

*A Life in*

# SPAIN

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*Lifestyle magazine and property portal*

ISSUE 43  
JUN 2020

**FREE**

**inside...**

**South Town**

**Blanca**

**North Town**

**Campoamor**

**Top 12**

**Tapas bars in Murcia**

**Wine Article**

**Let's Talk Wine**



Cover picture by Prime Property Murcia, see ad on page 13

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 **VNBenny**  
PAGE 35

**insureSpain**  
PAGE 39

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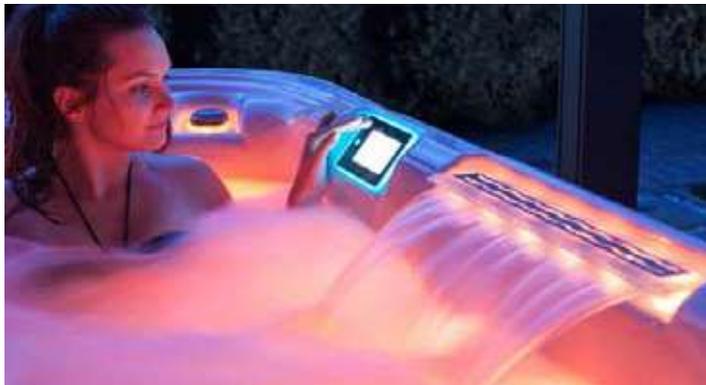
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#Edition 43 • June 2020

Contents...

**Places To  
Visit In A  
Day**

*The Island  
of Tabarca*

**6**



**12  
Tapas bars in  
Murcia**



**19-22**

Wine Article:

**Let´s  
Talk  
Wine**

**8 & 9**



**Lets Play Golf**

*Hacienda Del Alamo*  
**34**



## Let's Learn Spanish



12

## Spanish Walks: The Purgatorio path

10

## The Journey - By Carol Hughes

38



24

Agents Towns:  
Daya Nueva



# A Life in SPAIN

## Welcome to the June edition of ALIS.

What a few months we have all had. I hope you all stayed safe and the lockdown has not affected you too much. It has certainly been crazy times, but hopefully we are nearing the end.

So what's in this edition....

In this edition we have decided to try to help some small businesses get back on their feet. We have given FREE adverts to companies that have struggled over the past month or so. Please use these and other small businesses as much as possible. They need our support and help more than ever.

There are so many businesses that we obviously could not contact anywhere near all, and have only really scraped the surface. Please remember businesses may have changed their opening hours. So please telephone first.

As the saying goes, use them or lose them. Enjoy!

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# Places to visit in a day:

## *The Island of Tabarca*



**TAKE A DAY TRIP TO** the gorgeous Island of Tabarca, one of the Costa Blanca's top tourist attractions and summer destinations.

*The historic Island of Tabarca is a 40 minute boat trip from Torrevieja and after the cosmopolitan and vibrant modern ambiance of Torrevieja city, you will feel like you have stepped back in time. Enjoy your journey over to the island from Torrevieja's port on a glass bottomed boat allowing you to view the amazing creatures and fauna of the Mediterranean Sea.*

In 1986 the Island of Tabarca and the surrounding inshore seawater's were declared a protected marina and bird reserve, the first of it's kind in Spain.

Just 4km's away from Santa Pola's bleached white sandy beaches, the Island of Tabarca has an interesting history which is today reflected in the historic and weathered architecture.

During the 18th century the island became a refuge for Barbary pirates until the Spanish king, King Charles III, decreed the fortification of Tabarca to protect against the pirates. The remains of the wall and the fortress are still visible, and they are one of the first sights you will see as you arrive at the island.

### **The Costa Blanca's favourite island destination**

In the heat of a Spanish summer the milder climate of Tabarca will be a welcome relief for the day. The island is renowned for it's fabulous clear waters, the sandy beaches,

and it's coves and cliffs which surround the island. You will definitely need to remember to pack your swimwear, as Tabarca is perfect for watersports, snorkelling, and swimming in the beautiful clear Mediterranean seawater.

The village, which occupies the western-most tip of the island, is laid out in a square pattern, with narrow streets lined with old fishing houses. Take a visit to the lighthouse, observe the many rare species of birds which live on the Island of Tabarca, and look at the amazing natural panoramic views on offer.

Find the historic buildings: the Baroque church of St Peter and Paul, the Casa del Gobernador (the old Governor's house), and explore the old fort and gate houses. The museum is well worth a visit.

Whilst wandering around the village stop at one of the many Barbary pirate-themed cafes, bars and restaurants to sample the traditional Spanish seafood on offer.



