA (jacuzzi, sauna...)
Tennis & paddle courts We are still looking to extend our portfolio Especially looking at the moment for properties in Valle del Este, Puerto Rey, Vera playa and Mojacar playa

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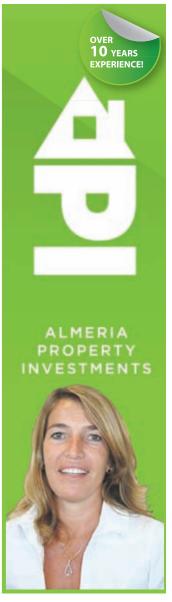












# Currencies Direct

# **Record-breaking** year for hotel investment

OTEL investment in Spain reached record levels

According to a report by the Insights on the Hotel Investment Market in Spain 2017, a record €3.9 billion was spent in 2017, beating the previous record of €2.6 billion set in 2015.

A total of 182 hotels changed hands last year, in comparison to 147 sold the previous year, while the average price per room also rose to an estimated €119.000

Most of the recorded investment came in the resort sector, which saw a 69 per cent increase and outperformed the urban sector, which still rose by 31 per cent.

Investment was also more widely distributed in Spain last year.

Malaga accounted for 15 per cent of the country's total with 18 hotel sales, totalling €516 million, while the Canary Islands were the country's top investor destination seeing €939 million invested, contributing 27 per cent of Spain's total.

International investment continued to play a major role in the country's market growth, with overseas investment reportedly accounting for more than 60

per cent of investments at €2.3 billion.

Looking ahead to this year, real estate consultancy Irea's hotel division expects hotel investments to remain high in 2018, but the uncertainty caused due to the unrest in Cataluña may prevent the investment in Spain from reaching last year's totals.

Miguel Vazquez, partner of Irea's hotel unit, told Property Magazine International: "As in 2017, this year has started with a considerable number of deals in the latter stages of negotiation, which, if completed, could produce €600 million of investment in the first quarter of 2018."



RECORD YEAR: Madrid's Metropolis hotel.



Office: Avda. Almería 78, Turre (opposite the main junction). Office hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 6pm or Saturday, 9am - 2pm







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# almeria homes

# **DUE TO HIGH DEMAND WE REQUIRE MORE PROPERTIES**



Thanks so much to Daniel and everyone at Almeria Homes for finding me the perfect house in the Zurgena area. Everyone there is knowledgeable and personable and most importantly patient. They know the area well and listened to my list requirements. They even put up with my requests for multiple visits to the house and helped me through the buying and transition. We love our new home.













### Quality photography and video with high quality cameras





We would like to say thank you to all at Almeria Homes for all their help and patience during the purchase of our property in Partaloa. Murphy and Daniel were very knowledgeable about the area when we were looking and showed us many properties which fitted our requirements. The staff in the office Penny. Jo and Lianne were also very helpful and ready to answer our many questions. Our property search and purchase has gone really smoothly with their help David & Christine



We don't only sell your property, we provide an excellent after sales service. One of these properties could have been yours! Sell with Almeria Homes today!





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# Summer is coming and so are motor homes

WE are writing to express our concern regarding the increase in motor homes/caravans invading this beautiful area of coastline.

Visiting cars to Playa Carolina beach (totally monopolised by mobile homes) found difficulty in parking. This serves as a car park and not a caravan park!

Not content with parking on vast areas of local coastline it is now noted they are also using various spaces in town areas including the Health Centre.

Please advise on local authority policy regarding this increasing menace? With thanks

David and Sally, Aguilas

It would appear that the answer lies in the hands of local authorities and police. If these motor homes are parked illegally they can be moved on, although in some towns they are allowed to stay for 48 hours.

### Pets or pests?

FRONT page news? Pet shame fury?

HAVE YOUR SAY

### **Mobile phones** or cloaking devices?

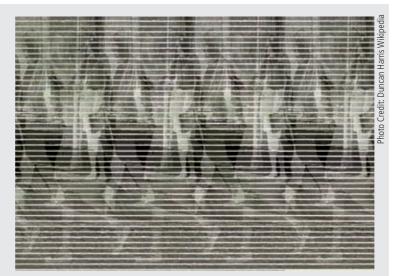
DRIVERS may have noticed that pedestrians leap out in front of you, whilst using their trusty mobiles as some sort of defence and not having even seen vour car coming, are not alarmed when we have to make an emergency stop in order to avoid hitting them.

The worst offenders are in the town, since there are plenty of zebra crossings for them to practise their art and anywhere near the crossing will do!

Hybrid cars are great for drivers, but I reckon that in electric (silent) mode these will be a real hazard to the 'mobiles' who may only rely on their hearing to identify a road user.

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.



UNAWARE: Phone zombies.

We no longer have to remember anything any more cos with our trusty Smartphone, just click on Google and voila, there it is! Ah we knew that was what we had forgot-

Now where on earth did I put

my mobile phone? I know I will ring my mobile from my fibre optic landline and hope I did not leave it in silent mode - Telefonica is useful after all!

Brian Johnston, Benalmadena

### Big cats

solve the problem.

right across our planet.

COULD you not run a piece asking all readers to report the location of any circus they know of (Issue 1707)?

Since moving to the coast I've never

encountered such hysteria about un-

wanted animals. It's an industry here,

over a hundred charities, thousands of

soppy people wasting millions of euros,

when an inexpensive injection would

Then people could turn their atten-

The number of stray dogs in the world is nearly half a billion, and five

million of these live in Spain. That's

just dogs. For goodness sake let's put

them down. We really need to take a

Edmund Taylor, Fuengirola

serious look at our priorities.

tion to the desperate plight of the millions of hungry, brutalised humans

That way every single one could be checked and hopefully have their animals removed after local protests.

"It comes after months of negotiations between officials from the circus, local authorities and animal rights groups, with lawyer Raquel Lopez from the DeAnimals law firm acting as

If the above is true and those animals were in such awful conditions how does this square with animal rights legislation? Is the law here so toothless?

There should not have been negotiations, the animals should have been removed, the circus owners jailed pending trial, with prison time, large fines and life bans at the end of it.

I have lived here 40 years and it shocks me that my adopted country still has such a long way to go.

John Little, Alicante

### From fantasy to reality in one action - bet the smile has Comments from

been wiped off this face now!

David Baxte

Criminals go to prison. Traitors doubly so.

Peter Harvey

He should now face all charges levied against him and be made to pay for all the disruption he has caused to the whole of Spain. Jail him.

Malcolm

### Clocks going forward to be scrapped?

Yes! It takes me days to get into the new routine and the animals are totally confused?

Carol Raines

It was tried a few years ago, no one liked it.

Maggie Champion

I hope not. It gives the illusion of summer coming. Marita Langley-May

I like the lighter evenings.

Lynn Nickeas

# **EWN** online

**Carles Puigdemont held in Germany** 

### Pilots suspended over midflight videos

Their crime was getting caught. I'm sure many of the pilots on the short haul flights mess around to relive the boredom during the two-hour flights. Engage auto-pilot, disengage brain.

Ron Curtis

I'm almost sure the plane landed safe and well so what's the problem.

Shel Louise

Almost everything mid flight is automated.

Felicia Ang

### Brit fine for spitting on cabin crew

Hopefully BA will ban her for life too.

lean Grav

### **Anti-tourism groups** threaten summer protests

Should have had at least a five-year ban from flying.

Good! I cannot stand anyone spitting, absolutely disgust-

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can

be edited before publication - posted on: www.euroweeklynews.com.

The problem here is that tourism is booming and it is making life hard for the average Mallorquines. The cost of renting a home is now almost the same as their monthly wage. Prices are soaring. The island is very rich because of tourism, but it's not being passed on to the working people.

Barbara Jago

There are two sides to every story. Having lived in Mallorca I can understand both views. Although tourism is needed there are different types.

I am sure you will agree with the locals when they say they are fed up witnessing hundreds of drunken youths chanting and screaming, etc etc in the streets, all night and every night of the week in some holiday areas. They want them to enjoy their island but not at the detriment of all else.

Ian Andersen-Page

# **Spitting mad**

BACK in the 40's and 50's, spitting was considered to be a health hazard, regrettably, in recent years it has become commonplace in a sporting context and most noticeably amongst the footballing fraternity.

The revelation Jamie Carragher spat at a critic has caused outrage but isn't it time for this disgusting and unhealthy habit to be condemned and stopped?

It sets such a terrible example to children as they tend to mimic their heroes!