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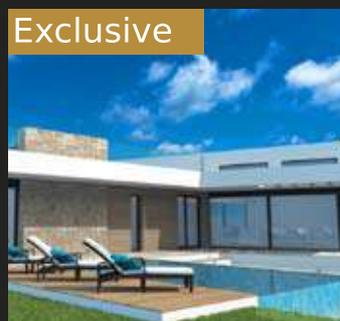


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**VBQ20J**  
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# **RESALES. NEW BUILD. DESIGN**

## Pandemic theme: PHYLLOXERA

First of all, it is necessary to explain what phylloxera is. The bug in question is an insect similar in size and "aesthetics" to the ugly aphid and somewhat smaller than it, being its deep yellow color. Its objective, basically - perhaps it is in love with the plant or likes the underground flavours - is to attack leaves and filaments of the roots of the vine in addition of a very quick proliferation, as if it was a locusts plague. It means that they can destroy large areas of vineyards in a very short time. This term -phylloxera- also refers to the disease of the vine caused by these voracious animals of nature. It comes from North America, naturally XD

This bug likes to eat the roots of the native European vines, killing them in a short time. But in the American vine the insect eats the dust! There, the vines are more resistant to this whipper snapper, because american vines are made of harder wood. It is necessary to explain that the American vine is different from the European one in substance and form, in fact, the american vine was not even useful for decoration. It didn't work to make wine, it's that simple. Its fruits do not have the capacity to be vinified. In the European case, the vine belongs to the *Vitis Vinifera* species, while the American vines come from another species, *Vitis Labrusca*.

### A historical plague

This plague appears in the history discreetly around 1860 and its geographical origin first dates from its activity in the agriculture of the eastern United States, entering Europe around 1863 with an innocent shipment of plants imported from that country. As soon as it touched solid ground - that seemed to be the landing of Normandy - it left the ancient and proud French vineyards in a catatonic state.

The appearance of the phylloxera plague brutally changed world viticulture. For Europe it was a catastrophe to see how in 10 years its old vineyards were devastated and the wine areas, ruined with the consequent unmitigated social disaster. It was literally an Armageddon for the sector, for the entrepreneurs and the lives of the farmers who grow vines.

The consequences of the disease lead to an infection of the vine by phylloxera and cause its death in just under three years. As if that were not enough, it generates serious damage in roots and foliage, acting literally as if it were an atomic bomb due to its devastating effects, and this, without any exaggeration. Thanks to carrying North American grafts, that were obviously resistant to phylloxera, the strains of the european vines were made. Consequently, the part of the plant that is underground is North American vine, and on it, the graft resides and *vitis Vinifera* survives.

The ruin of the French vineyard, started in the 1860s, but it had as a consequence the exponential exports growth of Spanish wines and the significant increase of the Spanish vineyard. But we also got this biblical plague. Around the 1878 year, this bug arrived to our country. By Portugal through Duero river and also from the north, by Gerona, a insects wave came from our Gallic neighbour.

### In Spain

The spread of the disease progressed slowly, with Jumilla, La Mancha, La Rioja and Cariñena severely affected. This invasion began to subside towards the end of 1930, having caused damage for nearly 50 years that turned the word "important" into a minimalist concept. The surface of the Spanish vineyard and its wine making changed radically forever, from being an almost primary and manual activity to an emerging and effective industrialization process.

Perhaps the most beneficial effect of the plague was the one derived from supplying wine to the French market. A trade agreement was signed with the French country, a fact that triggered exports. Without going any further, in La Rioja, French merchants built a train station in Haro to transport "the goods" to France smoothly and reducing costs.

### The Solution?

The practically entire renovation of the vineyards provided varieties such as Garnacha and Palomino, the production methods underwent modifications for the better. Technology was invested and designed and a solid commercial structure was created throughout the value chain, projecting Spanish wines to the international market with presence and solvency and conquering markets previously dominated by the French and their glamorous marketing. This leads us to conclude that this fearful destruction brought progress and an unforeseen international relaunch.



# Wine of the month

## Cárabo Black Label 2019

**Grape variety:** Tempranillo, Viura & Mazuelo. DOCa Rioja

“Cárabo” is a kind of small owl which normally lives close to the vineyards in the North Rioja area. It is also the “vine protector” because it eats all the flies and plagues in the vineyards during harvest season. Because of it all grapes are perfectly ripe and in good health at this time. Nice job Cárabo!.

This is a single vineyard wine, numbered edition from a state in “La Guardia” city. An idyllic place in Rioja where old vineyards like this one make exceptional wines. The 3 grape varieties, mostly Tempranillo, are a perfect assembly to make this “crianza” wine. 12 months ageing in French oak barrels make the aromas of the fruits influenced by the mountains and the Ebro valley fit perfectly.

**Tasting:** Visual phase: It has a bright ruby colour, with purple reflections. Olfactory phase: Aromas are mostly fresh red fruits like strawberries and raspberry, with fresh herbal notes like laurel and other beautiful smells like licorice. Because of the barrel ageing you can also appreciate some pepper, butter, smoky and oaky subtle notes.

**Gustatory phase:** It is a fresh and dry red wine, with medium body and gentle ending. It can delight an afternoon with friends or an informal dinner.



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# Spanish Walks

*Spain has some of the most diverse countryside in Europe. With spectacular mountain ranges and vast open spaces. We have discovered some excellent walks and over the next few months we will help you to discover them as well. Good luck and enjoy.*

## The Purgatorio path

This walk goes first through the rugged Barranco de Enmedio and then into a more open landscape with some country houses surrounded by almond and olive groves. The area where you literally go over an old irrigation canal offers beautiful views of the plain of Totana and Aledo. Through a beautiful forest path you arrive at the recreational zone of Alquerias and then start a steep climb with beautiful views of the Sierra Espuna.

The route starts at the Mirador del Collado del Pilon and goes through a connecting link to the valley of Enmedio. You descend into the valley and eventually end up in a more open landscape where some houses are surrounded by almond and olive groves. From here you go on a paved road to the Finca Caruana. A short climb to an old irrigation canal starts at the Finca. You literally walk on the canal and get beautiful views on the plains of Totana and Aledo. At an old aqueduct you follow a beautiful forest path in the direction of the recreation area of Alquerias. Here is a strong climb to reach the Collado del Pilon via the Senda del Lentisco.

Courtesy of [www.traiexplorer.eu](http://www.traiexplorer.eu)

**Distance: 12 km**

**Duration: 3.30 h**

**Grade: Moderate**

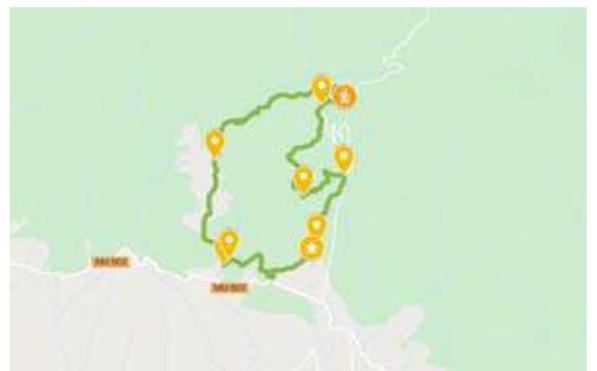
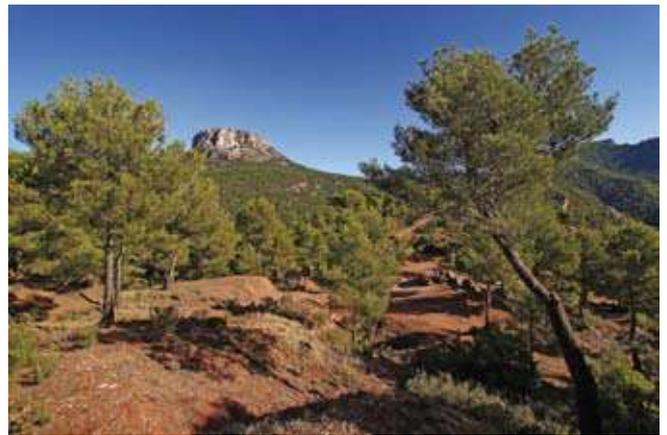
**Type: Circular**

**Height gain: 353 meters**

**Way mark: PR-MU 62.1 - PR-MU 62 en PR-MU 61: White-Yellow dash**

**Wheelchair: Not suitable**

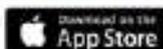
**Dog: Allowed on a lead**



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# Let's Learn Spanish

*Butcher*

## Phrases

How can I help you?

Who's next?

I'd like one kilo of sausages, please?

How much does this weigh?

¿Algo más?

Give me half a kilo.

How much is this?

¿Qué desea?

¿El siguiente?

Quería un kilo de salchichas por favor.

¿Esto, cuánto pesa?

Anything else.

Ponme medio kilo.

¿Esto, cuánto es?

Kay day-**say**-ah?

El See-**guin**-tea

Key-**er**-oh oon **key**-lo day sal-**chee**-chas,

**Ess**-toe, **kwan**-toe **pes**-sah

**Al**-go mahs

**Pohn**-me **mey**-dee-oh **key**-lo

**Ess**-toe **kwan**-toe **ess**

## Vocab

Albóndigas

Hamburguesa

Salchicha

Chuletas

Pechuga de pollo

Pollo

Ternera

Cerdo

Cordero

Carne picada

Fiambre

Deshuesado

Cabruto

Jamón

Hígado

Bistéc

Lechón

Pavo

Meatballs

Burger

Sausage

Chops

Chicken Breast

Chicken

Beef

Pork

Lamb

Minced meat

Cold meat

Boneless

Goat

Ham

Liver

steak

Suckling pig

Turkey

Al-**bon**-dee-gas

Am-boor-**gay**-sah

Sal-**chee**-cha

Chew-**lay**-tas

pey-**chew**-gaday **po**-yo

**Poy**-yo

Tear-**nay**-ra

**Ther**-doh

cor-**dare**-ro

**Car**-nay pea-**ca**-dah

Fee-**am**-brey

Des-**wey**-**sa**-doh

Ca-**bree**-toh

Ha-**mon**

**Ee**-ga-doe

Bis-**tec**

Lay-**chon**

**Pav**-oh



## Now try our wordsearch:

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



# BLANCA

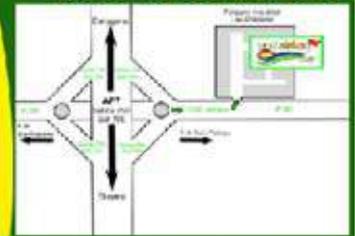


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The castle which reigns over the town was built by the Moslems in the twelfth century; before it lies the valley in all its splendour. It can be reached by setting out from the old quarter where the traveller can get to know the ancient mediaeval layout of the town and, at the same time, the warmth of its people.