Ken, San Fulgencio

# **GOOD NEWS FORYOUR CAR 902 123 309**



THURSDAY	ввеопе	one BBGTWO		CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event	
29 MARCH	5:30pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm MasterChef 10:00pm Not Going Out 10:30pm Still Game 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News	4:40pm 5:10pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF 6:10pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Mountain 9:00pm Big Cats 10:00pm Civilisations 11:00pm Match of the Day	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Tonight 9:00pm Emmerdale 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm The Real Full Monty 11:30pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Star Boot Sale 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Location, Location 10:00pm Indian Summer School 11:00pm 20 Kids and Counting 12:05am Gogglebox	6:30pm 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook 9:00pm Goodbye Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 11:00pm Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth	12:45pm 1:00pm 2:00pm 2:00pm 2:30pm Live PGA Tour Featured Groups 6:00pm 8:30pm 10:45pm Live Premier League Darts 11:30pm Jd Ringside: The Countdown	
FRIDAY  30 MARCH	5:45pm Flog It1 6:45pm Pointless 7:30pm BBC News 7:50pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:40pm The Silent Child 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Room 101 10:00pm MasterChef 10:30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys 11:00pm BBC News at Ten	7:30pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 9:30pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:30pm 11:30pm 12:25am Eggheads The Repair Shop Mastermind Gardeners' World Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago Episodes The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story The Way	7:00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs 7:30pm ITV News London 7:45pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Love Your Garden 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Furious 7 12:30am ITV News at Ten and Weather	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Star Boot Sale 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Food Unwrapped 9:00pm Britain's Favourite Food 10:00pm Gogglebox 11:00pm Lee and Dean 11:30pm 8 Out of 10 Cats	6:30pm 7:00pm 7:25pm 7:35pm 7:35pm 7:35pm 7:35pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 8:30am Rugby Union 10:30am Cricket 1:45pm Live Super League 4:00pm Live Super League 6:30pm Football 8:30pm Football 11:15pm Jd Ringside: The Weigh in 11:45pm Cricket	
SATURDAY  31  MARCH	7:43pm Veather 7:45pm Pointless 8:35pm Who Dares Wins 9:20pm Casualty 10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City 11:10pm BBC News 11:25pm Weather 11:30pm Match of the Day 1:00am Forget Me Not 2:30am Weather for the Week Ahead	2:00pm 4:15pm 5:15pm 5:15pm 6:15pm 7:15pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 1:15am 1:15am 2:15am Canterbury Cathedral The Secret Helpers Big Cats About the House Easter from King's Dad's Army Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs Hamlet Civilisations Therese Desqueyroux	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV Evening News 7:15pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm You've Been Framed! 8:00pm Info not available 9:30pm The Voice UK 11:00pm ITV News 11:20pm Info not available Goodwood Members' Meeting Highlights	2:20pm Come Dine with Me 3:25pm Coast v Country 4:25pm A Place in the Sun 6:30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters 9:00pm Britain at Low Tide 10:00pm Zoolander 2 12:00am AVP: Alien vs. Predator	6:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 8:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald 9:00pm Inside Windsor Castle 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm Secrets of Henry Viii's Palace 11:00pm Conspiracy: The Nazi	7:00am Cricket 7:30am Cricket 8:00am Total Goals 9:00am Total Goals 10:00am Total Goals 11:00am Soccer A.M. 12:30pm Football 3:55pm Rugby Union 6:30pm Football 8:40pm Live PGA Tour Golf 12:00am Cricket	
SUNDAY  1 APRIL	5:30pm Escape to the Country 6:00pm Songs of Praise 6:35pm BBC News 6:50pm Regional News 6:55pm Weather 7:00pm The Big Painting Challenge 8:00pm Countryfile 9:00pm The Generation Game 10:00pm BBC News	3:15pm 4:15pm 4:15pm RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor War Horse 8:00pm Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:35pm 12:00am Canterbury Cathedral RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor War Horse Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall Top Gear 10:00pm 11:35pm Selma	6:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special 7:00pm You've Been Framed! 7:30pm ITV Evening News 7:45pm Regional News and Weather 8:00pm Info not available 9:00pm The Durrells 10:00pm ITV News 11:15pm Sherlock Holmes	5:00pm Dumbo 6:15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Homes by the Med 9:00pm Escape to the Chateau 10:00pm Homeland 11:00pm The Green Mile 2:10am The Supervet	4:15pm Joe Kidd 5:50pm Space Cowboys 8:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm The Lonely Life of George Michael 12:00am The Nation's Favourite George Michael Song	12:00am Cricket 7:00am Cricket 8:30am Total Goals 9:00am Total Goals 10:00am Cricket 1:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 8:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf 12:00am Cricket	
MONDAY  2 APRIL	7:25pm Weather 7:30pm Celebrity Mastermind 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm MasterChef 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Classic Mary Berry 10:00pm Lenny Henry. The Commonwealth Kid 11:00pm BBC News 11:20pm Regional News Weather	7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Top Gear 9:00pm Only Connect 9:30pm University Challenge 10:00pm The Unique Dave Allen at Peace 11:00pm The Unique Dave Allen 11:30pm Z for Zachariah Unsealed: Conspiracy Files 2:00am David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities	7:30pm Regional News and Weather 7:45pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Kyle Files 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Marcella 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:20pm The Real Full Monty	7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm The Million Pound Holiday Club 9:30pm Travel Man 10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls 11:00pm Kiss Me First 12:05am Greg Davies - The Back of My Mums Head	4:10pm Oliver! 7:00pm Neighbours 7:30pm Home and Away 7:55pm 5 News 8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook 9:00pm Police Interceptors 10:00pm Paddington Station 24/7 11:00pm Police UK: Armed and Deadly 12:05am Caught on Camera	8:30am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 10:00am Cricket 1:30pm Football 4:00pm Live Super League 6:00pm Football 8:30pm Football 11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Cricket	
TUESDAY  3 APRIL	4:30pm Money for Nothing 5:15pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm Come Home 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs 9:00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys 10:00pm Hospital 11:00pm Cunk on Britain 11:30pm Newsnight	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm 100 Year Old Driving School 9:00pm Info not available 10:00pm Info not available ITV News at Ten and Weather	4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Star Boot Sale 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Great Celebrity 10:15pm Gogglebox	6:00pm 5 News 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook 9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh 10:00pm Everest: World's Greatest Mountain	10:00am Cricket 3:00pm Info not available 5:00pm Sky Sports News 6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm The Masters Countdown 7:30pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight 8:30pm Football 11:00pm The Debate - Live 12:00am Sky Sports News	
WEDNESDAY  4 APRIL	4:00pm Escape to the Country 4:30pm Money for Nothing 5:15pm Flog It! 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm MasterChef 10:00pm Patrick Kielty Doc 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	6:00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm The Repair Shop 8:00pm Today at the Games 9:00pm The Secret Helpers 10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story 10:50pm Live at the Apollo 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm The Simpsons 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Supervet 10:00pm One Born Every Minute 11:00pm First Dates Gogglebox	6:30pm Neighbours 7:30pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News 8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 10:00pm Housing Yorkshire: Somewhere to Call Home 11:00pm Why Do Men Earn More Than Women?	3:00pm Live Masters - On the Range 5:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Masters - Par 3 Live 11:30pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News 1:00am Sky Sports News 2:00am Sky Sports News 3:00am Sky Sports News	

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### I'm now a convert to BA



Views of a **Grumpy Old Man** 

SO just when I thought Ryanair was getting their act together they mess up again. I was booked on a flight to the UK on Thursday. My hire car was booked and my hotel was booked and at 1am on Wednesday I got an email from Ryanair telling me my flight's been cancelled because the French air traffic controllers are going on strike.

Let's just digress on to that for a moment. Why do the ATC think that by punishing the public anybody is going to have the slightest sympathy for their cause? Anyway, I'm now left with the job of finding a new flight to the UK. All the flights to Stansted were full and every other airport was too expensive or I couldn't get a direct flight. Ryanair's choice was to cancel and get a refund or to book a new date which is no good to me because I was only going 'til Sunday.

I finally, at 2.30am, found a BA flight to a different airport to where my hire car was being collected. So I now have to contact them to try and get a car there and then return it to Stansted. I'm informed by them that to do that it's going to cost me double the price I've al-

ready pre-paid. Why? Because when you prepay you can't change anything. You have to start again even when changing the pick-up time. I finally told them I'd get car from the original destination and they agreed to change the pick-up time. All I had to do now was get from one airport to the other and my mate agreed to get me.

I got to the airport expecting to see lines of people because of all the cancelled flights. Guess what - the only company that had cancelled flights to the UK was Ryanair! There were some cancelled by airlines going to France but to the UK none.

This got me wondering why. So I asked the two pilots that were waiting to get on my flight. Well actually, I suppose technically, I was waiting to get on their flight and they told me it's easier and cheaper for Ryanair to just cancel the flights than get involved with the admin and overtime payments to staff. They really don't do themselves any favours. So I am now a convert to BA flights to London City Airport which, by the way, actually came with a meal included too. Maybe my mate at Talk Radio Europe, Bill Padley, can ask his ABTA contact why Ryanair always do the thing that manages to pee their customers off the most.

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# LEGALLY SPEAKING

# Checking your details at the roadside

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.

AS they go about their duties patrolling the roads of Spain, the Guardia Civil traffic police have a whole range of tools in their arsenal to both help those in need, and of course deal with those drivers who break the law

One piece of kit carried by all of the officers, often stored in the panniers of their motorbikes, or inside their patrol cars, is their Personal Digital Assistant, or PDA.

The device is linked via Bluetooth to a thermal printer, and so able to issue fines on the spot, and pools its data with the central office of the DGT traffic depart-

The PDA can be used to check driver and vehicle details, such as if you are actually qualified to drive, if you've been banned, if you own the vehicle you are driving, and details about that vehicle and its insurance.

The whole process of checking the information is almost instantaneous, but it can take a lot longer if the information provided by the driver is either inaccurate, or unknown.

One particular problem facing foreign drivers is when they are not registered as residents in Spain, or have not transferred their licence to a Spanish one.

For those who have, you are likely to be sent on your way a lot quicker than those with no registered details, as a single check of a driver's NIE number links all of the relevant driver and vehicle details together, so



ON THE ROAD: A Guardia Civil PDA in action.

the officers can almost instantly find the information they are looking to confirm.

However, when the information is not linked, such as for drivers who haven't swapped to a Spanish licence, then the process takes a lot longer to complete, and your journey is likely to be increasingly delayed as a result.

Converting your UK licence to a Spanish version is a relatively easy process. It can be done at your local DGT traffic office, or you can hire one of the many specialist advisors who will complete the administrative process on your behalf, and a simple medical and computerised reaction test is all that is keeping you from joining the many residents who have already converted and enjoy an easier life on the roads.

There is more information on the process available at our website, n332.es, as well as links to find your local traffic office and the information required to complete the process.

For more news and articles visit www.n332.es or search N332 on Facebook.

WE are an apartahotel consisting of 130 privately owned apartments.

Three quarters of these are in the letting pool, which is run as a hotel by our managing agent, who is also our administrator, Because of the conflict of interest, we have agreed by a large majority at last year's AGM, to split the community from the business.

Our administrator refused to accept this, so we called an AGM. The administrator refused to send out the notice so we did it ourselves. We won by 50 votes to seven. We also invited the notary and our lawyer. We got a written and stamped report from the notary and the minutes taken by the lawyer.

Now the administrator will not give us the legal minutes book. I have been told that we cannot bring a court case against him until the minutes have been stamped and registered. Can you advise? LS (Costa Blanca)

IN general, yes, but if you have a notarial record of the proceedings and results, which should be called an



'Acta de Presencia', this should serve as the basis to request a judge to order the release of the minutes

Send your questions for David Searl through lawyers Ubeda-Retana & Associates in Fuengirola at Ask@lawtaxspain.com, or call 952 667 090

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### MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



I'M A FACE IN THE FANTASTIC PICASSO SERIES -DO YOU WANT SALT ON YOUR CHIPS?

### Trivia from around the world

\*\*\* Accents in Britain change noticeably around every 40 kilometres.

\*\*\* There is a clinic in Cambodia where blind people are employed to give massages so they can make a living.

The Ontario area of Canada has more than 250,000 lakes, containing about one fifth of the world's fresh water.

\*\*\* Algeria is the largest country in Africa, but only around 12 per cent of it is inhabited. The Sahara desert covers about nine-tenths of its land area, with the vast majority of its population living on the coast.

\*\*\* Jerusalem in Israel has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times and captured and recaptured times throughout its history.

\*\*\* Ecuador became the first country to legally recognise



### DID YOU KNOW?

Blue whales are capable of producing the loudest sound in the animal kingdom. Their calls can measure up to 188 decibels and it is possible to detect them at distances of 800 kilometres away, partly because sound travels better in water.

the rights of nature in 2008. The law states that it has the

right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate itself.

### Women's wit

Mental fight means thinking against the current, not with it. It is our business to puncture gas bags and discover the seeds of truth." Virginia Woolf. writer

### Famous quote

You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist."

> Friedrich Nietzsche. philosopher

### World of Enalish

Mistigris - A joker or other extra card played as a wild card in some versions of poker.

### **UK NATIONAL** EL GORDO DE IRISH LOTTO LA PRIMITIVA FURO MILLIONS Tuesday March 20 Friday March 23 Sunday March 25 Saturday March 24 8 20 REINTEGRO **BONUS BALL** LUCKY STARS 29) (8) (8) (6) (49) (36) (5) FL MILLON: 7SK88461 JOKER: 2 271 456 JOKER: 5 736 038

# YOUR STARS **FOR NEXT 7 DAYS**



### **AQUARIUS** (January 21 - February 19)

Involvement in a situation connected with someone close may not be the best option this week. Giving advice is all well and good so long as you are sure of your facts. Your loyalty to someone is not in doubt but your help should be more from the sidelines than direct.



### **PISCES** (February 20 - March 20)

Some disruption to your plans annoys you but there's no point in a huff. Outside influences cannot be stopped but you are able to keep calm yourself. Rising to the bait will play into someone else's hands. Although a situation must be dealt with, do it in your own time and in your own way. Allow yourself the pleasure of saying 'I told you so!'



### ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

It seems that you are putting a lot of effort into whatever you do without getting as much out as you would like. However, as the week goes by, you will realise that it is only a temporary situation. Sometimes, it takes others a period of adjustment before they are ready to accept changes of a personal nature.



### **TAURUS** (April 21 - May 21)

The brick wall that you start banging your head against this week is not an illusion. It is, indeed, true that others are not responding to you in an expected way. By Wednesday this wall will start to fall and people will be more receptive. There is a time and place for everything and you will find it eventually



### **GEMINI** GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Everything seems an effort at the beginning of this week but as energy levels pick up you will gain momentum. Tackle one thing at a time and realise that Rome was not, indeed, built in a day. As the weekend approaches you will begin to realise that you have been far effective than you thought.



### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You really do need to come to an understanding with friends over a social matter, although this may take a little effort this week. It is clear that there are those who are less helpful than others, but this could be because of a misunderstanding. Maybe you need to put forward your plans a little more forcibly that no one misunderstand.



### LE<sub>0</sub> (July 24 - August 23)

Be a social animal this week and you will strengthen both people and business contacts. After being busy last week, you may be inclined to take it easy. If it is the case that you really are low on energy, then use the telephone or email to full advantage to keep in touch.



### **VIRGO** (August 24 - September 23)

Someone well and truly treads on your toes this week and it really puts your teeth on edge. There are some bridges that may not be mended at the present time and are best left alone. Show your generous side but resist the urge to give in on an important issue because you are likely to regret it later. .



### LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

What a lovely surprise to find that something you have always wanted is coming your way at last. Keep a firm hand with finances and take control if you want to organise things for the better. Your destiny is, for the most part, in your hands.



### **SCORPIO** (October 24 - November 22)

Be cautious this week with your money. You have been aware for some time now that a change in your finances is likely. You have this in common with many others in your situation. Seeking professional help can be free and can make a big



### SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

A special chance to try something new should not be passed over. No one expects wonders from you, they are happy just to see you enjoying life. A recent change in your attitude to your future is already showing.



### **CAPRICORN** (December 22 - January 20)

Your home life gives you the most satisfaction at the moment even though someone seems to be challenging you. Some things are best ignored until they go away of their own accord and that also often applies to people. There is a everything and time for choosing it will make a task that could be difficult that much FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPONSOR GO TO WWW.LINEADIRECTA.COM

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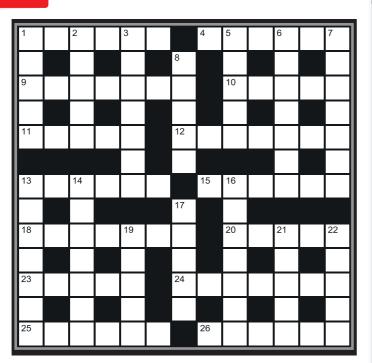
### **Cryptic**

### Across

- 1 Quietly shelve promise (6) 4 After a short time Sue's ordered dessert (6)
- 9 Not many? Wrong, the
- opposite (7)
  10 Exercise makes doctor
- unwell (5) 11 Two ways to get staff (5)
- 12 Second ruler promises to be significant (7)
- 13 Weak coffee blend is found here (6)
- 15 Standing, the street gets at
- 18 Run small vehicle for use on holiday (7)
- 20 Foundation and front of building unaltered (5)
  23 Supply comedienne's final
- wisecrack (5)
- 24 Party leader has to be present and be in charge (7) 25 Some may reminisce; nice views are picturesque (6) 26 Fish's name for a hairstyle

### Down

- 1 Spare recipe for fruit (5) 2 Additional piece of text rarely seen (5)
- 3 Cultivated chap served fish
- 5 Group of monks giving command (5)



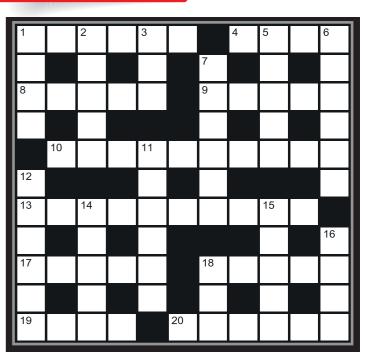
- 6 Prolong a race incident (4,3)
- 7 Listens, sort of, then joins up (7) 8 A source of inspiration can cause merriment (5)
- 13 Looks after Australian beer (7)
- 14 Certain after a time to see deletion (7)
- 16 A colourful scene created by gold on furniture (7)
- 17 Beef's good and ready for eating
- 19 Drink from fractured pipes (5)
- 21 Society to do away with talent (5) 22 Fish detected by its odour? (5)

### **Code Breaker**

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 5 represents R and 14 represents J, so fill in R every time the figure 5 appears and J every time the figure 14 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.

19	24	23	19	24	5		5	24	23	21	25	20	24	15
10		21		17		23		25		12		3		24
20	<sup>5</sup> R	12	14 J	24	22	19	12	5		17	3	11	24	16
24		5		16		5		25		24		3		12
22	3	19	24		22	12	16	22	4	5	5	24	16	19
25		22		19		7		21		22				24
23	2	4	24	24	18	24		24	5	5	25	16	15	
19		19		8						25		12		20
	25	23	23	24	23	23		5	24	1	4	23	25	8
23				26		10		24		19		19		25
9	25	19	24	5	22	5	24	23	23		8	25	18	10
3		5		25		3		22		15		8		7
19	5	25	6	20		16	24	4	5	25	8	26	3	25
22		3		21		26		24		19		3		22
21	12	16	24	10	7	24	24		15	25	6	25	23	13
		_												
1	2	3	4		<sup>5</sup> R	6	7	8	9	1	0	11	12	13
<sup>14</sup> J	15	16	5 1	7	18	19	20	21	22	2	23	24	25	26

### Quick



### Across

- 1 Stout, strong and sturdy (6)
- 4 Strong wind (4)
- 8 Cause fear in (5)
- **9** Loud cry (5)
- 10 Harmonica (5,5)
- 13 Workplace for the conduct of scientific research (10)
- 17 To yearn or long for (5)
- 18 Reddish (5)

OSSWOR

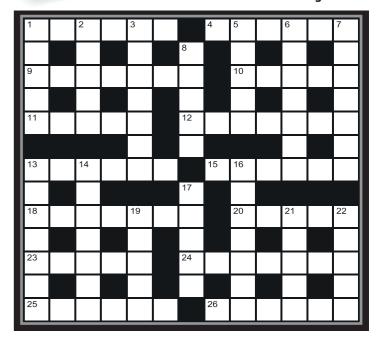
- 19 Outbuilding (4)
- 20 Unequivocally detestable (6)

### Down

- 1 Over hasty (4)
- 2 Informal party or social event (5)
- 3/18 Become angry (3,3)
- 5 In the middle of (5)
- 6 Stretch out (6)
- 7 Companion (6)
- 11 Serving dish (6)
- 12 Casual pants (6)
- **14** Courageous (5)
- 15 Exhibition of cowboy skills (5)
- 16 Organs of sight (4)
- **18** See 3

### **English - Spanish**

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



### Across

- 1 Saturday (6)
- 4 Sword (6)
- 9 Calf (animal) (7) 10 Estar de acuerdo (5)
- **11** Autumn (5)
- 12 Fencing (sport) (7)
- 13 Antena (6)
- 15 Esfera (6)
- 18 Calefacción (7)
- 20 They (f) (5)
- 23 Molar (tooth) (5) 24 Breath (respiration) (7)
- 25 Trapo del polvo (6)
- **26** Avispón (6)

### Down

- 1 Wise (5)
- 2 Bug (insect) (5)
- **3** Defeat (7)
- 5 Jerga (5) 6 Línea aérea (7)
- 7 Promedio (7)
- 8 Panadero (5)
- 13 Avergonzado (7)
- 14 Lectores (personas) (7)
- 16 Prefix (7)
- 17 Equal (5)
- **19** Imagen (5)
- 21 Lino (ropa) (5)
- 22 Corto (longitud, distancia) (5)

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### Hexagram **APATHY** AVIARY **BREAST** CHANCY 6 CITRUS CREAKY **CRUTCH EXPECT** 10 11 FICKLE HARASS 12 13 **OBLONG** OCULAR **PSYCHO** 16 QUAHOG **SPHINX** 18 SQUEAK S STUCCO

The purpose of the Hexagram puzzle is to place the 19 six-letter words into the 19 cells. The letters at the edges of interlocking cells MUST BE THE SAME.

The letters in the words must be written CLOCKWISE. The word in cell 10 (TAUGHT) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.

### **LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

- 1 Beyond 2 Medico 3 Screen 4 Gravid
- 5 Myriad 6 Raised 7 Judged 8 Ironic
- 9 Girdle 10 Jangle 11 Tundra 12 Valued13 Pagoda 14 Please 15 Bedlam
- 16 Blanch 17 Versus 18 Employ
- 19 Beggar

### **Nonagram**

TONSIL

TAUGHT (10)

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case R) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



### TARGET:

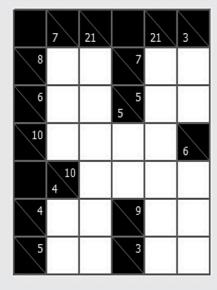
- Average: 18
- Good: 12
- Very good: 17
- Excellent: 21

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

cent coin cone dent dine dint done dune icon into nice node note nude once tend tine tone tune unco undo unit unto cento coned conte count dined donut dunce indue noted ounce tined toned tonic tuned tunic undid unite untie coined docent induce induct indued noetic notice united untied conduit counted induced noticed eduction inducted DEDUCTION

### Kakuro

Fill all the empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the 'clue' on its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the clue on its top. No number may be used in the same block more than once.



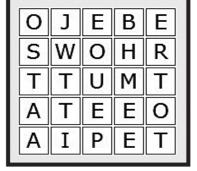
### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

		21	22	24	12
	11	1	3	2	5
	17 10	6	4	5	2
17	2	3	1	7	4
20	4	2	7	6	1
13	3	4	5	1	
11	1	5	2	3	

### **Boggled**

How many English words can you find in the Boggled grid, according to the following rules?

- The letters must be adjoining in a 'chain'.
   They can be adjacent horizontally, vertically or diagonally.
- Words must contain at least four letters and may include singular and plural or other derived forms.
- No letter may be used more than once within a single word, unless it appears twice.
  - No vulgarities or proper nouns are permitted.



### TARGET:

Average: 23
 Good: 32
 Very good: 45
 Excellent: 59

### SCORING:

4 letters: 1 point 7 letters: 5 points 5 letters: 2 points 8 or more letters: 6 letters: 3 points 11 points

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

leer terra terras tree trad trash true trues reel rete veer vert flee fleet fleer flop flour flout floe float floaty rhea rheas rash rase rues dart darter dash durra dues duet duty dopy dour doty dote plod ploy plot purr purdah purdahs poly pour pout pouty poet lour loud lout hart hard hear heart heard head advert auto your shard shad shear sheet sard sear ease turret tour typo tear teas tease tees atop

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### QUICK

### Across

Reporter, 8 Evade, 9 Donor,
 Rate, 11 Allege, 13 Caviar,
 Zinc, 18 Alibi, 19 Rifle,
 Aperture.