Outstanding among its buildings are the Church of St. John the Evangelist, from the sixteenth century; the Hermitage of Saint Roque with its Baroque style; the Favorita ("Favourite") House, built in an eclectic style during the nineteenth century; the Count's house, a faithful example of nineteenth century neoclassicism, now turned into the Hostería Conde de la Vallesa; and last, but not least, the Victoria Theatre, which has recently reopened its doors after a period of restoration.

The Fundación Pedro Cano -Pedro Cano Foundation- is a must: its location is great, since it is in an extraordinary building on the bank of the River Segura; it houses some of the best works of Pedro Cano, the artist from Blanca. In addition, it has temporary exhibition rooms, workshop rooms, a library and an auditorium. The Centro de Interpretación de la Luz y el Agua is also very interesting for the visitor, since it shows the ways of exploitation of water through history in this locality.

Blanca, where natural beauty and historical tradition meet to offer the traveller the chance to enjoy an adventurous type of tourism which includes a descent of the River Segura, hiking and pony trekking among others.

'Source: murciaturistica.es'



# Company Profile

*The pyramid centre  
Puerto de Mazarron*

## **Open for business**

This once quiet port is now a thriving, bustling hive of activity. With new shops being added all the time there truly is something for everyone. The latest edition to be bought to the area is the Food Co. selling exclusive Tesco products this is the first Tesco's in Spain. They stock all of your favourites from baked beans to ready meals and from fresh dips to mushy peas. There truly is something for everyone.

Tesco's can be found next to the pyramide centre on the Avenida Dr Meca. This area has seen a lot of transformation recently and now houses some great shops. In fact it is fast becoming the one stop shopping area for British and Spanish alike. Here are just a selection of what is on offer.

These can be found upstairs at the Pyramide centre, above the old Mercadona and are now open after the lockdown, so please support them if possible.

### Yorkshire Linen:

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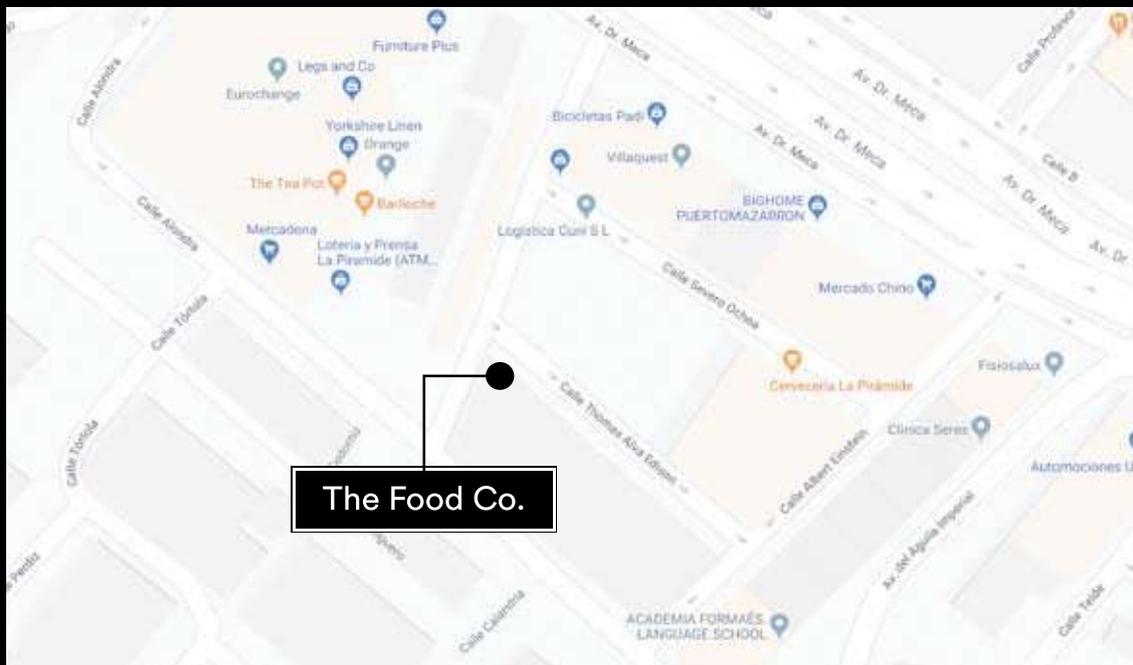
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# 12 Tapas bars in Murcia

Murcia is the Spanish Gastronomic Capital 2020. A good reason to visit. Although you don't need excuses to get out of tapas. The bars of Murcia are famous for their bars full of tapas and for the quality of the raw materials: vegetables from the garden, fish and seafood from Cartagena and Mazarrón, wines from Jumilla, Yecla or Bullas, Mar Menor... Here are 12 of the best tapas bars in Murcia to give you that epicurean pleasure of eating standing whilst talking with some good friends.

## La Parranda (plaza de San Juan, 7)

Of the many taverns in Murcian style, this one in St. John's Square is one of my two favorites.

Careful service and raw materials of the first quality since 1975, with a bar full of viandas that gives joy to see it.



## La Pequeña tavern (General Margallo, s/n)

This is my other favorite tavern, adjoining La Parranda, in the surroundings of the Plaza de San Juan, the perfect place for dinner time.

The sources of vegetables that it tends to have exposed - in addition to being a visual pleasure - would open the appetite to the most inapetent.



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## **El pasaje de Zabalburu (plaza de San Pedro, 3)**

Another of the new bars that has renewed the Murcian recipe.

It's nice to stand at the bar and to look at the great variety of tapas available. They even have Iranian caviar Beluga. A guaranteed success.

## **Los Zagales (Polo de Medina, 4)**

A historic tavern run by the same family since 1926 that keeps the traditional Huertano tapas in a bar always full of good food and people, because at peak times it is difficult to catch a table.

Essentials: french cheese, salads and octopus. Café Bar Gran Vía (Gran Vía Alfonso X el Sabio, 1) store.



## **La Tapa (plaza de las Flores,13)**

The classic among the classics of the Plaza de Las Flores, the perfect place for the noon snack.

A bar that was always able to be reconverted and modernized.

## **Gran Rhin (plaza de San Pedro, 5)**

A popular historical bar that was also among the first to be popularised.

It is in St. Peter's Square and is distinguished by the quality of the raw material: red shrimp from Denia or Santa Pola, Galician oysters, mullet saltings and a scandal-baked octopus.

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## El Sabio, A kiosk (Gran Vía Alfonso X)

Probably the best seafood in the area.

A must visit, narrow and uncomfortable, yes, but where the concept of midday aperitif is sublimated. You're nobody in town if you don't stop by once in a while.

## La tienda de Susano (plaza de la Cruz, s/n)

Located in an emblematic place, just in front of one of the facades of the cathedral.

It has a super nice terrace at any time of the day. The best anchovies in town.



## La barra del Salzillo (Cánovas del Castillo, 28)

As the name suggests, it's the bar of the Salzillo restaurant, where you can have an exquisite ham, poached eggs or a boiled pickle that's to die for.

Innovation cuisine with excellent raw materials.

## La tapeoteca (plaza de los Apóstoles, 16)

Alternative and modern tapas with one of the most extensive and original menus in the city.

The evolution of the Huertano tapa is one of the essential places of the new Murcian cuisine.



## Hispana (Radio Murcia, 2)

The new generation of the Abellán family renovated one of the most classic Murcian restaurants ever. Raised by the parents, to create a modern bar where the raw material is pampered.

Be sure to order cod orly, tuna sashimi or mini burgers.

## La Bien Paga (Sociedad, 1)

One of those bars of new baking that has managed to maintain the tradition of Orchard and the essence of the raw material, but modernising the recipe.

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# Daya Nueva

## Agents towns

The village of Daya Nueva is small enough to easily get to know people, but also large enough to maintain your privacy. There is a well-balanced and harmonious Spanish/Expat mix making up the resident population, a harmony clearly demonstrated during the annual Fiestas.

The village has all that you need, including a supermarket, several shops, butcher, bank, hairdresser, doctor, chemist, church, school, garage, bars, restaurants, bodega and social centre. It's extremely easy to get around, as everything is on the level. There is little traffic, so many locals use the bicycles to get around, all at a very leisurely pace!

The nearest large town Almoradi, only 2 kilometres away with several major supermarkets, lots of shops and a huge Saturday market selling pretty much everything, including fresh locally grown produce.

There is a fantastic road and motorway network on our doorstep. A 10 minutes' drive will take you to the outstanding beaches of Guardamar, or to the heritage city of Elche. 35 minutes to the airports of Alicante and Murcia, and 40 minutes to the cities of Alicante, Cartagena and Murcia.



In close proximity, there are three excellent golf courses, and several others in the area, as well as horse riding, cycling, bowling, paragliding, coarse fishing and all forms of sporting activities connected with the sea. Many different social clubs and activities going on in the village, should you wish to become involved, or just chill out, relax and enjoy the big blue skies and a tranquil village life.