### Down:

2 Exact, 3 Oven, 4 Tiddly,5 Range, 6 Farfetched,7 Leprechaun, 12 Facile,14 Voila, 16 Infer, 17 Fret.

### **CODE BREAKER**

	1 G	<sup>2</sup> N	<sup>3</sup> Z	4 	5 L	<sup>6</sup> U	<sup>7</sup> X	8 W	<sup>9</sup> K	10 R	11 B	<sup>12</sup> T	13 J
ı	14 V	15 <b>Y</b>	16 D	17 A	18 Q	19 E	<sup>20</sup> O	21 M	<sup>22</sup> F	23 H	24 P	<sup>25</sup> C	<sup>26</sup> S

### **CRYPTIC**

### Across:

1 Sluice, 4 Trusts, 9 Beseech, 10 Patio, 11 Lots, 12 Indicate, 14 Steed, 16 Peaks, 20 Adulates, 21 Urge, 24 Panda,

25 Enlarge, 26 Roster, 27 Starve.

### Down:

1 Subtle, 2 Upset, 3 Chef, 5 Repaired,

**6** Setback, **7** Sloped, **8** Shine,

**13** Delaware, **15** Truants, **17** Hamper, **18** Deter, **19** Delete, **22** Rarer, **23** Blot.

### Across

1 Get up, 4 Upset, 8 Agarrar, 9 Elbow, 10 Spoon, 11 Cumplir, 12 Sastre, 14 Paloma,

**ENGLISH-SPANISH** 

**18** Conocer, **20** Clave, **22** Chefs, **23** Elegido, **24** Snore, **25** Shape.

### Down:

1 Glasses, 2 Trapo, 3 Partner, 4 Urraca, 5 Steam, 6 Tobillo, 7 Fewer, 13 Singers,

15 Archers, 16 Awesome, 17 Breeze, 18 Cocer, 19 Cesto, 21 Amiga.

# App of the week

### City mapper

An app that lets users see thε

public transport schedules and systems of cities in detail. Users can check nearby departure times, find the fastest routes, follow step-by-step directions and receive alerts if lines are disrupted. New

routes can also be created.

### **QUIZ:** LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

- 1. In Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice, what is the name of the merciless moneylender who speaks the lines: "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? If you wrong us, shall we not revenge?"?
  2. Stars of the famous US comedy TV show Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In, what were the first names of Rowan
- Stars of the famous US comedy TV show Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In, what were the first names of Rowa
  and Martin?
   In which decade did the comedian Charles Penrose record the famous music hall song The Laughing
- Policeman?

  4. Name any two of the four original presenters of the television light entertainment programme Game for a
- Laugn?
  5. Which 17th century Dutch artist painted the oil on canvas work known as The Laughing Cavalier?
- 6. Which chemical compound used as an anaesthetic in dentistry and surgery is also known as laughing gas?
  7. Which five words complete this phrase from the poem Solitude by Ella Wheeler Wilcox: 'laugh and the world laughs with your "2"
- laughs with you, --- --- ?

  8. Which member of the kingfisher family is also known as the laughing jackass?
- 9. Which parody of the Nobel Prize is awarded every autumn to celebrate 10 unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research? Since 1991, the prizes have been awarded to 'honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think'?
- 10. Who reached number six in the UK singles chart in 1973 with the novelty single The Laughing Gnome?

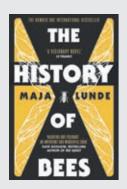
Not a lot of people know that... the science of laughing and its effects on the body is known as gelotology.

### Answers:

1. SHYLOCK, 2. DAN Rowan and DICK Martin, 3. 1920s – recorded June 1922, released April 1926, 4. JEREMY BEADLE, MATHEW KELLY HENRY KELLY and SARAH KENNEDY, 5. FRANS HALS, OVOU WEEP ALONE, 8. KOOKABURA, 9. IG NOBLE AWARDS, 10. DAVIN BOWIE

# Costa de Almería

### weather



# **Buzzing** through time

THREE beekeepers, three countries, and three generations from the past, present and future. William, George and Tao all share in common their attempts to handle their relationship not only with the animals and nature but also with their families.

William is a biologist and seed merchant living in England in 1851 who is working on a new type of beehive. George, who lives in the United States in 2007, is engaged in a battle against modern farming with hopes his son can be his salvation. In China in 2098 Tao works painting pollen onto trees long after bees have died out.

All three narratives on humans relating to nature and each other come together in Maja Lunde's The History of Bees

### **TODAY** VELEZ RUBIO **ALBOX** HUERCAL OVERA GARRUCHA MOJACAR **ALMERIA** RETAMAR **ROQUETAS** ADRA

TOMORROW	
	VELEZ RUBIO
ALBOX	HUERCAL OVERA
ALMERIA ROQUETAS	GARRUCHA MOJACAR RETAMAR

Malaga	Almeria	Bilbao	Madrid	SATURDAY
TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 9-S	TODAY: MAX 21, MIN 10-C	TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 7-SH	TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 5 - CL	
<b>Fri -</b> 17 8 - <b>Sh</b>	<b>Fri -</b> 17 9 - <b>C</b>	<b>Fri -</b> 12 7 - <b>Sh</b>	<b>Fri -</b> 10 4 - <b>Sh</b>	
<b>Sat -</b> 18 10 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sat -</b> 18 11 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sat -</b> 13 9 - <b>C</b>	<b>Sat -</b> 12 7 - <b>Sh</b>	VELEZ RUBIO
<b>Sun -</b> 20 11 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sun -</b> 20 13 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sun -</b> 18 11 - <b>C</b>	<b>Sun -</b> 15 8 - <b>C</b>	VELEZ ROBIO
Mon - 20 11 - C	Mon - 22 13 - C	Mon - 18 10 - C	<b>Mon -</b> 15 7 - <b>Sh</b>	ALBOX HUERCAL OVERA
<b>Tues -</b> 20 10 - <b>Sh</b>	Tues - 19 12 - C	Tues - 16 8 - C	<b>Tues -</b> 14 6 - <b>Sh</b>	HIDERCAL OVERA
<b>Wed -</b> 19 10 - <b>S</b>	<b>Wed -</b> 19 12 - <b>C</b>	<b>Wed -</b> 15 7 - <b>Sh</b>	<b>Wed -</b> 14 4 - CI	GARRUCHA
Alicante	Benidorm	Mallorca	Barcelona	MOUSER
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10-S	TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 9-S	TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 10-C	<b>TODAY:</b> MAX 13, MIN 8 - C	MOJACAR
<b>Fri -</b> 19 9 - <b>C</b>	<b>Fri -</b> 17 8 - <b>Sh</b>	<b>Fri -</b> 16 10 - <b>Sh</b>	<b>Fri -</b> 15 7 - <b>Sh</b>	ALMERIA
<b>Sat -</b> 20 10 - <b>CI</b>	<b>Sat -</b> 18 10 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sat -</b> 15 11 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sat -</b> 16 8 - <b>CI</b>	RETAMAR
<b>Sun -</b> 21 11 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sun -</b> 19 11 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sun -</b> 17 10 - <b>S</b>	<b>Sun -</b> 18 9 - <b>C</b>	REPUTPIK
Mon - 21 12 - Cl	Mon - 19 11 - S	Mon - 18 11 - S	Mon - 18 10 - Cl	
Tues - 20 11 - C	Tues - 18 11 - C	Tues - 20 11 - C	<b>Tues -</b> 17 10 - <b>C</b>	ADRA ROQUETAS
<b>Wed -</b> 20 10 - <b>C</b>	<b>Wed -</b> 17 10 - <b>Sh</b>	<b>Wed -</b> 17 10 - <b>C</b>	<b>Wed -</b> 17 8 - <b>Sh</b>	
S: Sun	Cl: Clear	C: Cloudy	<b>Sh:</b> Showers	Th: Thunder Sn: Snow

Euro Weekly News strives for accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for any errors in published forecasts

### · Brendan Gleeson, Actor; March 29,

The Dublin-born actor played Alastor 'Mad Eye' Moody in the Harry Potter film series, and has also featured in Gangs of New York, In Bruges and Troy. Gleeson worked as a teacher before debuting first in a play and then in Mel Gibson's

• Eric Clapton, Musician; March 30, 73 Clapton first found success playing guitar for The Yardbirds. He went on to play for Cream and Derek and the Dominos and has also had a lengthy solo career. He is nicknamed Slowhand due to the slow clapping from audiences while he replaces broken guitar strings onstage

### • Al Gore, Politician; March 31,70 The Former Vice President of the United

States and Nobel Prize-winning climate activist served under Bill Clinton from 1993 to 2001. He also ran against George W Bush for the Presidency in 2000 in an election controversially decided by the Supreme Court.

• Susan Boyle, Singer; April 1 57 Boyle was born and raised in

Blackburn, Scotland and shot to international fame in 2009 for her rendition of Les Miserables' I Dreamed a Dream at a Britain's Got Talent audition.

### • Michael Fassbender, Actor; April 2, 41

The star of Inglourious Basterds and 12 Years a Slave made his debut in the Band of Brothers TV series. He was born in Heidelberg, Germany and moved with his parents to Kerry in Ireland when he was two years old. He married Alicia Vikander in

### Sierra Nevada **SNOW REPORT**

Snow is forecast for today (Thursday) but skies should clear up over the weekend with highs of three degrees. It is expected to snow again on Monday and then temperatures will rise up to seven degrees as the skies clear, 117 of the 128 Sierra Nevada ski slopes are now open.

### 286 - Maximian appointed

Roman Emperor Diocletian grants the general Maximian the title of coemperor, giving him control over the western territories of the Empire. He would go on to spend much of his time in the position putting down rebellions.

### 801 - Barcelona falls

King Louis the Pious of the Franks captures Barcelona from the Moors following a siege which lasted several months

### 1492 - Alhambra Decree

Castile Queen Isabella orders all 150,000 Jews and Muslims living in her kingdom to convert to Catholicism or face expulsion in the Alhambra Decree.

### 1549 - Brazil capital

The first capital of Brazil, Salvador da Bahia, is founded by Portuguese settlers. It later became the seat of the first Roman Catholic diocese established in the country.

### 1800 - Beethoven premier

Ludwig Van Beethoven premiers his First Symphony at a concert in Vienna. He would go on to compose eight more, including the well known Fifth and the Ninth.

### 1856 - Crimean War ends

The Treaty of Paris is signed between Britain, France, Russia and the Ottoman Empire (modern-day Turkey), formally ending the Crimean War and making the Black Sea a neutral territory

### 1959 - Dalai Lama flees

The 14th Dalai Lama arrives in India and gains political asylum following an uprising against Tibet's occupation by China which began in 1951.

### 2017 - Brexit begins

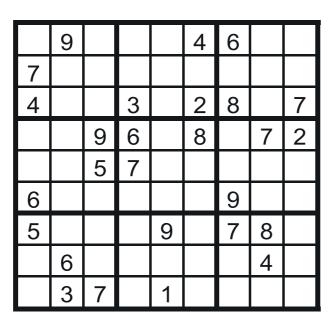
The British government formally triggers Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, officially setting in motion its departure from the bloc.

### Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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



# **Word Ladder**

**ARMS RACE** 

Move from the start word (ARMS) to the end word (RACE) in the same number of steps as there are rungs on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time.