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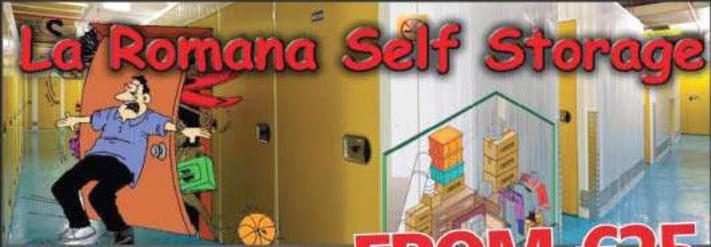
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Malcolm has been marketing the **COPPER HEELERS** in Spain for more than 5 years and has many satisfied customers who have written testimonials saying how quickly they work. He has expanded his range to include magnetic bracelets & bangles



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### LA TOMATINA (tomato festival)

La Tomatina or tomato fight in Buñol near Valencia happens every year on the last Wednesday in August, though the partying starts earlier in the week. The highlight of the festival is the tomato fight which takes place between 11am and 1pm on that day. The event has become one of the highlights on Spain's summer festivals calendar with thousands of people flocking to this little Valencian town for this chaotic event.

Such are the numbers going to La Tomatina that the event has become a victim of its own success. The sheer number of people means that it's extremely difficult to get anywhere near the central area where the tomato lorries arrive so you may well find yourself a few streets away from the main action. Never mind, there are plenty of people in the same boat and the street partying goes on no matter where you are.

#### History of La Tomatina

The origins of La Tomatina aren't clear with several theories explaining how Bunyol has become home to the world's biggest tomato fight. However, the most plausible suggests that the most likely explanation dates back to 1945 when an annual parade of enormous figures with big heads (Gigantes y Cabezudos) was passing through the streets of Bunyol. It seems that some youngsters tried to join in the parade and accidentally knocked over one of the giants who got to his feet and started swinging out at everyone around him. In retaliation the youngsters grabbed some tomatoes from a nearby vegetable stall and started throwing them at him until the police arrived to break things up.

The following year on the same last Wednesday of August these young people returned to the town hall square and started another tomato fight using their own tomatoes. Again the police intervened and in subsequent years the local council tried to ban the 'El Día de la Tomatina' but with little success as the event continued to grow year after year reaching the ludicrous size it is today.

#### Practical Information

**Getting There ...** Most young visitors book cheap accommodation in Valencia then take the train to Bunyol for the day. On the morning of the festival there are trains from Valencia Central Station, which is about 40km away, at eight minutes past the hour (check at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) just in case this has changed). There is no need to book tickets in advance and the journey takes 50 minutes. The actual tomato fight lasts little over an hour beginning at midday and continuing until shortly after 1pm. Get there early, the earlier the better as the trains do get full. Alternatively, you can arrive by local bus or car though this might not be a great idea considering the mess you're likely to be in after the tomato battle.

#### Tomatina Tickets

Until a few years ago the numbers visiting the Tomatina festival were large but manageable. However, in recent times the event has become a victim of its own success with upwards of 50,000 people trying to cram themselves into this small Valencian town which has inevitably caused security concerns. As a result the town council of Bunyol have been forced to limit numbers by issuing tickets to those wishing to take part. Tickets cost €10 each and can be reserved and printed out on the Bunyol Town Council website. Alternatively, you can book an organised tour to La Tomatina with numerous companies who will include tickets in their package.

#### Rules of La Tomatina

In spite of the mayhem there actually are a few rules and regulations that need to be adhered to during La Tomatina in order to ensure that the maximum number of people get the maximum enjoyment from the day. These rules are set out by the Bunyol Town Council:

Courtesy of [Spanish-fiestas.com](http://Spanish-fiestas.com)



*North Town...*



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### Beaches

The beautiful blue flag beach Playa Dehesa is just 5 minutes walk away and is still a relatively undiscovered stretch of sand. With its many amenities: showers, volleyball, climbing frame, football, bars and restaurants, families can enjoy a full day out on this lovely, safe and clean beach, which also has a first aid post with lifeguard.

### Puerto Deportivo

The marina at the southern end of the Playa Dehesa is where you can practice water sports.

### Horse Riding

For those who enjoy equestrian pursuits there is a riding school in Campoamor.

### Golf

The local golf club, Real Club de Campoamor is an 18-hole championship golf course. The golf course is located on the road between Alicante and Cartagena (km 48) and is built on a large area in beautiful surroundings. As a visitor, an advanced booking is recommended, plus proof of handicap is necessary.

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The wonderful Restaurant and Coffee Shop Golf Campoamor offers a delicious, high quality Mediterranean menu. From its two large terraces you can enjoy panoramic views across the golf course and across the Costa Blanca.

### Cuisine

The local cuisine in Campoamor is typically that of the Costa Blanca, which combines delicacies from both land and the Mediterranean Sea. Many civilizations have lived in this area (Celts, Iberians, Greeks, Romans, Muslims), all of which have all left their mark on the gastronomy. The diet is a typically, healthy Mediterranean one; the Costa Blanca is rich in fish, vegetables, olive-oil, rice and fruit and the ingredients which are all used to prepare delicious, healthy dishes, such as Paella Valenciana,

Arroz Negro (black rice), Arroz al horno (Oven baked rice), Arroz a banda (fish and rice stew), Arroz del Señoret (Princes rice).

If you have a sweet tooth then you will enjoy the local homemade pastries and deserts that the area is famous for. Or Jijona ice-cream (Nougat), which is made with the almonds of the region.

While on the Costa Blanca you can delight the palate with the wonderful regional wine selection. It's worth giving a special mention to the local wine 'Jalon', due to its quality and bouquet.

There are many international restaurants close by offering a wide choice of different cuisines from around the world.

### Climate

Campoamor enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate, with cool sea breezes in summer and protection by surrounding mountains against the cold North winds in winter. The area averages nearly 3,000 hours of sunshine each year and the average temperature easily exceeds 20 degrees.

In 1986 the World Health Organisation recommended the climate of the area as one of the most equitable in the world - neither too hot in the summer nor too cold in the winter. On average it can boast 325 sunny days each year making it an ideal all year round destination



# Driving Licence - *Exchange*

Do you know if you need or how to exchange your driving licence? Liberty Seguros answers your questions.

There are many questions being bounced around about the consequences of Brexit and what effect it will have for those in Spain and other parts of Europe. And, of course, nothing is certain yet. One of the most recurring doubts is about the validity of driving licences. In this regard, you must know that all driving licences issued in any member state of the European Union and the European Economic Area are valid for driving in Spain while they are in force and have not been removed for any reason.

While you have your permit in force, the exchange for an equivalent Spanish driver's licence is completely voluntary. However, don't forget that once you obtain your legal residence in Spain your licence will be subject to the Spanish regulations regarding its period of validity, control of your psychophysical aptitudes and assignment of a points credit. In those cases, where the driving licence is not subject to a specific period of validity, this will have to be renewed after two years since establishing your legal residence in Spain.

However, from January 1st 2021, the general regulations on non-EU countries will apply to the permits issued by the British authorities and you will be allowed to drive in Spain for only six months from your entry in Spain or from the date of obtaining your legal residence.

Therefore, if your driving licence was issued in the United Kingdom and you have been residing in Spain for a longer period than 6 months this will no longer be valid for driving in Spain from that date.

To continue driving on Spanish roads without problems, you must exchange your permit to a Spanish licence before the said date.

To do so, you must arrange an appointment with your nearest office through <https://sedeapl.dgt.gob.es>

You still might use your Spanish licence in the UK for short visits or exchange it for a UK licence without taking a test if you return to live in the UK.

What do you need to exchange your licence?

Official application form available at the Jefaturas de Tráfico (Provincial Traffic Departments) and on the DGT's website ([www.dgt.es](http://www.dgt.es))

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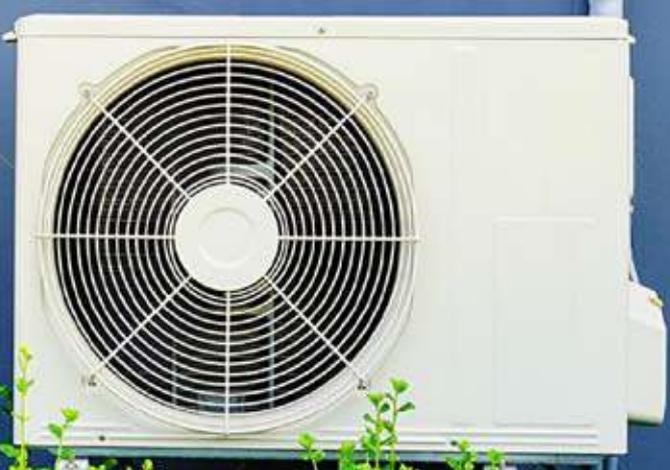


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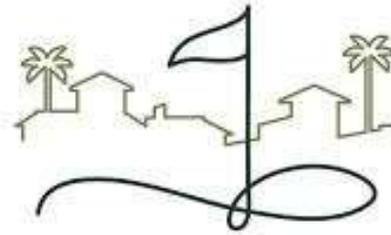
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Considered the longest golf course in Southeast Spain and designed by well-known Dave Thomas, it spreads across 40 hectares of land. The course is over 6,000 metres for Amateur and 7000 meters for professionals, On some occasions Hacienda Del Alamo held the European tour Qualifying School and Miguel Angel Jimenez A European Tour and Senior Tour winner was Associated the Course, With impressive Mountain views. It also boasts a great landscape and is the main activity, both as a sport and social centre, that gives life to the resort.

This golf course is the perfect place to enjoy this sport on long afternoons. The Course is surrounded by magnificent scenery and is very easy-going on the eye, so you can spend hours playing Golf without even realising it.

Hacienda del Alamo also has a 6 hole Academy Course with 3 Par 3 holes and 3 par 4 holes which designed for Players who do not want to play the 18 hole Championship course. The Academy Course is next to one of the best Practice area's in the Murcia Region.

After a good day's Golf there's nothing better than relaxing on the terrace or in the restaurant at the Club House. Enjoy a well-deserved refreshment overlooking the course. In addition, you can also change in the locker room, relax in comfort in one of the TV rooms.