> **BACE** RICE **BIME BIMS SMIA SMAA** Solution

### DVD

### Into the unknown



SCIENCE lover August 'Auggie' Pullman (Jacob Tremblay) is every inch the ordinary boy. But he doesn't look it, he says. He has undergone 27 surgeries after being born with facial deformities

For most of his life he has worn an astronaut helmet in public to hide his face and he was home-schooled, with his parents fearing the reaction of oth-

Auggies first day at school sees him and his family face new challenges in the film Wonder.



### by Adam Whalley-Lewis

I HOPE that springtime has sprung wherever you are reading this. I'm writing this week's piece in the beautiful Boulevar Cafe in Estepona, with a view of the Mediterranean, silently praying that Jane McDonald doesn't go by on a cruise somewhere or that her army of loyal fans don't descend on my café con leche - I check with the owner, seems I'm fine, Jane is sailing around Cuba apparently - catch up with Jane on 5 SELECT, Monday if Jane, cruising and a bit of singing are your thing.

No cruise ships on BBC2 on Saturday evenings as Giles Coren and Monica Galetti guide us around some Amazing Hotels: Life Reyond the Lobby, Last week Giles and Monica were in Ireland, roaming around Ashford Castle. We learned that the castle, which is beautiful, was built over 800 years ago by the De Burgo family and more recently was home to the Guinness family.

What I like about this programme is that it does what it says on the tin. Yes, we get to see wonderful hotels, but also get a glimpse of what is going on beyond the showpiece guest experience - Giles hoovering the walls and Monica doing something with falcons.

# Amazing hotels, singing and a touch of class



DOES WHAT IT SAYS ON THE TIN: Monica Galeti and Giles Coren in Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby.

If the chap cleaning and the lady covering the birds of prey segment doesn't prove Auntie is committed to gender equality, I don't know what would... Next time the Amazing Hotel is a former grain silo in Cape Town; Giles and Monica are tasked with cleaning the windows during the worst drought to hit the Cape for 100 years. It is a shame we can't send over some of the rain that's been falling across Spain over the last few weeks.

If you caught *Picasso's Last Stand* on *BBC2* last week you netted a gem. The show used his final years in the 1960's as a hook for Sir John Richardson (Picasso's biographer) to try to persuade us that Picasso produced some of his best work in his final years. I don't need to be persuaded. Sir John elegantly made the case, through memories of Picasso's family and friends, that although his final pieces weren't universally welcomed at the time and are some of his most explicit work, his creative genius shone through. For a short while, you can make your own mind up via BBC iPlayer.

What did you make of The Real Full Monty: Live ITV on Wednesday night? I thought Alexander Armstrong and Ashley Banjo did a great job in pulling everything together whilst supporting the male celebrities to take every-

HATS OFF: The Real Full Monty Live.

thing off in front of a live audience in Sheffield. The stripping celebrities wanted to raise awareness of testicular and prostate cancer and I take my hat off to them all.

The personal stories were moving and made the show so much more than some of the preshow headlines suggested. This wasn't just someone who used to be in EastEnders and a rugby hunk getting their kit off, this was a prime time push to save lives.

A group of lady celebrities, supported again by Ashley, take a turn to do the same as the men and to raise breast cancer awareness tonight (Thursday) on ITV. Look out for Ruth Madoc in a Calendar Girls pose and Coleen Nolan showing the other ladies how it's done.

I applaud everyone involved.

Happy Viewing.

### Travel

# Elche: a city of variety

ELCHE and its predecessor, La Alcudia, was settled by the Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Goths and Moors. So it is safe to say that the city has some history.

But the city offers far more than museums, in fact, part of its appeal is its varietv.

The coastal location provides the obligatory beach attraction but there are cultural options aplenty for those looking for a more sophisticated experience.

Perhaps the most notable is the Basilica of Santa Maria, an impressive, Arabic-looking structure well worth a visit. Another must for architecture is the Torre de la Calahorra.

If greenery is your thing then the Palm Grove of Elche should be right up your garden path, having been declared a UN-ESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

Twinned with six towns - including Toulouse in France - Elche is within striking distance of Alicante, for those who want the allure of one of Spain's largest cities.

But Elche should be easily big enough for all your travel needs and boasts a



PALM GROVE: The city boasts a Unesco World Heritage site.

number of top restaurants and hotels.

The local football team, Elche CF, were in the top tier of Spanish football until last year, but could now make a return to La Liga in the coming seasons, giving football fans the chance to see giants like Real Madrid or Barcelona in very quaint surroundings.





# Hormones: a hot topic



THE health and wellness industry is becoming increasingly more tailored to individuals and their body's specific needs.

The latest frontier to be tackled in the quest to keep everything running as smoothly as possible is hormonal health.

> To find out whether your hormones are functioning properly you can get tested to check if you have any deficiencies.

Not only do hormones impact your mood, they also affect your health and having an imbalance can lead to all manner of conditions, such as exhaustion and fertility issues.

Hormones are produced by glands and are the chemical messengers that trigger activity in different parts of the body to help keep cells and organs working properly.

To find out whether your hormones are functioning properly, you can get tested to check if you have any deficiencies.

This can then give you an idea of whether you need to make any diet or lifestyle changes, or if you need to take any supple-

However these tests can be pricey but there are several things you can do regardless to help your body stay in check.

Testosterone levels for example, can be boosted by doing strength training and ensuring your diet has enough good fat and protein.

Meanwhile vegetables such as kale, broccoli and cauliflower contain a compound that helps the body to metabolise oe-

EXHAUSTED: An imbalance in certain hormones can make you feel more tired than usual.

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Could v harm yo

HAIR RAISING: Could a

your hair?

vegan diet really weaken

VEGANISM is gaining popularity across the globe, but several concerns have been raised over whether it could have an impact on your hair health.

While many vegans are well informed about their diets, hairdressers have reported that their clients who have cut out animal products completely complain they have more brittle hair and weaker hair growth.

This could occur because vegans find it more difficult to consume a high amount of protein after they have cut out meat, fish and dairy products.

Hair is made up of a chain of

### Makeover your mornings

THE morning can either be the best time of the day or the worst, depending on what kind of person you are.

Whichever camp you fall into, how you start your morning can have a big impact on how the rest of the day

Making small changes to your morning routine could quickly make all the difference.

Although it's incredibly tempting to reach for the tea or coffee first thing, try drinking a cup of hot water and lemon first which will help to start your digestion, get your liver up and running, as well as rehydrating you.

If you have a busy household, try setting your alarm 30 minutes before everyone else wakes up. This will give you time to take a nice long shower, read the paper or do some exercise; whatever you find most relaxing.

You might find this becomes your most productive time of the day, and could help you make plans for the week ahead or pursue some creative

You could also use this time to meditate for five or 10 minutes, helping to clear your mind and get you focused for the day.



IT'S reportedly possible to tell if someone is suffering from depression based on how they speak.

According to new research published in the journal Clinical Psychological Science, people with depression use particular words and speech patterns.

The researchers studied large extracts of text from diaries, personal essays and speech to decipher whether depression affects how we communicate.

They claim to have identified several significant differences in both style and content, when comparing the language of those who suffer from mental illness. It would appear those with depression use a lot more words conveying sad or negative emotions, such as 'sad', 'lonely' and 'miserable'

They use more first person pronouns and less third person pronouns as well as more 'absolutist' vocabulary, such as 'nothing', 'always', or 'com-

However, the researchers did stress that using this language on a frequent basis is not an instant mental illness diagnosis and that it is important to monitor how you feel over a significant period of time before arriving at any conclusions.

Other symptoms of depression include not taking pleasure in enjoyable activities, losing interest in hobbies and daily activities, having trouble sleeping, finding it difficult to concentrate and feeling useless.

If you feel like this, visit: www.mind.org.uk/ or talk to your GP. If you think somebody else might be feeling this way, talk to them about it.



# eganism ur hair?

proteins so having a deficiency will directly impact your hair.

Therefore, it is important to supplement your diet with alternative sources of protein such as pulses. and speak to a nutritionist if you need more advice.

If you have weak hair, you can protect it against further damage by using treatments such as hair masks once a week, and avoiding colouring and heat styling as much as possible

Use a protective spray on your hair when it's wet before you brush it and try to find a shampoo that increases hair elasticity and protects cuticles.





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IN ALBOX AND HUERCAL-OVERA AREA. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A BUDDY HELPING CANCER PATIENTS AND BEING A FRIEND CONTACT macscancersupport@live.co.uk or 607 598 470. You must have internet

SHOP VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR ALL SHOPS AND **EASTER AFTERNOONS OPENINGS FROM APRIL 2nd** at LAS BUGANVILLAS and MOJACAR.

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or more information General Enquiry number 634 328 334 Or visit our website www.macscancersupport.com We also offer support, professional therapies and grief counselling

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# Changes brought to Spain from the new conquistadores!



Ric Polansky moved to Mojacar in 1969 as a pioneer developer. He reads extensively and has travelled in South America panning gold and looking for El Dorado.

IN 1970 there were few rules and almost all of them centred on how you were to be perceived by the ever observant public. Your personal community scrutiny was utmost within any and every village.

No one wanted chins wagging or whispers growing into full grown town gossip and finger pointing. One of the laws was simply maintaining their personal dignity. Nothing was more important than always being able to walk proud.

Of course, everyone wore black in one fashion or another. There was someone to be mourned and the neighbours needed to learn and constantly know of your grief. Any meeting containing more than



MOJACAR: A melting pot of culture.

10 people in a room created a sombre mood similar to any funeral procession. Humour wasn't part of everyday chatter and especially within the public domain.

Life held few pleasantries. It was simply too serious not to be constantly and rigidly followed. In

truth it was drudgery but what else was there? The all-powerful church dogmas were followed on a daily basis even though the church itself was rarely crowded or used other than for a marriage or funeral. Forlorn was a good way to describe their everyday existence.

to even contemplated). It was what it was and had to be endured.

In retrospect that good rainfall of those daring visitors, following the Second World War wandering into Spain came as a new light and much needed fresh perspectives.

Those visitors arrived with open hearts and wide smiles. The horrors of the past years of rationing and austerity could be easily forgotten in the new country of Spain full of sunshine and cheap drink and living. The neophytes congregated in the town plazas and let their hair hang long, laugh unabashedly and attacked any supposed tenet or dogma of social stratification. Life was to begin anew under a new sun, lived vigorously and enjoyed.

The change for the locals didn't happen overnight. I first noticed it when attending the funeral of a popular village personage when I witnessed young girls still clad in

full black but now in knee revealing mini-skirts. A change had begun. Best of all were the new invaders came with open hearts and big pockets.

The educated class conscious British left behind them the medieval stratification and blossomed under cloudless skies. While they burrowed into living and began to repopulate once derelict houses they insisted their carpenters, plumbers and house maids drank with them and shared the good humour of the day.

Unprecedented and it altered the course of Mojacar's evolution towards one of mutual respect and conviviality. Both groups needed each other; unsuspected reasons that made them such good mates.

The locals needed to know there was another life, not so stringent and controlled. The invaders needed flushing toilets, water and light. Both learned to achieve their goals working together and enjoying it.

# Men choose tote bags for the style

**Nick Horne** The Rich Pick Freelance correspondent, London, England

OVER the years I have destroyed more briefcases than I care to remember, much less admit to, mainly by stuffing them full of paper, newspapers and magazines as well as other random obiects

Of course some only use their briefcases to carry their lunch or more recently their lunch plus their laptops and sundry charging devices. The briefcase has been the staple accessory of the European male of a certain sort for decades. While the hat vanished, the briefcase strode on.