**Hacienda del Alamo**  
Hotel & SPA Golf Resort

Year Built 2004/05

Designer/s Dave Thomas

Layout difficulty 4 (1 easy to 5 hard)  
Approx. tee interval 10 min.  
Buggy recommended Not necessary  
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# The Journey - Vintage Pilgrim

By Carol Hughes

*Arrived*

## 4th April

I have been given details of a lady called Debbie who can organise our residency. I have spoken to her and she can get us an appointment for Monday! Whoopie. I have a list of things she needs from us prior to the appointment, and a list of things to take with us. Guess what? translated marriage certificate is not one of them. Funny this lawyer told us no appointments prior to Brexit and that appointments had been cancelled until after Brexit and they know the status of the UK. Hmm!

Chris is flying back to the UK today to sort out some bank stuff and pick up our international driving permits from the post office. He didn't want to go he wanted me to go! But I cannot sort his bank stuff, so he will have to go himself. Peace and quiet for me and Charlie. He is flying at 8ish tonight so arriving in Leeds at 10.00ish. He has hired a car and is staying at Kieran's overnight. Then flying back tomorrow afternoon. So, no time for messing around, I have given him a list and timetable god I feel like his mum at times.

## 5th April

I have sent all the documents Debbie requested. Although I am a little wary of sending all my personal detail to someone I have never met, but I have been informed she is the best, Fingers crossed.

Debbie has just confirmed we have an appointment for 8th April at 17.00. Whoop! Whoop!

Chris has arrived safely back from the UK; Madness has resumed it has been so peaceful. He has surprisingly managed to do everything on his list, but he looks knackered poor old sod. But we will give him brownie points.

Also think we need the termite guy to come and sort the whole house looks like termites in the beam. I have messaged him again he says it is a wood beetle so booked him to come treat the house for termites and beetles. Yuck! They are not paying rent and need evicting as soon as possible. It gives new meaning to eating you out of house and home. Obviously, the treatment we had for new doors is not enough.

## 6th April

Excited Kieran and Jess are coming to visit today (my Son and his Fiancé) can't wait to see them they are arriving about 13.00, but it's Alicante airport so an hour to an hour and a half from our house

12pm I am at the airport with Chris and Charlie well didn't want to be late and have them sat there like orphans, Mr Moan a lot is moaning because I told him flight was getting in at 12.00 !! well you have to do these things. Left up to Mr Grumpy we would be late.

Made everyone fajitas for tea. (Dinner depending on where you come from) Which they seemed to thoroughly enjoy, even though I cannot get sour cream here. What is that all about? why can I not buy sour cream? Fresh sour cream is a must for fajitas they are not the same without it.

## 7th April

We went to Murcia Flea Market, which is located at Calle Alcalde Gaspar de La Pena, 3, Murcia. It is a small market full of unique and wonderful surprises. lots of different things from old furniture to Stamps, coins, paintings lots of goodies from yesteryear. Just wish the weather was better, it has really taken a turn since Jess and Kieran arrived it is drizzling and cold. Still we found a nice bar just over the bridge for Coffee and Tapas. Murcia is a beautiful city; we really need to spend a day here when the weather is better exploring it properly.

## 8th April

Ooh! today is a big day! I have never been so nervous. We need to be in Murcia for 17.00 so we set off at 15.00 as you do, even though Murcia is only 30 mins from the house. We have found a café next to the offices we need to go to. Jess and Kieran have come with us hoping they could go wandering around the shops. The part of Murcia we have come to has no shops. It is very industrial here so looks like they are going to have to wait in the car or café. Ok, café is closing !!! they have decided to go for a wander and anyway while we go in and meet us back at the car. Good job the weather has cleared up a bit.

Well that was exciting and very efficient. We went into the offices and waited for Debbie who arrived bang on 17.00 (was getting worried I can tell you). Gave her the paperwork we had to bring with us. She then escorted us through to a desk separately. We handed over the paperwork, the official went through it, he then stamped it and printed off our residencia. Although Chris had to have a problem! The guy he was in front of was new and managed to rip residencia. So that had to be reprinted, also he was unsure about the address (if you live in the campo no one understands the address). I was sat in front of the official that helped him. I got fingerprinted then went back to the waiting room. Chris followed me out then he got called back in, his face was a picture thought he was going to mess his knickers, lol. The official had forgot to fingerprint him. No matter we have residencia, Hurray! just like that we were out of the building again by 17.30.

We met up with Kieran and Jess and went to Mazarron to celebrate with some food, yeah you guessed it warm Goats cheese with Jam, absolutely love it.

On another note had a message of my youngest Steve, he wants to know how to cook a ham. He misses his mummy. Ok that's not what he said, what he said was he misses my ham!

Also, Steve's Friends cat has just had kittens he has decided "These cats are investigators! do you recon the tabby ones are spies that just keep tabs on people?" I have no idea where he gets it from!!



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