So why have men adopted the tote bag? It is at root only a simple strong large square bag with robust handles.

Yet a global trend has emerged and been seized upon by traditional all male brands like Dunhill London with their Duke tote costing €3,317, or James Purdey an Son - famed for their guns - with 'The Keeper' tote in two versions, heavy at €1,295 and lightweight at €1,025. Suitable for the campo or elite shopping streets of Milan, Marbella or Madrid.

But French and Italian houses have not allowed the grass to grow under their feet. Berluti's elegant 'Silhouette Leather Tote' at €2,681, Ermenegildo Zegna Couture with their 'Pelle Tessuta Brown Tote,' a snip at €2,796. And Connolly England have created their casual Nubuck version which can be yours for just Not to ignore the more traditional

manufactures who have found a sudden extension into high end men's fashion. One such is Ichiza-

wa Shinzaburo Hanpu of Kyoto, Japan, now celebrating 110 years of manufacturing canvas bags with unobstructed interiors and robust handles serving the task intended when first designed to carry heavy blocks of ice from the ice house to home.

The brand has suddenly found a global demand from men looking for a practical and stylish alternative to the briefcase. As Ichizawa will only deliver mail order within Japan itself, you could visit their shop or they now have a stockist in London, Trunk Clothiers of Marylebone, who will deliver to

JAMES PURDEY AND SON, LONDON: 'The Keeper' a tote suitable for the shoot, field and town.



- Museo del Prado www.museodelprado.es/en,
- Ichizawa Shinzaburo Hanpu www.ichizawa.co.jp, Kyoto, Japan.
- Trunk Clothiers www.trunkclothiers.com, Lon-
  - James Purdey & Sons www.purdey.com, London.
  - Dunhill London www.dunhill.com, London, global.
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  - LL Bean www.llbean.com Maine, USA.

Spain or pretty much anywhere.

LL Bean of Maine in the USA have a similar heritage founded in 1912 and will deliver their version of the tote to pretty much anywhere on the planet.

The question that is no doubt uppermost in your mind though is where did I get my current tote? The perhaps surprising answer is the Museo del Prado, Madrid.

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### 20 years, 20 cities tour

IT was 20 years ago that Fito Cabrales decided that he wasn't completely happy playing with Spanish rock band Platero y Tu.

With a burgeoning interest in rockabilly, soul and swing, he therefore formed Fito and the Fitipaldis to run alongside and they have been performing on a regular basis since 1998.

Choosing just 20 venues around Spain, he has created a repertoire which will form the basis of the band's performance but for each concert, Fito will invite surprise guests to appear which means that each gig will be different from the last.

For this performance, the band will be joined by Paco and Fortu from heavy metal band Obus.

Joining the tour as a support act is the one man band that is Muchachito who first found fame as



Left: Fit and the Fitipaldis. Right: One man band Muchachito.

the leader of the band Muchachito Bombo Inferno.

Sitting behind an array of drums with six foot pedals controlling different areas of percussion and with guitar in hand, this somewhat eccentric performer is guaranteed to warm up the crowd.

The tour is selling out quite quickly so the bands will be appearing at the Apollo Theatre in Almeria City on Friday June 15 with tickets costing €33.

Doors open at 7.45pm, Muchachito will appear onstage at 8.30pm and Fito and the Fitipaldis at

### Best of food in Huercal-Overa

vFOR those who enjoy good food, the fourth Almerian gastronomy and cuisine festival will take place on the Paseo de la Alameda in Huercal-Overa from April 13 to 15.

After three years the local council is solidly behind the Degustho Almeria Festival and is looking to promote the brand it calls 'Sabores Almeria' through the products of the area and to position the province as a destination gastronomic of the highest importance.

No less than six national and international names in gastronomy will be taking part, Rodrigo de la Calle (creator of the



BEST FOOD: Yolanda Garcia (third from left) and other chefs.

green revolution concept, National Gastronomy Award), proprietor of the El Invernadero, a restaurant with four tables taking eight customers and a single set menu starring vegetables and healthy cuisine.

Carlos Navarro Björk, voted the fourth most important exponent of sushi in the world, who will be explaining about Japanese cuisine in his workshop.

Canal Cocina from Spain with more than 353,000 followers and El Gourmet from Latin America who will teach visitors the secrets of their famous risoto a la gordor.

Also present will be Andalucian chef Enrique Sanchez who appears daily on Canal Sur Television and Michelin star chefs Yolanda Garcia as well as Jose Alvarez.

This will be a genuine gourmet delight with presentations, interactive workshops, meetings with master chef contests, gastronomic showcase, children's kitchen and even events that combine sport with

Apart from the fun of workshops and the promotion of Almerian cuisine in order to increase sales for those involved in production locally, there is also an important additional aim which is to educate young people in the advantages of following a healthy yet enjoyable









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# Semana Santa in Almeria

WHEREVER you are in Almeria this Easter there will be the traditional Semana Santa parades with some starting in the morning and the bulk taking place in the evening.

The actual parades are run by a series of brotherhoods who are groups of people associated with various churches with their own brand of clothing (often surprising visitors as many look similar to the robes worn by the Ku Klux Klan) but in fact they hark back to the days of the Inquisition when penitents were required to wear the Capirote (cone-shaped hat) but with their faces visible.

Each colour represented the sin for which they were atoning for and slowly the hoods became longer until they covered the faces of the penitents.

Nowadays the colour is chosen by the brotherhood and not every group wears the Capirote so that a number still cover their faces but using flat head coverings, whilst women tend to dress in black



PARADES: A young woman preparing to take part.

with a mantilla or lace veil

Every procession needs three bands who play a range of different tunes (some better than others) and due to the enormous weight of the statues being carried, a bell ringer walks in front of the parade, regularly indicating when rests are required so that the parade stops and the statues are taken off of the shoulders of those carrying them.

Many parades include military and Guardia Civil bands

with senior offices often being involved in reviewing the march past.

Large crowds watch these parades which have become a significant part of Spanish culture as well as a popular tourist attraction.

# Don't Stop the **Party**

THE town of Palomares will resound to the sound of music on June 2 at the Don't Stop the Party Festival starting at 8pm in the football stadium.

Entry to the general area costs €5 with special earlybird discount and €12 without discount.

In addition there is a special fan zone costing €25 which gives those attending preferential access to the site as well as a numbered seat allocated on arrival.

In addition there is a dance floor next to the stage and visitors will receive a welcome drink and have a chance to take special photos of the eight artists and bands perform-

To make a booking visit www.ticketea.com/en tradas-festival-que-no pale-la-fiesta-palomaresdel-rio.

# An unnatural fizz



VINHO VERDE is not a 'green' wine nor a grape, but a region (DOC) for its produc-

It may be red, white or rose, and translates as 'young wine' usually consumed three to six months after harvest. Vinho Verde in northern Portugal the nation's largest wine region - has produced wine for more than 2,000 years, and is now responsible for approximately 85 million litres each year, of which 86 per cent is white.

Made from local grape varieties Loureiro, Arinto, Trajadura, Avesso, and Azal, the whites are lemon - or strawcoloured with 8.5 to 11 per cent alcohol. The most successful is Alvarinho, which displays tropical aromas, an



VINHO VERDE: A Portuguese gem.

overall lemony character, high acidity and alcohol levels, and Loureiro which is more floral.

White Vinho Verde are light and fresh and known for vibrant fruit, natural acidity and low alcohol which makes them ideal for pairing with seafood, salads and Asian cuisine, or served as an aperitif.

The reds made mostly from Vinhão, Borraçal and Amaral grapes have an inky texture, are low in alcohol, have sour flavours and are seldom exported. The roses are fresh and fruity, and usually from Espadeiro and Padeiro grapes.

Many of the Vinho Verde wines have a light fizz, originally a natural by-product of fermentation in the bottle, but nowadays a result of added carbon dioxide mainly for enmasse export as better labels do not have any bubbles.

The Vinho Verde image as a young wine has led importers pressing producers to deliver wines freshly bottled, thereby preventing the development of high quality single-varietal labels. Popularity of Vinho Verde has surged in the last decade with consumers discovering it as one of the most affordable and versatile wines on the market, with prices from around €5.

Happy tasting.



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# For a good cause

GLENN and Jayne Unwin from Albox Insurance attended a charity event at the Palace hotel in Madrid in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust Ireland for the homeless and Rais charity in Spain.

Glenn and Jayne attended the event alongside the CEO of Liberty Seguros, one of the main sponsors of the charity.

The event was on St Patrick's Day and the total amount raised on the night was €410,210.



GLENN AND JAYNE UNWIN: At the Palace hotel in Madrid.

# Life skills

AROUND a dozen young people recently participated in a Leisure and Free Time Monitoring course in Arboleas.

The course was developed by the Almeria authorities and is a new training programme aimed at the region's vouth.

The course, which was free of charge, has been received with great enthusiasm among the participants, who have been learning the necessary skills to boost their employability and help them find employment.

The Youth Councillor, Angeles Martinez, visited them at the end of the course and thanked the students for the "great participation they have shown" throughout the training course.





### Undergoing a makeover

THE mayor of Arboleas Cristóbal García, recently visited different construction projects that are being carried out in various locations in the town, with the objective of personally verifying that the work is in progress.

One of the stops that the mayor made was at the entrance to the Limaria centre, where road repairs are being undertaken over a distance of one-kilometre.

The mayor said that "improving and transforming the image of Arboleas, including the town centre, is one of the main challenges we have imposed upon ourselves.

"We think we're doing a good job. With these projects and others that we plan to develop, our neighbours will perceive that we do not overlook any of our neighbourhoods.

"The only thing that limits us is the funds," he added.





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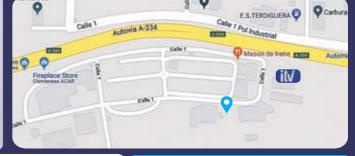
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**FOLLOW SIGNS FOR** CENTRE

### AGE SUPPORT Almanzora opened its new shop in Albox with a reception for volunteers and supporters.

The ribbon was cut by Sharon and Stephen Garner of Spanish Property Choice - who had generously sponsored the event and are active supporters of the local

# New beginning

community charity. The tasty buffet was provided by Bar Lepanto and the supporters had a chance to see

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Tel: 950 431 798 Pol. Ind. Los Llanos, Arboleas (near Mora Petrol Station) the new shop with all the stock ready for sale to the public from the next day.

Jo Tissington, from Albox Town Hall, was also in attendance, as was Richard Tolman from Smooth FM.

Roz, shop manageress, was delighted with the opening, particularly as the move from the old shop in Arboleas had gone so well with help from the volunteers. The shop staff's appreciation for all the hard work done by Cathy, President of the charity, was shown when Liz presented

her with a bouquet. The staff are delighted with the light, modern, spacious shop.

Cathy had also revealed that volunteers had worked hard to prepare the large shop - cleaning, painting and making the fixtures and fittings.

Everyone is pleased that the Welfare Team are now based in the shop with the mobility aids that they have for hire. This will mean that shoppers can see how their donations help the charity to help older people in the Almanzora area - befriending, offering advice and support.

Maggie, who is in charge of fundraising for the charity, announced that, 'the new appeal is to raise funds for another hospital-style bed as the one we have is always in use.' Sharon Garner, of the TV programme, 'Sun, Sea and Selling houses,' has offered to support this appeal and has already collected mobility equipment for the

The shop, opposite the Peugeot garage, in Albox, is now open for business and needs donations and more volunteers. If you can help please call in the shop 10am to 2pm Monday to Saturday.



ALL SMILES: Sharon and Stephen Garner with Roz, manageress, and the volunteers.



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# A recipe for leaving a very bad taste in the mouth



Nora is the author of popular psychological sus-pense 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/no

NEWS that the Metropolitan Police responded to calls relating to the recent KFC closures - 'Please do not contact us about the #KFCCrisis, it is not a police matter if your favourite eatery is not serving the menu that you desire' makes you wonder, whatever

Last year, Police Scotland's emergency call handlers were amazed when a woman reported the theft of her snowman. Other calls included a request to check a woman's height, another reported a 'dirty look' from a neighbour and a

large spider in her home.

Some 2.8 million 101 nonemergency calls are made every year in Scotland with just under half a million 999 emergency ones.

Heck, if crime writers like myself came up with motives as weak as these for calling out the cops in our thrillers, we'd be nicked for wasting readers' time!

The East Midlands Ambulance Service was asked if storing cracked eggs in a fridge was a 'health risk'. Other daft 'nuisance' calls included someone with a broken toenail, someone wanting a taxi home, another with toothache, and a patient who didn't want to wait 30 minutes for their GP appointment.

And according to the BBC, ambulances and emergency response vehicles were de-



KFC CLOSURES: Have prompted panic among Brits.

ployed more than 1,500 times to five patients in 12 months, while a single patient reportedly called the ambulance service almost 10 times a day.

Maybe I'm being thick here (no need to comment), but why?

I remember reading a story about the 1950's when boys were taught as Wolf Cubs (and maybe still are) how to make an emergency telephone call from a GPO red call box.

Even at less than 10 years

of age, they had more accrued wisdom than all the examples of 'adults' quoted here.

Finally, 999 calls due to loud bangs heard in Manchester city centre recently turned out not to be an emergency. It was a hen party popping balloons on a 'Butler in the Buff'. Good grief! (Actually, that's not what I wrote originally but a much more restrained comment!)

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 paper $back/eBook \ (\in 0.99; \pm 0.99)$ and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

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The creators of www.million-aircover.com believe their product fills a gap in the market in that it provides worthwhile financial stability to dependents and loved ones at a very affordable

Customers may obtain this new policy via an online application process through the www.million-aircover.com website that has been made as simple and transparent as possible and more information can also be checked at www.facebook.com/millionaircover.

Currently, any European Union resident over the age of 18 can apply for cover before they travel on scheduled flights, including most package holiday flights, using their debit or credit card.

Customers can apply for cover up to the time



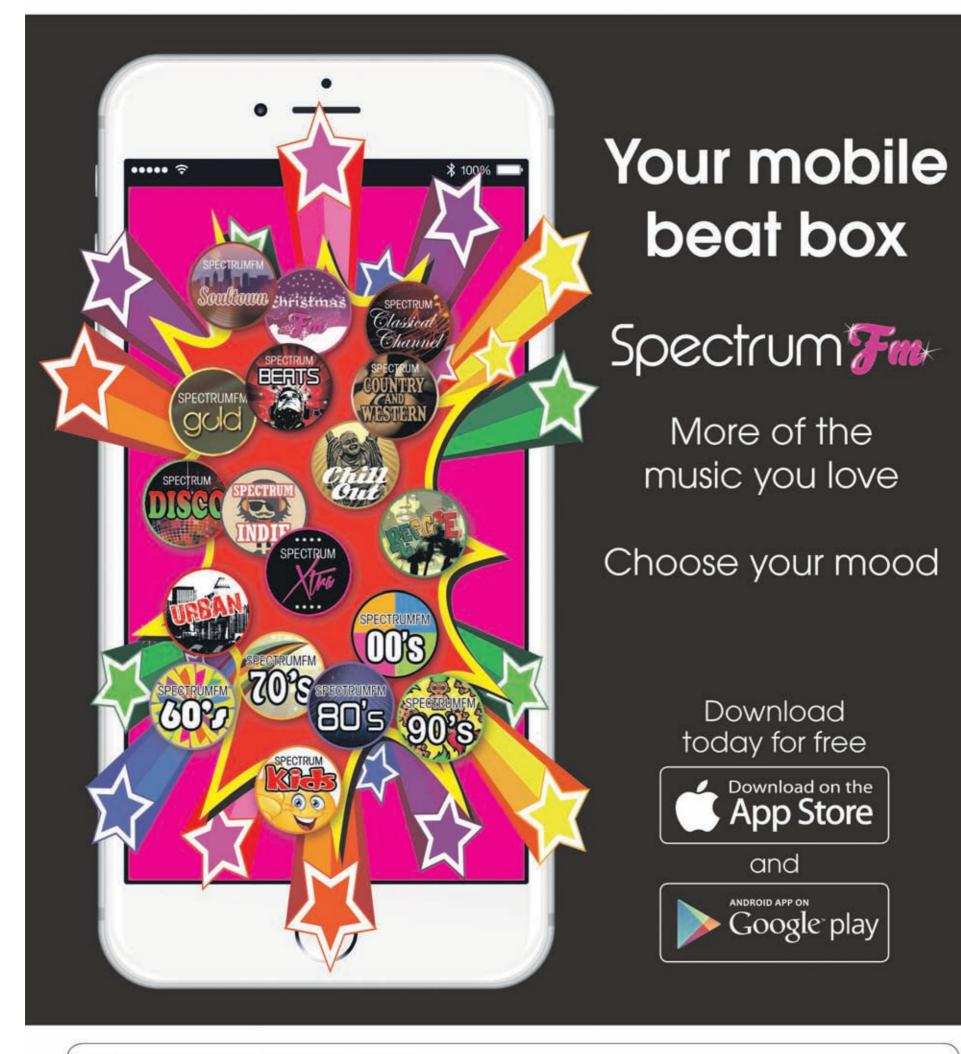
of boarding their aircraft and may apply to cover any additional pre-booked flights in advance.

Although air travel is generally considered to be very safe, there have actually been three deadly accidents so far this year in Iran, Nepal and Russia with a total of 187 fatalities which just goes to indicate that there is still a risk and the small cost of insurance could mean immediate financial support for your family in a worst scenario event.

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### **GRAEME TYRRELL**

THE recent wet weather this winter is enough to keep even the most enthusiastic gardener out of the garden.

Waterlogged soil is best not walked on if it is for growing plants. The compaction of saturated soil is very damaging, as even when it dries out the effects of compression last and cause clods of soil in summer that are difficult for plant roots to penetrate. This doesn't mean no gardening, indoor gardening is always a possibility.

Tropical species are a very popular form of plant for indoor gardening. They give a different range of plants that cannot 902 123 309



# Growing the Sun Parasol or Mandevilla

be grown in the outdoor Mediterranean garden.

If you grow tropical plants in pots they can grace the terrace or balcony in summer and be retired to the indoors in winter, or they can be a permanent indoor feature in a bright, warm area of the home.

A favourite, which is hardy

and fast-growing in the right conditions, is the impressive glossy-leaved trumpet flowered Mandevilla, also called the Sun or Summer Parasol.

It originates from tropical Central America where it is a climbing plant. It was named after British explorer and diplomat Henry Mandevilla who first botanically identified it.

A Mandevilla needs plenty of sunlight or it will not flower profusely. It is very cold-tender so must be kept in a warm place above 10°C throughout winter. They will thrive in a large container with a good soil mixture and will grow over a metre a year in good conditions and up to seven metres in length on maturity.

It will need a trellis or struc-

ture to grow up or along to give it support, unless you keep it very well pruned in autumn when flowers are less frequent. Pruning is also recommended

Peach Mandevilla.

to encourage multiple stems to spread growth by creating more branching to have a more intensive flower display.

Prolific flowering can be fur-

ther promoted by pinching off the spent flowers and as flowers form mostly on the current years growth, the pruning is done in a way to encourage this new growth.

If you are moving the container from outdoors for winter hibernation and protection from the cold, you can submerge the container in water for at least a few minutes to flush out any ants or other insects which you don't want inside.

Wash the upper part of the plant also and allow the plant to dry and drain well after soaking before moving inside.

In winter, when temperatures drop, it is best to reduce watering so the soil mix is just moist as excess water amplifies the cold effect around the roots.

Low light intensity in winter usually stops it flowering. This can be true in summer if indoors without sufficient light. The leaves may drop in winter if exposed to cold. If this happens reduce water to just moist.



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# Dogs' instinct

TRAINING dogs does not give the has not seen another female do this. end product; dog's natural instinct plays a vital role.

Man first domesticated dogs because he had so many instincts which could be useful.

When we think that man has used the dog for many thousands of vears for his own benefit, it is very difficult to understand why so few owners and trainers can differentiate between instinct and intelligence.

Instinct is an urge from within which makes a dog act in certain ways and has no connection with intelligence.

A dog's first instinct is to survive. When he is born the pup squirms about until he finds a teat and then sucks it. No intelligence or learning by any association plays a part in this process. The maternal instinct tells the female to clean up the foetal membrane etc and stir the puppy into action by licking it.

The female is not taught this, she

Most instincts provide pleasure to the dog and because the dog associates the action with pleasure the instinct grows stronger with usage.

In my opinion instinct is something which is either there or not there. Instinct can be strengthened, weakened or diverted, it cannot be put there and it cannot be taken

away, it might lie dormant, but once developed it can never be weakened again. I always explain this when people want their dog to be trained for man work, once ag-

> gression is raised in this manner it cannot be reduced.

A dog with an obsession for chasing balls can be controlled by training and by providing other outlets for his energy, the same way if a young dog is diverted the first time he chases a car he may give up the idea, but if he is allowed to chase cars the hunting instinct becomes stronger, and in no time it will be very difficult, even impossible, to cure the habit.

Instinct covers survival, maternal, hunting, guarding pack and self-preservation.

Self-preservation makes dogs furtive and afraid of the unfamiliar, this is no use to man. This nervousness in the domestic dog is, in my opinion, one of the common causes of problems in present-day dogs.

This instinct of self-preservation has been weakened by simply breeding from bold dogs rather than nervous ones, but has never been entirely removed.



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Designed to optimise the unique advantages of electrical power, the TY-E is scheduled to race at Auron in France on July 14-15, and at Comblain au Pont in Belgium on July 21-22.

Featuring advanced new technology, the TY-E has come straight from Yamaha's 'Evolying R&D' programme, where employees have the opportunity to work outside conventional frameworks.

They can devote up to 5 per cent of their working hours developing new concepts, and a beneficiary of that has been the development of a trial model for competition that can overcome typical EV obstacles.

Key progress in the design can be seen in the harnessing of high torque output from small sized and lightweight components, creating an easy, responsive and controllable riding character.

The high rotation electric motor achieves strong off-road performance with powerful low speed torque and extended ac-

Sophisticated motor control technology achieves an excellent response and the optimised flywheel ensures top class trac-

There is a newly designed high output battery pack and a light monocoque frame that adds to the dynamic rider experience.

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Kenichi Kuroyama, who is currently competing in the IA Super class of the All Japan Trial Championship, will represent the Yamaha Factory Racing Team in 2018.



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# New Volkswagen Touareg is the wheel deal

VOLKSWAGEN has unveiled its Brand new € 57,000 SUV, and the Touareg is the most technologically impressive mod-

Its kit list might be expected on a military grade tank and includes two giant displays and advanced safety systems that use thermal imaging and night vision cams.

Infrared beams will pick out animals, pedestrians and cywill flash to alert drivers to haz-

The Touareg is also packed with other driver assistance systems for traffic jams, parking and roadworks, while the highlight of the new interior is the 'Innovision' cockpit.

It has a 12-inch instrument panel behind the steering wheel twinned to a 15-inch touchscreen on the dash.

The glass covered HD screens have a customisable 'home' screen to display sat nav, radio, Apple CarPlay and Android Au-

A luxurious interior - covered in leather and wood - also has a four zone climate control, eightmode massage seats and mood lighting with a 30 colour choice.

The car also has four USB ports, wifi hotspots, a head-up display, as well as 810 litres of



boot space and a metre long retractable panoramic roof.

This model is longer and wider than its predecessor but sits lower to the road and features a bold chrome-covered

Volkswagen will offer the Touareg with a plug-in hybrid as well as V6 and V8 petrol and diesel engines, while the matrix tech will even convert to left hand drive if you travel abroad.

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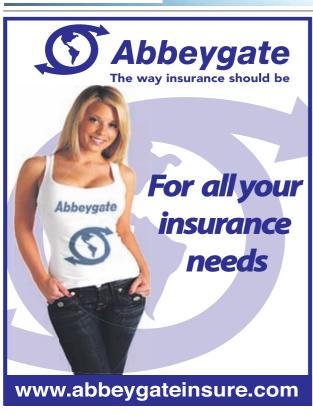
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THE NX300h is the first compact crossover from luxury brand Lexus and the latest version features more muscular styling, equipment upgrades and is a full hybrid available with front wheel or all-wheel drive.

New crossover/SUVs seem to be launched almost every other week - they are the current 'hot' product on the motoring scene - yet even so, the NX300h still stands out with true visual presence.

Beneath the bonnet is a 2.5-litre petrol engine with electric motor and battery pack giving 195 hp. The car can run on electric power alone, helping keep emissions down to 121 g/km, and saving fuel. Top speed is 180 kph (112 mph), the 0-60 kph 9.2 seconds and fuel

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

# Lexus NX300h Premier

The NX300h has silky driving dynamics with minimal noise intrusion. Electric CVT transmission provides smooth gearshifts and the suspension set-up gives a compliant and com-

With diesel in gradual decline, sales of hybrids are increasing and NX300h prices start at  $\in$  39,373 (£34,895) for models which are well equipped across the range. All models get touch-screen infotainment system, with sat-nav, tooth, CD player/digital radio, plus dual-zone climate control and alloy wheels. My Premier test model added much more kit including upgraded sat-nav with 30cm screen and surroundsound audio system, enhanced connectivity services, 360-degree camera, intelligent parking sensors and various other convenience features, taking the price to €50,092 (£44,395).

The cabin has a quality look and feel, seating is comfortable and all models get a front armand the rear seats recline for greater comfort. The boot offers 475 litres of space, and with rear seats folded (they don't go quite flat) there is a substantial 1,520 litres.

It is hard to fault the NX300h. Certainly there are SUVs which offer more sporty handling, but overall, this eye-catching Lexus holds a strong hand, scoring well for low emissions, fuel-efficiency and generous equipment levels.



- Model: Model: Lexus NX300h Premier
- **Engine:** 2.5 litre petrol with electric motor
- Transmission: Electric CVT auto
- Performance: 0-60 kph 9.2 seconds, top speed 180 kph (112 mph)
- **Economy:** 19.2 kpl (54.3 mpg)

Emissions: 121 g/km

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



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La Liga Preview

# Barcelona aiming for 30 game unbeaten mark

Liga returns after the international break looking to halt Barcelona's unbeaten season

Las Sevillistas are looking to bounce back from two consecutive defeats, a run that has seen them sit in sixth place, just two points above Girona and Real Betis in seventh and eighth.

Champions-elect Barcelona however, come into the match yet to lose a La Liga game this season and will be looking to hit the 30 games unbeaten mark in the league as they travel to the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.

Despite making the quarter finals of the Champions League, Sevilla could find themselves outside the top six before kick off if Girona get past Levante in the early kick off.



UNBEATEN: Barca made it 29 games unbeaten with a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

La Liga's surprise outfit this season. Girona suffered their first defeat in four games as they went down 6-3 to Real Madrid last time

Four from Cristiano Ronaldo

added to with goals from Lucas Vazquez and Gareth Bale saw Girona fall to defeat despite a noble effort to get back into the game.

And they will now be looking to get straight back to winning ways

with a win against lowly Levante, who find themselves in the middle of a relegation battle and sitting just one place above the bottom three.

Real Madrid will look to continue their good run of form as they travel to relegation threatened Las

Madrid have lost just one in their last six, while red-hot Cristiano Ronaldo took his tally to 17 goals in his last eight games with four, and will be confident of adding to that against the Gran Canarian side who find themselves six points adrift of safety.

On Sunday, second placed Atletico Madrid host relegation threatened Deportivo La Coruña.

Atletico were dealt a huge title blow before the international break as they lost 2-1 to Villarreal and

moved 11 points behind Barcelona. but will look to get back on track as they welcome 10th placed Celta Vi-

Elsewhere, bottom of the table Malaga host Villarreal as they seemingly head towards relegation from La Liga.

Las Malaguistas, who have picked up just 14 points all season, snatched a rare point against Celta Vigo last time out but have now gone 14 games without a win since they beat Real Sociedad 2-0 on December 10.

In the weekend's other fixtures, Athletic Bilbao play Celta Vigo on Saturday before on Sunday, Eibar host Real Sociedad, Leganes face Valencia, Espanyol take on Alaves while Getafe are against Real Betis on Monday.

Premier League preview

# Chelsea host Spurs in London derby as race for top four heats up

THE Premier League officially returns this weekend as Chelsea host Tottenham in the London der-

Tottenham can all but put Champions League football out of reach for Chelsea with a win as they look to cement their place in this season's top four.

Spurs, who will be without the injured Harry Kane for the trip to Stamford Bridge, currently sit on 61 points in the final Champions League spot and a win will move them eight points clear of fifth placed Chelsea with just eight games left to

League leaders Manchester City head to Everton on Saturday, knowing that a win will give them the opportunity to be crowned Premier League Champions if they beat rivals Manchester United at the Etihad on April 7.

However, it will not be all plain sailing for the league leaders as Everton have found a recent resurgence of form of late.

The Mersevsiders are looking for their third successive victory on Saturday following wins against Brighton and a 2-1 win over Stoke before the International break.

Elsewhere, Manchester United begin the era without Zlatan Ibrahimovic as they host Swansea City at Old Trafford.

The Swede officially completed his move to LA Galaxy late last week having not played for the Red Devils since Boxing Day.

In a battle at the bottom, West Ham host Southampton with both teams sitting dangerously close to the drop-zone.



INJURED: Spurs will be without injured top-scorer Harry Kane.

West Ham, who gave life-time bans to 'at least five' supporters last week after crowd trouble and pitch invasions against Burnley, sit just one point above the relegation zone, while FA Cup semi-finalists Southampton dropped into the bottom three thanks to Crystal Palace's win against Hud-

Crystal Palace themselves face a tough fixture as they host free-scoring Liverpool at Selhurst Park in Saturday's early kick off.

The Reds put five past Watford in their last game, with in-form Mo Salah grabbing four for himself as he moved clear of the injured Harry Kane in the race for this season's golden boot.

The weekend's other fixtures will see Brighton host Leicester, Huddersfield travel to Newcastle, West Brom are against Burnley, Watford face Bournemouth and Arsenal take on Stoke on Sun-



### By Benjamin Park

RUGBY EUROPE is set to make a decision later today (Thursday) on whether the Spain vs Belgium Rugby World Cup Oualifier should be

In a game full of controversy, Spain lost to bottom side Belgium 18-10 in a game refereed by Romanian Vlad Iordachescu and two Romanian assistants; with the result meaning that Romania automatically qualified for next year's World Cup instead of

The Spanish Rugby Federation (FER) had asked for the referees to be changed prior to the match and is believed to feel aggrieved by an estimated 19 different decisions against them and have since asked for the game to be replayed.

Following the match, Rugby Europe's referees' selection committee had an initial meeting in Poznan on Friday with the information then given to a conference call between the Board of Directors on Monday, at which FER President Alfonso Feijoo was present.

And in a statement following Monday's meeting, Rugby Europe confirmed that the board needed 'additional information' before taking an 'accurate decision' on the matter.

The statement read: 'Rugby

Europe Board of Directors held a conference call this evening (Monday) to share and discuss the elements related to the Spain / Belgium game, Rugby World Cup 2019 Qualifier.

'Rugby Europe General Secretary recalled the facts and submitted the reports of the different people and groups who have been consulted.

'Board members unanimously requested additional information (in particular those provided straight ahead of the meeting to World Rugby) before taking an accurate deci-

'A new meeting has been planned for Thursday March 29 in the afternoon.'

LIONEL MESSI has admitted this summer's World Cup could be his last. He told Fox Sports: "After this (World Cup), an important generation is going to leave and many players are going to change.

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE



Griezmann on the move?

Striker seeks summer solution

### By Benjamin Park

ATLETICO MADRID forward Antoine Griezmann has admitted that he wants his future resolved before he travels to the World Cup with France in the summer.

The French international has been continuously linked with a move away from Madrid over the past few seasons, with runaway La Liga leaders Barcelona reportedly favourites to secure his signature in the



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However, some outlets maintain that the 27-yearold will be offered a bumper new contract in a last-ditch effort to keep him at the Wanda Metro-

And the forward himself has now confirmed that he wants his future sorted, one way or another, before he boards the plane for this summer's World Cup in Russia.

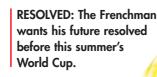
Griezmann told L'Equipe: "I want to travel to Russia without this con-

"It's not about knowing where I'll play, but about having the peace of mind if I'm still in one place or another.

"It may be boring, but I have told my sister that,

whether I stay or not, this will have to be resolved beforehand

"What bothers me the most is that everyone asks me about this issue."





SPANIARD Alejandro Valverde has won his second consecutive Tour of Cataluña after his closest competitor crashed out in the final stages.

Valverde held a 16-second advantage over Colombian Egan Bernal heading in to Sunday's final stage but cruised to victory when Bernal fell towards the end of the race.

The Colombian landed awkwardly after falling less than 10 kilometres from the finish line, as he was unable to avoid contact with another rider who had fallen just in front of him.

He was unable to continue following medical treatment on the track of the 155-kilometre stage and was later taken away by an ambulance for treatment on a nasty looking shoulder injury.

Thirty-seven-year-old Valverde eventually finished ninth on Sunday, managing to secure a 29-second overall lead over Movistar teammate Nairo Ouintana and 47 seconds ahead of Frenchman Pierre Latour in third.

The final stage was won by Briton, Simon Yates, and after the race, he told British media: "It was very difficult from the beginning.

"I decided to try and go early, and it paid off. I wanted to try to get on the (final) podium but I fell a little bit

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